



مؤسسة إسناد
لدم الطالب الفلسطيني
ISNAD FOUNDATION - IFPS

IBN KHALDUN SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

Towards Deeper Understanding... and a More Cohesive Palestinian Society



2025

| Summary Project Data | |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| Project Title: | The Ibn Khaldun Graduate Scholarship Program for Students of Social Sciences |
| Total annual cost per student | 5,400 \$ |
| Total cost over 5 years per student | 26,000 \$ |
| Project Duration: | 5 years |
| Project Start: | 15.09.2025 |
| Project End: | 15.09.2030 |
| Project Sector: | Education and Social Development |
| Beneficiary Group | Palestinian students inside and outside Palestine |
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Project Introduction

Palestinian society faces an existential challenge under occupation, which systematically seeks to fragment its social fabric and undermine national cohesion and collective identity through policies of repression, displacement, and deprivation. These tactics aim to create a fractured social reality that can be more easily controlled through methods such as psychological normalization, distortion of historical narratives, and the reinforcement of a deformed cultural identity. In light of these conditions, there is an urgent need for specialists in various fields of the social sciences—such as psychology, sociology, history, and related disciplines—who are capable of analyzing complex societal phenomena, understanding their impact on the Palestinian individual, and identifying psychological, social, and cultural needs in the context of daily lived experiences. Given the scarcity of experts in these critical areas, and the enemy's deliberate efforts to penetrate and distort them, supporting the study of the social sciences becomes a national imperative. These disciplines are not merely academic tools; they are intellectual weapons that contribute to safeguarding collective consciousness, strengthening resilience, and developing strategic responses grounded in a deep understanding of the psychological, social, cultural, and historical dimensions of the conflict.

In response, Isnad Foundation -IFPSS launched the Ibn Khaldun Graduate Scholarship Program. This initiative targets Palestinian students—both in Palestine and in the diaspora—who demonstrate strong academic potential and a passion for understanding the social, psychological, and historical challenges facing their communities.



The program aims to cultivate locally rooted scientific knowledge that contributes to shaping relevant social policies and community-based programs. It seeks to award 200 scholarships to outstanding Palestinian students pursuing master's and doctoral studies in various branches of the social sciences at leading Arab and international universities, with the goal of establishing a robust research base in these vital fields. Special emphasis is placed on applied research projects that directly address the Palestinian context, including studies on the cumulative psychological effects of systematic violence across age groups, especially the impact of repeated trauma on the psychological development of children and vulnerable populations; research on transformations in family structures and patterns of social cohesion under conditions of displacement and geographic fragmentation; in-depth studies of the psychology of resilience and resistance, exploring cultural and religious factors that foster coping capacities; research into the influence of digital spaces on the formation of collective consciousness; and evaluations of the effectiveness of psychosocial support programs in protracted crisis settings. The program also strives to foster an environment that produces specialists across all areas of the social sciences.

The Ibn Khaldun Scholarship is an investment in Palestinian intellect—designed to prepare emerging thought leaders capable of driving change, shaping evidence-based policies, and envisioning a more just and equitable future for Palestinian society.

Context and Problem Analysis

Palestinian society is undergoing profound social and psychological transformations as a result of decades of occupation that systematically target the dismantling of social structures and the distortion of national identity. **These exceptional circumstances have deepened psychological and behavioral crises among individuals—particularly youth—undermined social cohesion, and produced new, complex societal challenges.**

Despite the magnitude of these issues, **the academic and professional presence of the social sciences in Palestine remains limited—both** in terms of the number of specialists and the production of locally grounded scientific knowledge. In contrast, the Israeli occupation recognizes the strategic importance of these sciences in shaping collective consciousness and actively invests in studying and deconstructing Palestinian society, while this field continues to be marginalized locally.

This highlights the urgent need to support graduate studies and scientific research in the social sciences, in order to empower a new generation of researchers capable of understanding the realities and transformations of Palestinian society, analyzing the phenomena emerging from a context of oppression and colonization, and contributing to the development of community interventions and initiatives rooted in deep, contextual scientific understanding.

The Ibn Khaldun Scholarship Program seeks to fill this gap by supporting outstanding Palestinian students pursuing graduate (master's and doctoral) studies in the social sciences and connecting them with leading academic and community institutions locally and internationally.

Problem Indicators



SHORTAGE OF EXPERTS IN SOCIAL SCIENCES

Local reports point to a significant gap in the number of qualified academics and researchers in sociology relative to the scale of socio-economic challenges that require specialized research-based interventions.



RISING SOCIAL FRAGMENTATION AND PSYCHOLOGICAL PRESSURE

Emerging behavioral patterns indicate that a significant portion of Palestinian youth are experiencing forms of family or social disintegration due to war, displacement, and unemployment. This calls for analytical research efforts to understand and address shifting social dynamics.



SPECIALIZED RESEARCH INSTITUTIONS CONTROLLED BY THE OCCUPATION

The psychological, social, and historical study of Palestinian society has been utilized for purposes of control and domination, with psychological and social knowledge being employed in soft colonial strategies, such as psychological and media warfare.



WEAK LOCAL RESEARCH IN SOCIOLOGY

Less than 3% of Palestine's annual research output focuses on the social sciences. A major disconnect exists between real societal issues and academic production capable of interpreting and addressing them.



LIMITED GRADUATE PROGRAMS IN RELEVANT FIELDS

Palestinian universities offer a very limited number of master's and doctoral programs in sociology or related fields. These programs often lack practical training and effective integration of theory with real-world social contexts.



WEAK INTEGRATION OF RESEARCH AND PUBLIC POLICY

Outputs of social research are rarely used in decision-making. There is a clear lack of coordination between universities and state institutions, which significantly limits the ability of researchers to influence the development of social and developmental policies.

Project Summary

The Ibn Khaldun Graduate Scholarship Program is a strategic initiative launched by **Isnad Foundation -IFPSS** to address the growing need for psychosocial resilience within the Palestinian community. The program aims to empower a new generation of researchers and specialists by offering **200 fully funded scholarships for master's and doctoral studies in the social sciences**, both within Palestine and abroad.

This initiative seeks to cultivate scientific knowledge rooted in the local context and to equip students with the tools necessary to develop evidence-based, practical solutions to complex societal challenges. By investing in the development of human capital in these fields, the program contributes to enhancing community well-being, strengthening social cohesion, and informing policy-making.

The core objective of the program is to address the acute shortage of qualified social science professionals while fostering academic research that informs national strategies for social development.

Isnad Foundation -IFPSS will implement this program in collaboration with academic institutions, research centers, and civil society organizations, under the central motto:

“Towards deeper understanding... and a more cohesive Palestinian society.”

Project Outcomes and Activities

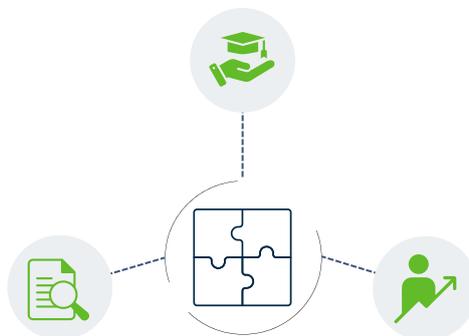
The Ibn Khaldun Scholarship Program focuses on achieving three key strategic outcomes that contribute to the development of sustainable solutions to the psychological and social challenges facing Palestine:

Provision of 200 Graduate Scholarships

Offering 200 fully funded and competitive scholarships for academically outstanding Palestinian students pursuing master's and doctoral degrees, enabling them to specialize in high-impact research areas.

Strengthening Local Research Capacity

Enhancing academic research output on mental health and social structures in Palestine by encouraging field studies, applied research, and contextually grounded academic publishing.



Development of Socially-Oriented Researchers

Empowering scholarship recipients with advanced knowledge and research skills in the social sciences to contribute to the development of evidence-based social policies and effective community interventions.

| Activity | Output Type | Quantity |
|--|-------------------|----------|
| 1. Educating and supporting 200 graduate students in the social sciences. | | |
| Identifying priority research topics related to Palestinian social and psychological needs | Report | 1 |
| Signing formal agreements with local and international universities | Agreement | 15 |
| Launching a national awareness campaign for scholarship applications | Campaign | 1 |
| Conducting interviews and evaluations for scholarship applicants | Interview | 600 |
| Providing full scholarships for master's and doctoral programs | Scholarship | 200 |
| Monitoring academic progress through regular meetings | Meeting | 200 |
| 2. Building Research Leadership and Policy-Making in the Social Sciences | | |
| Organizing training workshops on qualitative and applied research | Training Sessions | 5 |
| Establishing a research and supervision center within the program | Unit | 1 |
| Hosting academic conferences and policy dialogue forums | Event | 2 |
| 3. Enhancing Local Knowledge and Community-Based Research | | |
| Launching campaigns to raise awareness about mental and social health | Campaign | 5 |
| Supporting graduate student-led research on community issues | Research Project | 200 |

Project Duration

The Ibn Khaldun Graduate Scholarship Program is scheduled to commence on **September 1, 2025**, with a planned implementation period of **60 months (5 years)**. Accordingly, the project is expected to conclude on **September 1, 2030**.

Continuous coordination will be ensured with academic and institutional partners to maintain alignment with the approved work plan.

Any changes to the timeline or activities will be proactively communicated to ensure effective implementation and to achieve the strategic goals of the project—namely, strengthening local research capacity and advancing social and psychological development in Palestine.



Key Progress Indicators

| Indicator | Target |
|--|-----------------------|
| Identification and approval of priority research topics in psychology and sociology | 10 research topics |
| Signing cooperation agreements with Palestinian and international universities | 15 universities |
| Selection of scholarship recipients through a transparent national nomination and evaluation process | 200 students |
| Provision of full scholarships for master's and doctoral programs | 200 scholarships |
| Conducting workshops on qualitative research and academic writing | 15 workshops |
| Preparation of regular progress reports on students and research outcomes | Quarterly reports |
| Establishment of a dedicated academic research and supervision unit | 1 unit |
| Organization of academic conferences and policy dialogue events | 2 events |
| Support for student-led research projects addressing community needs | 200 research projects |

Key Performance Indicators (KPIs)

| Indicator | Target | Linked SDG (Sustainable Development Goal) |
|---|---|--|
| The acceptance rate of students in social sciences programs | 100% enrollment of accepted students in target fields | SDG 4.3: Access to higher education |
| Percentage of students who successfully complete the first year with guidance support | At least 90% success rate with academic and psychological support | SDG 4.3: Access to higher education |
| Graduation rate of master's and PhD students within the planned timeline | 95% graduation of scholarship recipients within the set timeframe | SDG 4.3: Access to higher education |
| Annual student retention rate | Maintaining an annual retention rate above 95% | SDG 4.5: Equity in access to education |
| Satisfaction rate with research supervision and academic experience | 85% positive satisfaction based on regular surveys | SDG 4.7: Education for sustainable development |
| Percentage of graduates participating in community development programs | 60% of graduates engaged in national and community initiatives | SDG 8.5: Decent work and equal opportunities |
| Number of student-led research projects addressing local psychosocial challenges | Launching at least 10 initiatives annually | SDG 11.3: Sustainable cities and communities |
| Number of academic conferences or public forums organized annually | Organizing at least 5 competitions or events per year | SDG 9.5: Building innovation and research capacity |
| Percentage of graduate research evaluated as "Very Good" or higher by academic committees | 80% of graduates rated "Very Good" or higher | SDG 16.6: Institutional effectiveness and accountability |
| Number of partnerships with research and academic institutions | Maintaining at least 15 active partnerships | SDG 17.16: Strengthen global partnerships |

Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E):

As a graduate scholarship initiative aimed at empowering Palestinian researchers in the social sciences, the Ibn Khaldun Scholarship Program spans five years and requires a robust Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) framework. This system ensures effective implementation of program activities, measures outcomes, and assesses long-term impact based on evidence and stakeholder feedback.

The M&E framework will track the program's implementation against defined key performance indicators, evaluate students' academic and research progress, and assess the contribution of funded research to addressing social and psychological challenges in Palestine.

The system will integrate both quantitative and qualitative methods, with regular engagement of students, supervisors, and partner institutions.

Key Monitoring and Evaluation Objectives:

- Monitor the implementation of scholarship activities in line with the annual plan and approved multi-year work plans.
- Track academic progress of students, research quality, and contributions to local knowledge production.
- Evaluate the effectiveness of research supervision, institutional support, and academic mentoring.
- Identify barriers in research implementation, academic systems, or collaboration with partner institutions.
- Provide evidence-based insights and updates to stakeholders, donors, and academic partners.

M&E Tools and Mechanisms:

- Biannual online surveys to assess student satisfaction with academic supervision, research support, and program services.
- Mid-year and end-of-year evaluations covering research progress, thesis development, and academic achievements.
- Annual research forums involving students, academic supervisors, and expert reviewers to discuss findings and impact.
- Reports from partner universities on students' academic status, research contributions, and level of institutional integration.
- A digital monitoring system to track scholarship status, thesis milestones, and progress in publication and dissemination.
- Benchmarking of research performance against national and international research quality standards.
- Field evaluations to assess the community impact of student-led research projects and applied initiatives.

Expected Outputs of Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E):

- Semi-annual progress reports analyzing the implementation of scholarship activities, including student advancement, research stages, and supervision effectiveness, with clear and actionable recommendations.
- Annual evaluation reports reviewing progress toward achieving the program's strategic objectives, such as strengthening local research capacity and developing social and psychological interventions.
- Mid-term evaluation report (end of Year 3) assessing cumulative academic and research outcomes, student satisfaction, institutional collaboration, and proposals for improving the final phase of the project.
- Final evaluation report (end of Year 5) evaluating the overall impact of the program on scientific research outputs, community solutions, contributions to national policies, and sustainability recommendations.

Project Evaluations

Three major evaluations will be conducted during the implementation of the Ibn Khaldun Scholarship Program:

- **Baseline Evaluation:** Conducted within the first six months to assess institutional readiness, the effectiveness of the student selection process, and the alignment of academic programs with the project's objectives.
- **Mid-Term Evaluation:** Conducted during the third year to assess academic progress, research quality, institutional collaboration, and implementation challenges, providing strategic insights for course correction.
- **Final Evaluation:** Conducted at the end of the fifth year to evaluate long-term outcomes, the sustainability of research initiatives, the integration of graduates into public institutions and NGOs, and the program's overall contribution to the social development sector in Palestine.

These evaluations will offer a comprehensive view of the program's effectiveness, identify key lessons learned, and guide future improvements. Results will be shared with donors, academic partners, and key stakeholders to promote transparency and inform strategic decision-making.



Critical Risk Assessment

| | | |
|---|--------------------|--------------------|
| 1. Students' difficulty in conducting context-based research or academic writing | | |
| Risk Rating: 9 | Likelihood: High | Impact Level: High |
| Mitigation Strategy: Implement workshops on research methodologies, academic writing courses, and ensure ongoing supervision by experienced faculty members. | | |
| 2. Limited availability of qualified supervisors in psychology and sociology | | |
| Risk Rating: 8 | Likelihood: Medium | Impact Level: High |
| Mitigation Strategy: Establish partnerships with various universities and research centers to ensure access to qualified supervisors across disciplines. | | |
| 3. Weak alignment of student research with national development priorities | | |
| Risk Rating: 8 | Likelihood: Medium | Impact Level: High |
| Mitigation Strategy: Align research topics with national strategies and conduct orientation sessions on policy-relevant research themes. | | |
| 4. Student dropout due to psychological or financial pressure | | |
| Risk Rating: 9 | Likelihood: Medium | Impact Level: High |
| Mitigation Strategy: Provide financial aid and structured psychosocial support throughout the program, with regular monitoring of students' mental well-being. | | |

| | | |
|---|--------------------|---------------------|
| 5. Limited community impact of academic outputs | | |
| Impact Level: 6 | Likelihood: Medium | Risk Rating: Medium |
| Mitigation Strategy: Integrate applied research components and require community dissemination strategies for thesis projects. | | |
| 6. Delays in research approvals or access to data | | |
| Impact Level: 7 | Likelihood: Low | Risk Rating: High |
| Mitigation Strategy: Initiate early coordination with relevant institutions and ethics committees to facilitate data collection and fieldwork processes. | | |
| 7. Difficulty in publishing or presenting research findings | | |
| Impact Level: 6 | Likelihood: Medium | Risk Rating: Medium |
| Mitigation Strategy: Provide publication support, writing supervision, and facilitate participation in local and international conferences. | | |
| 8. Political or institutional instability affecting partner institutions | | |
| Impact Level: 6 | Likelihood: Low | Risk Rating: High |
| Mitigation Strategy: Diversify institutional partnerships across different regions and develop contingency plans for relocating students if necessary. | | |
| 9. Reduction in donor funding impacting program sustainability | | |
| Impact Level: 7 | Likelihood: Medium | Risk Rating: High |
| Mitigation Strategy: Secure multi-year funding agreements and establish a contingency reserve fund to ensure sustainability. | | |

Financial Support Structure of the Ibn Khaldun Graduate Scholarship Program

The Ibn Khaldun Graduate Scholarship Program offers comprehensive financial support for master's and doctoral students in the social sciences through two main components:



University Tuition Fees: Covers the cost of academic tuition across various disciplines, **with an average annual support of \$3,000 per student.**



Monthly Financial Stipend: Provides an average **monthly allowance of \$200** to support students' basic living needs, such as housing and transportation, **totaling \$2,400 annually.**

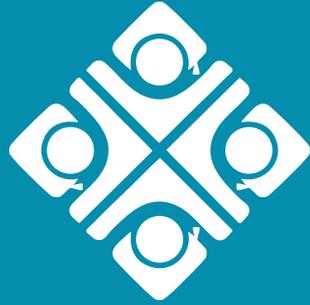
Total Annual Cost per Student: \$5,400

Total 5-Year Cost per Student: \$27,000

Flexible Options for Donors

- Donors may choose to fund **only one component** (e.g., tuition fees or living expenses).
- **Full funding is not mandatory;** partial contributions are welcomed and highly encouraged





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