

2023

# WHY STUDY *in* PALESTINE

A GUIDE





# THE EXPERIENCE *of* STUDYING IN PALESTINE

This guide will provide you with comprehensive insights into all that you need to know to study in Palestine. You will find useful information about college programs, accommodation options, expenses, cuisine, tourist sites, and culture activities.





# INTRODUCTION

## *to Studying in Palestine*



Studying in Palestine offers a unique opportunity for internationalization and broadening of cultural horizons.



With its rich history and cultural heritage, Palestine offers a diverse and vibrant environment for learning and growth. The country is home to 21 universities and more than 40 colleges, many of which offer diverse study areas that might be of interest to international students and staff who seek inspiring experiences in coping with conflict as well as in building resilient, yet competitive education programs, such as the Gender and Development Studies,

Refugee and Memory Studies, Orientalism Studies, Law Studies, Political Sciences, Documentary Films, Inclusion and the support of marginalized groups research, in addition to the worthwhile engineering, health care, water conservation and sanitation, environmental and agriculture programmes.



The higher education system in Palestine boasts a strong focus on practical, hands-on learning experiences, offering students the chance to apply their knowledge and skills in real-world settings.



Many of the Palestinian universities have strong partnerships with local organizations, allowing for valuable internships and networking opportunities.

Several factors make Palestine an attractive destination for EU students and staff, including:

### **International Credit Mobility (ICM)**

ICM programmes in Palestine offer both staff and students with the opportunity to earn credit toward their degrees while immersing themselves in a new culture. ICM mobilities are available through many bilateral agreements between Palestinian and European universities all across Europe, allowing exchanges in both directions.

Click [here](#) to see the Palestinian universities' external affairs units' pages the available ICM opportunities for the academic year 2023/2024.



## Learn Arabic for Foreigners

You can learn different levels of Arabic language courses starting from beginners' level all the way to the certified advanced level with experienced teachers who will immerse you in the Palestinian life and culture and integrating you into campus life.



## Cultural Diversity

Palestine has a rich and diverse cultural heritage, providing staff and students with a unique opportunity to learn about and experience a new culture such as the Palestinian folk dance, or Dabke, olive harvest festival, among other cultural activities.

## Quality Education

Despite the challenging condition of operating under mobility restrictions on people and goods, many Palestinian universities offer high-quality graduate and undergraduate education, and 5 out of 21 universities appear in the QS ranking among the top 1000 worldwide, 1 in the top 400 – 500 according to the Times





Higher Education (THE) ranking in 2022. Palestine is the winner of the Times Higher Education Asia Award for the teaching and learning strategy in 2020.



# Life EXPENSES

Studying in Palestine is often more cost-effective than studying in the neighboring countries, making it an attractive option for EU students and staff who are looking to save money while receiving a quality education.

A few universities offer free accommodation on university owned apartments. We recommend that you contact your host university to inquire about the availability of free accommodation.

Off campus housing, however, costs between 100 – 150 Euros per person per month if you decide to rent a three- bedroom apartment with friends or co-travelers.

Cost for daily meals ranges between 20-50 Euros depending on your dining options.



# PALESTINIAN HOSPITALITY

Not only is Palestine known for its wonderfully accommodative environment for foreigners, but also it is famous for its hospitality. Arabs in general and Palestinians are generous and welcome others, be they strangers or not.

So while you are walking through the streets of a village, town or even a city, you are very likely to be greeted by people sitting in front of their shops or houses and invited in with a “tfaddaloo” (meaning “please” in the sense of “come in” or “have a seat”), and it might be repeated once again if you politely refuse. Usually, after the third polite decline of the offer, the host to be will give in and stop repeating their invitation. If you accept, however, the “tfaddaloo” will be followed by an “ahlan wa sahan” (meaning “welcome”) which in turn will be followed by “qahwe willa shay?” (meaning “coffee or tea?”).



The coffee that will be offered to you is most likely Arabic coffee spiced with cardamom. Palestinians tend to drink it “saada”, which means that it will be without sugar, but commonly offer their foreign visitors a slightly sweetened version. The tea usually commonly offer their



foreign visitors a slightly sweetened version. The tea usually drunk in Palestine is, in turn, very sugary and is often complemented with tasty “marramiyye” (meaning “sage”).

Don't be surprised if you are invited to a local's home for home cooked meal or dessert, as well. Say yes! You will be lucky enough to try the very popular and exceptionally tasty

traditional rice dish of “Maqluba”, which in Arabic means “upside down” and refers to the way this meal is being prepared.



The dessert, however, will probably be the well-renowned Palestinian (Nabulsi) Knafeh.



It's a truly delightful dish made of shredded, hair-like phyllo dough, sandwiching a mixture of salty white cheeses. The whole pie is griddled until crispy on both sides, then topped with a sugary simple syrup.





# HISTORICAL SITES

## *to Visit in Palestine*

Beyond the learning experience you will have here, there is so much to love about Palestine from our welcoming and inclusive way of life and ancient cultural traditions to our wonderful landscapes and stunning historical monuments. Being home to the most ancient civilizations, and the three monotheistic religions you can be even more immersed in the Palestinian community, which will have a dazzling addition to your experience as an international student in Palestine. Mosques and churches, for instance, are some of the very remarkable monuments you can visit here, such as the Al-Aqsa Mosque. and the Church of Nativity.



*Al-Aqsa Mosque*



*The Church of the Nativity*



There are also the religious sites of the Samaritans. The Samaritans are a religious group in Palestine. They are the only remaining Samaritan community, custodians of the most ancient religious tradition in the country. Their religious center is Mount Gerizim in the vicinity of Nablus City, which Samaritan people consider the holiest place on Earth.



*Samaritans' rituals at their festivals*

The Monastery of the Temptation is another historical monument you can visit in Palestine. It was built in the 6th century on the slopes of the Mount of Temptation, situated along a cliff overlooking the city of Jericho and the Jordan Valley.



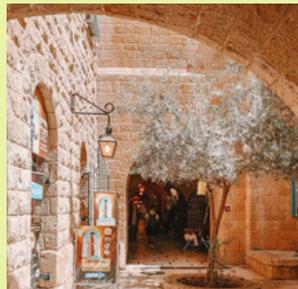
*The Monastery of the Temptation*



There is also the Smara Historical (Hot) BathHouse, which is one of the most important Ottoman architectural landmarks in Palestine. It is the oldest historical tanning bath in the country and the only one inside the Gaza Strip



*The Smara Historical BathHouse*





# EXPERIENCE

## *of International Staff and Students in Palestine*



*Timothy Meyer*



It's been an excellent experience for me. I really enjoyed the students and staff members I met here. I taught five different groups of students from different English language levels. Again, it's been a very positive experience. I had the opportunity to take several tours of the Old City of Nablus, and to help students as they practice their English with me on tour or just during the classes. You will enjoy learning about the Palestinian people and culture, make some great friends, and have an excellent experience. So, come on over!



*Holly Marguerite  
Dykstra*



Being at Birzeit University has been really wonderful to see what it's like to be at a Palestinian university here I didn't know what to expect but actually it feels just like the universities in the USA. It's been really nice to hear from students and professors at the university here.





*Amber Ashley James*

“The fact that institutions like these have been able to locally exist but flourish as some of the top universities in the world despite all the issues with Israel just like all of the obstacles that the Israeli government really puts in the way here, the students and the faculty have such a result to continue learning, to continue growing, and to continue thriving that I just think it’s really an inspiration and all.”



*Tweedy Flanigan*

“It’s been a privilege to be here at a Palestinian University campus, especially for me, somebody who’s working on a PhD and I hope to be a professor. It’s a really wonderful and beautiful place and I hope that someday I can come and teach here.”



*Jade Rei Sylvan*

“I’m coming from Harvard University where everything is 400 years old. It’s nice to be on such an open modern campus. Actually, the best part was talking to the students. It was very interesting to actually hear experiences of the new generation, especially when we keep hearing that 70% of Palestinians are under thirty. So I really enjoyed that.”



*Charlie Oliver*

In terms of the life experience, you're very much integrated into Palestinian culture. Locals will come up to you and will want to talk to you, will want to invite you to their place for dinner and to have discussions and will in general want to hang out with you. So, this makes it quite easy to be part of the university in general because you can go out and obtain friends very easily, so this is very important to experience because some study abroad experiences don't have this built-in. And really the social experience I would say comes down to what you make of it, so if you put time in to get to know people, then you will get lots out of that. I have to say some of my closest friends now are Palestinians from this experience. So, you will be able to make lasting, meaningful relationships. In terms of the learning experience, the teaching is very good, and you also have the option to attend your friends' classes with them. I would absolutely recommend study exchange in Palestine to anybody who's considering it.

Click [here](#) for more testimonies by internationals who studied or taught in Palestine.



Studying in Palestine offers a truly enriching experience for staff and students. From its rich cultural heritage to its commitment to practical, hands-on learning, Palestine is an attractive destination for those seeking to broaden their horizons and gain valuable international experience.





# Disclaimer

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