



مؤسسة إسناد
لدعم الطالب الفلسطيني
ISNAD FOUNDATION - IFPS

SUSTAINABILITY SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

Towards Scientific Sovereignty... and a Society Leading Its Own Development



2025

Project Information Summary	
Project Title:	Sustainability Scholarship Program for Graduate Students in Energy Engineering, Renewable Energy, and Agricultural Engineering
Annual Cost per Student:	\$5,400
Total Cost per Student over 5 Years:	\$27,000
Project Duration:	5 years
Project Start Date:	15.09.2025
Project End Date:	15.09.2030
Sector:	Education, Energy, and Agriculture Development
Target Group:	Palestinian students inside and outside Palestine
Implementing Organization:	Isnad Foundation – IFPSS
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Project Introduction

In light of the escalating environmental and economic challenges facing the Palestinian community—exacerbated by occupation, blockade, and deprivation of vital resources—there is an urgent need for strategic solutions that ensure independence in the fields of energy, food, and water. Genuine development and comprehensive sustainability cannot be achieved without a qualified Palestinian cadre equipped with the scientific and technical expertise necessary to lead this transformative shift in Palestine's future.

Accordingly, the **Isnad Foundation for Supporting Palestinian Students – IFPS** has launched the **Sustainability Scholarship Program** as a strategic and pioneering initiative aimed at empowering a select group of Palestinian students—both inside Palestine and in the diaspora—to pursue graduate studies in energy engineering, renewable energy, and agricultural engineering. This initiative seeks to support national efforts toward achieving resource sovereignty and strengthening systems of food and energy security.

The program is part of a broader developmental vision that aspires to build Palestinian human capital capable of producing applied knowledge and leading innovative projects that contribute to the development of environmental and agricultural infrastructure. It also aims to foster a resilient economy grounded in efficiency and self-reliance. Furthermore, the program is committed to aligning academic research with local Palestinian contexts and addressing pressing societal challenges by encouraging graduate studies at Palestinian, Arab, and international universities that offer stimulating academic environments.



The **Sustainability Scholarship Program** aspires to offer **200 fully funded scholarships** to Palestinian master's and doctoral students, selected through a clear and competitive process. These students will be guided into research tracks that align with Palestine's sustainable development priorities, such as: the development of clean energy sources, the enhancement of modern agricultural techniques, improved water-use efficiency, and natural resource management.

This initiative aligns with IFPS's strategic direction to support national transformation projects rooted in knowledge, and to invest in the potential of young talents to build a sustainable and just developmental future. The core belief that "independence begins with education" is the driving force behind this program, which serves as a foundational pillar in the journey toward establishing a resilient, fair, and cohesive Palestinian economy.

Problem Context and Analysis

Palestine faces multiple challenges in the fields of energy, environment, and agriculture as a result of the Israeli occupation, which restricts access to natural resources, weakens environmental infrastructure, and undermines agricultural productivity. **Palestine relies on imports for approximately 87.4% of its electricity needs, much of which comes from the occupied territories**, making the country vulnerable to political pressure. Despite the availability of vast renewable energy potential (**exceeding 4,000 megawatts**), the contribution of renewable energy sources does not exceed **3.6% of total electricity production**.

In the agricultural sector, despite its critical importance for food security, there has been a significant decline in cultivated land and agricultural productivity. This is largely due to the lack of innovation, limited local research, and minimal engagement from universities in solving local challenges. These obstacles weaken the sector's ability to contribute effectively to economic and social stability.

Additionally, **more than 36%** of Palestinian youth face unemployment, primarily due to the weak link between academic education and the labor market. Furthermore, scientific research funding does not exceed 0.01% of local GDP.

Therefore, investing in specialized education and research in the fields of energy engineering, renewable energy, and agricultural engineering is a national necessity for building sovereignty over natural resources and achieving sustainable development based on knowledge.

Problem Indicators:



High Dependency on Imported Energy

Palestine imports approximately 87.4% of its electricity needs from the occupied territories, making it vulnerable to political and economic fluctuations and limiting its sovereignty over the energy sector.



Weak Contribution of Renewable Energy to Local Production

Although Palestine's solar energy generation potential is estimated at around 4,174 megawatts, actual production from renewable energy sources accounts for only 3.6% of total energy output. This highlights a significant gap between potential and actual utilization.



Challenges in the Agricultural Sector

The Palestinian agricultural sector faces significant challenges, including weak infrastructure, water scarcity, and restrictions on land reclamation, all of which negatively impact agricultural production and food security.



The Impact of the Occupation on Natural Resources

The Israeli occupation restricts Palestinians' access to natural resources such as land and water, hindering the development of energy and agricultural projects.



Lack of Applied Scientific Research

The scientific research sector in Palestine suffers from a shortage of applied research in renewable energy and agricultural engineering, which limits the ability to develop local solutions to existing challenges.



Lack of Specialized Academic Programs

Palestinian universities lack specialized academic programs in the fields of renewable energy and agricultural engineering, reducing opportunities to qualify local professionals capable of addressing environmental and economic challenges.

Program Summary

The **Sustainability Scholarship Program** for Graduate Studies is a strategic initiative launched by the Isnad Foundation for Supporting Palestinian Students – IFPS to address the structural challenges facing Palestine in the fields of energy, environment, and agriculture. The program aims to enhance energy security and food sovereignty by investing in the education and preparation of specialized Palestinian professionals capable of leading the transition toward sustainability.

The program aspires to offer **200 fully funded scholarships** to academically outstanding Palestinian master's and doctoral students, both from within Palestine and the diaspora, in the fields of **energy engineering, renewable energy, and agricultural engineering**, to pursue their studies at leading Palestinian, Arab, and international universities.

The program is founded on the belief that advancing these strategic disciplines is a national imperative for addressing environmental, economic, and social crises, and for strengthening the Palestinian community's ability to develop applied, knowledge-based, and context-driven scientific solutions.

It seeks to address the critical shortage of specialists in these vital sectors by supporting applied scientific research, strengthening partnerships with universities and research institutions, and providing high-quality educational opportunities for qualified students.

The Isnad Foundation – IFPS will implement this program in cooperation with universities, research centers, and local and international partners, with the aim of generating tangible and sustainable impact toward building an independent and resilient future for Palestine.

Project Outcomes and Activities

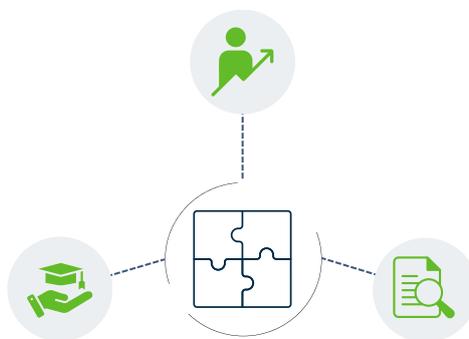
The **Sustainability Scholarship Program** focuses on achieving three key strategic outcomes that contribute to building a sustainable development framework in Palestine, grounded in scientific research and academic advancement:

Developing Researchers Oriented Toward Sustainable Solutions

Equipping scholarship recipients with scientific research tools to produce applied studies that address challenges in renewable energy management, smart agriculture, and food and water security, thereby supporting national policy development and strengthening independence in vital resources.

Providing 200 Graduate Scholarships

Offering 200 fully funded scholarships for master's and doctoral programs in energy engineering, renewable energy, and agricultural engineering, to prepare a national cadre capable of leading the transition toward sustainability.



Building an Effective Local Research Base

Promoting applied research and academic publishing by supporting practical research projects, organizing scientific workshops, and establishing a dedicated research supervision unit in the fields of energy and agriculture—enhancing the role of universities as centers of thought and developmental solutions.

Activity	Output Type	Quantity
1. Educating and Supporting 200 Graduate Students in Energy, Renewable Energy, and Agriculture		
Identifying national research priorities in the fields of energy, renewable energy, and agriculture	Report	1
Signing formal agreements with local and international universities	Agreement	15
Launching a national campaign to promote the scholarships and receive 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. Empowering Research Leadership and Developing Solutions for Sustainable Development		
Organizing training workshops on applied research and sustainability	Training Sessions	5
Establishing an academic supervision unit specialized in energy and agriculture	Unit	1
Holding academic conferences and forums on energy, renewable energy, agriculture, and environmental policies	Event	2
3. Enhancing Local Knowledge and Community-Based Research		
Conducting awareness campaigns on sustainability, energy, and smart agriculture	Campaign	5
Supporting student-led applied research projects addressing challenges in energy and food	Research Project	200

Project Duration

The Sustainability Scholarship Program for Graduate Studies is scheduled to begin 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 maintained with academic partners, universities, and implementing institutions to ensure alignment with the approved work plan and the timely execution of all activities.

Any changes in the timeline or activities will be proactively reported to ensure effective implementation and the achievement of the project's strategic objectives—particularly in building local research capacities, strengthening independence in energy and food sectors, and supporting sustainable environmental development in Palestine.



Key Progress Indicators

Indicator	Target
Identification and approval of priority research topics in energy, renewable energy, and agricultural engineering	10 research topics
Signing cooperation agreements with Palestinian and international universities	15 universities
Selection of scholarship recipients through a transparent nomination and evaluation process	200 students
Provision of full scholarships for master's and doctoral programs in the targeted fields	200 scholarships
Conducting workshops on applied research and academic writing	15 workshops
Preparation of periodic reports on students' progress and research outcomes	Quarterly reports
Establishment of an academic supervision unit specialized in energy, renewable energy, and agriculture	1 unit
Organizing scientific conferences and policy dialogue forums on energy, renewable energy, agriculture, and environmental policies	2 events
Supporting graduate student-led research projects addressing community needs	200 research projects

Key Performance Indicators (KPIs)

Indicator	Target	Related Sustainable Development Goal (SDG)
Percentage of students accepted into master's and PhD programs in energy and agriculture	100% enrollment of accepted students in the targeted 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 period	95% of scholarship recipients graduate within the designated timeframe	SDG 4.3: Access to higher education
Annual student retention rate	Maintain an annual retention rate above 95%	SDG 4.5: Equity in access to education
Student satisfaction with the quality of academic supervision and research content	85% positive satisfaction rate through regular surveys	SDG 4.7: Education for sustainable development
Percentage of graduates engaged in sustainable development projects	60% of graduates involved in national and community initiatives	SDG 8.5: Decent work and equal opportunities
Percentage of research published in peer-reviewed scientific journals	70% of graduation projects published in open-access scientific journals	SDG 9.5: Building research capacity
Percentage of research projects based on local or field data from Palestine	70% of research projects based on real field data	SDG 11.4: Support for local data
Academic committees' evaluation of graduate research as "Very Good" or higher	80% of graduates receive a "Very Good" or higher rating	SDG 16.6: Institutional competence and accountability
Number of partnerships with academic and research institutions	Maintain at least 15 active partnerships	SDG 17.16: Strengthening global partnerships

Monitoring and Evaluation

The Sustainability Scholarship Program is a strategic initiative aimed at developing qualified Palestinian professionals in key fields, including energy engineering, renewable energy, and agricultural engineering. Given its strategic nature, the program relies on a comprehensive **five-year Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) framework**, which includes tracking activity implementation, measuring performance indicators, and assessing developmental impact based on evidence and real-world data.

The M&E system is designed to monitor progress against the approved work plan and key performance indicators, assess students' academic and research development, and evaluate the extent to which research contributes to advancing environmental and agricultural policies and enhancing energy independence in Palestine.

The system will employ a mix of quantitative and qualitative methods, with active engagement of beneficiaries, academic supervisors, and partner institutions.

Monitoring and Evaluation Objectives:

- Monitor the implementation of scholarship activities in alignment with the approved annual and multi-year action plans.
- Track students' academic progress, the quality of their theses, and their relevance to applied knowledge.
- Evaluate the effectiveness of academic supervision, institutional support, and research guidance.
- Analyze challenges and obstacles in conducting research or coordinating with partner institutions.
- Provide evidence-based feedback to guide continuous improvement of the program.
- Assess the program's contribution to strengthening institutional research capacity and promoting academic publishing.
- Measure the impact of research on shaping policy and development recommendations in the fields of energy and agriculture.

Monitoring and Evaluation Tools and Mechanisms:

- Biannual online surveys to assess student satisfaction with the quality of academic supervision, research support, and program services.
- Mid-year and end-of-year evaluations to measure progress in research development, the quality of outputs, and their relevance to the Palestinian context.
- Annual research forums involving students, supervisors, and experts to analyze results and share experiences.
- Official reports from partner universities on students' academic and research performance.
- A digital monitoring system to track student progress, research stages, scientific publications, and participation in conferences.
- Benchmarking research performance against regionally and internationally recognized quality standards.
- Field evaluation visits to assess the actual impact of graduation projects within target communities.
- Preparation of interim and final reports documenting the achievement of results and providing recommendations to improve future phases of the program.

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

- Biannual progress reports tracking the implementation of scholarship activities, including students' academic progress, research quality, supervision effectiveness, and the alignment of research with Palestinian community needs.
- Annual evaluation reports assessing the extent to which the program's strategic objectives have been achieved, particularly in building local capacities in the fields of energy and agriculture and strengthening research infrastructure.
- Midterm evaluation report (end of Year 3) measuring cumulative academic and research outcomes, beneficiary satisfaction, partnership quality, and the application of research outputs in real-world contexts.
- Final evaluation report (end of Year 5) analyzing the long-term impact of the program on the development of applied scientific research, its contribution to environmental and food policy, and offering recommendations for sustaining the initiative.

Project Evaluations

Three key evaluations will be conducted during the implementation period of the Sustainability Scholarship Program:

- **Baseline Evaluation:** Conducted within the first six months of the program, this evaluation aims to assess the readiness of partner institutions, identify research priorities, and evaluate the student selection mechanisms.
- **Mid-Term Evaluation:** Carried out at the midpoint of the project, this evaluation reviews implementation quality, measures progress toward achieving the program's objectives, and identifies lessons learned to enhance the effectiveness of the second half of the program.
- **Final Evaluation:** Conducted at the end of the fifth year, this evaluation assesses the program's final impact on the research and higher education ecosystem in Palestine, as well as its influence on energy and food security strategies. It also provides recommendations for designing similar sustainable initiatives.



Critical Risk Assessment:

1. Students' difficulty in conducting applied research relevant to the local context or using technical research tools		
Risk Classification: 9	Probability of Occurrence: High	Impact Level: High
Mitigation Strategy: Organize specialized workshops in applied research, provide tools and platforms for environmental and energy analysis, and ensure intensive supervision by experts.		
2. Shortage of qualified supervisors in the fields of energy, renewable energy, and agriculture		
Risk Classification: 8	Probability of Occurrence: Medium	Impact Level: High
Mitigation Strategy: Establish partnerships with regional universities and research centers to provide joint and interdisciplinary supervision.		
3. Weak linkage between research and national development pathways or lack of alignment with actual needs		
Risk Classification: 8	Probability of Occurrence: Medium	Impact Level: High
Mitigation Strategy: Align research plans with national energy and agriculture strategies, and offer regular research guidance sessions.		
4. Student dropout due to financial or psychological reasons		
Risk Classification: 8	Probability of Occurrence: Medium	Impact Level: High
Mitigation Strategy: Provide regular monthly financial support, implement periodic psychosocial support programs, and conduct individual follow-up of students' conditions.		

5. Limited practical impact of research on policies or development applications		
Risk Classification: 6	Probability of Occurrence: Medium	Impact Level: Medium
Mitigation Strategy: Link research with governmental and development entities from the outset and establish mechanisms to publish research results in policy-oriented formats.		
6. Delays in obtaining institutional approvals or access to sensitive data (such as water or land)		
Risk Classification: 7	Probability of Occurrence: Low	Impact Level: High
Mitigation Strategy: Initiate early coordination with ministries, municipalities, and data centers, and sign cooperation agreements to facilitate data collection.		
7. Difficulty in publishing or presenting research findings in conferences or journals		
Risk Classification: 6	Probability of Occurrence: Medium	Impact Level: Medium
Mitigation Strategy: Provide research publication grants, cover participation costs in conferences, and establish a dedicated online publishing platform for the program.		
8. Impact of political or institutional circumstances on project implementation		
Risk Classification: 6	Probability of Occurrence: Low	Impact Level: High
Mitigation Strategy: Design a flexible contingency plan that allows shifting research or training activities between partners in case of political emergencies.		
9. Decrease in external funding or lack of sustainability after the first cycle		
Risk Classification: 7	Probability of Occurrence: Medium	Impact Level: High
Mitigation Strategy: Develop a multi-year funding plan, engage in early negotiations with strategic partners, and establish an emergency support fund.		

Financial Support Structure in the Sustainability Scholarship Program for Graduate Studies

The Sustainability Scholarship Program provides comprehensive full support for master's and PhD students in the fields of Energy Engineering, Renewable Energy, and Agricultural Engineering through two main components:



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



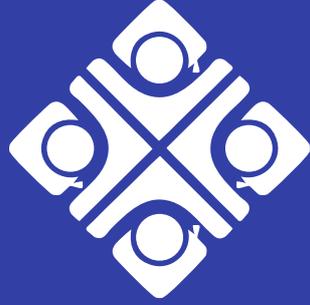
Monthly Financial Support: A monthly stipend **averaging \$200** to cover students' basic needs such as housing and transportation, **totaling \$2,400 per year.**

Total Annual Cost per Student: \$5,400
Total 5-Year Cost per Student: \$27,000

Flexible Options for Donors:

- **Donors may choose to support only one component** (e.g., tuition fees or living expenses).
- **Full funding is not mandatory;** partial donations are accepted and highly appreciated.





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