



# Welcome to Birzeit

Birzeit University embodies academic excellence, liberal values and vision.

Birzeit has evolved from a girls' school in a small village in 1924, to the first university in Palestine by 1975 and a leader in the Middle East today. The sustained support of our partners around the world continues to enable Birzeit's development, from new facilities and programmes, to scholarships and innovative ideas.

Located just outside Ramallah, the commercial and cultural capital of the West Bank, BZU brings together students, faculty and staff with a wide range of interests and backgrounds. Nearly ten thousand undergraduate and graduate students study at BZU under about five hundred academic faculty members in various colleges and programs.

In addition to its academic programs, the university has eleven institutes and centres that aim not only at academic excellence, but are designed to develop and support community-oriented programs that contribute to sustainable development in Palestine.

We are ambitious. With its accumulated expertise, BZU can expand its activities in various fields of applied research, from high technology to education to the environment. Our most

*Academic community*

*Relevant research*

*Cultural treasures*

*Get involved*

*Students*

*Partners and donors*

important asset, our student body, is also growing. The university is committed to maintaining the ability to offer crucial financial support to students in need, while continuing the legacy of quality academics and community engagement.

Without your financial support, the pace and capacity of academic development at Birzeit would be significantly reduced, a detrimental effect not only on the University, but also on the well-being of our society. We remain committed to providing quality education, recruit and retain award-winning faculty, engage in ground-breaking research, and further BZU's status as a world class university.

Prospering through many challenges, Birzeit is testament to the truth that people who are determined can be endlessly resourceful and innovative.

Thank you

***“at Birzeit there is an open and free exchange of ideas and opinions that simply doesn't exist anywhere else in the Arab world”***

Edward Said



## BZU: an international community

Exposing students to developments in the arts, sciences and technology and acquainting them with leading academics are essential to the BZU curriculum.

Ever since the 1970s, visitors with international stature have regarded the institution as an important voice for Palestinians under Occupation.

BZU has always asserted its own agency and in its determination to strengthening and diversifying ties with members



of the academic community worldwide, it has become a vibrant and coequal member of the international academy.

Our students benefit from international programmes and opportunities for knowledge, work experience and cultural exchange.

## Winners at work

In 2010, three Birzeit students were winners in the Dubai Summer Surprise Apprenticeship programme (DSS). Bringing together students from an array of Arab countries, DSS offers winning students the opportunity to build valuable corporate and strategic skills by training alongside talented experts in the world of work.

## Exchanging knowledge

Since 1981, BZU has been organizing International Summer Camps, providing an opportunity for cultural exchange with a focus on community-oriented volunteer projects in schools, municipalities, and civil society organizations.



## Research, Institutes and the Community

### Expert research...

BZU is home to several national research centres and internationally renowned community based institutions:

- The Institute of Community and Public Health
- Centre for Environmental and Occupational Studies
- Centre for Continuing Education
- Development Studies Programme
- Institute of Law Institute of Women's Studies
- Institute of International Studies
- Media Development Center
- Water Studies Institute



## ....meets community needs

Birzeit's societal function goes beyond education. Even before it had awarded its first bachelor's degrees, it was introducing programs that address community needs. BZU has been at the forefront of identifying social, cultural and political challenges, and addressing these through practical research.

The Center for Development Studies (CDS) is a leading source of knowledge about Palestinian development. The centre publishes numerous studies and public surveys, including Human Development Reports on behalf of the UNDP. The Center works in coordination with various local and international institutions on a number of academic research projects in development. It is also involved in community-based projects that aim to empower marginalized groups and its specialised library is open to the public.

*“You find yourself interacting with public issues and not being restricted to a student role”*

Khalid Farraj

*Associate Director of the Institute of Palestine Studies*



## Campus as cultural centre

Over 2000 pieces in the Birzeit museum's collection bring to life both the rich legacy of Palestinian cultural heritage and nurture alternative knowledge in the contemporary arts. The Art and Ethnographic Museum runs a series of educational programs to bring art into the community.

With more than 140,000 volumes, BZU's library is a national institute for the education of both students and general citizens. It has been a depository library for UNESCO publications since 1979 and was selected as a regional centre for World Bank publications in 2005.





## Get involved, support BZU

### How you can help

- Priority projects Support a priority project, from a new academic programme to improved facilities on campus
- Support students Establish an endowed scholarship or contribute to one of our special funds catering for specific student needs
- Regular gift small or large, you can offer us sustainable assistance through our Annual Fund
- Partner with us Ideas? Collaborate with the Advancement Office to initiate an exciting new project and investment in the future of Birzeit

### How to give

Make a donation securely and with ease online

<http://giving.birzeit.edu/en/node/add/support>

by post

Advancement Office, Birzeit University, Ramallah, P.O.Box: 14, Birzeit, West Bank, Palestine.

Please make cheques payable to Birzeit University

For more information please get in touch

[advancement@birzeit.edu](mailto:advancement@birzeit.edu)

+970 2 2982065

For information on the latest priority projects, please contact the Advancement Office team

*“I am delighted to be associated with a University that has preserved learning and national pride in the face of relentless pressure of Israeli military occupation”*

Duncan Macpherson,  
*research fellow of the University of Wales at Lampeter and one of the founders of Friends of Birzeit University (FOBZU)*



## Partner with us: a strategic opportunity



BZU departments can partner with universities to provide joint degree programs as well as host professors to give courses that would enrich the academic curriculum.

A co-operative partnership with BZU will provide donors with the latest technological, scientific, political and social scholarly research in Palestine.

- collaboration with expert faculty and cutting-edge research
- a recruitment pool of diverse and exceptional students
- professional educational programs
- innovative research from the lab to the market place

### PaTel Group Foundation

The largest employer in Palestine, PaTel is an investor in technology and education. The foundation funds 400 scholarships in Palestinian universities, including Birzeit, every year, in subject areas that are in demand and add value to society, such as nursing and computer science. PaTel is committed to nurturing students on their way to becoming the trained professionals of our future.

*“When we started the foundation in 2008 the Board knew it wanted to support the Palestinian community and its economy. With our society comprising more than 50% youth, education was a clear priority. We will always have a strategic relationship with the universities and Birzeit is a very important university for us”*

Fareeda Diab  
Director of Investor Relations



## Students

For almost 40 years BZU has been nurturing future skilled professionals, poised to meet the needs of Palestinian society.

BZU students are encouraged to develop a socially responsible mindset. Before they graduate, each student will have completed 120 hours of volunteer work in their communities, from refugee camps to farms, through the University's Community Work Programme.

*“you find yourself interacting with public issues and not being restricted to a student role”*

Khalid Farraj

*Associate Director of the Institute of Palestine Studies*

*“while at Birzeit university, I held an art exhibition, worked as a community volunteer, ran for student council and learned from some of the best lecturers in Palestine”*

Malak Sbaih

*class of 2007*

*“I want to be outstanding in my field of study, work to benefit those around me and help the people of my country through what they suffer. My ambition is to be part of history around me and leave a mark in this world”*

Omar El-Muhtasib

*Computer science*

## Supporting students at Birzeit

Within the context of Occupation and a difficult economic reality, BZU is dedicated to upholding its principle that no student should be denied their right to education for financial reasons.

More brilliant students are finding that they need help with fees, with around 30% of students receiving some sort of financial support each year. The University offers a range of merit and needs –based scholarships from which a large number of students benefit, and has developed special funds in response to specific student needs.

Endowing a student scholarship is an opportunity for donors to leave a remarkable legacy. There are a range of opportunities to make an investment in student scholarships, from providing funding for one year to the whole course of a student's degree.

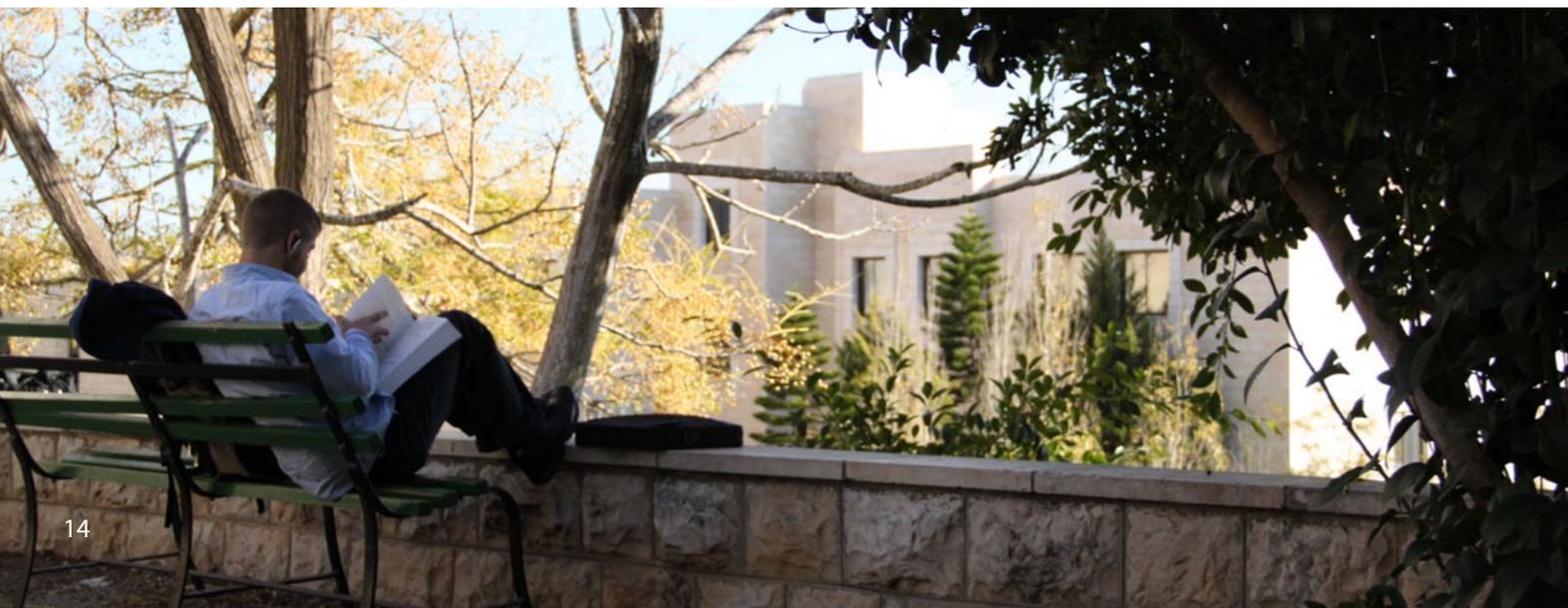
Donors receive annual student reports from the recipients of the scholarships,

acknowledgement in university publications, and endowed scholarships merit a plaque honouring the donor on university grounds.

*“I took away with me several priceless gifts that remain with me until this day: the love of learning, hope and enthusiasm in facing the challenges that lay ahead, and an unshakable pride in our beloved homeland”*

Firyal Irshaid, Princess of Jordan

*Founder and president of the International Hope Foundation and UNESCO Goodwill Ambassador*



## Thank you to our partners

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*The owner of  
the Ramallah's  
Jasmine Café,  
established  
a social responsibility  
fund for students.*



## Quick Facts

### Students and Enrollment

- About 10,000 students are registered at Birzeit (8,465 undergraduate students, 1,388 graduate students and 152 diploma and special students).
- 64% of the student body is female and 36% is male.
- 25,666 students had graduated from Birzeit University as of 2011/2012.
- About 2,500 students benefited from university financial aid in the 2012/2013 academic year.

### Campus Grounds

Birzeit University's campus is 800 dunums, and compasses 24 main buildings.

### Faculties

Birzeit University has 9 faculties, including the Graduate Faculty. These offer 47 BA programs for undergraduate students and 26 MA programs for graduate students.

## Faculty Members

- There are 539 faculty members and 114 researchers and teaching assistants.
- 56% of full time faculty members hold a Doctorate and 41% hold a Masters degree.
- 29% of the faculty are women.

## Staff

The campus includes 1,155 staff members, including senior professionals, administrators, technicians, and service workers.

## Institutes & Centers

The university is also home to 11 specialized Institutes and Centers that offer semi-independent programming and enrich campus life and scholarship.

## Libraries and Museums

Birzeit University includes one main library and three branch libraries, the Law Institute Library, Institute of Woman Studies Library and Said Khoury Building for Development Studies Library. It also offers the Birzeit University Museum.



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