



# Irish Aid

Rialtas na hÉireann

Government of Ireland

Ireland-Palestine Scholarship  
Programme 2022/23

Guidance Note &  
Application Form

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## Guidance Note

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***Please read through this document carefully and in its entirety prior to completing the application form.***

## **THE BENEFITS OF STUDYING IN IRELAND**

Ireland has been a member of the European Union since 1973. Situated on the western edge of Europe, Ireland is a small, globally connected island nation with a population of five million people. While Ireland has its own language and distinct cultural identity, English is the universal spoken language.

Ireland is a friendly, safe, deeply welcoming country, steeped in a rich heritage and culture.

A focus on education has been at the core of Irish government policy since the foundation of the State in 1922. Ireland has a longstanding international reputation for high-quality education, built on a solid foundation of commitment to excellence. Ireland's higher education system is in the top-twenty worldwide, offering globally recognised expertise, and at 65%, Ireland has one of the highest educational participation rates at third level in the world. Studying at postgraduate level in Ireland offers a unique opportunity to join programmes that are driving innovation and changing lives worldwide.

Education has been a driver of Ireland's economic transformation. Ireland is an open economy and our location, combined with our highly educated workforce, has served to attract significant inward investment over recent decades. Today, Ireland is a leader in the technology, biotechnology and pharmaceutical sectors, with many leading international companies choosing Ireland for the location of their European headquarters. With some of the world's biggest and best companies locating their key strategic research facilities here, Ireland offers an unparalleled ecosystem that sees academic researchers working hand-in-hand with home-grown start-up companies. These work in partnership with some of the most innovative multinationals on the planet, through shared research projects and programmes, often supported by the Irish government.

For more information on studying in Ireland, please see: <https://www.educationinireland.com>

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It takes independent thinkers and doers to succeed in today's world – and it takes a pioneering, creative and agile country to produce them. That country is Ireland: [Why Should I Study In Ireland? - Education in Ireland](#)

The Education In Ireland Student Ambassador Programme - Meet some of our students and read their latest blog posts: [Home | Study in Ireland | Education in Ireland Blog](#)

Hear from Ireland Fellows Programme awardees about their experiences and the benefits they gained studying in Ireland: [Ireland Fellows Programme \(irishaidfellowships.ie\)](http://irishaidfellowships.ie)

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## 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 2022/2023. The Programme provides opportunities for candidates to study in a wide variety of courses and third-level institutions in Ireland.

## ELIGIBILITY

- 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.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 2022/2023
- submit with their application a valid English language proficiency score report (dated September 2020 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](#). 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 listed below
- complete the Declaration section at the last part of the application certifying that all the information given is true, complete and accurate.

**Include the following documents with your application:**

1. ☐ **One recent passport-sized photograph.**
2. ☐ **An official copy 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 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 identity 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 2023, 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 2020 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](#). A minimum score of 110 on Duolingo is required.

## SUBMITTING APPLICATIONS

Please complete the form electronically (typed) and then print out the completed application form in single-sided format only. Pages should NOT be stapled together. Please do not use spiral or any other binding. Applications must be submitted by hand to:

AMIDEAST West Bank  
Al-Watanieh Towers, 1st floor, El-Bireh,  
Ramallah  
Tel: 02-2408023 ext. 300

AMIDEAST Gaza  
Bseiso Building, 8th floor, Rimal Neighbourhood,  
Gaza  
Tel: 08-2824635 ext. 102

## SELECTION OF COURSE CHOICES

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.

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

Verbal Grade	% Grade in Ireland	Equivalent Local Grade	Equivalent Local GPA
First Class Honours (1 <sup>st</sup> )	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 (3 <sup>rd</sup> )	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 2022.

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

## 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 2021.**

### 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 2020 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 score report with their original IPSP application will, at that stage, be required to take an IELTS test. The test will be arranged in January/February 2022 by the Representative Office of Ireland, who will cover the relevant fee.

**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 2022.

## SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS

A provisional list of awards will be drawn up in June 2022. 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](http://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).

**PLEASE DON'T INCLUDE PAGES 1-7 WITH YOUR  
APPLICATION**

**PLEASE RETAIN FOR YOUR REFERENCE**



## Ireland Fellows Programme - Application Form 2022/23

**ONLY TYPED APPLICATIONS SUBMITTED BY HAND ARE ACCEPTABLE**

The closing date for receipt of applications and accompanying documents is 15 October 2021.

Please complete the form electronically (typed) and then print out the completed application form in single-sided format only and sign it. Pages should NOT be stapled together. Please do not use spiral or any other binding. Applications must be submitted by hand to:

**AMIDEAST West Bank**

Al-Watanieh Towers, 1st floor, El-Bireh,  
Ramallah  
Tel: 02-2408023 ext. 300

**AMIDEAST Gaza**

Bseiso Building, 8th floor, Rimal Neighbourhood,  
Gaza  
Tel: 08-2824635 ext. 102

<b>1. Personal information:</b>	
<b>Surname</b>	
<b>First or given name</b> <i>as it appears on your passport or official document</i>	
<b>Gender</b>	
<b>Nationality</b>	
<b>Country of residence</b>	
<b>City of address</b>	
<b>Date of birth</b> (day/month/year)	/ /
<b>Contact details:</b>	
<b>Phone no. 1</b>	
<b>Phone no. 2</b>	
<b>Main email address</b> – <i>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</i>	
<b>Passport details:</b>	
Country of Issue	
Date of expiry     /     /	
If you hold a passport for another country, or a diplomatic passport, please provide details	
<b>Have you ever previously applied for any of Ireland's Fellowship Programmes?</b> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	
If yes, please list year(s) in which you previously applied and indicate if you were successful:	
<b>Are you applying or do you intend to apply for any other fellowship/scholarship to study at postgraduate level?</b> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	
If yes, please provide details:	

**2. Education**

Please provide details of each higher education qualification you have attained.

**A) Bachelor's level qualification:**

<b>Name of degree</b> (e.g. B.Sc. Mathematics)	<b>University/College</b> <i>Include location</i>	<b>Dates</b> from/to	<b>Final overall grade.</b> <i>Please also provide final GPA score and GPA scale if available</i>
			<b>GPA score</b> <b>GPA Scale</b> <b>Grade</b> , if relevant

**B) 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.

<b>Qualification and name of degree</b> (e.g. Postgraduate Diploma in Accountancy)	<b>University/College/Institution</b> <i>Include location</i>	<b>Dates</b> from/to	<b>Final overall grade.</b> <i>Please provide final grade and, if available, your GPA score and GPA scale.</i>
			<b>GPA score</b> <b>GPA Scale</b> <b>Grade</b> , if relevant
			<b>GPA score</b> <b>GPA Scale</b> <b>Grade</b> , if relevant
			<b>GPA score</b> <b>GPA Scale</b> <b>Grade</b> , if relevant

**C) Have you achieved any previous education scholarship or awards?**

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**English language test:**

<b>IELTS test results (if available)</b> Date of test: (day/month/year) <b>Must be dated September 2020 or later</b>	<b>Date:</b> /     /     (Day/Month/Year)  <b>Overall score:</b> Writing score: Reading score: Speaking score: Listening score:
<b>If you have the results of another English language test (e.g. TOEFL), please provide details here</b>	<b>Name of test:</b> <b>Date:</b>  <b>Overall score:</b>

<b>3. Work Experience:</b>	
<b>A) Your employing organisation</b>	
Current Job title	
How long have you worked with this organisation?	years and months
<b>B) If applicable, list in chronological order any <u>previous positions</u> you have held with <u>this</u> organisation, indicating your job title and start and finish dates (month/year).</b>	
Job title	(month/year)
	/ to /
	/ to /
<b>C) If you have <u>previous</u> work experience <u>outside</u> the organisation where you currently work, please state your job title and start and finish dates (months/years). This may include internships. If you are currently unemployed, please include your previous work experience here.</b>	
Employing Organisation and Job title	(month/year)
	/ to /
	/ to /
	/ to /
<b>D) Total number of years' relevant work experience</b> <i>Please provide the total number of years of work experience that is <u>directly relevant</u> to your proposed programme(s) of study.</i>	years and months
<b>E) Please provide brief details of leadership positions you hold or have held in the past (e.g. in work, in volunteer work, within social activism, in community organisations, as class/work representative, or college roles).</b>	
Position	(month/year)
	/ to /
	/ to /
	/ to /

<b>4. Master's programme choices in Ireland:</b>			
<i>Please ensure you have carefully read through the <a href="#">Directory of Eligible Programmes</a> and the <a href="#">Guidance Note for Applicants (above)</a> before completing this question.</i>			
	<b>University/college name</b>	<b>Full programme title</b>	<b>Programme code</b> <i>Can be found on HEI master's programme website</i>
1			
2			
3			

## 5. 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.

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

- 1) The key achievements in my academic or professional career to date (approximately 400 words)

- 2) Why I want to pursue my nominated course(s) (approximately 400 words)

- 3) How I will use my new skills and knowledge (approximately 200 words)

- 4) How I believe my proposed study will contribute to future development in Palestine (approximately 200 words)

## 6. Required Documents

Have you included the following documents with your application? Your application will not be valid unless copies of these documents are included.

- ☐ **One recent passport-sized photograph.**
- ☐ **An official copy 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.
- ☐ **An official copy 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.
- ☐ **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.*
- ☐ **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 identity 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 2023, you will be asked to provide a new passport if you are shortlisted after Round II.*
- ☐ **A copy of your national ID card (Palestinian or Jerusalem ID)**
- ☐ **Your current C.V.** *If you are shortlisted following the interview process your C.V. will be used when applying to HEIs in Ireland.*
- ☐ **Your original English language proficiency (IELTS or ITP or iBT or Duolingo) score report** (dated September 2020 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](#). A minimum score of 110 on Duolingo is required

## DECLARATION

☐ I acknowledge that the information and documents I submit as part of my application will be shared with:

- (i) the management agency for the Ireland-Palestine Scholarship Programme
- (ii) the Irish Embassy, and
- (iii) the Irish Department of Foreign Affairs

**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 Fellows 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](#) 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 have read and understand the following:

**We do not ask whether applicants have a criminal record at the application stage. However, applicants should note that a criminal record may be a reason for a refusal of a visa or for entry to Ireland. If an applicant has a query about this, they are advised to contact the relevant Irish Embassy.**

☐ I certify that all the information I have given is true, complete and accurate to the best of my knowledge.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date:        /        /        (Day/Month/Year)

Do not staple

*Where did you hear about the Ireland-Palestine Scholarship Programme?*

- ☐ *Social Media (please specify Facebook, Twitter, WhatsApp...)*
- ☐ *University/College*
- ☐ *Through your Employer*
- ☐ *Word of Mouth*
- ☐ *Radio/Newspaper*
- ☐ *Government Source (please specify)*
- ☐ *Other (please specify)*