



Oifig Ionadaí na hÉireann sa Phalaistín
Representative Office of Ireland in Palestine
مكتب تمثيل أيرلندا في فلسطين

Ireland-Palestine Scholarship Programme (IPSP) Frequently Asked Questions

▪ **Where can I find information on the IPSP scholarship and instructions on how to apply?**

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) or from the office of AMIDEAST (www.amideast.org/IPSP). General information on studying in Ireland is available at www.internationalstudents.ie.

▪ **What does the scholarship cover?**

The IPSP generally covers:

- ✓ The successful candidate only, (i.e. family members are not covered)
- ✓ All academic fees, including registration fees
- ✓ Support payments for living costs
- ✓ Accommodation allowance
- ✓ Travel to Ireland and return to Palestine (and visa costs by reimbursement)
- ✓ Medical and accident insurance
- ✓ Once-off study materials, clothing and arrival and departure allowances

▪ **What are the eligibility requirements for the IPSP scholarship?**

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 two relevant courses from the Ireland-Palestine Scholarship Programme Directory of Eligible Postgraduate Courses, 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 in Section Two of the application form)
- ✓ 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 2020/2021
- ✓ submit with their application a valid English language proficiency score report with a minimum score of 6.5 on IELTS, or 550 on Institutional Testing Program (ITP), or 80 on Internet-based TOEFL (iBT).
 - Prior professional working experience is not a requirement.
 - Female applicants are strongly encouraged to apply.

▪ **What supporting documentation do I need to submit with my IPSP application?**

All relevant documents listed below must be included with your application, in the sequence shown:

- ✓ An official copy (not a photocopy) of the completion or graduation certificate for each higher education qualification that you have completed (in English).
- ✓ An official copy (not a photocopy) of the academic transcript for all higher education qualifications and the grading schedule for each qualification (in English).
- ✓ Letters from your two academic referees with original signatures (Q21). E-signatures are not accepted.
- ✓ A copy of the identity page of your passport
- ✓ A copy of your ID card.
- ✓ An original IELTS, iBT, or ITP score report. Test results must be no more than 24 months old by the commencement of study (Score reports should be dated September 2018 or later).
- ✓ (If applicable): A certified copy of your birth certificate (in English), only applicable where no passport is provided.
- ✓ (If applicable): A certified copy of official evidence of any name change (in English).

▪ **How many universities may I apply to as part of the IPSP scholarship?**

Two. As such, you must select two courses from the IPSP Directory of Courses [{Click here}](#).

Courses should be listed in your application form according to first and second preference. You are required to specify a course and academic institution in each case, not give a general course type.

▪ **If I am accepted onto both course choices, will I have the chance to choose between both choices?**

No. If an applicant is accepted onto their first course choice, they must accept this offer. They can only accept an offer for their second course choice if their application to their first course choice is not successful. This is non-negotiable, so it is very important that applicants choose the course order carefully.

▪ **Do I need to secure admission from the higher education institutions in Ireland in order to be able to apply to the IPSP scholarship?**

No. Applicants are advised NOT to apply for any courses in Ireland until after they have been shortlisted for a fellowship award following interview. The shortlisted applicants will be contacted by Irish Council for International Students (ICOS) with information on applying for their chosen courses.

▪ **Is there a list of higher education institutions in Ireland that IPSP applicants should only consider?**

Yes. There are 20 participating higher education institutions in Ireland for the IPSP program. You can find the full list of those institutions and the courses they offer under the Directory of Courses [{Click here}](#).

▪ **For which academic year am I applying?**

Applicants must be able to take up the scholarship in the academic year 2020/2021

- **If I can't get an official or original copy of the degree certificate or academic transcript, can I submit certified copies?**

If you can't submit an original transcript or diploma certificate issued by the higher education institution, then you can submit copies certified by the Palestinian Ministry of Education. Any certified documents (degree certificate or academic transcript) must be original stamped and signed documents certified by the Palestinian Ministry of Education and should include the grading schedule. Photocopies of certified documents will not be accepted. Each page of the documents should be certified. All documents should be single-sided, but if there is a double-sided document, each side of the page should be certified with a stamp.

- **If I can't provide an official or original document (degree certificate, academic transcript, letter of reference, or English language proficiency score report) by the application deadline, can I submit a photocopy with the understanding that the original or official copy will be submitted later?**

If you are unable to submit an official or original document by the application deadline, we will accept a photocopy with the understanding that the original or official copy will be submitted no later than 9 April 2020 in case you are shortlisted following the interviews.

- **Should all documents (degree certificate or academic transcript) be in English? If an English official copy is not available, what is the alternative?**

Yes, official or original copies of the degree certificate or academic transcript should be in English. If an applicant can't provide an official or original document in English, they need to submit a copy certified (original stamped and signed) by the Palestinian Ministry of Education, **and** to also provide a certified English translation of it by a licensed translator.

- **How many official or original copies of the degree certificate and academic transcript do I need to submit with my IPSP application?**

You only need to submit one copy of the degree certificate and academic transcript with your IPSP application. However, if you are shortlisted after the interviews, you should be prepared to submit two other official or original copies of those documents.

- **If I went on an academic exchange program during my undergraduate studies, do I need to submit an original or official transcript for the courses I studied abroad?**

Transcripts must cover every subject or module of undergraduate studies for which you received credits. Accordingly, if the transcript of the original university from which you graduated does not specify the actual results for subjects studied at another institution, then you must provide a transcript from the other institution detailing your results in those courses.

- **Do you accept photocopies or scanned copies of the reference letters?**

No. Academic reference letters should be original hand-signed documents on headed paper. E-signatures will not be accepted. Photocopies of letters where the signature is photocopied will not be accepted.

- **Do you accept professional letters of reference rather than academic?**

No. You are required to submit two original academic letters with original signatures and stamps and with a letterhead.

- **Do I need to submit a score report with my IPSP application in order to prove my English language proficiency? If so, what is the minimum requirement?**

Yes, in order to be eligible and for your application to be complete, you must submit with your IPSP application an English language proficiency score report with a minimum score of 6.5 on IELTS, or 550 on Institutional Testing Program (ITP), or 80 on Internet-based TOEFL (iBT)

- **If I submitted a score report of 550 or higher on Institutional Testing Program (ITP), or 80 or higher on Internet-based TOEFL (iBT), do I have to take the IELTS exam which the IPSP will arrange for shortlisted candidates?**

Yes, if you are shortlisted after the interviews, and the English language proficiency certificate you submitted with your IPSP application was not IELTS, then you will need to sit for an IELTS test and achieve a minimum score of 6.5 (because even if you fulfilled the IPSP scholarship requirement, you still need to fulfil the study requirements of higher education institutions in Ireland which require an IELTS certificate - www.ielts.org - with a minimum overall score of 6.5). However, the test will be arranged and covered by the Representative Office of Ireland in Palestine, and it will be administered in March 2020.

- **If I submitted a valid IELTS certification of 6.5 or higher with my IPSP application, do I have to take the IELTS exam which the IPSP will arrange for shortlisted candidates?**

No. If you are shortlisted after the interviews, and you already hold a valid IELTS score of 6.5 or higher, then you will be given the choice to retake the IELTS test or not. In that case, if you feel that you can achieve a better score on the IELTS test, we do encourage you to retake it since it will increase your chances of admission to your selected courses by the higher education institutions in Ireland. The test will be arranged and covered by the Representative Office of Ireland in Palestine, and it will be administered in March 2020.

- **If I studied for my undergraduate degree in an English-speaking country, for example, USA or UK, should I still submit an English proficiency score report (IELTS, iBT, ITP) with my IPSP application?**

Yes. This is a scholarship requirement. Accordingly, applicants who studied in English-speaking countries are still required to submit an English proficiency score report (IELTS or iBT or ITP) with their application dated no later than September 2018.

- **Are there any specific requirements for the offered courses offered by the higher education institutions?**

Yes. You should ensure that you meet all eligibility requirements for the courses you intend applying for. These can be found in the IPSP Directory of Courses [{Click here}](#) and on the relevant college website. You are advised to check all details with the online information provided by the college. It is also important that you research the institution you propose to study at to ensure that it is a good fit for you and will meet your expectations.

- **If there are discrepancies between the course requirements available on the IPSP Directory of Courses {Insert Link} and what is provided on the institution's website, which should I follow?**

Applicants should always follow the website of the institution; institutions may update the course web pages after the directory goes to print and applicants should always go by what is on the course's webpage..

- **Does the scholarship cover dependents?**

No, only the scholars are covered through the IPSP award.

- **If I already hold a master's degree, am I still be eligible to apply to IPSP?**

No. Applicants must not already hold a qualification at master's degree level or higher in order to be eligible.

- **Is there an age limit to apply to the IPSP scholarship?**

No, there is no age limit to the IPSP scholarship.

- **If I will be traveling during the time you will be conducting interviews, will it be possible to do the interview remotely?**

No. Applicants should plan to be in Palestine during the second half of February 2020 to be interviewed in person at AMIDEAST offices in Ramallah or Gaza.

- **Can siblings apply?**

Yes, siblings can apply, and each is evaluated on his/her own merits.

- **How many IPSP awards will be granted in 2020?**

Approximately 25 awards will be granted to Palestinian scholars from West Bank, Jerusalem, and Gaza.