



Call for Applications

**Procedures and Guidelines for Academic Institutions
Applying to Participate as**

Host Institutions

in the ***In-Country Scholarship Programme for Palestinian
Postgraduate (Master) Students
in the Palestinian Territories***

Strengthening Higher Education and Research in the Palestinian Territories

Affiliation as host institution for the intakes 2026-2028

**Funded by the Federal Ministry for
Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)**

Application Closing Date: 30 September 2024

Next Selection: December 2024

Supported by:



Federal Ministry
for Economic Cooperation
and Development

What are the programme's background and objectives?

The programme aims at fostering strong, internationally oriented higher education systems in the Palestinian Territories with the capacity to contribute to sustainable development. To this end, scholarships are granted for development-related Master studies for individuals who plan to pursue a career in teaching and/or research at a higher education institution in the Palestinian Territories. Scholarships are provided for high-quality post-graduate programmes that give students excellent training opportunities.

Scholarships are awarded only for selected postgraduate (Master) programmes at host institutions that are affiliated with the programme. These will receive a maximum quota of In-Country scholarships for postgraduate programmes. This call for applications is therefore aimed at Palestinian higher education institutions wishing to participate as host institutions in the programme. The selected host institution will be affiliated with the programme for three intakes starting with intake 2026 and ending with intake 2028. Afterwards it is possible to reapply for participation in the next Call for Host Institutions.

By training future academic and professional leaders, the programme contributes to the following **long-term impacts**:

- Qualified professionals' involvement in the solution of development-related problems in the Middle East
- Graduates strengthening education and research in the Middle East
- Structural strengthening and regional networking of partner institutions and partner universities

To achieve these long-term impacts, the following outcomes have been formulated as programme objectives:

- Programme objective 1:** Graduates are qualified to take on responsible positions in or for their region of origin
- Programme objective 2:** The participation of women and underprivileged groups is reinforced
- Programme objective 3:** Organisational, financial and personal capacities of partner institutions are strengthened

The target group for scholarships are graduates from the Palestinian Territories with a first academic degree if applying for a Master's programme, who want to pursue Master's courses in their home country. (In-Country scholarships are aimed at students who study in their home country or in the country for which they have a residence permit.)

All further details regarding scholarship funding and formal DAAD selection criteria are listed in the respective call for scholarship applications that will be provided after successful admission as host institution.

How is the programme monitored?

With the aim of achieving the above-mentioned objectives, the programme will be monitored through a result-oriented monitoring. Selected institutions are expected to actively participate by submitting an annual report, for which a template is provided by DAAD. In addition, DAAD carries out a graduate survey at the end of the scholarship and 3 years after the scholarship in order to gather data on the development of the scholarship competencies' and careers. Participating higher education institutions will be asked to provide up-to-date contact details of their graduates and postgraduates.

Who is eligible for application?

Palestinian universities and research institutes and research networks that offer high quality Master programmes (Thesis Track only) which are geared towards capacity building of teaching and research staff.

Part-time programmes, specialization courses or professional and further training programmes that do not lead to an award of a Master cannot apply.

Blended-Learning programmes are not generally excluded, but intensive consultation prior to application is highly recommended and requested.

Applying networks need to define and provide detailed information on all member institutions where scholarship holders will be admitted.

The application may only be submitted for postgraduate programmes that have been accredited and/or recognized according to national standards. All applying institutions need to prove that at least one cohort of the respective study programmes has graduated successfully. After the first successful graduation, the degree programme must be offered continuously without interruption.

Comprehensive statistical information on applicant, student, dropout and graduation rates must also be provided.

Which subject areas are eligible for funding

The offered Master programmes need to focus on subject areas with **strong relevance to national and/or regional development plans** with a clear and **strong linkage between the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)** and the content/focus of the programme and/or the future employment fields of the graduates (including the applied social sciences, environmental and other special areas of law but excluding the fine arts). The humanities might be considered in exceptional cases only if the aforementioned conditions are met. Degree programmes related to dentistry cannot be considered.

DAAD aims to promote a diverse and broad range of studies through the scholarship programme from different providers in as many countries as possible.

Please note that no more than **four postgraduate (Master) degree tracks per department** can be mentioned in the application form. If different departments of the same institution would like to apply, they should submit separate applications. No more than **three applications per institution** should be submitted. If more than three departments of an institution wish to apply, an internal university decision must take place beforehand.

What is the content and time frame of the affiliation as host institution?

After being successfully admitted to the programme, the host institution receives a maximum quota of scholarships each intake (subject to availability of sufficient budgetary resources). The quota depends on the number of placements offered by the respective institution, the overall number of applicants, and available financial resources. When the quota is not met (due to financial or administrative reasons from either side) the quota cannot be taken into the next fiscal year.

In-Region scholarships cannot be funded within this programme.

The host institutions are affiliated with the programme for up to three intakes for the period 2026 - 2028. Afterwards they can reapply for participation. The participation as host institution in the programme will generally take the form of an affiliate agreement between the DAAD and the host institution. The affiliate agreement lists the binding specifications and mandatory procedures regarding, among others, the monitoring of the programme, the execution of the pre-selection and ranking of the scholarship holders and the financial administration.

The duration of funding for each intake will be stated in the affiliate agreement (usually no more than the standard and regular period for a master's degree programme).

The scholarship funding (stipends in EUR covering the cost of living including accommodation) is generally paid directly to the scholarship holder. The university/

Which are the selection criteria for applying institutions?

institute/network fees will in general be paid directly to the host institution on basis of the above-mentioned affiliate agreement.

The amount of university/institute/network fees needs to be appropriate for the country/region and adequate to the academic quality offered by the applying institution/network.

No additional funding is provided within this programme. Participating institutions are invited, though, to hand in applications for other DAAD programmes to strengthen their institutional capacities and/or to offer more focused support activities for the scholarship holders. Respective information will be provided after admission to the programme.

The project proposals will be evaluated according to formal and content criteria, with a particular emphasis on the relation to development issues and impact orientation. The following criteria will be applied in the evaluation of applications:

1. **Academic expertise:** The applying institution provides high quality academic education through renowned faculties and gives detailed information on all postgraduate (Master) programmes that are included in the application (not more than 4).
 - It reflects cutting-edge research as well as application-oriented skills and know-how, makes use of the most up-to-date concepts, methods and methodologies in its field and shows strong motivation to continually develop and improve its academic portfolio.
 - It demonstrates its high academic quality, among other things, via the course plans/curricula to be submitted, via the academic staff list (if applicable, together with the corresponding publication list) and the number of academic supervisors available for the students of the respective postgraduate degree track.
 - The statistical information to be submitted regarding the number of applicants, students, dropouts and graduates will further highlight the quality, competitiveness and attractiveness of the programmes.
 - The results of tracer studies and alumni evaluation show the high effectiveness of the postgraduate programmes and specify their alignment with the overall goals of the scholarship programme.
2. **Relevance to (regional/national) development (plans)/linkage to the SDGs and capacity building:** The postgraduate programme is clearly related to topics relevant to national/regional development plans, shows a strong linkage between the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the content/focus of the programme and/or the (future) employment fields of the graduates, and at the same time aims at capacity building in higher education and research.
3. **Cooperation and networking:** The applying institution (or department hosting the individual doctorate) regularly pursues cooperation and networking activities within and beyond academia, fostering inter-institutional and international exchange. Experience in managing international projects and cooperation with German partners are especially desirable.
4. **Professional training:** The applying institution offers training in academic, mentoring and management skills that enable the students to apply their acquired knowledge in their subsequent academic or professional careers, stimulating change and development.
5. **Accreditation and quality assurance through results-oriented monitoring:** The applying institution corresponds to the higher education accreditation

and/or recognition standards of the respective country and has graduated at least the first student intake successfully. After the first successful graduation, the degree programme must be offered continuously without interruption. In addition, it takes effective steps towards continuous quality assurance and quality improvement.

6. **Marketing and admission process:** The applying institution demonstrates a professional marketing approach and a transparent selection process. DAAD expects the programme to be so attractive that the number of applicants is usually at least three times higher than the scholarships to be awarded.
 - It provides a concrete marketing concept on how to attract future scholarship holders to apply for the postgraduate programmes offered by the institution considering
 - that female applicants and candidates from less privileged regions or groups are especially encouraged to apply.
 - It describes in detail its admission process and implements measures to enhance participation of women, underprivileged groups related to, e.g., disability, social or regional background and refugees.
7. **Infrastructure, management and staff development:** The applying institution provides sufficient infrastructure (space, equipment, service facilities), a clear organisational structure, efficient management and a strong focus on staff development. Provision of a staff development plan for the supervisors of the DAAD scholars will be an asset.
8. **Target group orientation: support services and professional training:** The applying institution follows a target group-oriented approach in terms of efficient support services (e.g. administrative, social, and intercultural support) and professional training, taking into account the heterogeneity of its students.
 - It provides a concrete support concept for the scholarship holders, explaining and listing the existing and planned support services and activities,
 - It offers additional and non-curricular trainings in mentoring and management skills, academic writing, usage of E-Resources etc. that enable students to apply their acquired knowledge in their subsequent academic or professional careers, stimulating change and development.

In case of a re-application of a current host institution, the selection committee will also evaluate its performance in the past affiliate period. This takes into account the number of applicants, monitoring reports and communication and cooperation behaviour in previous collaboration.

Selection procedure

The selection of host institutions is carried out by an independent committee of international peers (university professors) to be nominated by DAAD and the respective regional university associations.

The selection of scholarship holders will follow a two-step procedure. Applicants must apply for the scholarship via the DAAD portal. DAAD will conduct a formal examination of the applications received via the DAAD portal according to DAAD criteria. Only the list of applicants who meet the DAAD application requirements will be availed to the institution/university for the next step. The formally accepted applicants are then evaluated by an independent selection committee. The host institutions are invited to participate in the DAAD selection and have the right to reject a candidate if he or she does not seem suitable for

the proposed degree programme or the host institution in general in terms of academic qualifications. The DAAD reserves the right of final selection. After being successfully selected, scholarship holders must apply for admission at the respective institution/university/network using the contacts and the method that is prescribed by the institution/university/network.

Please note that with the publication of the Call for Scholarship Applications, the selection process of scholarship holders begins approximately one year prior to the start of the postgraduate programme. After successful admission to the programme, the DAAD will inform the partner institutions about the exact schedule. Unfortunately, DAAD cannot accept any deviations from that process.

Application process and required documents

If more than one department of an institution would like to submit applications for this call, a separate application should be submitted for every department.

Departments may list up to four postgraduate programmes in their application.

Mandatory forms and other application documents per department:

- **Application form** (→ [DAAD form](#)), to be filled out and submitted online – along with the annexes – via the following link: <https://www.daad.de/surveys/815525?lang=en> (see also “Application closing date and submission”).
- **Annex I: Endorsement of the leadership of the applying university/institute** (→ [DAAD form](#))
- **Annex II: Organizational chart** of the applying department (without names of staff) *as well as*
- For each of the postgraduate programmes listed in the application:
 - **Annex III: Proposal form** (→ [DAAD form](#))
In the proposal form, the applying department addresses the selection criteria (1-8) stated in this call for applications. The institution outlines their concepts regarding staff development, alumni, as well as support for students enrolled in the programmes. If the proposal form concerns a postgraduate programme with more than one degree track, it should be clearly marked which information relates to which degree track.
 - **Annex IV: Staff list** of the postgraduate programmes (→ [DAAD form](#))
 - **Annex V: Module book/course plan** for each postgraduate programme mentioned in the application
 - **Annex VI: Programme schedule – detailed list of courses to be taken per semester/trimester/quatrimester**
 - **Annex VII: Accreditation certificate(s) and/or documentation of the recognition according to national standards** of each postgraduate programmes
 - **Annex VIII: Statistical information form of each postgraduate programme** (→ [DAAD form](#))
statistics on applications, students, alumni, graduation rates, dropout rates
 - **Annex IX: Official fee structure** with university seal of each postgraduate programme (if different)

If applicable

- Marketing samples (e.g. flyer)
- Additional documents addressing the selection criteria

Please make sure to submit only the documents that are directly related to the programmes mentioned in this application and/or address the selection criteria stated above. If relevant documents are part of larger documents that also concern other programmes not related to this application, you may submit excerpts of these documents, containing only the relevant pages – e.g.: instead of submitting a catalogue with all the course plans of the department, please submit an excerpt containing only the course plan of the post-graduate programme addressed in the application.

Kindly note that proposals for different programmes may be forwarded to different reviewers for expert assessment. Therefore, it is important that all the required information is placed in the designated fields and all the documents are named correctly to prevent oversights.

All application documents must be submitted in English or German.

Application closing date and submission

Palestinian universities and research institutes can submit their completed applications until **30 September 2024** via the following link:

→ **Application link:** <https://www.daad.de/surveys/815525?lang=en>

Please note that any hard copies of application documents sent to DAAD will not be considered in the application process.

Contact and consultation

If you have further questions or require assistance, please contact:

DAAD Bonn, Germany:

Ms Claudia Garbers (garbers@daad.de)

or

DAAD Information Point East Jerusalem, Palestinian Territories:

Ms Ni'mati Dmeiry (nimati.dmeiry@daad-eastjerusalem.org)

Homepage: <https://www.daad-eastjerusalem.org/en/>

Facebook: DAAD.EastJerusalem

Further information

Website of the In-Country/In-Region programme:

<https://www.daad.de/incountry-inregion>

