**Ireland-Palestine Scholarship Programme**

Application Form

2021 Entry



**IRELAND-PALESTINE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMME (IPSP)**

The Ireland-Palestine Scholarship Programme is part of Ireland’s programme of assistance for Palestine, which supports the search for a lasting and just political solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. This programme reflects Ireland’s longstanding commitment to the development of a viable, sovereign Palestinian state, as part of a two-state solution to the Middle East conflict. Recognising that long-term, sustainable development in Palestine is closely linked to a successful outcome to the Middle East Peace Process, for over two decades, our programme has aimed to meet the needs of the most vulnerable Palestinian people, while supporting the Palestinian Authority to build the institutions of a Palestinian state.

Development of the education sector in Palestine has been a long-standing focus area for Ireland in Palestine. The Ireland-Palestine Scholarship Programme aims to further broaden Ireland’s support for educational opportunities available to Palestinians.

The Ireland-Palestine Scholarship Programme will offer full scholarships to Palestinian students to study in higher education institutions in Ireland for one year at Masters Level, beginning in the academic year 2021/2022. The Programme provides opportunities for candidates to study in a wide variety of courses and third-level institutions in Ireland.

**ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS**

To be eligible for the IPSP, applicants must:

* be a Palestinian currently resident in the occupied Palestinian territory, holding a Palestinian or Jerusalem ID;
* have identified and selected three relevant courses from the Ireland-Palestine Scholarship Programme [Directory of Eligible Postgraduate Courses](https://www.amideast.org/sites/default/files/images/West%20Bank%20Gaza/ireland_fellows_programme_directory_of_programmes_2021-22.pdf), available at <https://www.dfa.ie/ramallah/>;
* hold a Bachelor’s level qualification from an accredited institution with a minimum grade point average of 75% or 2.67 (or equivalent standard);
* have achieved the necessary academic standard to be accepted onto their chosen Master’s degree course in a higher education institution in Ireland (*refer to the rough table of equivalency under section* ***Selection of Course Choices*** *below*)
* be applying to commence a new qualification and not be seeking funding for a course they have already commenced or which will begin before scholarship awards have been notified
* not already hold a qualification at Master’s degree level or higher
* be able to take up the scholarship in the academic year 2021/2022
* submit with their application a valid English language proficiency score report (dated September 2019 or later) with a minimum score of 6.5 on IELTS, or 550 on Institutional Testing Program (ITP), or 80 on Internet-based TOEFL (iBT). If all of the previous tests are not obtainable, students are advised to take the test by registering on Duolingo, [Duolingo English Test](https://englishtest.duolingo.com/). A minimum score of 110 on Duolingo is required. Please make sure to take a screenshot of the Duolingo results and attach them to the application.
* Prior professional working experience is not a requirement.
* Female applicants are strongly encouraged to apply.

An applicant will not be considered further in either of the following circumstances:

* They are currently working, or it is anticipated that they will work in the future, at the Irish Representative Office or for the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade of Ireland. Personnel who have worked with any Irish diplomatic mission in the past must allow a full year before becoming eligible to apply.
* They, or their immediate family members, are currently working at AMIDEAST (staff members and/or consultants). Those are not eligible to apply during the period of their employment and until one year following the termination of employment.
* All successful applicants will be required to sign a commitment to return to their home country within 14 days of completing their studies in Ireland.

**APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS**

**Applications with unanswered questions or missing documentation will be deemed incomplete and will not be considered for a scholarship.** Therefore, it is essential that you:

* fill out all required sections in this application form.
* include one recent passport-size photograph.
* include all relevant supporting documents and complete the checklist in Section F.
* complete the Declaration section on page (12) certifying that all the information given is true, complete and accurate.

**Applications should be submitted by email to** [**IPSP-WB@amideast.org**](mailto:IPSP-WB@amideast.org) **for West Bank applications or** [**IPSP-GZ@amideast.org**](mailto:IPSP-GZ@amideast.org) **for Gaza applications. Please type all information and complete the form electronically before you send it as a Word attachment. In your email, attach clear scanned copies of all accompanying documents as detailed in Section F of the application form.**

**SELECTION OF COURSE CHOICES**

You must select courses from the Ireland-Palestine Scholarship Programme Directory of Eligible Postgraduate Courses. Courses should be listed according to first, second and third preference and are an important consideration in the review of applications.

You should ensure that you hold the specified qualifications and academic grades required for the academic courses you intend applying for. These can be found in the Ireland-Palestine Scholarship Programme [Directory of Eligible Postgraduate Courses](https://www.amideast.org/sites/default/files/images/West%20Bank%20Gaza/ireland_fellows_programme_directory_of_programmes_2021-22.pdf) and on the relevant college website. It is your responsibility to ensure that your academic qualifications are of sufficient standard for your chosen course.

This is a rough guide to how the grading system in Ireland might compare to the grade/GPA system at Palestinian universities.

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Verbal Grade** | **% Grade in Ireland** | **Equivalent Local Grade** | **Equivalent Local GPA** |
| **First Class Honours (1st)** | 70% or above | 90% - 100% | 3.5 - 4.0 |
| **Second Class Honours, Grade 1 (2:1)** | 60% or above | 78% - 89% | 3.0 - 3.49 |
| **Second Class Honours, Grade 2 (2:2)** | 50% or above | 70% - 77% | 2.5 - 2.99 |
| **Third Class Honours (3rd)** | 45% or above | 65% - 69% | 2.0 - 2.49 |
| **Pass** | 40% or above | 60% - 64% | 2.0 |
| **Fail** | Less than 40% | 0% - 59% | Less than 2.0 |

***Note: These are suggested equivalents only.***

Please choose your courses carefully. You will not normally be permitted to revise your choices after submission, unless a programme does not run. Applicants are therefore advised to thoroughly research their course choices. The relevance of the course to an applicant’s career development and to the overall strategic priorities of the mission will form part of the assessment criteria.

Courses must begin no earlier than July 2021.

Note: Master degrees by research are not eligible for the programme.

**SUBMITTING APPLICATIONS**

The closing date for receipt of applications is **01 November 2020.** Applications should be submitted **by email** with all supporting documents to the following email addresses:

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| **AMIDEAST West Bank**: [**IPSP-WB@amideast.org**](mailto:IPSP-WB@amideast.org)  **Address:** Al-Watanieh Towers, 1st floor, El-Bireh, Ramallah, Tel: 02-2408023 ext. 300 | **AMIDEAST Gaza**: [**IPSP-GZ@amideast.org**](mailto:IPSP-GZ@amideast.org)  **Address**: Bseiso Building, 8th floor, Rimal Neighbourhood, Gaza, Tel: 08-2824635 ext. 102 |

**SELECTION PROCESS**

**Selection Round 1 / Interview**

Following submission of application forms and supporting documentation, candidates will be shortlisted and those who are shortlisted will be called to an interview. **Interviews will be conducted in December 2020.**

**Selection Round 2 / English testing**

Candidates who are successful at interview and who already hold a score of 6.5 or higher on an IELTS examination taken in the last two years (September 2019 or later) will not need to sit for an additional exam (such applicants, who already hold a suitable IELTS certificate should submit this with their application form). However, candidates who were successful at interview and who submitted an Institutional Testing Program (ITP) score report or an Internet-based TOEFL (iBT) score report or a Duolingo sore report with their original IPSP application will, at that stage, be required to take an IELTS test. The test will be arranged in January 2021 by the Representative Office of Ireland, who will cover the relevant fee.

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| **TIP:** You are advised to work through the practice materials at [www.ielts.org](http://www.ielts.org) and attend a preparation session, if available. You should note that even people who regularly speak English can find the test a challenge. |

**Selection Round 3 / Course Applications**

Candidates who have progressed beyond the interview stage and meet the IELTS English-language requirement will be contacted by The Irish Council for International Students (ICOS) with information on applying for their chosen college course(s). ICOS provides support for the management and administration of the Ireland-Palestine Scholarship Programme. ICOS is an independent non-profit organisation that promotes best practice in relation to the recruitment, access and support of international students in Irish education. Candidates should note that contact by ICOS does not indicate that they have been awarded a scholarship.

Application fees for colleges in Ireland will be paid by ICOS *provided applications are made after notification from ICOS.*Application fees paid prior to notification by ICOS will not be reimbursed. Applicants are advised not to apply for courses in Ireland until such time as they are notified by ICOS to proceed, when full application guidance will be provided. At that stage, the applicant will be responsible for ensuring that they submit their application to the college, including all relevant supporting documentation, and for keeping ICOS updated with the progress of their application. Applicants should note that decisions on Irish university course places may not be made by institutions until late June 2021.

**Scholarship Awards**

A provisional list of awards will be drawn up in June 2021. Only candidates who successfully gain a course place and provide documentation to ICOS confirming this will be eligible for a scholarship award. **No candidate is guaranteed an award, even if all scholarship criteria are met.**

If offered an IPSP scholarship, candidates will be required to:

* undergo a medical examination prior to confirmation of the scholarship award, and
* satisfy Irish immigration requirements.

**Further Information**

Information on the IPSP, including the application process and the Ireland-Palestine Directory of Suitable Postgraduate Courses, is available from the website of the Representative Office of Ireland in Palestine ([*www.dfa.ie/ramallah*](file:///\\server2012\company\Fellowship-Student-Officer-area\Embassy_pack\2018_issue_2019_entry\Palestine\Ramallah%20docs\Draft%202\www.dfa.ie\ramallah)) or from the office of AMIDEAST ([*www.amideast.org/IPSP*](http://www.amideast.org/IPSP)). General information on studying in Ireland is available at [*www.internationalstudents.ie*](http://www.internationalstudents.ie).

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| C:\Users\johnstond\Downloads\New Logo Ramallah centred colour.png  **ONLY TYPED APPLICATIONS SUBMITTED BY EMAIL ARE ACCEPTABLE**    Ireland-Palestine Scholarship Programme – 2021 Application Form  ***Closing Date: 01 November 2020***  **This form is designed to be completed in Microsoft Word and sent by email along with clear scanned copies of all accompanying documents as detailed in Section F of the application form.**  **Applications should be submitted by email to** [**IPSP-WB@amideast.org**](mailto:IPSP-WB@amideast.org) **for West Bank applications or** [**IPSP-GZ@amideast.org**](mailto:IPSP-GZ@amideast.org) **for Gaza applications.** |

Before completing this Application Form, please carefully read the instructions above.

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| **Personal Information** | | |
| **A1** | **Surname:** |  |
| **A2** | **First or given name** |  |
| **A3** | **Full name as it appears on your passport** |  |
| **A4** | **Date of birth** (day/month/year) | **/    /** |
| **A5** | **Nationality** |  |
| **A6** | **Country of residence** |  |
| **A7** | **Gender** |  |
| **A8** | **Passport details: if available** *(see section F of the application form, point #5)* | |
|  | **Country of issue** |  |
|  | **Date of expiry** | **/    /** |
|  | **If you hold a passport for another country, or a diplomatic passport, please provide details** |  |
| **A9** | **Contact details:** | |
|  | **Main email address:** *It is vital that we can communicate with you by email. Please provide the email address that you most regularly check. If this is a work address, please also provide your personal email address.* |  |
|  | **Mailing Address:** *If possible, please provide an address where registered post can be delivered to and signed for. (This is the address that will appear on your official scholarship award letter if you are successful.)* |  |
|  | **Phone no. 1** |  |
|  | **Phone no. 2** |  |
| **A10** | **Have you previously applied for a fellowship/scholarship from Ireland?**  *If yes, please state year(s)* | Yes  No  Year(s): |
|  | *If yes, please provide details* |  |
| **A11** | **Are you applying or do you intend to apply for any other fellowship/scholarship to study at postgraduate level?** | Yes  No |
|  | *If yes, please provide details* |  |

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| 1. **Education**   *Please note you must provide copies of the academic transcripts and completion certificates associated with each higher education qualification you have attained. See instructions under Section F of the application form.* | | | | | | | |
| **B1 Highest academic qualification:**  *Please provide details of your highest academic qualification. Note that this degree must have been awarded by a government recognised university/college.* | | | | | | | |
| **Qualification and name of degree**  *(e.g. B.Sc. Mathematics)* | | | **University/College**  *Include location* | | | **Dates**  *from/to* | **Final overall grade.** *Please also provide final GPA score and GPA scale if available.* |
|  | | |  | | |  | **GPA score**  **GPA Scale**  **Grade,** if relevant |
| **B2 Other academic qualifications**  *Please provide details of other academic qualifications you have attained. You must provide copies of completion certificates associated with each* ***higher education qualification*** *(e.g. post-graduate diploma etc.) which you have attained.* | | | | | | | |
| **Qualification and name of degree**  *(e.g. Postgraduate Diploma in Accountancy)* | | | **University/College/Institution**  *Include location* | | | **Dates**  *from/to* | **Final overall grade.** *Please also provide final GPA score and GPA scale if available* |
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|  | | |  | | |  | **GPA score**  **GPA Scale**  **Grade,** if relevant |
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| **B3 Other relevant professional or vocational training**  *Please provide details on other professional or vocational training you have undertaken which you feel is directly relevant to your application and to your proposed programme(s) of study. You do not need to provide certificates for these other types of training.* | | | | | | | |
| **Type of training** | | | **Institution/organisation providing training** | | | | **Dates** *from/to* |
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| **B4 Have you achieved any previous education scholarships or awards?** | | | | | | | |
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| **B5 Your master’s programme choices in Ireland** *Please ensure you have carefully read the* [*Directory of Eligible Postgraduate Courses*](https://www.amideast.org/sites/default/files/images/West%20Bank%20Gaza/ireland_fellows_programme_directory_of_programmes_2021-22.pdf) *before completing this section. NOTE:* If you are successful in your application and are invited to apply for a master’s programme, priority will be given according to the order they are listed here. | | | | | | | |
|  | **Course**  **Title &**  **course code (***See course website)* | **University/**  **college** | | **IELTS score required** | **Please state why you have chosen this programme, and how you meet the entry requirements with reference to your academic achievements and your work experience. *(Max 150 words per programme - points may be deducted if you exceed the word limit)*** | | |
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| 1. **Work Experience**   *Please respond to the questions below regarding your current employment. If you are currently unemployed, please state this and indicate your last place of employment, or refer to internships you have held, if any.*  ***When completing this section*,** *please bear in mind your three programme choices and include your roles and responsibilities which prepare you for these programmes.*  ***Please note that points may be deducted from your application if you exceed the word allowance*** | | | | |
| **C1 Current Employment** | | | | |
| **Your employing organisation**  (name and address) | | |  | |
| **Type of organisation** *(please tick applicable box)*  Central government  Local government  Other public body  Multilateral organisation  Community/non-government organisation.  Faith-based organisation  Private organisation  Other\* | | | | |
| If you ticked ‘other’, please explain | | |  | |
| **Briefly (100 words or less) describe the work of your current employer.** *Please note that points may be deducted from your application if you exceed the word allowance* | | |  | |
| **Start date with this organisation** *(day/month/year)* | | | /    / | |
| **Current job title** | | |  | |
| **In 150 words or less, please describe your roles and responsibilities.** *Please note that points may be deducted from your application if you exceed the word allowance* | | |  | |
| If applicable, list in chronological order any previous positions you have held with **this** organisation, indicating your start and finish dates (month and year) | | |  | |
| If successful in this application, will you be seeking leave from your employer to study in Ireland? | | | Yes  No | |
| Does the Embassy of Ireland have permission to contact your employer for a written and verbal reference if necessary? (Y/N) | | | Yes  No | |
| **C2 Previous employment (if applicable)**  *Please provide information on your previous employment. You may include information about internships here, if relevant to your application. If you are currently unemployed, please include your previous work experience here.* | | | | |
| **Name of organisation** | **Full address** | **Dates**  *Month/year from/to* | | **Position held, your roles and responsibilities.** |
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| **C3 Total Experience** | |
| **Total number of years’ relevant work experience** *Please provide the total number of years of work experience that is directly relevant to your proposed programme(s) of study.* |  |

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| **D. Statement of intent** |
| **Please complete this section paying careful attention to the suggested word count. Please note that the quality of your answers will be a key factor in how your application will be graded by the selection panel.**  **The key achievements in my academic or professional career to date (approximately 400 words)\***   |  | | --- | |  |   **Why I want to pursue my nominated course(s) (approximately 400 words)\***   |  | | --- | |  |   **How I will use my new skills and knowledge (approximately 200 words)\***   |  | | --- | |  |   **How I believe my proposed study will contribute to future development in Palestine**  **(approximately 200 words)\***   |  | | --- | |  | |

**\*Plagiarism** will result in your disqualification from the program.

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| **E. English Language Proficiency (OPTIONAL)**    *If you have already completed an IELTS or other English language test, provide full details below. Please note that the test is only valid if completed within 24 months of the proposed commencement of your studies in Ireland (i.e. must be dated September 2019 or later).* | |
| **IELTS test results (if available)** | **Date:**    /    /      (Day/Month/Year)  **Overall score:**  Writing score:  Reading score:  Speaking score:  Listening score: |
| **If you have the results of another English language test (e.g. TOEFL), please provide details here** | **Name of test:**  **Date:**    /    /      (Day/Month/Year)  **Overall score:**  Writing score:  Reading score:  Speaking score:  Listening score: |

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| **F. Documents** |

**Have you included a scanned copy of the following documents with your application?**

1. **One recent photograph (.jpg)**
2. **A copy of the graduation certificate for each higher education qualification you have completed.** Do **not** include copies of certificates from short programmes or for non-degree level programmes. Temporary certificates are only accepted if studies were completed within the preceding 12 months – if you are shortlisted, the final graduation certificate should be provided before the interview.
3. **A copy of the academic transcripts for each higher education qualification you have completed. Please also include the explanation of the grading system, where provided with your transcript or otherwise available.**
4. **Letters from two academic referees on official letterhead with original signatures.** The letter should be in English, on headed paper, and should include the full contact details and the title and position of the referee. These references must be from academics who have taught you personally. These references should indicate both why you are a suitable candidate for the IPSP scholarship and why the programmes you have chosen are relevant to you. *If you are shortlisted and the interview process, these reference letters will be used when applying to HEIs in Ireland.*
5. **A copy of the identity page of your passport. If you do not have a passport at this time, another form of official identification must be provided.**

*If you are shortlisted following and the interview process you will be required to submit a certified copy of the identify page of your passport. Please note that if you are awarded a scholasrhip,* ***your passport must be valid for at least 6 months after the expected completion of your study in Ireland.***

1. **A copy of your national ID card (Palestinian or Jerusalem ID)**
2. **Your current C.V.** *If you are shortlisted and the interview process your C.V. will be used when applying to HEIs in Ireland.*
3. **Your original IELTS score report (or other English language test), if available. Please note that this test must have been taken no earlier than September 2019.**

If you already have an English language test result from an exam other than the IELTS exam, this may also be accepted. Please include with your application form.

*If you are shortlisted and the interview process and you do not have the English language certification required for your master’s programme in Ireland, you will be required to take the examination and pass it to the standard required. Please see the* [*Directory of Eligible Postgraduate Courses.*](https://www.amideast.org/sites/default/files/images/West%20Bank%20Gaza/ireland_fellows_programme_directory_of_programmes_2021-22.pdf)

**Important Note**

Please have official and original copies of your academic transcripts, certificates, and letters of reference available in order to submit to the IPSP program or the higher education intuitions, if requested.

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| **DECLARATION** |
| **When your application form is received, we create a record in your name, which contains much of the personal information you have supplied. This personal record is used solely in processing your candidature. Such information held is subject to the rights and obligations set out in the Data Protection Act 2018 and the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR).**  The Ireland-Palestine Scholarship Programme is fully funded by the Irish Government and is offered under the auspices of the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA). It aligns with the Irish Government’s commitment under Global Ireland and the national implementation plan for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), Ireland's Policy for International Development, and Ireland's International Education Strategy.  The Department of Foreign Affairs (the Department) is committed to protecting your personal data and your privacy. This Data Privacy Notice lets you know how, and why, we use your personal information.  The Department has identified Article 6(1)(e) of the GDPR and Section 38(1)(b) of the Data Protection Act 2018 as lawful bases for processing your personal data. Section 38(1) provides that processing of personal data is lawful to the extent that it is necessary and proportionate for the administration of any non-statutory scheme, programme or funds where the legal basis is a function of a controller conferred by or under an enactment or the Constitution”. In addition to the provisions of [Bunreacht na hÉireann/the Constitution of Ireland](http://www.irishstatutebook.ie/eli/cons/en/html#part7) and the International Treaties which guide Ireland’s foreign policy work, the power to collect and process data, is bestowed to the Department by The Ministers & Secretaries Acts 1924 to 2017.  Information on your rights under the GDPR, including the contact details of the Department’s Data Protection Officer, can be found here:  <https://www.dfa.ie/media/dfa/alldfawebsitemedia/aboutus/Data-Privacy-Notice.pdf>  The Department reserves the right to amend this privacy notice and an updated notice will be issued where required.  I acknowledge that the information and documents I submit as part of my application will be shared with:   1. the managing agency for the programme; 2. the Representative Office of Ireland 3. the Irish Department of Foreign Affairs 4. appropriate staff of my nominated Higher Education Institutions, as required, regarding any programme applications and place offers; 5. any other individuals, companies and/or organisations as necessary to make arrangements related to my participation in the Ireland-Palestine Scholarship Programme.   I understand the purpose for which Scholarships are awarded and the necessity to abide by the conditions specified.  I am in good health and if accepted for an Ireland-Palestine Scholarship I will undertake the necessary medical examinations and provide the required medical certificates.  I certify that all the information I have given is true, complete and accurate to the best of my knowledge**,** and that my Motivational Statement is entirely my own original work**.**  **Name**  **Date:**     /       /       (Day/Month/Year) |

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| * Have you double-checked and proofread **all** your answers? * Are **all** your required documents ready to submit? (see instructions under Section F of the application form) |

**The closing date for receipt of application and accompanying documents is 01 November 2020.**

**Applications should be submitted by email to** [**IPSP-WB@amideast.org**](mailto:IPSP-WB@amideast.org) **for West Bank applications or** [**IPSP-GZ@amideast.org**](mailto:IPSP-GZ@amideast.org) **for Gaza applications.**