

2011 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 (hereafter 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 2011.

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, and existing cooperative research will be intensified. The scholars will get the opportunity to acquire skills and qualifications in North Rhine-Westphalia which will enable them to contribute to the advancement of the research system in Palestine and to support 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 North Rhine-Westphalia as part of their Master's or PhD thesis at their home university. In the process, scholars will be actively 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' reports"¹.

¹ <http://www.uni-duesseldorf.de/NRW-Nahost-Foerderprogramme>

Prerequisites for application

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

- 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 in Hebron.

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 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 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 project group tutors as individual counselors.

The host universities (International Offices) will assist with arrangements and the necessary paperwork. Furthermore, travel expenses can be refunded by providing relevant travel documents. The maximum refund amounts to 700 €. For obtaining a visa for their stay in Germany scholars will receive a letter of invitation after their acceptance for a scholarship.

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, 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.

Scholars interested in acquiring or enhancing German language skills prior to their stay in Germany are welcome to participate in the 'Deutsch-Uni Online' (DUO) German language course. The course is held online for three months starting on the 1st of June at the latest and includes more than 100 hours of German lessons. It also comprises unlimited use of online modules for a period of six months starting from June 2011. Furthermore, participants

will be granted full access to online exercises, e-dictionaries and other learning resources. For more information on "DUO" please refer to www.deutsch-uni.com.

In order to make reasonable progress within the German course you should plan to work 4 - 6 hrs. / week with the program. The courses therefore will imply a reasonable time frame for the scholars, especially from June 2011 for the next three months. This time frame should be kept in mind before registration to the course. As the scholarship program pays your course fee, enrolling for the course implies the obligation to participate. By ticking the corresponding box on the scholarship application form you bindingly enrol for the "DUO" language course.

At the end of the DUO online language course a certificate provided by the Deutsch-Uni Online and the Ludwigs-Maximilians University of Munich will be distributed to all students who have successfully participated in the course.

Application

The scholarship places (listed in the annex) are provided by research institutes at universities and universities of applied sciences in North Rhine-Westphalia.

As a student of one of the universities listed above, you are welcome to apply for one or more of the places offered. It is important that 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 program/place offered (Master or PhD). Furthermore, you need to make sure before applying that your stay in North Rhine-Westphalia in 2011 is consistent with your study program schedule in Palestine. Please note that the period of time during which hosting institutions are able to receive scholars is limited in most cases. The **deadline for the submission of complete applications is 1st March, 2011.**

The application needs to comprise the following documents (in English):

1. The completed **application form** (see enclosure): including identification of the scholarship place(s) you seek 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** (in English) with **photo** (it is necessary to include a telephone number by which the scholar can be contacted)
3. documentary evidence of your previous academic achievements: **Certificate of Bachelor's or Master's degree** + evidence on your achievements in current study program (such as transcript of records)
4. **Letter of motivation** (English): 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 (including contact details and email address of the respective lecturer): they need to include statements on the applicant's general qualification, previous progress of studies, further course of the studies, the objectives of the final thesis and English language skills.

Implementation of the program

After 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 will then decide upon the qualification of the scholar and the potential of the applicant to work in North Rhine-Westphalia on the basis of the application documents, a personal phone interview with the applicant, and – if necessary – after consulting 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 fixed.

The Heinrich-Heine-University Duesseldorf (HHUD) and the Ministry of Innovation, Science, and Research of the German state of North Rhine-Westphalia will then select the scholars in line with the evaluations of the universities of North Rhine-Westphalia and taking into account the total number of scholarships available. After the official acceptance, the host organizations will contact the respective scholars by **April 22nd, 2011** to settle the details of their stay.

From **3rd May 2011 on**, scholars may take up work in the host institution. The duration of the stay may be between six and twelve weeks. However, we strongly recommend making use of the maximum time frame of 12 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 **31st December, 2011**.

Within the first week, the scholar will develop 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 be asked to recapitulate the results of his/her visit to North Rhine-Westphalia in a detailed report.

Project promoters and program contacts

Please send your application until the **1st of March 2011** – using the form – by e-mail to

Heinrich-Heine-University Duesseldorf
Abteilung Kommunikation
Dr. Arne Claussen
Universitaetsstrasse 1
40225 Duesseldorf
Germany
Phone: +49-(0)211/81-10896
Fax: +49-(0)211/81-15279
E-mail: claussen@zuv.uni-duesseldorf.de

Application documents

For further information on the scholarship program, please refer to our website. All necessary application documents can be downloaded from this website as well:

<http://www.uni-duesseldorf.de/NRW-Nahost-Foerderprogramme>