



## 2010 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 (hereinafter called "Palestine"). The program offers short-term scholarships for students from selected Palestinian universities wishing to undertake studies and research in North Rhine-Westphalia.

The program is promoted by the Heinrich-Heine-University Duesseldorf.

**We are now calling for the submission of applications for 2010.** At least six scholarships for 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 program is designed to enable qualified Palestinian students to get familiar with the higher education and research scene in the German federal state of North Rhine-Westphalia and thereby to establish new contacts and networks between Palestine and North Rhine-Westphalia. Thus, new scientific cooperation between Palestine and Germany will be initiated, as well as existing cooperative research will be intensified. The scholars shall acquire skills and qualifications in North Rhine-Westphalia that will enable them to contribute to the advancement of the research system in Palestine and to support social processes.

Scholars will be able to carry out research projects (such as measurements, computer modeling, archive studies, opinion research studies) at university facilities in North Rhine-Westphalia as part of their Master's or Ph.D. thesis at home. Scholars will be actively involved in the university's research teams, and they will be able to take an active role in project group activities.

### *Prerequisites for application*

- Students (advanced level) in Master degree courses or Ph.D. programs at one of the following Palestinian Universities:
  - Birzeit University near Ramallah;
  - Al Quds University in East-Jerusalem;
  - Bethlehem University;
  - An-Najah National University in Nablus;
  - Palestine Polytechnic University (PPU) in Hebron.



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

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

### *Scholarships in detail*

Scholars will be given access to all central facilities such as libraries, computer centers, online access including e-mail, refectories etc. They will be integrated into local research teams where they are free to actively take part in the project groups' research activities. Scholars will be given the opportunity to get to know North Rhine-Westphalia and its higher education and research scene. Host institutions will be supporting scholars by providing project group tutors as individual counselors.

Host organizations will assist with arrangements and the necessary paperwork. Furthermore, scholars can submit their travel expenses for reimbursement with a limit of 700 € each by producing relevant travel documents.

Accommodation will be organized and financed by the host facility. Scholars will also be granted a public transport season ticket providing mobility throughout the region. Each scholar will receive 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.

Moreover, scholars who are interested in enhancing their German language skills prior to their stay in Germany may be offered the opportunity to participate in the Deutsch-Uni Online German Language Course "DUO". The course is scheduled for six months; it is online tutored for three months and includes more than 100 hours of German lessons. The program comprises unlimited use of online modules for a period of six months starting from April 2010. Furthermore, participants will be granted full access to online exercises, e-dictionaries and other learning resources. For more information on "DUO" please visit [www.deutsch-uni.com](http://www.deutsch-uni.com). Application is only possible by ticking the appropriate line in the scholarship form attached.

### *Application*

Scholarship places, listed in the annex, are provided by research institutes at universities and universities of applied sciences in North Rhine-Westphalia. Please note that the hosting institutions set individual time periods during which they are able to host scholars.



As a student of one of the universities listed above, you are invited to apply for one or more of the places offered. Please note that you must meet the particular requirements of the place you seek to apply for, i.e. discipline and degree of the program (Master or PhD). Please make sure before applying that your stay in North Rhine-Westphalia in 2010 fits your study program schedule in Palestine.

As mentioned above, applicants are asked to submit two letters of reference which should include information about the student's university work to date, the course of studies in the future, the aims of the final thesis, as well as the English language competence of the applicant. Furthermore, the contact details and e-mail address of the professor chosen as the main contact person are to be provided. **Deadline for the submission of complete applications is 1 March, 2010.**

The application must comprise the following documents (in English):

1. Application form;
2. Certificate of Bachelor or Master degree;
3. Brief summary of his/her university enrolment, incl. documentary evidence (such as credit points), particular interests, specialization;
4. Curriculum vitae with photograph; it is necessary for the applicant to include a telephone number at which he/she can be contacted;
5. Identification of the scholarship place(s) the applicant seeks to apply for (maximum 3);
6. Detailed written paper on the aims of his/her studies and the intended future career. The applicant should include a description of his/her expectations on the scholarship in North Rhine-Westphalia, as well as a statement of how the place(s) relate to his/her work at home.

### *Implementation of program*

Upon an initial short phone interview with the applicant, his/her documents will be forwarded to the higher education facilities in North Rhine-Westphalia. The respective academic teachers decide on the aptitude of the scholar and the potential of the applicant to work in North Rhine-Westphalia on the basis of the documents, a personal phone interview with the applicant, and – if necessary – after consultation with the Palestinian professor nominated as the main contact person by the applicant. During these interviews, a potential work schedule for the stay in North Rhine-Westphalia shall be set.

The Heinrich-Heine-University Duesseldorf (HHUD) and the Ministry of Innovation, Science, Research and Technology of the state of North Rhine-Westphalia then select the scholars in line with the evaluations of the universities of North Rhine-Westphalia and in consideration of the total amount of scholarships available. After the official admission is given, the host organizations will contact the respective scholars by **23 April, 2010** to settle the details of their stay.



From **4 May, 2010 on**, scholars may report for work<sup>1</sup>. The possible duration of the stay will be between six and twelve weeks. We strongly recommend making use of the maximum time frame of 12 weeks, as experience showed that it takes some time for foreign students to adapt to the German university system. Stays have to end not later than **31 December, 2010**.

Within the first week, the scholar develops a work schedule for his stay in North Rhine-Westphalia together with his/her faculty advisor, which will be reported to the HHUD. At the end of his/her stay, the applicant will recapitulate the results of his/her visit to North Rhine-Westphalia in the form of a detailed essay.

### *Project promoters and program contacts*

Please send your application by **1 March, 2010** – using the form – by e-mail to

**Heinrich-Heine-University Duesseldorf**

Abteilung Kommunikation

Dr. Arne Claussen

Universitaetsstrasse 1

40225 Düsseldorf

Germany

Phone: +49-(0)211/81-10896

Fax: +49-(0)211/81-15279

E-mail: [claussen@verwaltung.uni-duesseldorf.de](mailto:claussen@verwaltung.uni-duesseldorf.de)

You can download all necessary documents and information from

<http://www.uni-duesseldorf.de/home/Internationales/Information/NRW-Nahost-Foerderprogramme/Palastina/Englisch/2010/2010-Palastina-Ausschreibung>

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<sup>1</sup> Please bear in mind that it will take at least three weeks to obtain a visa for Germany.