



مؤسسة إسناد
لدعم الطالب الفلسطيني
ISNAD FOUNDATION - IFPS

JUSTICE FOR PALESTINE PROGRAM

Knowledge That Shapes Decision-Making



2025

Project Summary	
Project Title:	Justice for Palestine Program for Graduate Students in Political Science and International Relations
Total annual cost per student	\$5,400
Total cost over 5 years per student	\$27,000
Project Duration:	Years 5
Project Start:	15.09.2025
Project End:	15.09.2030
Project Sector:	Education, Politics & International Relations, Diplomatic Capacity Building
Beneficiary Group	Palestinian students inside and outside Palestine
Organization Name:	Isnad Foundation - IFPSS
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Project Introduction

In light of the escalating political and humanitarian challenges facing the Palestinian people—and amid systematic efforts to marginalize the Palestinian cause in international forums—the need has become urgent to empower a new generation of political and diplomatic leaders capable of defending Palestinian rights, influencing international decision-making, and shaping policies that promote justice for Palestine.

In response to this critical need, the Isnad Foundation for the Support of Palestinian Students (IFPS) has launched the **Justice for Palestine Scholarship Program** as a strategic initiative aimed at developing a distinguished cadre of Palestinian scholars specializing in political science and international relations. The program targets students from both within Palestine and the diaspora, offering fully funded scholarships for master's and doctoral studies at leading Palestinian, Arab, and international universities.

The program aspires to prepare academically and professionally qualified individuals equipped with both theoretical knowledge and practical skills to contribute to policy-making, engage in diplomatic service, and participate effectively in international organizations and think tanks. Through this, it seeks to amplify the Palestinian narrative and confront attempts to distort or marginalize it on the global stage.

Rooted in an enlightened developmental vision, the program believes that structured and conscious knowledge is the cornerstone of effective and independent political positioning. It aims to bridge academic research with the Palestinian context while encouraging studies related to international law, human rights, conflict resolution, and public diplomacy.



The **Justice for Palestine Scholarship Program** aims to provide **200 fully funded scholarships**, awarded through a transparent and competitive selection process. It offers students opportunities to engage in research and field projects that intersect with issues of liberation, international legitimacy, and social justice. In addition, scholars will participate in international conferences and policy forums, helping to build a global network of support and advocacy for the Palestinian cause.

This initiative is part of the broader strategic vision of the **Isnad Foundation**, which seeks to invest in the intellectual capacities of young Palestinians as part of the struggle for awareness, just representation, and the advancement of sovereignty and justice for Palestine through knowledge.

Context and Problem Analysis

Palestine is experiencing a deeply complex political reality marked by prolonged occupation, restricted freedoms, geographic fragmentation, and mounting international pressure. These dynamics have made the Palestinian issue one of the most enduring and complicated global challenges in modern history. Despite the inherent justice of the Palestinian cause, the lack of effective political and diplomatic representation, the weakening presence in international forums, and the limited influence in global decision-making circles have all contributed to the continued injustice inflicted upon the Palestinian people. There is a notable absence of Palestinian professionals specialized in political science and international relations at both regional and international levels—at a time when the world is undergoing rapid geopolitical shifts and heightened struggles for influence. Furthermore, there is a significant underinvestment in higher education in these fields within Palestine, coupled with a lack of specialized research centers. This has led to a major gap between academia and the practical demands of diplomatic advocacy.

Although thousands of Palestinian students pursue studies in the humanities and social sciences, only a small fraction engage in advanced academic tracks that focus on policy-making, diplomatic work, or international advocacy and lobbying. Most official and grassroots efforts in international arenas lack rigorous academic grounding and evidence-based methodologies.

In addition, the Palestinian cause is subject to systematic media and legal distortion campaigns, making it vital to cultivate a generation of Palestinian scholars capable of shaping international public opinion and countering false narratives. This requires deep knowledge of international law, human rights, and theories of international relations.

Investing in the development of a distinguished group of Palestinian researchers in political science and international relations is thus a strategic step toward reinforcing the global visibility of the Palestinian cause. It is essential for building an intellectual foundation that can defend Palestinian rights through institutional and legal discourse and chart new paths for political struggle in the 21st century.

Problem Indicators



WEAK PALESTINIAN REPRESENTATION IN INTERNATIONAL FORUMS

Palestinians suffer from a lack of effective presence in international institutions, leading to diminished influence of the Palestinian cause in shaping global decisions.



LACK OF SPECIALIZED PROFESSIONALS IN POLITICAL SCIENCE AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

Palestine faces a shortage of academically qualified individuals trained in political and diplomatic work, limiting its ability to influence regional and international policy.



LOW INVESTMENT IN POLITICAL AND DIPLOMATIC EDUCATION

Political science and international relations are not prioritized in Palestinian educational policy, resulting in a scarcity of academic programs and specialized research centers.



WEAK LINK BETWEEN ACADEMIC RESEARCH AND POLICY-MAKING

Academic research in political science often remains disconnected from decision-making bodies, reducing its potential to contribute to evidence-based and impactful political discourse.



ABSENCE OF YOUTH POLITICAL PARTICIPATION PROGRAMS

Palestine lacks structured programs that empower youth to engage in political and diplomatic spheres, creating a gap in preparing the next generation of leaders.



CHALLENGES FACING THE PALESTINIAN NARRATIVE IN GLOBAL MEDIA

The Palestinian cause is frequently targeted by distortion campaigns, while there is a lack of skilled professionals capable of defending it through legal and academic discourse in media and international platforms.

Project Summary

The **Justice for Palestine Graduate Scholarship Program** is a strategic initiative launched by the **Isnad Foundation - IFPS** to address the deep-rooted gaps in Palestinian political and diplomatic representation and to enhance Palestinians' ability to defend their rights in international forums through knowledge and scientific analysis.

The program aims to prepare a new generation of Palestinian researchers and professionals specializing in political science and international relations by offering **200 fully funded scholarships** for outstanding master's and doctoral students from both within Palestine and the diaspora. These scholarships will support studies at top-tier Palestinian, Arab, and international universities.

The initiative is founded on a firm belief that possessing deep political and diplomatic knowledge is the cornerstone of building a strong and effective Palestinian stance in the face of global challenges. It seeks to foster a narrative grounded in international law and human rights, ultimately contributing to the advancement of the Palestinian cause in global academic and political spheres.

The program also addresses the shortage of qualified Palestinian professionals capable of influencing international policy by supporting specialized scientific research, providing access to high-quality education, enabling participation in international conferences, and helping students build strategic networks with political and intellectual institutions worldwide.

The **Isnad Foundation** will implement this program in collaboration with universities, research centers, and political and diplomatic institutions to create lasting impact by nurturing a generation of Palestinian leaders capable of bringing meaningful change to Palestine's political and diplomatic trajectory.

Project Outcomes and Activities

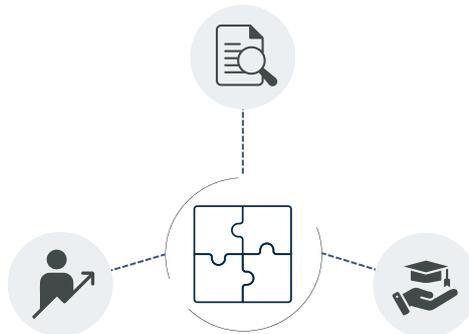
The **Justice for Palestine Scholarship Program** is focused on achieving three strategic outcomes that contribute to building a strong Palestinian political and diplomatic foundation rooted in academic research and specialized training:

Establishing a Research and Intellectual Network Supporting the Palestinian Cause

The program will promote scientific research and academic publication on topics related to liberation and national sovereignty by supporting research projects, organizing political workshops and debates, enabling participation in international conferences, and establishing a dedicated supervisory unit in political science and international relations in partnership with universities and research institutions.

Preparing Researchers and Political Leaders for Global Influence

The program will empower beneficiaries with tools in political and diplomatic analysis and guide them toward producing applied research in international law, public policy, and public diplomacy. This will contribute to the formation of a powerful, knowledge-based Palestinian narrative grounded in rigorous academic methodology.



Providing 200 Fully Funded Graduate Scholarships

The program will award 200 full scholarships for master's and PhD studies in political science and international relations. These scholarships aim to develop qualified Palestinian professionals capable of influencing international policy and effectively advocating for the Palestinian cause on the global stage.

Activity	Output Type	Quantity
1. Educating and Supporting 200 Graduate Students in Political Science and International Relations		
Identifying national research priorities in Palestinian political and diplomatic affairs	Report	1
Signing partnership agreements with universities and political research centers	Agreement	15
Launching a national and international campaign to promote the program and receive applications	Campaign	1
Conducting interviews and assessments for scholarship applicants	Interview	600
Awarding full scholarships for master's and doctoral programs	Scholarship	200
Monitoring academic progress through regular follow-up meetings	Meeting	200
2. Preparing Political Leaders and Influential Researchers in International Affairs		
Organizing training workshops on political analysis and international diplomacy	Training Session	5
Establishing an academic supervisory unit specialized in politics and international relations	Unit	1
Hosting academic conferences and political forums on Palestine and international law	Event	2
3. Strengthening the Palestinian Narrative and Applied Political Research		
Implementing awareness media campaigns on the Palestinian cause and public diplomacy	Campaign	5
Supporting student-led research projects on international policy and Palestinian representation	Research Project	200

Project Duration

The **Justice for Palestine Graduate Scholarship Program** is scheduled to commence on **September 15, 2025**, with a planned implementation period of **60 months (5 years)**. Accordingly, the project is expected to conclude on **September 15, 2030**. Continuous coordination will be ensured with partner universities, research centers, and participating political and intellectual institutions to maintain adherence to the approved work plan and to implement activities according to the established timeline.

Any potential changes in the implementation process or activity timelines will be proactively reported to ensure operational efficiency and the achievement of the project's strategic objectives—particularly those related to building effective Palestinian capacities in political analysis, diplomacy, public policy formulation, and strengthening Palestinian representation in international forums through knowledge and research-based practice.



Key Progress Indicators

Indicator	Target
Identification and approval of priority research topics in political science, international relations, and international law	10 research topics
Signing cooperation agreements with Palestinian and international universities and research centers	15 universities and centers
Selection of scholarship recipients through a transparent nomination and evaluation process	200 students
Provision of full scholarships for master's and doctoral programs in targeted disciplines	200 scholarships
Conducting training workshops on political analysis, international law, and public diplomacy	15 workshops
Preparation of regular reports on student progress and the impact of research on Palestinian political discourse	Quarterly reports
Establishment of an academic supervisory unit specialized in political science and international relations	1 unit
Organization of academic conferences and dialogue forums on international policy, the Palestinian cause, and diplomacy	2 events
Support for graduate student-led research projects addressing challenges in Palestinian policy and international representation	200 research projects

Key Performance Indicators (KPIs)

Indicator	Target	Related Sustainable Development Goal (SDG)
Percentage of students enrolled in political science and international relations at the master's and doctoral levels	100% enrollment in targeted fields	SDG 4.3: Equal access to higher education
Percentage of students who successfully complete the first year with academic and professional guidance	At least 90% success rate with academic and political mentorship	SDG 4.3: Equal access to higher education
Graduation rate within the planned program duration	95% of students graduate within the scheduled timeframe	SDG 4.3: Equal access to higher education
Annual student retention rate	Annual retention rate exceeding 95%	SDG 4.5: Equity in access to education
Student satisfaction with the quality of academic supervision and political/research content	85% positive satisfaction based on periodic evaluations	SDG 4.7: Education for sustainable development
Percentage of graduates employed in diplomatic, political, or international organizations	60% of graduates engaged in political or diplomatic sectors	SDG 8.5: Decent work and equal opportunity
Percentage of research published in peer-reviewed journals specializing in political science and international law	70% of research published in academic journals	SDG 9.5: Enhancing research capacity
Percentage of research projects addressing Palestinian issues within an international context (e.g., international law, political representation)	70% of projects use Palestinian data and international contexts	SDG 11.4: Support for local data and heritage
Percentage of theses and research rated "Very Good" or higher by academic and political review committees	80% of work evaluated as "Very Good" or above	SDG 16.6: Institutional effectiveness and accountability
Number of active partnerships with international research and policy institutions	Maintain at least 15 active partnerships	SDG 17.16: Strengthen global partnerships

Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E)

The **Justice for Palestine Scholarship Program** is a strategic initiative aimed at developing a generation of Palestinian professionals in political science, international relations, and international law, in order to strengthen Palestinian presence in global forums and empower emerging political leaders and influential researchers. Given its empowering and sovereignty-driven nature, the program is built upon a five-year Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) framework. This framework encompasses activity monitoring, performance indicator measurement, and impact evaluation—both political and academic—on beneficiaries and partner institutions.

The M&E system is designed to track progress against the approved work plan and indicators, assess the quality of political research, and evaluate its contribution to shaping Palestinian national and diplomatic policies, as well as enhancing a knowledge-based Palestinian narrative.

The system combines both quantitative and qualitative methods and involves active engagement with students, academic supervisors, and partner institutions from academia, policy, and diplomacy.

Monitoring and Evaluation Objectives:

- Monitor program implementation according to the annual and five-year work plans.
- Track students' academic progress, thesis quality, and relevance to Palestinian and international political issues.
- Evaluate the effectiveness of academic supervision and research guidance in building students' analytical and professional capacities.
- Analyze challenges encountered in research execution or coordination with academic and political partners.
- Provide evidence-based feedback to improve outcomes and ensure high-quality implementation.
- Assess the program's impact in developing research capacity in political science and international relations.
- Measure the extent to which research contributes to strengthening the Palestinian narrative and influencing regional and international policy.

M&E Tools and Mechanisms:

- Biannual online surveys to assess student satisfaction with supervision quality, academic guidance, and program services.
- Mid-year and end-of-year evaluations to assess research quality and its relevance to the Palestinian and global political context.
- Annual intellectual and research forums involving students, supervisors, and experts in politics and diplomacy to review findings and discuss impact.
- Regular reports from partner universities and institutions on students' academic and research performance.
- A digital tracking system to monitor student progress, thesis development, conference participation, and academic publications.
- Benchmarking research outputs against international academic standards in political science and international relations.
- On-site evaluation visits, when necessary, to follow up on the application of research findings in policy or community-based programs.
- Interim and final reports documenting progress toward objectives, with recommendations for improving future iterations of the program.

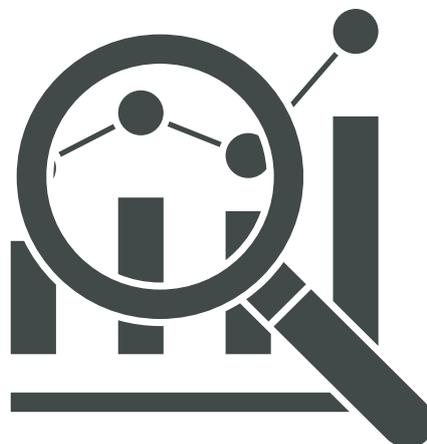
Expected Outputs from Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E):

- Biannual Progress Reports tracking the implementation of program activities, including student academic progress, thesis quality, effectiveness of academic supervision, and the relevance of research to Palestinian and international political issues.
- Annual Evaluation Reports assessing the extent to which the program's strategic objectives have been achieved, particularly in building Palestinian capacity in political science and international relations, and enhancing influence in international policy arenas.
- Midterm Evaluation Report (End of Year 3) evaluating accumulated academic and research outcomes, beneficiary satisfaction, effectiveness of academic and political partnerships, and the extent to which research findings have supported Palestinian positions in real political and media contexts.
- Final Evaluation Report (End of Year 5) analyzing the long-term impact of the program on the development of research output in political science, its contribution to strengthening Palestinian presence in international forums, and providing actionable recommendations for sustaining and replicating the program in similar initiatives.

Project Evaluations:

Three major evaluations will be conducted throughout the implementation of the **Justice for Palestine Scholarship Program**:

- **Baseline Evaluation:** Conducted within the first six months of the program to assess the readiness of partner institutions, identify priority areas in political and diplomatic research, and evaluate mechanisms for selecting students and academic supervisors.
- **Mid-Term Evaluation:** Conducted at the program's midpoint to assess implementation quality, progress toward building political leadership capacities, and to draw lessons learned for enhancing the effectiveness of the second half of the program.
- **Final Evaluation:** Conducted at the end of the fifth year to analyze the actual impact of the program on the research and higher education ecosystem in political science and international relations, and to provide recommendations for sustaining the initiative and expanding its global influence in support of the Palestinian cause.



Critical Risk Assessment

1. Difficulty in conducting applied political research related to the Palestinian and international context		
Risk Rating: 9	Likelihood: High	Impact Level: High
Mitigation Strategy: Organize training workshops on applied political research, provide successful research models, and connect students with experts in public policy and international relations.		
2. Shortage of qualified supervisors in political science, diplomacy, and international law		
Risk Rating: 8	Likelihood: Medium	Impact Level: High
Mitigation Strategy: Establish partnerships with local and international universities and research centers to provide joint supervision, and recruit experts in international policy and law.		
3. Weak linkage between research and actual political and diplomatic influence		
Risk Rating: 8	Likelihood: Medium	Impact Level: High
Mitigation Strategy: Align research plans with the needs of Palestinian representation and active political institutions, and organize guided research sessions with policymakers and academics.		
4. Student dropout due to financial or psychological challenges		
Risk Rating: 8	Likelihood: Medium	Impact Level: High
Mitigation Strategy: Provide regular psychological and career support, and connect the program with clear career pathways through internships and participation in international conferences and forums.		

5. Limited practical impact of research on policymaking or decision-making circles		
Risk Rating: 6	Likelihood: Medium	Impact Level: Medium
Mitigation Strategy: Link research projects from the outset with government, diplomatic, and legislative institutions; train students to convert their research outputs into actionable policy papers.		
6. Delays in institutional approvals or difficulty accessing sensitive political or diplomatic data		
Risk Rating: 7	Likelihood: Low	Impact Level: High
Mitigation Strategy: Coordinate early with relevant institutions (e.g., Ministries of Foreign Affairs and Justice, research centers), and sign Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) to facilitate data access.		
7. Difficulty publishing or presenting research findings in high-impact journals or conferences		
Risk Rating: 6	Likelihood: Medium	Impact Level: Medium
Mitigation Strategy: Provide grants covering publication and conference participation costs; establish an open-access digital platform dedicated to program research outputs.		
8. Political instability or changes in education policy affecting program continuity		
Risk Rating: 6	Likelihood: Low	Impact Level: High
Mitigation Strategy: Develop a contingency plan allowing for flexible implementation, including shifting supervision and research activities to external partners when necessary.		
9. Decline in external funding or difficulty sustaining the program beyond the first cycle		
Risk Rating: 7	Likelihood: Medium	Impact Level: High
Mitigation Strategy: Develop a long-term funding strategy in collaboration with international partners, and establish a strategic support fund for academic and policy-related scholarships.		

Financial Support Structure of the Justice for Palestine Graduate Scholarship Program

The Justice for Palestine Scholarship Program provides full and comprehensive financial support to master's and doctoral students specializing in Political Science, International Relations, and International Law, 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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