

**HESPAL**  
**Higher Education Scholarships**  
**for Palestinians**

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# **Application**

# **Guidance Notes**

Cycle 2025

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## 1. Key highlights

Launch of call: **18 November 2024**

Deadline to submit the full application: **Friday February 28, 2025, by 11:59 PM.**

HESPAL online application link: <https://form.jotform.com/243152311900442>

## 2. HESPAL Introduction

The HESPAL scholarship programme is dedicated for Palestinians and is developed in partnership with Palestinian Universities to cater for their needs and priorities. HESPAL aims at contributing to the advancement of the Palestinian Higher Education sector through supporting the creation of the next generation of senior academics. We aspire that the HESPAL scholars upon their completion of studies and return to Palestine will contribute towards endorsing international academic quality standards at Palestinian universities and work to develop renewed and sustainable links between Palestinian and UK universities.

The programme offers scholarship opportunities for master's degree and PhD studies to members of the academic staff of Palestinian universities. HESPAL is supported by multiple international and UK funders; with the main two funders being the UK partner universities and the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development in Kuwait. Our current funders also include the UK Department of Education (DfE), the Pears Foundation and The Amjad and Suha Bseiso Foundation.

HESPAL is managed and administered by the British Council - Occupied Palestinian Territories.

The scholarship covers main expenses for its selected scholars, including:

- Academic fees (in the form of a fee waiver offered by participating UK partner universities).
- Living allowances for scholars covering the period of 12 months for master's degree scholars and 3 years for PhD scholars (or the duration specified by the programme and approved by the British Council – subject to availability of funds).
- Arrival and thesis allowance.

Scholars are expected to cover all other expenses including travel costs, visa fees, health insurance, IELTS examination fees, and any other unperceived costs.

**Partner Palestinian Universities:** All universities in the West Bank and Gaza.

### 3. Eligibility Criteria

To be eligible for the HESPAL scholarship programme, applicants must:

- Be a Palestinian resident of the Occupied Palestinian Territories (West Bank and Jerusalem, and Gaza Strip).
- Be currently employed by one of the Palestinian partner universities.
- Be nominated by their employer Palestinian university.
- Have a written commitment to return to work for their Palestinian university after the completion of their studies, for a duration agreed upon with their university.
- Have a valid English language IELTS certificate with an appropriate grade for their selected course of study – other certified English exams might be accepted.
- **Individuals with disabilities are encouraged to apply.**
- **Individuals displaced and impacted by the war on Gaza including are encouraged to apply.**

\* For more information regarding the IELTS exams test dates, fees and locations please visit our website <https://www.britishcouncil.ps/en/exam/ielts/dates-fees-locations>

### 4. How to apply

The application process is facilitated through our partner Palestinian universities. Once the HESPAL call is open, Palestinian universities publicise the call across their academic faculties, departments, and research centres, Each Palestinian university nominates up to 5 scholars and agrees with their nominees on the areas of study.

Nominated scholars must follow the application process, which includes the following steps:

#### 1) Complete and submit the HESPAL online application form:

Use the link below to access and fill in the HESPAL application form and upload the required supporting documents. The application must be completed with the approval of your home Palestinian university.

Application link: <https://form.jotform.com/243152311900442>

Before you start filling the online application form you are advised to:

- Carefully read and understand each section of the application and the overall requirements for your candidacy.
- Think through the qualification you wish to acquire (master's degree or PhD) and if you are eligible for it.
- Think through and clearly define the subject area/s you wish to study and conduct a thorough research on the programmes offered by the UK partner universities.
- Ensure that you hold the specified qualifications and required grades for your selected course of study.
- Prepare and collate all the supporting documents required and detailed in section 4 in the guidelines.

The HESPAL scheme is highly competitive and based on merit. It is therefore important that you complete the application form in full. Please note that late or incomplete applications will be disqualified.

## 2) Apply to UK partner universities participating in the HESPAL programme.

- Check the list of HESPAL UK partner universities for the 2025 cycle and the qualification/s they offer- see the list below and check it regularly for any possible updates.
- Identify three to five UK partner universities that you are interested in and specify the programme or course of study you wish to pursue.
- Apply for each of your preferred programmes of study directly on the application portals of the universities. It is the responsibility of each candidate to thoroughly research and understand the requirements and process of application for each of the universities they are interested in.
- Candidates must secure offers from UK universities to be considered for placements to the HESPAL scholarship at that institution. (Offers can come at a later stage.)

## 5. Supporting Documents

The following documents must be uploaded and submitted with the HESPAL application:

- One recent passport sized photo.
- Copy of Passport (or ID).
- An official copy of the academic certificate for all higher education qualification including BA, MA or/and PhD (in English).
- Nomination letter from home university.
- Proof of employment at home university (**Only** if you are a final year student, you would be exempted from submitting this document).
- Valid IELTS score report or proof of your booked exam.

\* Final HESPAL awardees will be required to submit a signed copy of contract with their home university, confirming that they will be employed there upon completion of their scholarship and return to Palestine

## 6. Selection Process

Each Palestinian university send their list of nominated applicants to the British Council and nominated scholars submit their full online application by the set deadline.

The British Council checks eligibility of candidates and sends confirmed list of candidates relevant to each of the partner UK university as defined by the scholar's applications.

UK universities conduct their evaluation of applications and provide the British Council with a list of applicants they would be willing to accept and rank the top three in order of preference. \*

Final placements of scholarships are made based on the student's acceptance and ranking by the UK universities and HESPAL funding partners' priorities for scholar selection.

If more candidates are placed in UK universities than HESPAL scholarship funding can cover, then the British Council reserves the right to initiate additional selection procedures and/or develop a reserve list in line with ranking. If selected scholars drop out, then reserve candidates may be offered a place.

The British Council informs the Palestinian Universities of the final results and issues award letters for successful scholars. \*

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Successful applicants follow up on necessary communication and arrangements with the UK partner university offering a place.

Awards for PhDs will also depend on confirmation of multi-year funding for this by HESPAL funding partners.

\* Please note the placement of a student at their preferred UK partner university cannot be guaranteed.

\* Please note that due to the high number of applications, we are unable to discuss the status of any application at any time during the process of selection.

## 7. General Information

For enquiries, contact the HESPAL Project Coordinator:

- Telephone: +970 (0)2 296 3293
- Email: [hiba.hammouriadeeb@britishcouncil.org](mailto:hiba.hammouriadeeb@britishcouncil.org)

## 7. Annex: List of UK partner universities

The following universities have been identified as partner institutions for the HESPAL Cycle 2025:

	University Name	Programme/s Offered
1	University of East Anglia	PhD programme
2	Queen Margaret University	One-year master`s or PhD programme
3	York St John University	PhD research programme
4	Oxford Brookes University	One-year master`s programme <b>(Available only for applicants from Gaza)</b>
5	Brunel University London	One-year master`s or PhD programme
6	King`s College London	One-year master`s or PhD programme
7	Liverpool Hope University	PhD programme <b>(Available only for applicants from Bethlehem University)</b>
8	St Mary`s University London	One-year master`s programme
9	University of Birmingham	One-year master`s programme
10	University of Dundee	One-year master`s or PhD programme
11	University of Glasgow	One-year master`s or PhD programme
12	University of Roehampton	PhD research programme
13	University of Sussex	One-year master`s programme
14	University of Warwick	One-year master`s programme
15	University of Essex	One-year master`s programme
16	University of Cumbria	One-year master`s or PhD programme
17	University of Northumbria	PhD research programme
18	University of Leicester	One-year master`s or PhD programme
19	University of St Andrews	One-year master`s programme
20	University of Exeter	One-year master`s programme
21	University of Bristol	One-year master`s or PhD programme
22	University of Stirling	One-year master`s or PhD programme
23	SOAS University of London	One-year master`s programme
24	Lancaster University	One-year master`s or PhD programme
25	The University of Edinburgh	One-year master`s or PhD programme
26	Imperial College London	PhD programme
27	University of Southampton	One-year master`s or PhD programme
28	University of Bath	One-year master`s programme