

2014 Scholarship Program of the German State of North Rhine-Westphalia for students from the Palestinian Territories

Objectives

Since 2007, the state government of North Rhine-Westphalia has been carrying out a scholarship program for students from the Palestinian territories (in the following called "Palestine"). The program offers short-term scholarships for students from selected Palestinian universities wishing to pursue studies and research in North Rhine-Westphalia.

The program is being implemented by the Heinrich-Heine-University Duesseldorf.

We are now calling for the submission of applications for 2014. At least six scholarships in North Rhine-Westphalia (each of a maximum duration of three months) are available to students in master and Ph.D. programs which are of a specific significance for the development of Palestine.

The scholarship program is designed to enable scholars to familiarize with the higher education and research scene in the German state of North Rhine-Westphalia (in the following: NRW). Thus, new contacts and networks between Palestine and NRW shall be established. New scientific cooperation between Palestine and Germany shall be initiated, and existing cooperative research intensified. Scholarship holders will get the opportunity to acquire skills and qualifications in NRW which will enable them to contribute to the advancement of the research system in Palestine and to promote social processes.

Scholars will have the opportunity to carry out research projects (such as measurements, computer modeling, archive studies, demoscopic studies) at university facilities in NRW as preparation of or as a part of their master's or Ph.D. thesis at their home university. In the process, scholars will be involved in the respective research teams, and will have the opportunity to take an active role in project group activities.

You can find out more about former scholars and their experiences on our homepage in the section "[Scholars' Network](#)"¹.

Prerequisites for application

The general prerequisites for applying for a scholarship are the following:

- Enrolment as a student in master degree programs (advanced term) or Ph.D. programs at one of the following Palestinian Universities:
 - Birzeit University near Ramallah;
 - Al Quds University in East-Jerusalem;
 - Bethlehem University;

¹ <http://www.uni-duesseldorf.de/home/en/international/foreign-student/i-have-some-questions-about-funding-and-grants/nrw-scholarship-fellowship-programs/scholars-network.html>



- An-Najah National University in Nablus;
- Palestine Polytechnic University in Hebron
- The Arab American University (AAUJ), Jenin.

It is possible to extend the given list of universities, provided that a cooperation between a research facility at a North Rhine-Westphalian university and a Palestinian university facility does exist which is not listed above. Hence, students can also apply within the framework of these existing cooperations.

- Support of the applicant/ recommendation by two independent academic teachers; one of the academic teachers serves as permanent contact person.
- Fluency in English² or German.

Scholarships in detail

Scholarship holders will be given access to all central facilities such as libraries, computers, access to the internet, refectories etc. They will be integrated into local research teams where they may actively take part in the project groups' research activities. Thus, scholars will have the opportunity to get to know North Rhine-Westphalia and its higher education and research scene. The host institutions will support the scholars by providing a tutor as individual counselor.

The host universities (International Offices) will assist with arrangements for the stay (accommodation etc.) and administrative issues. Furthermore, **travel expenses** will be refunded if relevant travel documents are provided. The maximum refund amounts to 700 €.

Accommodation will be organized and financed by the host facility. Additionally, scholars will be granted a **public transport** season ticket providing mobility throughout the region. Furthermore, the scholarship includes an amount of 16.44 € per day to cover **living expenses**.

All funds are directly settled between the host facility and the scholar. Necessary **health insurance coverage** will be provided by the state of North Rhine-Westphalia within the framework of the DAAD (German Academic Exchange Service) Group Insurance Scheme.

We highly recommend that students accepted for a scholarship take part in a German language class prior to or during their scholarship stay in NRW, especially if they have few or no knowledge of the German language. Depending on the time frame of the scholarship stay, the respective host university may offer German courses for foreign students. As an alternative, scholarship holders might participate in a course at their home university in Israel prior to their stay in NRW or use the free online tools provided by "Deutsche Welle" for individual language training: <http://www.dw-world.de/dw/0,,2547,00.html>.

Application

The scholarship places³ are provided by research institutes at universities and universities of applied sciences in North Rhine-Westphalia.

² at least level B2 of the CEFR (Common European Reference Framework)

³ listed in a separate document: ['List of scholarship places'](#)



As a student of one of the universities listed above, you are welcome to apply for up to three of the places offered (with descending priority). It is important to check if you meet the particular requirements of the place you seek to apply for, i.e. that your degree / study program matches the discipline and required degree of the scholarship place offered (Master or PhD). Furthermore, you need to make sure before applying that your stay in NRW in 2013 is consistent with your study program schedule in Palestine. Please note that the period of time during which hosting institutions are able to host scholars is limited in most cases and must generally not exceed the end of the year.

The deadline for the submission of complete applications is March 1st, 2014.

Your application needs to include the following documents and information:

1. The completed **application form**: including identification of the scholarship place(s) you would like to apply for as well as a brief statement on how the place(s) relate to your work (see the enclosed application form);
2. a **CV** and (portrait) **photo**;
3. documentary evidence of your previous academic achievements, such as transcript of records, certificates of previous degrees),
4. **Letter of motivation**: containing statements on your particular interests and specialization, academic aims and prospective professional career, your expectations with regard to your stay in North Rhine-Westphalia as a scholar and the knowledge you seek to acquire during the scholarship
5. two **letters of reference** from two different university lecturers (each including contact details and email address)⁴: they need to include statements on the general qualification, previous progress of studies, further course of the studies, the objectives of the bachelor's or master's thesis and English language skills. *Please note: letters of reference should not be older than six months!*
6. **optional**: evidence on language skills; certificates on other relevant qualifications; participation certificates for relevant trainings/congresses/...

A detailed step-by-step guide on **how to apply** is available online: [\[click\]](#)

Please note: All application documents must be submitted in English (or German)! Official documents, transcripts, letters of reference etc. must be signed and stamped by the issuing institution. Otherwise they cannot be accepted!

Implementation of the program

Applications received will be presented to the according higher education institutions offering the scholarship places. The respective academic staff will then decide upon the adequacy of the applicant on the basis of his / her academic expertise and further qualifications. Taking into account the available number of scholarship places and after consulting the Ministry of Innovation, Science and Research of the German state of North Rhine-Westphalia the

⁴ Please use or attach the form provided for each letter! – available online: <http://www.uni-duesseldorf.de/home/en/international/foreign-student/i-have-some-questions-about-funding-and-grants/nrw-scholarship-fellowship-programs/palestine-scholarship-program/call-for-applications/application-documents.html>



scholars will be selected. Admitted students will receive a letter of acceptance, prospectively by **mid of April 2014**. Scholarship holders and hosting institutions shall then agree upon the time frame and settle the details of the scholarship stay.

From **May 1st, 2014 on**, scholars may take up work in the host institution. The duration of the stay may be between eight and twelve weeks. However, we strongly recommend making use of the maximum time frame of twelve weeks, as according to experience it takes some time for foreign students to adapt to the German university system. Stays are to be finished not later than **December 31st, 2014**.

Within the first week, the scholar is supposed to develop a work schedule for his / her stay in NRW together with his / her faculty advisor which shall be reported to the HHUD. At the end of his / her stay, the applicant will be asked to recapitulate the results of his / her visit to NRW in a detailed report.

Program coordination office

Please send your application until **March 1st, 2014** by *e-mail* to

NRW-scholarship@hhu.de

In case of further questions or problems, please do not hesitate to contact the scholarship coordination office:

Heinrich-Heine-University Duesseldorf

International Office (Building 16.11)

Dr. Guido Quetsch

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40225 Duesseldorf

Germany

Phone: +49-(0)211 / 81- 14092 or +49-(0)211 / 81-11779 (Tuesdays, Fridays)

Fax: +49-(0)211 / 81- 12875

E-mail: NRW-scholarship@hhu.de

Application documents & further information

For further **information** on the scholarship program, please refer to our website:
<http://www.uni-duesseldorf.de/NRW-Nahost-Foerderung>

Answers to **frequently asked questions (FAQ)** can be found here: [\[click\]](#)

All necessary **application documents** can be downloaded from this website as well:
<http://www.uni-duesseldorf.de/home/en/international/foreign-student/i-have-some-questions-about-funding-and-grants/nrw-scholarship-fellowship-programs/palestine-scholarship-program/call-for-applications/application-documents.html>