



مؤسسة إسناد
لدعم الطالب الفلسطيني
ISNAD FOUNDATION - IFPSS

PALESTINIAN TALENTED SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

Supporting the Palestinian talented youth... Our collective responsibility



2025

Summary Project Data	
Project Title:	Palestinian Talented Scholarship Program
Total annual cost per student	5,200 \$
Total cost over 5 years per student	26,000 \$
Project Duration:	5 years
Project Start:	15.05.2025
Project End:	15.05.2030
Project Sector:	Education
Beneficiary Group	Palestinian students inside and outside Palestine
Organization Name:	Isnad Foundation -IFPSS
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Project Introduction

In recognition of the immense potential harbored within the Palestinian youth—brilliant minds capable of leading innovation, building institutions, and shaping a brighter future—the **Isnad Foundation -IFPS** proudly launches one of its most ambitious initiatives: **The Palestinian Talented Student Scholarship Program**.

This program is not merely an educational support effort; it is a national investment in the human capital of Palestine. It embodies a strategic vision that seeks to cultivate a new generation of exceptional leaders across various academic disciplines—leaders who are equipped with the knowledge, skills, and determination to contribute meaningfully to the nation's renaissance.



Through the provision of **1,000 scholarships for undergraduate studies in a wide array of fields**, the program targets outstanding students who have demonstrated remarkable academic excellence and earned distinguished rankings within their cohorts (Honor List students). These scholarships are designed not only to reward past achievement but to ignite future greatness—supporting students who embody the spirit of perseverance, excellence, and service.

Palestine today stands in urgent need of nurturing its brightest talents—those who will drive progress in sciences, technology, engineering, education, business, the arts, and beyond. The Talented Student Scholarship Program is built on the firm belief that investing in gifted individuals is investing in Palestine's resilience, prosperity, and sovereignty.

Under the inspiring slogan **"Supporting Palestinian Talent... Our Collective Responsibility,"** the program underscores the shared duty of society to empower its finest sons and daughters. It is a call to action for the community, institutions, and partners to rally behind a transformative mission: enabling the talented youth of Palestine to unlock their full potential and lead the way toward a thriving, dignified future.

At the Isnad Foundation, we believe that true nation-building starts with education—and that the torch of hope for a free, innovative, and empowered Palestine will be carried by its most gifted youth.

Context and Problem Analysis:

The Palestinian higher education sector faces severe challenges that threaten its ability to nurture and retain talented students. These stem from political, economic, and social factors, including:

- Ongoing Israeli violations against educational institutions, causing destruction, loss of life, and restrictions on mobility and academic freedom.
- Socioeconomic hardships that prevent many top students from accessing higher education.
- Severe financial difficulties, especially in marginalized areas like Gaza where institutions have been heavily damaged.

According to the 2023-2024 Palestinian Ministry of Higher Education Annual Report:

- 51 accredited higher education institutions operate in Palestine.
- 35,819 new students enrolled in the West Bank, many facing financial hardship.
- Israeli attacks have resulted in 655 deaths (555 students and 100 faculty), over 2,000 injuries, and 420 arrests among students and faculty.

Without intervention, much of Palestine's brightest talent risks being lost. The Palestinian Talented Student Scholarship Program is a vital initiative to protect, nurture, and empower gifted youth to become future leaders.

Problem Indicators:



01 LACK OF SPECIALIZED PROGRAMS FOR GIFTED PALESTINIANS

There are no comprehensive national programs in Palestine aimed at identifying, supporting, and guiding gifted individuals. This significantly hinders the realization of academic excellence and innovative potential.



02 DEPRIVATION OF AN APPROPRIATE EDUCATIONAL ENVIRONMENT FOR GIFTED PALESTINIANS

Due to the weak educational infrastructure in Palestine, many schools lack proper centers, laboratories, and tools. This limits the development of gifted students and prevents some from affording the costs of higher education. As a result, it becomes difficult to foster a creative environment for gifted individuals.



03 BRAIN DRAIN AND EARLY TALENT LOSS DUE TO INSUFFICIENT SUPPORT

The absence of adequate support mechanisms drives many gifted students to seek scholarship opportunities abroad and to migrate permanently. This leads to the loss of young Palestinian minds and talented individuals to other countries.



04 LACK OF TALENT DEVELOPMENT TOOLS

Gifted Palestinian students often lack access to essential development tools such as research opportunities, experiments, guidance, and scientific mentorship. Economic hardship, difficult living conditions, and intense psychological pressure disrupt their academic progress and prevent their potential from being fully realized.



05 OCCUPATION PRACTICES NEGATIVELY AFFECT THE MENTAL AND PSYCHOLOGICAL WELL-BEING OF GIFTED STUDENTS

Gifted Palestinian students face trauma, psychological pressure, and disrupted education due to the practices of occupation forces. This damages their self-confidence, suppresses their creative capacities, and limits their ability to develop their exceptional talents.



06 CHALLENGING ECONOMIC CONDITIONS FORCE GIFTED STUDENTS TO ABANDON THEIR DREAMS

Financial constraints and widespread poverty interrupt or completely halt the academic journeys of many Palestinian students. This deprives them of opportunities to access knowledge, enhance their skills, and contribute to society.



07 OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT IS NOT REWARDED, BUT RATHER MARGINALIZED

To date, there has been no holistic system that tracks and supports a gifted student from the moment they are identified until graduation. This creates a deep gap between individual capabilities and the potential goals that could be achieved.

Project Summary

The Palestinian Talented Student Scholarship Program is a strategic national initiative aimed at nurturing and empowering Palestine's brightest youth to become future leaders across various academic and professional fields. The project seeks to support 1,000 academically outstanding Palestinian students by providing full undergraduate scholarships, focusing on those who have demonstrated exceptional excellence and perseverance.

Beyond offering financial support, the program embodies a comprehensive vision to invest in human capital, strengthen national resilience, and promote innovation. It aims to ensure that gifted students are equipped not only with education but also with the skills, leadership qualities, and sense of national duty needed to contribute to Palestine's development and sovereignty.

The primary objective is to prevent the loss of exceptional talent due to socioeconomic hardships and systemic challenges, and to empower students to drive progress in science, technology, engineering, education, business, and the arts. The project will be implemented through a structured multi-year plan in collaboration with Palestinian academic institutions, civil society organizations, and international partners, under the unifying slogan: "Supporting Palestinian Talent... Our Collective Responsibility."

Project Outcomes and Activities

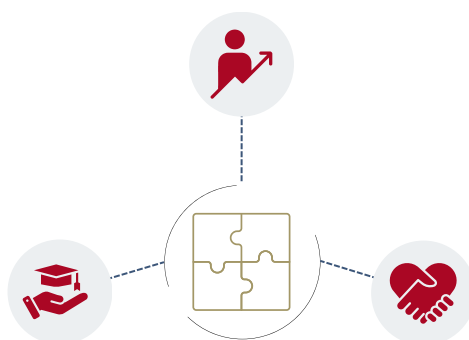
The Palestinian Talented Student Scholarship Project aims to achieve three core strategic outcomes that collectively serve as the foundation for nurturing a new generation of exceptional leaders in Palestine and strengthening the nation's human capital across various fields.

Development of Future Leaders

Equipping scholarship recipients with the knowledge, skills, and leadership qualities needed to contribute to Palestine's development in fields such as science, technology, engineering, education, business, and the arts.

1,000 Full Scholarships

Awarding comprehensive undergraduate scholarships to 1,000 outstanding Palestinian students across a range of academic disciplines.



Mitigation of Talent Drain

Reducing the loss of exceptional students who might otherwise be forced to abandon higher education due to financial hardships or political instability.

Activities	Unit	QTY.
(1) Educating and Funding 1,000 Talented Students		
Accrediting priority academic fields for scholarship focus	Report	1
Signing official agreements with Palestinian and international universities	Agreement	15
Launching a national campaign for nominations and selections	Campaign	1
Conducting interviews with scholarship nominees	Interview	3000
Providing full undergraduate scholarships for selected students	Scholarship	1000
Holding regular follow-up meetings to monitor academic progress	Meeting	2000
(2) Empowering Scholarship Students to Become National Leaders		
Organizing leadership development programs	Training Sessions	20
Establishing a "Talent Development and Support Unit" within the program	unit	1
Hosting innovation competitions and academic excellence awards	Event	5
(3) Engaging Students in Community Service and National Development		
Launching initiatives for students' involvement in community development projects	Campaign	10
Supporting students in research projects addressing national needs	Research Project	50

Project Duration

The Palestinian Talented Student Scholarship Project is proposed to commence on May 15, 2025, with the planned activities implemented over a total duration of 60 months (5 years). Accordingly, the proposed project end date is May 15, 2030.

Regular coordination will be maintained with the donor and partner institutions to ensure alignment with the approved work plan. Any adjustments to the timeline or activities will be promptly communicated, with continuous consultation to ensure effective implementation and the successful achievement of the project's strategic objectives in nurturing Palestine's brightest talents.



Key Progress Indicators

Indicator	Target
Approving priority academic fields for scholarship focus	10 academic fields
Signing cooperation agreements with Palestinian and international universities	15 universities
Selecting scholarship recipients through a transparent national nomination and evaluation process	1,000 students
Providing full undergraduate scholarships covering tuition fees	1,000 scholarships
Conducting leadership development and professional skills workshops	25 workshops
Preparing periodic reports on students' academic and leadership development	Quarterly reports
Establishing a "Talent Development and Support Unit" within the program	1 unit
Organizing national innovation competitions and excellence awards	5 events
Launching community service initiatives led by scholarship students	10 initiatives

Key Performance Indicators (KPIs)

Indicator	Target	Related SDG Goal
Percentage of students accepted into priority academic fields	60% of accepted students enrolled in priority fields	SDG 4.3: Access to higher education
Percentage of students who successfully complete the first academic year	At least 90% pass rate with academic and psychological support	SDG 4.3: Access to higher education
Overall graduation rate	95% of scholarship recipients graduate within the planned period	SDG 4.3: Access to higher education
Annual student retention rate	Maintain over 95% annual retention rate	SDG 4.5: Equity in education access
Student satisfaction rate with the scholarship and learning experience	85% positive satisfaction rate through periodic surveys	SDG 4.7: Education for sustainable development
Percentage of graduates contributing to national development projects	60% of graduates engaged in community and national initiatives	SDG 8.5: Decent work and equal opportunities
Number of community service initiatives launched annually by students	At least 10 initiatives per year	SDG 11.3: Sustainable cities and communities
Number of national innovation competitions and academic excellence awards organized	At least 5 competitions/events annually	SDG 9.5: Build innovation and research capacity
Graduate professional performance evaluation by partner institutions	80% of graduates rated 'Very Good' or higher	SDG 16.6: Institutional efficiency and accountability
Number of active partnerships with educational and development institutions	Maintain at least 20 effective partnerships	SDG 17.16: Strengthen global partnerships

Monitoring & Evaluation

As a strategic national initiative aiming to nurture exceptional Palestinian talents, the Palestinian Talented Student Scholarship Program spans over five years. It requires a comprehensive monitoring and evaluation (M&E) system to continuously track implementation, measure progress, assess outcomes, and evaluate short-term and long-term impact.

The M&E system will focus on monitoring the execution of activities, measuring progress against key performance indicators (KPIs), and ensuring the program achieves its three strategic objectives. It will utilize both quantitative and qualitative tools, and will integrate continuous feedback from students, graduates, and partner institutions to ensure program effectiveness and improvement.

Monitoring & Evaluation Objectives:

- Track the implementation of project activities according to the annual work plan over the five-year period.
- Measure progress toward achieving the program's short-term and long-term strategic goals.
- Assess the quality of educational services, mentorship, and professional development provided to scholarship recipients.
- Identify academic, operational, and community engagement challenges during implementation and propose evidence-based solutions.
- Provide regular reports and analytical updates to donors, partners, and stakeholders based on project data and findings.

Monitoring & Evaluation Tools and Mechanisms:

- Biannual electronic surveys to measure student satisfaction with academic programs, mentorship, and support services.
- Semi-annual progress reports and two comprehensive annual evaluations (mid-year and end-of-year).
- Annual focus group discussions with students, graduates, academic mentors, and key stakeholders.
- Annual feedback meetings with university representatives, employers, and program partners.
- Digital tracking system to monitor academic achievements, scholarship status, and professional development.
- Benchmarking results against national and international KPIs to evaluate program performance and areas for enhancement.
- Periodic community engagement assessments measuring the impact of student-led initiatives and service projects.

Expected M&E Outputs:

- Biannual progress reports analyzing the implementation of scholarship activities and providing actionable recommendations.
- Annual evaluation reports reviewing progress toward achieving the program's strategic objectives in nurturing talented students.
- Mid-term evaluation report (end of Year 3) assessing cumulative outcomes, leadership development progress, and suggesting course adjustments if needed.
- Final evaluation report (end of Year 5) evaluating the overall impact of the program on student success, national development contributions, and providing sustainability recommendations.

Project Evaluations:

Three key evaluations will be conducted during the program:

- Baseline Evaluation: Within the first six months of project initiation to assess readiness, selection effectiveness, and institutional preparedness.
- Mid-Term Evaluation: At the end of Year 3 to assess the cumulative achievements of the students, impact on leadership development, and overall program progress.
- Final Evaluation: At the end of Year 5 to evaluate long-term impact, sustainability of results, and the contribution of graduates to national development.

These evaluations will provide a comprehensive assessment of performance, achievement of objectives, quality of implementation, and the academic and community impact of the program. Results will be shared with donors, partners, and key stakeholders to enhance transparency, accountability, and inform future improvements and expansions of the program.



Critical Risk Assessment

Risk #1: Students' inability to adapt to university-level academic requirements		
Impact Level: High	Likelihood of Occurrence: High	Risk Rating: 9
Mitigation Strategy: Implement a preparatory program in study skills, academic English, and critical thinking before enrollment.		
Risk #2: Insufficient scholarship slots available at partner universities		
Impact Level: High	Likelihood of Occurrence: Medium	Risk Rating: 8
Mitigation Strategy: Sign early MOUs with multiple universities and coordinate student distribution across institutions.		
Risk #3: Limited leadership development among scholarship students		
Impact Level: High	Likelihood of Occurrence: Medium	Risk Rating: 8
Mitigation Strategy: Implement a structured leadership and professional development curriculum alongside academic programs.		
Risk #4: Student dropout due to financial, academic, or psychological stress		
Impact Level: High	Likelihood of Occurrence: Medium	Risk Rating: 9
Mitigation Strategy: Provide continuous financial, academic, and psychosocial support; conduct regular individual check-ins with students.		

Risk #5: Low engagement of students in community development initiatives		
Impact Level: Medium	Likelihood of Occurrence: Medium	Risk Rating: 6
Mitigation Strategy: Incentivize community service through recognition awards, academic credits, and mentorship.		
Risk #6: Delays in donor fund disbursement impacting scholarship continuity		
Impact Level: High	Likelihood of Occurrence: Low	Risk Rating: 7
Mitigation Strategy: Maintain a contingency fund and diversify donor partnerships to reduce reliance on single funding sources.		
Risk #7: Weak tracking of academic and professional progress		
Impact Level: Medium	Likelihood of Occurrence: Medium	Risk Rating: 6
Mitigation Strategy: Utilize an integrated digital monitoring system and assign a dedicated tracking team for student progress.		
Risk #8: Changes in national education policies affecting university admissions		
Impact Level: High	Likelihood of Occurrence: Low	Risk Rating: 6
Mitigation Strategy: Maintain continuous communication with education authorities and adjust eligibility and admission processes as needed.		
Risk #9: Shifts in donor priorities over five years affecting funding sustainability		
Impact Level: High	Likelihood of Occurrence: Medium	Risk Rating: 7
Mitigation Strategy: Develop long-term partnerships with a diversified donor base and create flexible funding frameworks.		

Structure of Financial Support in the Palestinian Talented Scholarship

The Palestinian Talented Student Scholarship Program provides financial assistance through three key support pillars:



Covers the cost of medical and health sciences education, with an **average annual support of \$2,500 per student**.



Monthly **financial assistance averaging \$200** to support essential housing and living expenses for the student, **totaling \$2,400 annually**.



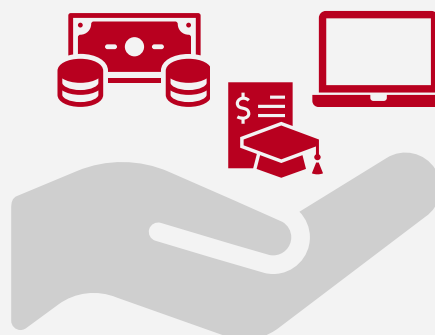
A one-time grant of \$300 to cover the cost of a **laptop, tablet, or smartphone** based on the student's academic needs.

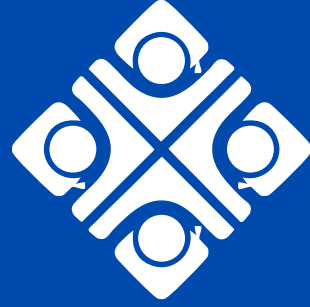
Total annual cost per student: \$5,200

Total cost over 5 years per student: \$26,000

Flexible Donor Options

- Donors may choose to **fund only one of the three support pillars** (e.g., tuition, living expenses, or devices).
- **Full sponsorship is not required**; partial contributions are welcome.
- The **electronic device cost is a single-time payment** for the entire study period.





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