

“INSIEME PER LA PALESTINA” PROJECT
CALL FOR APPLICATIONS FOR SCHOLARSHIPS AND RESEARCH
FELLOWSHIPS FOR PALESTINIAN STUDENTS AND RESEARCHERS AT
THE UNIVERSITY OF FLORENCE

This is an English courtesy translation of the original document. Please consider that only the original version in the Italian language (Rector’s Decree n. 496/2026 of 13/04/2026) has legal value, and that in case of discrepancy, the Italian version shall prevail

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Art. 1 – Presentation of the “Insieme per la Palestina” Project

The University of Florence has joined the project “Insieme per la Palestina”, promoted by Fondazione Il Cuore si Scioglie and Unicoop Firenze, and carried out in collaboration with the Islamic Community of Florence and Tuscany, the Giorgio La Pira International Student Center, and the Giovanni Paolo II Foundation.

The project brings together institutions, academia, and civil society with the aim of supporting the higher education of Palestinian students and researchers in Tuscany. The project consists in the provision of scholarships, research fellowships, and additional benefits connected to university life.

This call aims to collect applications for:

- **8 scholarships for Bachelor’s degree programmes**, of which 2 are for Palestinian students who are in Italy at the closing date of this call;
- **2 scholarships for single-cycle Master’s degree programmes**;
- **5 research fellowships**, of which 1 is reserved for Palestinian researchers who are in Italy at the closing date of this call.

This call does not bind the University to proceed with the actual awarding of the benefits in the event that no applications are deemed eligible or if the project conditions are no longer met.

Art. 2 – Amount of Scholarships and Included Benefits

1. For students

The scholarship is granted for the standard duration of the chosen degree programme, in accordance with Art. 9, and includes:

- a. full exemption from tuition fees and enrolment charges for the selected programme;
- b. a monthly scholarship of €400 (gross amount);
- c. free access to all canteens of the DSU Toscana catering service;
- d. health insurance coverage for the entire duration of the stay;
- e. visa application support and arrival assistance (including reception, orientation, and guidance);
- f. access to additional services provided by the University of Florence and

project partners, such as psychological support, administrative assistance, academic tutoring, career guidance, Italian language courses, and initiatives aimed at fostering social inclusion and participation in university life.

2. For researchers

The research fellowship is granted for one academic year (2026/2027), in accordance with the requirements set out in Art. 9, and includes:

- a. an annual fellowship amounting to a total of €4,800 (gross amount);
- b. free access to all canteens of the DSU Toscana catering service;
- c. health insurance coverage for the entire duration of the stay;
- d. visa application support and arrival assistance (including reception, orientation, and guidance);
- e. access to additional services provided by the University of Florence and project partners, such as psychological support, administrative assistance, Italian language courses, and initiatives aimed at fostering social inclusion and participation in university life.

3. Additional benefits related to accommodation may be granted to both categories of beneficiaries.

Art. 3 – Admission Requirements

1. General Admission Requirements. All applicants must:

- hold Palestinian citizenship;
- reside in the Palestinian Territories;
- be in a condition of financial hardship affecting their studies;
- meet the specific requirements listed below by the deadline.

2. In addition to general admission requirements, students must also:

- hold a secondary school diploma valid for access to the Italian university system;
- not have previously received a scholarship from the University of Florence for the same study level;
- not be already enrolled in an Italian university at the time of application;

3. In addition to general admission requirements, researchers must also:

- have carried out research activities at higher education institutions;
- have published academic articles or books.

Art. 4 – Application Procedure

1. The application, together with the documents referred to in Art. 5, must be submitted exclusively online by completing the dedicated form available at the following links:

Registration Form for Students

Registration Form for Researchers

Deadline: 5 May 2026, 12:00 (UTC+2)

A confirmation email will be sent upon submission.

2. Students may apply for only one degree programme. Applications submitted through procedures other than those described above, incorrectly completed, or not accompanied by all the required documentation by the deadline indicated in this Article will not be considered.
3. For support with the application process, applicants may contact: internationaldesk@unifi.it

Art. 5 – Required Documentation

1. Students must submit:
 - a. Copy of the valid passport;
 - b. Secondary school diploma obtained outside Italy and valid to access the Italian University System;
 - c. Official transcripts of records and GPA for each semester;
 - d. Final grade documentation (CGPA);
 - e. Curriculum Vitae;

- f. A motivation letter, including elements highlighting the applicant's financial hardship related to the situation in their country of origin (maximum 500 words);
 - g. Any language certification and/or additional documentation useful to certify the applicant's status or completed studies.
2. Researchers must submit:
- a. Copy of the valid passport;
 - b. Degree certificate and academic transcript;
 - c. Curriculum Vitae;
 - d. Description of research activities carried out or in progress and list of publications;
 - e. Motivation letter, including elements highlighting the situation of economic hardship related to the situation in the country of origin (maximum 500 words);
 - f. Any language certification and/or further documentation useful to certify one's status or studies completed.
3. For all the aforementioned documents, a translation into English, Italian, French, or Spanish must be provided if they are written in a different language.

Art. 6 – Evaluation Committee and Selection Criteria

1. The Evaluation Committee will be nominated by the Rector.
2. The scholarships will be awarded by the Committee to the most deserving candidates, based on the quality and results of their school and academic career, language proficiency, motivation, and economic hardship.
3. The Committee reserves the right to invite candidates for interviews should further clarification of the submitted documentation be deemed necessary.

Art. 7 – Formulation and Approval of the Ranking Lists

1. The Committee will prepare a list of candidates deemed eligible, divided into students and researchers. Candidates will be included in the list in descending order of their scores. In the event of equal scores, the younger candidate will be prioritized.
2. The list of beneficiaries will be approved by Rectoral Decree and published on the University website (path: *Study with us / Admission and enrollment / Incentives and scholarships / "Insieme per la Palestina" Project*).
3. Those identified as beneficiaries will be informed by email and called based on their position to either accept or decline the scholarship.

Art. 8 – Acceptance

1. Candidates admitted and selected for a scholarship or research fellowship must accept the grant by replying to the communication from the University of Florence within five days of receiving the message. Failure to respond constitutes an automatic withdrawal from the scholarship.
2. By accepting the scholarship, the candidate unreservedly approves the benefits offered by the project under the conditions indicated in this notice. Furthermore, the candidate declares under their own responsibility that they do not fall into any of the incompatibility conditions listed in Art. 10 of this expression of interest.
3. After acceptance, beneficiaries will receive further information from the University of Florence regarding the procedure to follow and the documentation to be produced.

Art. 9 – Retention of the Scholarship

1. To maintain the scholarship, students must acquire at least 15 ECTS (CFU) for each academic year (by September 30th of each year) and must not interrupt or withdraw from their studies.

2. All winners must comply with the University's rules of conduct and actively participate in academic and training activities. Failure to comply with these conditions will result in the revocation of the scholarship.

Art. 10 – Awarding of Benefits, Non-Accumulation and Incompatibility

1. Applicants will receive information by email regarding the procedures for the payment of the scholarship/research fellowship.

2. The scholarship is incompatible with:

a. Any type of scholarship or study grant based on merit or financial need awarded by the University of Florence;

b. Scholarships awarded by the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (MAECI);

c. Scholarships promoted by CRUI for beneficiaries of international protection;

d. Scholarships granted to international students by foreign governments or institutions under agreements with the University of Florence;

e. Scholarships or any other benefits provided by DSU Toscana.

Art. 11 – Responsible Office

Internationalisation Unit, University of Florence

Via della Pergola, 60, 50121 Florence

Email: internationaldesk@unifi.it

Procedure Manager: Dr. Francesca Valente, Internationalisation Unit Coordinator

Art. 12 – Data Protection

In accordance with Italian law and GDPR (EU Regulation 679/2016), the University of Florence ensures confidentiality and proper handling of personal data.

Data will be used exclusively for selection and administrative purposes.

Data Protection Officer: Dr. Massimo Benedetti
Email: privacy@adm.unifi.it

Art. 13 – Publication

This call is published on:

- The Official University Register
- The University website (*Study with us > Access and enrolment > Scholarships and grants > “Insieme per la Palestina”*)