



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 three 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 the Selection of Course Choices section 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 2021/2022
- ✓ 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). If all of the previous tests are not obtainable, students are advised to take the test by registering on Duolingo, [Duolingo English Test](https://www.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.

▪ **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:

- ✓ One recent photograph (.jpg)
- ✓ A copy of the graduation certificate for each higher education qualification you have completed (in English). 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.
- ✓ 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.
- ✓ 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.*
- ✓ 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 scholarship, your passport must be valid for at least 6 months after the expected completion of your study in Ireland.
- ✓ A copy of your national ID card (Palestinian or Jerusalem ID)
- ✓ Your current C.V. *If you are shortlisted and the interview process your C.V. will be used when applying to HEIs in Ireland.*
- ✓ 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](#).

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.

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

Three. As such, you must select three courses from the IPSP Directory of Courses {Click [here](#)}. Courses should be listed in your application form according to first, second, and third 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 two or three course choices, will I have the chance to choose between them?**

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. Similarly, an applicant can only accept an offer to their third choice if their applications to their first and second course choices were 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 25 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 2021/2022.

- **Do I need to submit official or original copies of the degree certificate, academic transcript, the letters of reference, or the English score report?**

Applications need to be submitted by email, as such we accept scanned copies of those documents. However, you should have official and original copies available in order to submit to the IPSP program or the higher education institutions, [if requested](#). Those should be original transcripts or diploma certificates issued by the higher education institution or 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.

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

Yes, they should be in English. If an applicant can't provide a 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.

- **If I went on an academic exchange program during my undergraduate studies, do I need to submit 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 professional letters of reference rather than academic?**

No. You are required to submit two academic letters 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.*

- **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 all of the previous tests are not obtainable, students are advised to take the test by registering on Duolingo, [Duolingo English Test](#). 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.

- **If I submitted a score report of 550 or higher on Institutional Testing Program (ITP), or 80 or higher on Internet-based TOEFL (iBT), or 110 on Duolingo, 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 January 2021.

- **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 January 2021.

- **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, or Duolingo) 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 ITP, or Duolingo) with their application dated no later than September 2019.

- **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](#) 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 am a Palestinian currently residing outside of the occupied Palestinian territory, am I still eligible to apply?**

No. To be eligible, applicants should be residing in the occupied Palestinian territory throughout the application, selection, and placement process until they travel to the higher education institution if they were awarded the IPSP scholarship.

- **Can siblings apply?**

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

- **How many IPSP awards will be granted in 2021?**

Approximately 12 awards will be granted to Palestinian scholars from West Bank, Jerusalem, and Gaza.