

Scholarships for Palestinian Students offered by the Government of Malta for Postgraduate Studies at the University of Malta

Call for Applications 2018

The Government of Malta announces the fifth call for applications for Palestinian students wishing to pursue post-graduate studies at the University of Malta. The Scholarships are designed to facilitate the formation of young Palestinian professionals in three key areas which have become increasingly recognised as critical pillars for the creation of a more sustainable future for Palestine, namely humanitarian action, cultural heritage and conflict resolution. Malta is an ideal meeting point for the realization of this goal, not only because of the relevant expertise it offers in these three sectors, but also because of the strong historic and cultural ties it enjoys with the Arab world as well as with Europe.

Objective

The specialised formation of young and promising Palestinian citizens is an important pillar for the ongoing capacity-building efforts in Palestine. Three of the emerging sectors where more young professionals are needed on the ground are humanitarian action, conflict resolution and the conservation and management of cultural heritage. An investment in the specialised formation of professionals in these three sectors is an investment in the future of Palestine, with a better and more sustainable quality of life for its citizens.

Why sponsor students in Conservation and Management of Cultural Heritage?

The main objective of the international community's engagement in Palestine is the establishment of an independent and sovereign Palestinian State living side by side in peace and security with the State of Israel. Cultural heritage is widely recognised as a powerful medium for the formation of a sense of identity, civic pride and community regeneration. A number of Palestinian initiatives are already exploring the immensely rich patrimony of Palestine to help build a better future for the country. The formation of more young professionals will directly support the growth and consolidation of these home-grown initiatives.

A fundamental principle of sound and sustainable heritage conservation and management is the empowerment and the enablement of local communities with the skills and tools to conserve and manage their own cultural heritage resources. The formation of heritage management and conservation/restoration professionals within a community is the most essential step in this process of emancipation from an excessive and long-term dependence on external expertise.

A second principle of sustainable heritage management is the development of conservation/restoration and management techniques that are suited to local materials, traditions and skills, in order to ensure that they may be replicated and sustained with the least possible dependence on externally-devised solutions.

There are a number of distinct similarities between Maltese and Palestinian built heritage. For this reason the training and expertise offered by the University of Malta are highly relevant to the Palestinian context.

These common characteristics should also facilitate the creation of long-term synergies between the University of Malta and Palestinian universities.

The scholarship scheme will directly support the successful and sustainable delivery of these goals through capacity-building at a local level, in order to help develop a professional workforce on the ground that is capable of developing and maintaining an indigenous heritage management and conservation practice.

Why sponsor students in Humanitarian Action?

The overall situation in Palestine and particularly in Gaza, as well as the continued existence of large Palestinian refugee camps calls for a high degree of expertise in humanitarian action. Humanitarian issues related to the Palestinian situation are also continuously on the agenda of international organisations, including the United Nations and its various agencies. It is imperative that Palestinians have the capacity and professional knowledge to take the lead in shaping both policy and practice related to humanitarian action in Palestine at the international, regional, and local levels.

Humanitarian action today emphasizes local ownership, participation and bottom-up approaches. Thus, it is only logical from this perspective to develop extensive Palestinian expertise on an issue which, unfortunately, affects the Palestinian people on a daily basis.

The Master of Arts in Humanitarian Action of the University of Malta combines theory and practice in such a way as to enable the students to work on a range of issues related to humanitarian action, from humanitarian diplomacy, via forced migration and refugee law to management in humanitarian action, all issues of particular interest in the Palestinian context.

Why sponsor students in Conflict Resolution?

The Israeli-Palestinian conflict is the longest-standing conflict in the Mediterranean region and one of the longest-standing conflicts in the world. This conflict is considered as particularly intractable one by most academic commentators. Over the period of the conflict the number of fatalities has run into several thousands (estimates vary but 13,000 is a conservative estimate). The Palestinian people have suffered greatly as a result of the conflict in terms of violations of human rights, destruction of physical infrastructure and failure to have the protection of a full-fledged state. The resolution of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict would constitute a long-term solution to the daily sufferings endured by the Palestinian people. In order to achieve an enduring resolution of the conflict Palestinian authorities and civil society require a cadre of professionals trained in the theoretical framework and practical skills of conflict resolution. The existence of such a cadre of trained professionals would provide the Palestinian authorities with the requisite tools to engage more successfully in conflict resolution efforts.

The University of Malta

Lying at the cross-roads of the Mediterranean, the University of Malta has, over its 400-year history, been the hub for international academic exchange on the island. This legacy has been carried on to the present day as the University currently hosts close to one thousand international students from 92 different countries, active collaborations with universities in Europe, Asia, the United States, Africa and Australia and a host of international visitors, experts and external examiners from different parts of the globe which have turned the University into an international campus which celebrates the diversity and cultural richness of all those who frequent it. With English as its language of instruction and wide-ranging support services to meet the needs of its local and international community, the University consistently seeks to embark on projects and initiatives in order to continue boosting its international student figures and extending its network to new partners in order to create sustainable collaborations in diverse fields of interest. The University of Malta is the highest teaching institution in Malta, it is publicly funded and is open to all those who have the requisite qualifications. Just over 11,000 students are currently pursuing studies at Foundation, Undergraduate and Post-graduate level. Apart from the 1,000 international students mentioned above, the University hosts approximately 400 students each year on Erasmus and other exchange programmes with Universities across the world.

The principal contact point for prospective and registered international students/visitors is the International Office: <http://www.um.edu.mt/international>

The University today has fourteen different faculties and a number of interdisciplinary Institutes and Centres covering a wide range of areas of study and research. The University of Malta has also set up a School of Performing Arts and an International School for Foundation Studies. The campus is home to the Mediterranean Academy of Diplomatic Studies and the IMO International Maritime Law Institute (IMLI).

Academic relations between the University of Malta and Universities in Palestine in relation with this Call

The University of Malta's Department of International Relations in the Faculty of Arts, and the Department of Conservation and Built Heritage in the Faculty for the Built Environment have for a long time been committed to developing a strong relationship with their colleagues and counterparts in several Universities in Palestine, as well as NGOs active in their field. Collaborations over recent years have included a series of visits, exchanges, meetings, lectures, a round table discussion and an exhibition, all of which have underlined the potential benefits and paved the way for greater collaboration between the two countries in these fields. A number of other departments of the University of Malta hold excellent academic ties with Palestinian counterparts and as explained previously, the Mediterranean Academy of Diplomatic Studies has been a host for Palestinian students and academics for several years.

The strong relations between the University of Malta and its Palestinian partners, have been recently enhanced through the Erasmus+ International Credit Mobility (ICM) programme which aims at fostering deeper cooperation with institutions located outside the European Union. The University of Malta, since the start of the Erasmus+ ICM programme in 2015, has secured funding for exchanges with four Palestinian Universities with which it has also signed an Erasmus+ Inter-institutional agreement. A number of exchanges have been successfully executed during the first years of the programme.

The awarded mobilities prove to be of a great strategic value for Palestine's internationalisation efforts and very much in line with Malta's overseas development assistance policy in which the University participates extensively in view of its public role in training and education. Active involvement in the field of Higher Education is one of the internationalisation commitments of the UM with education considered as an important pillar in facilitating cultural understanding; which improves prospects of peace and stability in the Mediterranean.

Following the first visit of a UM academic from the Department of International Relations (IR), contacts have been made with the Department of Political Science at An Najah University resulting in a reciprocal visit of a Palestinian academic to the UM, Department of IR. Following the increased academic cooperation, the UM is currently hosting the first two Erasmus+ ICM undergraduate students from Palestine during the Second Semester of the 2017/2017 Academic Year.

The Erasmus+ ICM programme funds, were also pivotal in the exchanges between the Department of Conservation and Built Heritage and Al Quds University. The UM and Al Quds University have completed four mobilities with lectures focusing on the conservation and management of archaeological sites and the impact of modern development on cultural heritage among other related issues and challenges. Both universities agreed that during the Second Semester of the 2017/2018 Academic Year, the Erasmus+ ICM visits will take place in the form of seminars aside from class lecturing.

Cooperation with Birzeit University also resulted in academic staff mobility with a focus on the field of humanitarian action and the refugee context. The first Erasmus+ ICM mobility from the UM to Birzeit was critical in establishing further the relations between both institutions which was initially initiated through the efforts of the Maltese Diplomatic Representation Office in Ramallah. Cooperation is also being expanded to include student mobility for studies at an undergraduate level.

Through Erasmus+ ICM programme funds, the University of Malta's International office also hosts a number of administrative staff from these Palestinian Universities in order to provide training on the coordination of the programme and enhance the ongoing collaboration.

Courses to be funded through this Call (2018)

Master of Science in Built Heritage (Full-time, by Research), within the Department of Conservation and Built Heritage, Faculty for the Built Environment

Brief Description

The MSc in Built Heritage (Full-time, by Research) programme is a three-semester full-time research programme comprising a taught study-unit to which 5 ECTS credits are assigned and a dissertation study-unit to which 85 ECTS credits are assigned. The taught study-unit is defined by the Faculty, to be relevant and complementary to the dissertation research.

Students proposing research in an area related to Built Heritage and who meet the entry requirements of the programme will be eligible to apply for a scholarship.

The Overview Description of the Master of Science in Built Heritage (Full-time, by Research) may be viewed at:

<https://www.um.edu.mt/ben/overview/PMSCBTHFTR5-2017-8-F>

Admission Requirements

The Course shall be open to applicants in possession of one of the following qualifications:

- (a) the degree of Bachelor of Science (Honours) in Built Environment Studies with at least Second Class Honours; or
- (b) a qualification deemed by Senate, on the recommendation of the Board, to be comparable to the qualification listed in sub-paragraph (a).

Applicants are required to present an internationally recognized English Language proficiency Certificate at the required level. Further information is available at:

http://www.um.edu.mt/international/international/english_language_requirements

As part of the application process, prospective applicants will be required to submit a research proposal outlining their proposed research.

Ideal Student Profile

The ideal applicant, besides holding a first degree in a subject related to the fields indicated above, would ideally be a practicing professional in the cultural heritage sector in Palestine, or demonstrate a high degree of motivation to acquire and develop the specialised knowledge and skills to become an effective practitioner in that sector, and should have a track record and/or aptitude that shows the applicant is well-prepared to undertake independent research..

Master of Arts in Humanitarian Action

The Master's programme approaches humanitarian action from both a practical and an analytical perspective. Students develop the necessary knowledge and skills to critically analyse humanitarian action, and work effectively in the humanitarian field. The programme is taught by a combination of in-house experts and experienced guest lecturers from Malta and abroad. The first semester provides a multidisciplinary overview of humanitarian action, while, in the second semester, students focus on forced migration and human security. Candidates for the M.A. in Humanitarian Action will thus gain a comprehensive understanding of:

- The variety of humanitarian and more long-term responses to crises across the globe
- How such responses are shaped and what consequences they have
- The institutional and legal framework for humanitarian action
- Medical and public health aspects of humanitarian action
- Management and humanitarian action
- Anthropology and humanitarian action
- Applied ethics in humanitarian action
- Human security, forced migration and humanitarian action
- Migration and migration control
- Applied refugee law and statelessness
- Applied research methods in humanitarian action

The M.A. also offers the possibility of placements for those students who wish to expand their hands-on experience of what working in the humanitarian and development fields entails.

The programme is intended for individuals working in, or aspiring to work in, humanitarian agencies, international organizations, NGOs and private foundations, government agencies, the armed forces (in peacekeeping and search and rescue), and the private sector (with social responsibility issues).

The M.A. enables students to develop a range of skills, including:

- The ability to analyse critically humanitarian action, how it is framed, structured, and delivered
- The ability to plan, programme, implement, and evaluate effectively humanitarian and/or development interventions
- The ability to navigate among the numerous players involved in humanitarian and development assistance
- Confident oral presentation skills on the topics covered
- Analytical writing in the area of humanitarian and development cooperation

Admission Requirements

1) A recognised degree as deemed relevant by the Faculty Board of Arts.

Given the multidisciplinary character of humanitarian work, students are expected to hold a first degree obtained with second class or equivalent, in any subject considered to be relevant by the Admissions Committee.

2) English Language Proficiency.

Applicants who have not studied in Malta are required to present an internationally recognised English Language Proficiency Certificate at the required level. Further information about English Language Requirements is available at:

http://www.um.edu.mt/international/international/english_language_requirements

3) Further details.

For further details, see Bye-Laws for Degree of Master of Arts available at http://www.um.edu.mt/_data/assets/pdf_file/0013/103405/BA-BAH-BL-2005-2.pdf.pdf

and the Course Overview and Programme available at:

<http://www.um.edu.mt/arts/overview/PMAHMAFET12-2017-8-O>

Ideal Student Profile

The ideal applicant should have a serious and manifest commitment to humanitarianism, with some prior experience in the humanitarian and/or development sector and a strong motivation to pursue postgraduate studies. The applicant should have intercultural communication skills. Knowledge of languages beyond English and Arabic is an asset.

Master of Arts in Conflict Resolution and Mediterranean Security*

*jointly with the School of Conflict Analysis and Resolution of George Mason University, USA (the oldest and largest conflict resolution school in the USA)

The main objective of this program is to provide students with an array of theoretical and practical tools that will enable them to deal effectively with conflicts at the micro and macro levels. It also places a specific emphasis on the Mediterranean context as an area where these skills are particularly useful.

The MA in Conflict Resolution and Mediterranean Security enables students to:

- Carry on a systematic and ongoing study of the nature, origins, and types of conflicts;
- Analyze the international relations and security scenarios of the Mediterranean and in particular the nature, types and origins of the conflicts in the region;
- Develop the requisite processes and conditions for the productive resolution of conflicts;
- Apply the theories, skills, processes and techniques to empirical case-studies that focus on the Mediterranean.

Modules covered in the programme include the following:

- Foundations of Conflict Analysis and Resolution
- Facilitation Skills
- Negotiation
- Human rights and Conflict
- Security Issues and Conflict
- Engaging Conflict
- Culture, Identity and Conflict
- Euro-Mediterranean Relations
- Conflict, Religion and Reconciliation

Admission Requirements

1) A recognised degree as deemed relevant by the Faculty Board of Arts.

A recognised degree as deemed relevant by the Board of the Centre for the Study and Practice of Conflict Resolution

Given the multidisciplinary character of conflict resolution, students are expected to hold a first degree obtained with second class or equivalent, in any of the following subjects: sociology, anthropology, political science, law, International relations, human rights, development studies, diplomacy, psychology or languages.

2) English Language Proficiency.

Applicants who have not studied in Malta are required to present an internationally recognised English Language Proficiency Certificate at the required level. Further information about English Language Requirements is available at:

http://www.um.edu.mt/international/international/english_language_requirements

3) Further details.

For further details, see Bye-Laws for the International Master of Arts in Conflict Resolution and Mediterranean Security

https://www.um.edu.mt/__data/assets/pdf_file/0011/110900/MA_Conf_Res_and_Med_Sec-BL-2010.pdf

and the Course Overview and Programme available at:

<https://www.um.edu.mt/cspcr/overview/PMACRMFT0-2018-9-O>

Ideal Student Profile

The ideal applicant should have a demonstrable interest in and commitment to conflict resolution, with some prior experience in conflict resolution and/or related sectors and a strong motivation to pursue postgraduate studies. The applicant should have intercultural communication skills. Knowledge of languages beyond English and Arabic is an asset.

The Scholarship

The scholarship will cover

- Payment of the University of Malta Tuition Fees and/or Enrolment fee.
- Health Insurance to cover a premium up to a maximum of EUR 500 per year. Students will be guided on this and other arrangements upon arrival.
- Reimbursement for the obligatory Health Test to be carried out in Malta as required for the processing of the Residence Permit. (Information about the health test that will be carried out upon arrival in Malta is available at: <http://www.um.edu.mt/international/international/healthtests>).
- A monthly subsistence allowance amounting to EUR 1000 per month to be used towards accommodation, living, transport and academic expenses and any other expenses that may arise. The monthly subsistence allowance will be payable for the published duration of the full-time programme, without any extensions.
- One return journey to Palestine the cost of which is capped at EUR 1000. Any additional trips or travel costs higher than this amount will have to be covered by the student.

Three scholarships will be awarded – one for the candidate selected for the Master of Arts in Humanitarian Action, another one for the candidate selected for the Master of Science in Built Heritage and another one for the Master of Arts in Conflict Resolution and Mediterranean Security.

The scholarship holders will be requested to attend the Orientation Programme that is organised for all new international students joining the University of Malta. The date for the Orientation Programme will be communicated at a later stage

Instructions to Applicants and Conditions of Selection

- Applicants need to have submitted their application online and provided copies of their academic qualifications and all other requested documentation to the University of Malta by 27th April 2018. Information is available at:
http://www.um.edu.mt/_data/assets/pdf_file/0009/232200/octoberadmissioninfo.pdf
- Applicants are requested to pay the application fee to the University of Malta in order for their application to be considered. The application fee is non-refundable. Details concerning the applicable fees are available at:
http://www.um.edu.mt/_data/assets/pdf_file/0009/232200/octoberadmissioninfo.pdf
- Applicants who wish to be considered for the scholarship are required to present a letter of motivation and three letters of reference. These are to be submitted as signed and scanned copies to the attention of the Director, International Office by email at: international@um.edu.mt. The covering message is to include reference to the application code generated by the online application and should also be submitted by the extended deadline of 4th May 2018. Documents that are submitted after the deadline cannot be considered.

- Applicants for the above mentioned courses who intend to apply for the scholarship must meet the entry requirements set out by the University of Malta and the conditions for joining the specific programmes indicated above at the time of application. Applicants who can only be considered on a conditional basis (i.e. are not in a position to provide proof of attainment of the academic qualifications required to join the programme) at the time of application cannot be considered for the scholarship. This also refers to the requirement to present an internationally recognized English Language proficiency Certificate at the required level.
- Applicants may be required to attend an interview at the Representative Office of Malta in Palestine.
- Applicants for other courses cannot be considered for these scholarships.
- Applicants should be Palestinian Nationals, are currently residing in Palestine and show a clear intention to return to Palestine at the end of their studies in Malta.
- Candidates employed in public office in Palestine, or working actively with NGOs in Palestine, will be preferred.
- Preference will be given to applicants who would be unable to attend the programme without the scholarship.
- The scholarship holder will be requested to enter into an agreement with the University of Malta for the duration of his studies in Malta, which agreement will be binding in terms of the observation of rules and regulations of the host University and host country, to seriously engage in full-time studies, register monthly progress with his academic tutor/coordinator and complete the set programme within the established time-frame.

Further information is available through:

The International Office, University of Malta – international@um.edu.mt

The Representative Office of Malta in Ramallah – Mr Reuben Gauci: reuben.gauci@gov.mt

Master of Arts in Humanitarian Action, Department of International Relations, Faculty of Arts, University of Malta – Joseph M. Debono joseph.m.debono@um.edu.mt

Master of Science in Built Heritage (Full-time, by Research), Department of Conservation and Built Heritage, Faculty for the Built Environment, University of Malta – Dr Reuben Grima: reuben.grima@um.edu.mt

Master of Arts in Conflict Resolution and Mediterranean Security, Center for Study and Practice of Conflict Resolution – Dr Omar Grech: omar.grech@um.edu.mt