

HESPAL
Higher Education Scholarships
for Palestinians

Application

Guidance Notes

Cycle 2024

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Herby, we present to you the guidelines for the HESPAL Cycle 2024.

Key notes:

- Launch of call: December 18, 2023
- Deadline to submit the full application: **Friday March 22, 2024, by 11:59 PM.**
- HESPAL online application link: <https://form.jotform.com/233382270186052>
- Please note that late or incomplete applications will be disqualified.

1. 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 Higher Education Institutes (UK HEIs) 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.

HESPAL scholarships cover main expenses for its selected scholar specifically including:

- Academic fees (in the form of a fee waiver offered by participating UK HEIs);
- Living allowances for scholars covering the period of 12 months for master's degree scholars and 3 years for PhD scholars (subject to the availability of multiple funding);
- 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.

2. Eligibility Criteria

To be eligible, 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 partners 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 of a minimum score of 6.5 or a grade appropriate for their selected course of study;
- HESPAL encourages individuals with disabilities 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>

3. 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 before nominating their priority candidates from their applicants and share it with the British Council.

The process of application takes the following steps:

1) Fill in the HESPAL online application form:

Click the link below to fill the HESPAL application and upload the requested supporting documents.

Application link: <https://form.jotform.com/233382270186052>

The application should be completed with the approval of the applicant's home Palestinian university.

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 in the UK HEIs.
- 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.

The application form is set in 8 parts (A to H) that requests personal, professional, and academic information. As you fill the application, please carefully note the following:

- Part A, personal information: provide personal details, such as full name, date of birth, address, etc.
- Part B, education: list all academic qualifications gained since completing your secondary education, stating the various degrees awarded to you, the institution, the subject area, and the years of study.
- Part C, work experience: provide clear details and dates of your current and any previous work experiences. If you don't have any previous work experience, please leave the section of previous experience blank.
- Part D, Higher Education in UK: allocate at least three and up to five UK HEIs that you are interested in and specify the programme or course of study you intend to pursue in that HEIs. List them in order of preference.
- Part E, applicant statement: include a personal statement, and your future. You should answer each question on the application form with the number of words specified.
- Part F, supporting documents: upload clear scanned copies of all the supporting documents required into their designated fields (check section 4).
- Part G, list of UK partner universities: check the list of universities that have been identified as UK partner institutions for the HESPAL Cycle 2024 and the qualification/s they offer.
- Part H, declaration form: you need to read it carefully. Sign and submit application.

2) Apply to the UK HEIs participating in the HESPAL programme.

- Each candidate should directly apply for their preferred programme of study offered by partner UK HEIs.
- It is recommended that each candidate put an application to an average of three universities.
- Make sure to attach the HESPAL application form to the overall documents sent to the UK HEIs.
- 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.

4. 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);
- Signed copy of contract between the applicant and the home university declaring that the applicant will be employed at his/her home university upon completion of their scholarship and return to Palestine.
- Valid IELTS Score report or proof of your booked exam;

5. Selection Process

Each Palestinian university nominates up to 5 scholars and agrees with their nominees on the areas of study.

Nominated scholars submit their full online application by the set deadline.

The British Council checks eligibility of candidates.

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

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

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

If more candidates are placed in UK HEIs 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. *

Successful applicants follow up on necessary communication and arrangements with the UK HEI 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 HEI 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.

6. General Information

For enquiries, contact the HESPAL Project Coordinator:

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

7. Annexes

7.1 Annex I: List of UK partner universities

The following universities have been identified as partner institutions for the HESPAL Cycle 2024:

| | UK Institution | Programme/s Offered |
|----|-----------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 1 | Brunel University London | One-year master`s or PhD programme |
| 2 | King`s College London | One-year master`s or PhD programme |
| 3 | Liverpool Hope University | PhD programme |
| 4 | St Mary`s University London | One-year master`s programme |
| 5 | University of Birmingham | One-year master`s programme |
| 6 | University of Dundee | One-year master`s or PhD programme |
| 7 | University of East Anglia | PhD programme |
| 8 | University of Essex | One-year master`s programme |
| 9 | University of Exeter | One-year master`s programme |
| 10 | University of Glasgow | One-year master`s or PhD programme |
| 11 | University of Roehampton | PhD research programme |
| 12 | University of Sussex | One-year master`s programme |
| 13 | University of Warwick | One-year master`s programme |
| 14 | York St John University | PhD research programme |

7.2 Annex II: Recommended fields of study

Recommended fields of study, as per the priorities of the Palestinian universities and preferences of our donors include (but are not limited to):

| | |
|----|---|
| 1 | Agriculture and agricultural research; |
| 2 | Architecture, urban studies, and landscape |
| 3 | Art, art management and creative industries |
| 4 | Business, Finance and Economics |
| 5 | Educational Management and Technology and Special Educational Needs |
| 6 | Energy Management, Clean Energy and Conservation Strategies |
| 7 | Environmental Sciences and Sustainable Infrastructure |
| 8 | Human Rights |
| 9 | ICT fields (Information and Communications Technology) |
| 10 | Law and Governance studies |
| 11 | Linguistics and literature studies |
| 12 | Nanotechnology |
| 13 | Political Sciences and International Relations |
| 14 | Public Health, Nursing; and Medical Studies |
| 15 | STEM fields (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) |
| 16 | TESOL (Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages) |