



Prof. Chaim J. Hames serves as provost (rector) of Ben-Gurion University of the Negev after acting as BGU's dean of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences.

Prof. Hames received his Ph.D. in medieval history from Cambridge University in 1996, and since then has been a lecturer in BGU's Department of General History. From 2011-2015, he was the department chair.

In 2013, Prof. Hames launched the Center for the Study of Conversion and Inter-Religious Encounters as part of the Israeli Centers of Research Excellence (I-CORE) program which promotes national and international research collaborations, and researcher recruitment.

His research interests include medieval and Renaissance Jewish, Christian, and Muslim mysticism and philosophy, apocalypticism, inter-religious polemics, conversion, Bible and Talmud translations, and issues dealing with religious conversion.

In addition to the numerous publications that he has authored, Prof. Hames has also written a book for the wider popular audience dealing with Judaism in contemporary Israel, titled *I (Do Not) Believe: Judaism and Israel, Past, Present, Future*.