



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](http://www.dfa.ie/ramallah/), 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 2023/2024
- ✓ submit with their application a valid English language proficiency score report (dated September 2021 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), or 110 on Duolingo.
- ✓ 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.

▪ **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:

1. One recent passport-sized photograph.
2. An official copy (not a photocopy) of the graduation certificate for all 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.
3. An official copy (not a photocopy) of the academic transcripts for all higher education qualifications you have completed (in English). 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 for 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 the interview process you will be required to submit a certified copy of the identify page of your passport. Passports must be valid for at least 6 months after the expected completion of your study in Ireland. If your existing passport expires before December 2024, you will be asked to provide a new passport if you are shortlisted after Round II.
6. A copy of your national ID card (Palestinian or Jerusalem ID)
7. Your current C.V. If you are shortlisted following the interview process your C.V. will be used when applying to HEIs in Ireland.
8. Your original English language proficiency (IELTS or ITP or iBT or Duolingo) score report (dated September 2021 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), or 110 on Duolingo.

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

In your IPSP application and using the [Ireland Fellows Programme Directory of Eligible Programmes](#), you are asked to list details of the three master's programmes you would like to pursue in Ireland, ranked in order of choice (1, 2, 3). To maximise your chances of receiving a course place offer should you be selected to go forward as a Candidate, it is strongly recommended that the three programmes are in three different Higher Education Institutions (HEIs), where available.

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 and on the relevant college website. It is your responsibility to ensure that your academic qualifications are of sufficient standard for your chosen course.

- **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 19 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](#).

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

Applicants must be able to take up the scholarship in the academic year 2023/2024.

- **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 document (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?**

Yes. 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 January 10, 2023 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, 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.

- **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 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. E-signatures will not be accepted.

The letter should be in English, on headed paper, and should include the full contact details and the title and position of the referee. 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 academic letters on official letterhead with original signatures. 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 for 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 original English language proficiency (IELTS or ITP or iBT or Duolingo) score report (dated September 2021 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), or 110 on Duolingo.

- **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/February 2023.

- **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/February 2023.

- **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, iBT, ITP, or Duolingo) with their application dated no later than September 2021.

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

Yes. 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 Fellows Programme Directory of Eligible Programmes](#) and on the relevant college website. It is your responsibility to ensure that your academic qualifications are of sufficient standard for your chosen course.

- **If there are discrepancies between the course requirements available on the 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 2023?**

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