



Annual Report **2017 - 2018**

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President's Letter



Reading this annual report, you will see how far we have come. Birzeit University continues to make solid progress towards providing an innovative, dynamic and collaborative environment for teaching, learning and research. Building on its impressive track record, the university has made new achievements across all areas of exploration and discovery. This progress reflects our commitment to maintaining our position as Palestine's leading institution of higher education.

In the academic year 2018/2019, the university has attained the unique distinction of being among the top 3 percent of the world's leading higher education institutions. We retained the honor of being the best Palestinian university due to the quality education and contemporary academic programs we offer, the variety of majors and our modern infrastructure.

These gains are the results of the hard work undertaken by every member of the university community; they demonstrate how aligned our efforts are with the theme that underpins our strategy for the years 2017 to 2022 and reads "**Entrepreneurial Role and Being.**"

This year, we took a substantial step forward when we inaugurated our first-of-its-kind **Faculty of Art, Music and Design** that will allow us to become a center for artistic education, as the faculty will educate future artists, designers, performing musicians, composers, curators, and music and art teachers.

The awards, accolades and achievements our staff, faculty and students have achieved this year - not only on the local level but also regionally and internationally - are tremendously exciting. They strengthen our position as a university where people come together to learn, innovate and collaborate. This year has also helped pave the way for a number of new partnerships we have formed, both with external and international partners and with the local community. We furthermore commenced plans to reinvigorate our campus by approving investment into new teaching- and research programs and into infrastructure.

Indeed, this academic year has been vibrant and remarkable with all the accomplishments we have realized. Despite ongoing Israeli measures that violate our right of academic freedom, we are growing, expanding our academic culture and the excellence of our teaching, finding new ways to engage with our communities - we will continue to strive, thrive and prosper.

Introduction

This report aims to showcase Birzeit University's achievements in the academic year 2017/2018. Through academic development, research and scholarship, a national and societal role, community outreach, scientific and literary awards, cultural and artistic activities, and international cooperation, the university has surpassed the goals it established to fulfill its mission and vision. Birzeit's Vision, Mission & Values

Mission

An entrepreneurial institution with all its constituents actively engaged in knowledge production, both nationally and globally.

Vision

Providing an autonomous, enlightened university environment that celebrates freedom of thought and expression, embraces democratic practices and dialogue, and provokes excellence, creativity, innovation and entrepreneurship in teaching, learning and research to contribute to society's progress and advancement through transformative knowledge and capacity development.

Values

University laws and associated regulations, processes and procedures follow principles and values that guide and inform performance of all its constituencies towards effective fulfillment of the university mission and vision.

- Excellence
- Equity & equality
- Freedom of expression
- Integrity & professionalism
- Diversity
- Sustainable development
- Lifelong learning



Our Past, Present and Future

In 1924, Nabiha Nasir founded an elementary girls' school in Birzeit to provide education for local students at a time when there were no schools in the region. In 1930, the school expanded – becoming coed and adding a secondary school.

Its name was changed to “Birzeit College” in 1942, although it remained a secondary school for some years. In 1953, the institution offered its first college-level course, to be followed in 1961 by another. In 1972, steps were taken to expand the institution into a four-year college that would award bachelor's degrees in arts and science, and to build a new campus on the outskirts of Birzeit village.

On July 11, 1976, the university celebrated its first graduating class of arts and science bachelor's degree recipients. Between 1978 and 1980, the Faculty of Business and Economics was established. It was followed by the Faculty of Engineering and then, in 1976/1977, the inauguration of the first master's program – in education.

The university campus currently covers 800 dunums, on which stand 24 main buildings built primarily through Palestinian donations, especially from benefactors living abroad.

Birzeit University's nine faculties offer bachelor's programs, master's programs, a Ph.D. program in social sciences, two diploma programs, and a program for international students. The university also includes 11 institutes and centers that operate in an array of social, academic, and professional fields.



Events & Achievements





Establishing a new Faculty of Art, Music & Design to address increasing need from growing creative industries

In 2018/2019, the university launched its ninth faculty, **the Faculty of Art, Music & Design**, which offers three innovative academic programs of Arabic Music, Contemporary Visual Art, and Design.

Breaking into the QS World University Rankings to be featured among the top 3% of universities in the world

For the second time, Birzeit University has been listed in the 14th edition of the **“QS World University Rankings 2018.”** Of 26,000 universities worldwide, the university ranked among 2.7%, about 950 universities, of the best in the world.

The university is the only Palestinian university ranked by QS World University, and was among other prominent universities from 12 different Arab countries.



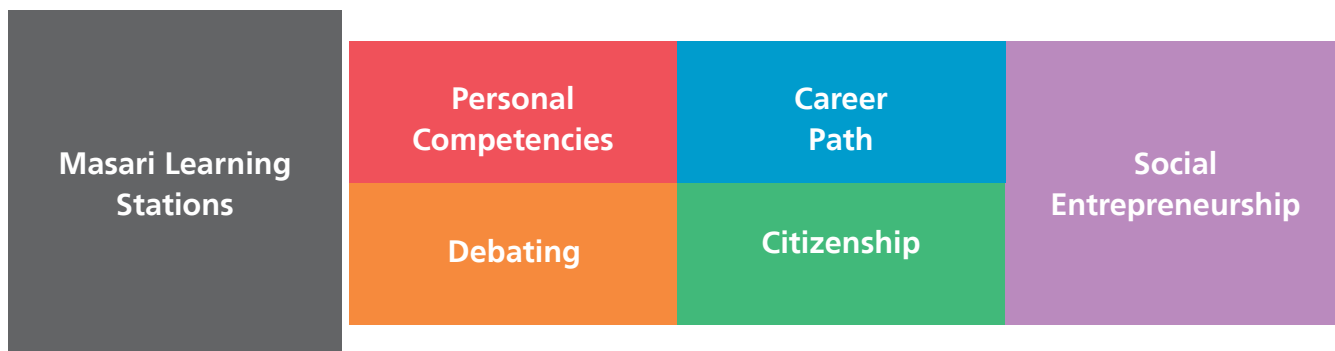


■ Reaching a solar power milestone with a new energy plant

The university has installed a 259 KW solar system, supported by a generous donation from the Arab Palestinian Investment Company (APIC), on the rooftop of Omar Aggad Engineering Building. The plan is to increase the university's renewable energy capacity and dependence on renewable energy in the near future in order to face unprecedented global and local energy challenges.

■ Continuing to build our students' personal, career skills as part of "Masari"

Focused on developing university students as active citizens and forward-looking leaders, the Masari program continues with its second station "Career Path," after commencing last year with the first "Personal Competencies."



“The first year of the program is about “Self-discovery and developing self-capacities.” The second year focuses on enabling students to recognize the other, and reaching out for the community. The third and final year includes two stations that focus on developing and implementing students’ initiatives that are tailored to the Palestinian context and national priorities.”

Mirvat Bulbul/ Former Vice President for Planning & Development





■ Founding and contributing actively as a member of the newly launched BSEMAN

The establishment of the **Black Sea and Eastern Mediterranean Academic Network - BSEMAN** marks the beginning of a creative, social and environmental sustainable collaboration. The university is a founding member of the network, and the Palestinian representative on the First Coordinating Committee on behalf of universities in the West Bank.

This collaboration will develop research in a range of scientific disciplines and focus especially on global environmental issues, academic workshops and conferences, a sustainable network of the libraries and data resources of the participating institutions, and cooperative youth initiatives.



Dr. Hanna Nasir, Chair of the university's Board of Trustees, was awarded the Medal of Honor for his contributions supporting the Palestinian community and defending Palestine's land, people, and cause

Awards & Accolades

Birzeit University has always held a prominent position as the foremost higher education institution in Palestine and one of the leading universities in the Arab world, especially in 2017.

- **Google Scholar:** Based on the Google Scholar citation data issued in the current edition (December 2017) by Webometrics, Birzeit University ranked first among nine Palestinian universities that entered the list that year, and 29th among Arab universities. Around the world, the university has been ranked number 1,598 among more than 5,000 world universities included in the list.
- **SCOPUS International Database:** There was a large increase in the amount of research published by Birzeit University, as many as 118 research papers in well-known scientific journals in 2017 – an increase of 28% from 2016 – and double the number of papers published in 2015. Researchers from the various faculties, institutes, and centers in the university contributed to this steady publication of research papers and studies. Chief among them were researchers from the Faculty of Engineering and Technology, the Faculty of Science, and the Institute of Community and Public Health.
- **UniRank:** The university consolidated its position as the leading university in Palestine based on the UniRank directory. The university in 2017 also ranked 12th among Arab universities, climbing ten places compared to last year, and was numbered 1,612 among 12,358 academic institutions in 200 countries in the world.
- The annual report on social media in Palestine, **Social Palestine 2017**, and Birzeit University once again claimed the top spot in social media penetration and interaction, leading all Palestinian universities for the second year in a row.

A Focus on the Future by Empowering Innovation

Our student and staff's Initiatives contribute to creating inclusive excellence, a broad-reaching effort to build a truly inclusive campus community.



Modern technology meets traditional agriculture: The Automatic Tray Seeding Machine

A 10-meter machine mixes soil with perlite to produce potting mix, fills it into pre-fabricated seed trays, inserts the seeds, and packages the trays neatly for shipping – all done automatically with the push of a button. The machine has the ability to produce 508 seed trays per hour, and this ratio can be fine-tuned by the customer. This will allow farmers to cut costs on labor, while also freeing them to take care of other, more important aspects of agriculture.

The team of engineer students included Tariq Shawahni, Osama Al-Baransi, Rand Musaffer, Malik Nawabeet, Mohammad Kawazbi, Ameen Allan, and Yousef Al Shayeb, under the supervision of the professor of mechanical and mechatronics engineering Sameh Abu Awad.

Department of Architectural Engineering wins prestigious Sabbagh and Khoury prizes for 2017



Architecture students picked up first and third prizes in the Hassib Sabbagh and Said Khoury Engineering Contest for their distinguished graduation projects. Nadia Habash, lecturer in the Architectural Engineering Department, ranked first for the category of Distinguished Projects for Enterprises.

Professor Habash's project, "Restoring Araba Palaces," was recognized as the best project in the Enterprises category. The project was also recognized as the best architectural project in Palestine for the year 2017. Students Lina Abu Gharbiyeh, Ruba Sayaj, and Halima Al Joury were chosen as runners-up in the Best Graduation Project category for their design on "Renovating Masoudieh Station – Al Hijaz Railway." Students Walaa Samarah, Shahd Fawaka, and Rula Shaheen took third place for their project "The Resistance Museum – Bil'in Village."

Distinguished Faculty & Staff

- **A protein key to cancer growth:** A new study by Physics Professor Dr. Abdallah Sayyed Ahmad sheds light on the structure and distribution of K-Ras protein particles and how they interact with cell membranes. K-Ras protein mutations are one of the primary causes of killer diseases such as lung and pancreatic cancer. The study was carried out in cooperation with researchers from the McGovern Medical School at the University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston and published in the Journal of American Chemical Society.
- **Sharjah Award in Literature 2018:** Professor of philosophy and cultural studies Sonia Nimr won first place in adult literature in the Arab world for her book, *Wondrous Trips to Strange Places*, at the 2014 International Book Fair in Sharjah, UAE.



About Sonia Nimer (In a box) Sonia Nimr is a writer living in Palestine. She teaches at Birzeit University and lives in Ramallah with her young son. She collaborated with Elizabeth Laird on *A Little Piece of Ground* (Macmillan), the first children's novel to be published in the UK about events in the occupied West Bank from the perspective of a Palestinian boy and his family.

- **The Dean of Laboratory Medicine Award 2018:** Dr. Mahmoud Srour, an assistant professor of Biology and Biochemistry at Birzeit University, was awarded the Dean of Laboratory Medicine Award (the Dr. Atallah Rashmawi Award) for his paper, co-authored with his student, Rashail Faraon, and submitted to the tenth Palestinian Conference of Laboratory Medicine and the fifteenth Arab Conference of Clinical Biology.
- **International Prize for Arabic Fiction 2018:** The prize announced a longlist that included the book, "Heir of the Tombstones," by Professor of Media Dr. Walid Shurafa, giving it a chance at qualifying for the shortlist and at winning the prize.
- **Emerald Literati Award 2017:** Professors of Marketing and Business Administration Anton Sabella, Mira El-Far and Niveen Eid received a Highly-Commended Paper Award at the 2017 Emerald Literati Awards of Excellence for their paper titled "The effects of organizational and job characteristics on employees' organizational commitment in arts-and-culture organizations."
- **Wisconsin Sociological Association's William H. Sewell Outstanding Scholarship Award:** Laura Khoury was selected as the 2017-2018 receipt of the award that acknowledges and honors professors with records of outstanding scholarly accomplishments in sociology.
- **Arab American University Award for Excellence in Scientific Research:** Director of the Master's Program in Mathematics Abdelrahim Mousa won the award for his study on the "Geometric Approaches and Bifurcations in the Dichotomous Decision Model."
- **Pioneer Women Librarian Award for 2017:** Director of Yusuf Ahmad Al Ghanim Diana Nasir Sayej was ranked second in the Pioneer Women Librarian Award for 2017, which was organized by the Library Experts Organization in the Arab world.

Exceptional Learners

SummaryTasksScoreboardOwn SubmissionsAnnouncementsHelpPhotos

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TeamsPalestinian TerritoryAll regionsFind team...

Show scores on tasks

| Rank | Team | Score (Penalty) | University | Region |
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| 1 | BZUOnaLastTime | 1377.93 (12621) | Birzeit University | (R8) Africa, Europe, Middle East |
| 2 | BZUc137 | 1260.31 (11172) | Birzeit University | (R8) Africa, Europe, Middle East |
| 3 | BZUNaturalIniel | 1027.13 (7029) | Birzeit University | (R8) Africa, Europe, Middle East |
| 4 | BZUY3E2 | 986.26 (7640) | Birzeit University | (R8) Africa, Europe, Middle East |
| 5 | BZUmmis | 856.55 (8022) | Birzeit University | (R8) Africa, Europe, Middle East |
| 6 | 3Idiots | 832.55 (3258) | An-Najah National University | (R8) Africa, Europe, Middle East |
| 7 | Mdenarchis | 663.27 (2972) | An-Najah National University | (R8) Africa, Europe, Middle East |

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Taking the lead in the annual “IEEEEXTREME” Competition

Birzeit University students in the Electrical and Computer Engineering Department won first place among Palestinian competitors, and placed 42 in the region (Europe, Middle East and Africa), and 125th internationally in the annual “IEEEEXTREME” competition, held by the world’s largest technical professional organization for the advancement of technology IEEE (Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers).

- **Winning Arabic Moot Court Competition in Kuwait**

A team of law students placed first in the Annual Arabic Moot Court Competition held in Kuwait, a competition specializing in criminal law and aiming to provide students with the skills they need to plead in front of a court guided by Arabic laws. The team included students Ola Omar, Sabreen Abed, Tamer Hadia and Hamzah Swaid, under the supervision of the Head



of the Law Department Mustafa Abdel Baqi. Swaid also ranked first in the oral pleading competition.

- **First place in “The Competition for the Reconstruction of Destroyed Palestinian Villages” – London:** Graduate and teaching assistant in the Architectural Engineering Department, Hussam Barham, was named the first place winner in a competition for reconstructing Tantura Village, located in Haifa district.
- **Granted the PARC Gerner Award:** This grant was awarded to Carmen Kishek, a student in the international studies master’s program, and Natalie Kasapri, who is studying in the Democracy and Human Rights master’s program.
- **Fifth place in 42-km Palestine Marathon:** Suhaib Al-Amleh, a student in the Physical Education Department at Birzeit University, has claimed fifth place in the Palestine Marathon, which was held in Bethlehem. The 42-km marathon included 7,000 participants from 72 countries.
- **Third place in the Omrania Student Award for Architectural Design:** Students Walaa Samarah, Shahd Fawaka, and Rula Shaheen took third place for their project, “The Resistance Museum - Bil’in Village.”
- **Awarded the Yousef Nawas Award for Innovation:** Faris Tayseer Al Jamal, a student in the Faculty of Engineering and Technology, was the recipient of the 2017 Yousef Nawas Award for Innovation for his efforts to lead and inspire extracurricular and social activities that bolstered Birzeit University’s community engagement.
- **Second and fourth places at eHealth competition in France:** Two teams of students in Computer Science, Pharmacy, and Nursing took second and fourth places in the 2018 eHealth Summer University competition for the following innovative projects:
 - . Building a diabetes companion app that reminds patients of their glucose-level check, and
 - . Designing an app to establish virtual channels of communication between patients and their physicians.
 - . Collecting user-submitted data in order to present patients with a map of available physicians and recommendations, allowing them to build a patient file that can be electronically and securely sent to the correct medical professional for a pre-visit diagnosis.



- Creating an application that serves as the cornerstone for an electronic health records system that allows medical centers and physicians to share patient files, tests, diagnoses, and treatments.
- **First prize in TechCamp Competition:** A team of students from the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering claimed first place in the competition for designing an android warehouse management system that optimizes the supply chain and distribution channels, and aims to replace paper, and automate Excel filing systems.
- **Sliver medal winner in kickboxing:** First-year law student at Birzeit University Issa Sbaih was awarded the silver medal in the 2018 Palestinian Kickboxing Championship.
- **Top places in local engineering competition:** Mechanical engineering students won first and second place in the Speak Out for Engineering Competition (SOFE).
- **Moot court competition in Lebanon:** A team from the Department of Law in the Faculty of Law and Public Administration participated in the annual Oxford Price Media Law Moot Court Program, which took place in Lebanon. Representing Palestine at the competition, which hosted 16 teams from different countries all over the world, were students Nadia Abu Alia, Mira Al Khayyat, and Vicky Handal, under the supervision of trainer Nora Taha.

Innovative Designs

- **An interactive journey in Jerusalem's Old City**
Three Computer Science majors from Birzeit University – Juaman Sa'd, Tasneem Jamjoum, and Du'a Assaf – designed and developed a video game that simulates life in the Old City of Jerusalem. The video game displays, in a remarkably realistic fashion, the mores and praxis of the city, and the Arab food, desserts, and traditional fashion displayed therein.
The video game, called "Heaven's Gate," was designed by the students as their end-of-studies capstone project, and was supervised by Professor of Computer Science and Chair of the Department of Computer Science Dr. Mamoun Nawahdah.



- **Medisna**

Pharmacy majors Ala Badwan, Aya Jarrar, and Safa Jebrini, developed “Medsina,” a healthcare subscription app through which users can order healthcare services and over-the-counter healthcare products.

- **A 5G network model to balance user load and quality of service**

Osama Mohammad, Mousa Majdi, and Rajai’ Imsaih, three students in the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering, devised a model for a 5G telecommunications network that sidesteps the deficiencies of the older fourth-generation network model.

The model was part of the students’ capstone project, a ten-month endeavor supervised by Aziz Qaroush, an instructor in the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering.

- **A heart-attack early warning system**

Ahmad Khatib, Basil Ishtayyeh, and Mahmoud Abu Farhah, three Birzeit University computer engineering majors, have designed and created an early warning system for heart attacks.

The device, supervised by Professor of Electrical and Computer Engineering Abdel Salam Sayyad, monitors the user’s pulse for any sudden changes. When it senses an abrupt change, the device emits a warning tone, accompanied by a written notification, to alert the user.

- **A wireless signal-boosting sticker**

Mo’ayad Rimawi, a student in the Urban Planning and Landscape Architecture Master’s Program at Birzeit University, has created a wireless sticker that amplifies the signals in smartphones in a simple, cheap fashion.

The idea was born out of the need to amplify the wireless signals of smartphones cheaply and easily. The sticker itself has no electronic circuits, but takes advantage of the signal-boosting properties of some natural materials.



Graduates Making a Difference

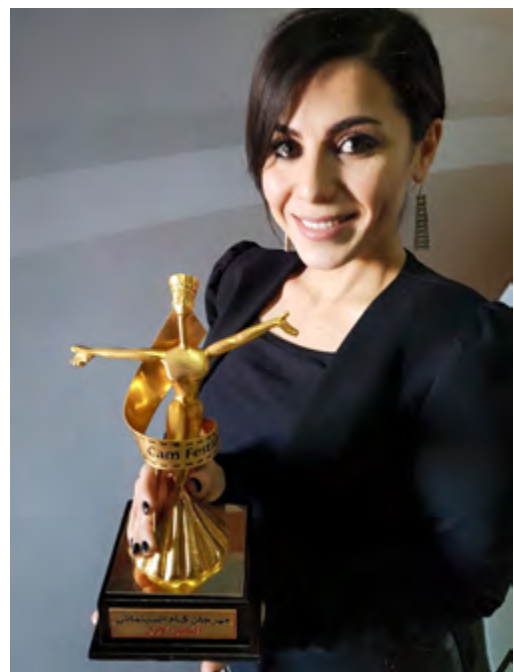
- **Paving the way for improved efforts to disarm the AIDS virus:** Graduate Jamil Saad, associate professor of Microbiology at the University of Alabama at Birmingham, has solved the final unknown structure of the HIV virus, which can cause AIDS.

Dr. Saad and his laboratory members devised novel approaches and utilized state-of-the-art technology to determine the molecular structure of a protein called the cytoplasmic tail of gp41, which is the internal part of the virus spike responsible for allowing the virus to attach to receptors of healthy cells and cause AIDS. The researchers believe that if this part of the viral cell's assembly can be inhibited, the HIV virus will not be able to replicate and spread in the body.

- **First place in the “Made in the Arab World” competition:** Lina Imad Abu Thaher, a Birzeit University graduate, recently won first prize in the Research category of the “Made in the Arab World” competition, organized by the Arab Science and Technology Foundation under sponsorship of the Arab League. Her project was entitled “The Impact of Information Technology on Auditing Accounting Information Systems: The Case of Palestine.”

“My research efforts revolved around the effects of new technologies and automation trends on auditing in Palestine. We don’t utilize programming and automation in Palestine that much, so I’ve compared the companies that incorporated programs into their workflow with those that didn’t – while charting the reasons behind each’s decision.”

- **Best Documentary at CAM International Festival:** Elia Ghorbiah, has won the Best Documentary Award for her film, “Bitter Ink,” at the 7th CAM International Festival for Short Films. The festival, organized under the theme “Cinema Without Limits,” hosted short documentaries, novel-based movies, and animation films produced between the years 2016 and 2017.





Teaching & Learning



With state-of-the-art facilities, Birzeit University offers innovative and inspiring approaches to delivering education. During the academic year 2017-2018, our faculty and staff worked to enable an outstanding educational experience for every student, leading our graduates to become innovators full prepared for their future careers.

New Academic Programs

- **Bachelor's program in Environmental Engineering**

Undergraduate students now have the opportunity to participate in global actions of environmental protection and preservation, through the newly-launched program in Environmental Engineering.

- **Bachelor's program in Contemporary Visual Art**

An interdisciplinary program that provides a unique learning experience for students in drawing, painting, sculpture, 3D, installation, photography, video, sound and performance art.

- **Master's program in Government and Local Governance**

The Faculty of Law and Public Administration is now offering a new master's program in government and local governance to provide the public and private sectors with an advanced body of knowledge and skills, towards the implementation of comprehensive national strategies that reform local entities and achieve sustainable development.



Research & Scholarships

● Zamalah Fellowship Program

Funded by the Bank of Palestine and managed by the Welfare Foundation, this program aims to improve the quality of higher education and teaching methods in Palestinian universities by training university teachers academically, professionally, and technically. The program trains fellows at prestigious international institutions for a duration ranging from two months to a full academic year. Fellowships were awarded in 2018 to the following faculty members:

| Fellow's Name | Affiliation |
|--------------------|--|
| Adnan Shihabi | Department of Audiology and Speech Therapy |
| Amal Abu Qtaish | Department of Audiology and Speech Therapy |
| Mustafa Abdel Baqi | Department of Law |
| Mohammad Hanini | Department of Public Administration |

● Erasmus+ Program

A European Union student exchange program that offers students in bachelor's, master's, and PhD programs the opportunity to study at European and non-European universities. This year:

- 27 students from Birzeit University benefited from exchange opportunities with European universities and eight international students had the opportunity to study at Birzeit University.
- 38 faculty members from Birzeit University went to partner universities in Europe, and 20 international professors were hosted at Birzeit University.
- 35 new student exchanges were signed with Erasmus+ partner universities.

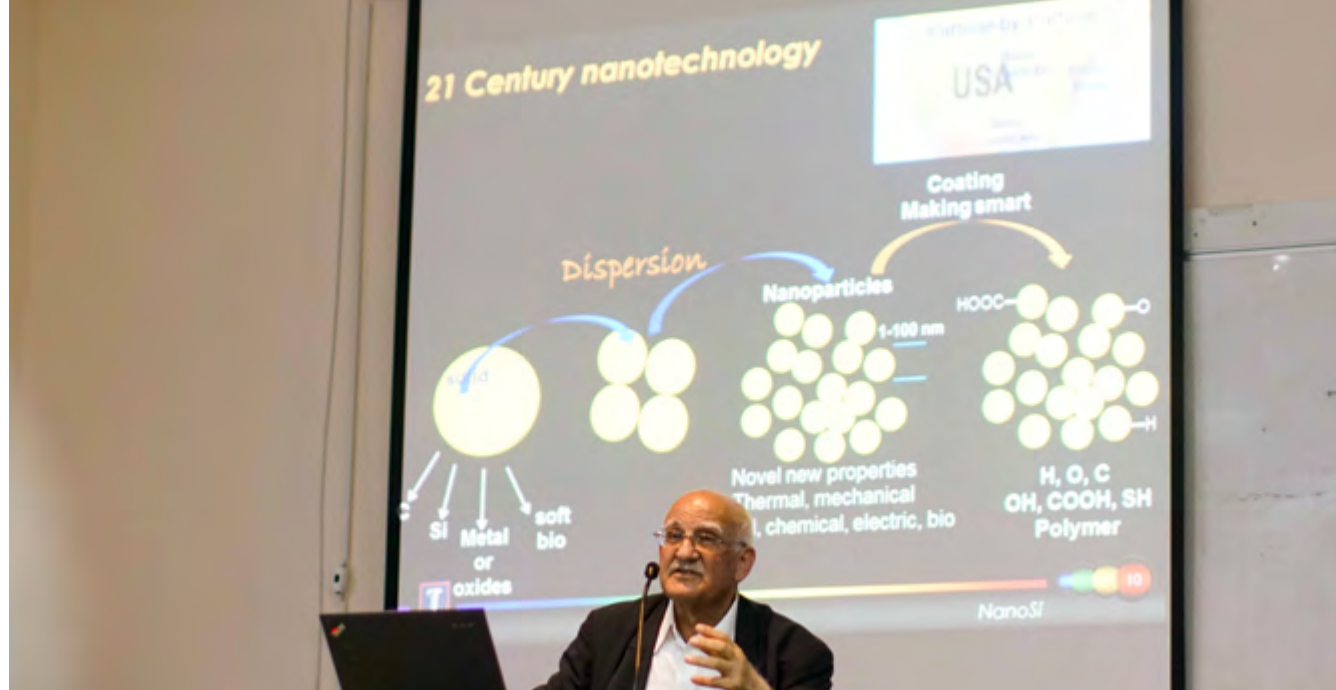
Transcending Borders: Research & Trainings



- **Building bridges between Palestine and Switzerland:** Birzeit University, in cooperation with the Representative Office of Switzerland in Ramallah, organized a panel discussion, “Building Bridges: Innovation in Palestine and Switzerland,” on October 28, hosting the Swiss Federal Department of Economic Affairs, Education, and Research Councilor Johann Schneider-Amman.

The Director of Swisspeace, Laurent Goetschel, remotely activated a Swiss-based robot. Part of the EFORD (Education for Development) collaborative project between Birzeit University and Swisspeace, the robot sorted balls into color-coordinated groups on a live internet broadcast – a signal that innovation transcends borders and political conflicts.

- **Prominent microbiology professor Dr. Shaban Kotob presents on environment and water conservation:** The Egyptian-American professor spoke at Birzeit University at the invitation of the Department of Biology and Biochemistry and the master’s program in Environmental Biology. Kotob is formerly a research assistant professor in the Department of Environmental Sciences at the College of William and Mary and a research associate with the US Food & Drug Administration.



- **Renowned Palestinian physicist Munir Nayfeh lectures on nanotechnology:** Nayfeh, a scientist at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, delivered a lecture highlighting new frontiers in the practical application of nanotechnology that are changing the world.

Fellowships & Educational Visits

- Ten faculty members were awarded the Higher Education Scholarship Palestine (HESPAL) to study at UK higher education institutions.
- Amir Khalil, officer of external academic relations, presented the university in Conference of Rectors in the Middle East (CONFREMO) held with the support of the Agence Universitaire de la Francophonie.
- Representing Palestine in China, three professors participated in a Seminar on University Governance Capacity building for Developing Countries at Zhejiang Normal University in China, along with other 67 participants from Africa, Latin America and Asia.



- Nadia Tadros, a student in the Democracy and Human Rights Master's Program, and Dana Abu Baker, a student in the Master's Program of Law, participated in the summer school organized at the Central European University in Hungary. This summer session was followed by a two-month training period at human rights organizations around the world.
- Six students in the PhD program for social sciences, master's programs of Israeli Studies, Democracy and Human Rights, and Gender and Development all participated in an intensive summer school in New Delhi, India on "Critical Thought in the Global South."

- Former Dean of the Faculty of Business and Economics Dr. Grace El-Khoury participated in the Global Women Entrepreneurship Policy research group meeting, held in Northern Ireland. She presented a paper titled "Initiatives to Encourage Women's Entrepreneurship in Palestine," in collaboration with Wojdan Farraj from the Department of Business Administration and Marketing.



- The Birzeit University Department of Architectural Engineering and the Faculty of Architecture at Istanbul Technical University jointly organized an international seminar and workshop on Ottoman architecture, Istanbul urban space, and modern trends in Turkish contemporary and landscape architecture.



- Chairperson of the Department of Biology and Biochemistry Dr. Johnny Stiban participated in the 15th International Conference on Bioactive Lipids in Cancer, Inflammation and Related Diseases held in the coastal town of Puerto Vallarta in Mexico.
- Director of the Institute of Women's Studies Dr. Lena Meari participated in a conference entitled "The Latin East," presenting a paper on "Reading Che in Colonized Palestine," that evolves, analyzes, and draws inspiration from revolutionary Latin American texts. (Photo 28)
- Ali Nakhleh, an employee in the Human Resources Department at Birzeit University, participated in a training session during a visit to Vrije Universiteit Brussel in Belgium. The visit was part of the Erasmus+ program, which aims to train employees of partner universities.

- Raoul Rabie, a staff member at the Computer Center Office in Birzeit University, participated in the Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) training program on telecom management.



- Chemistry department chair Dr. Hijazi Abu Ali took part in the Supreme Council meeting of the Union of Arab Chemists, held in Kuwait. Abu Ali and Dean of Scientific Research at Al-Quds University Dr. Wadi' Sultan represented the Palestinian Chemists Association at the meeting. Abu Ali also attended the three-day 2018 Kuwait Conference of Chemistry, entitled "Chemistry for Better Future."
- Dr. Johnny Stiban, chair of the Department of Biology and Biochemistry at Birzeit University, participated in an international workshop on standard operating procedures for respirometry with peripheral mononuclear blood cells and platelet count, held at Lund University in Sweden.
- Saleh Masharqa, coordinator of research and studies at the Media Development Center, presented a research paper on justice in information access in the "Tangible and Intangible Impact of Information and Communication in the Digital Age" conference, held in Russia and organized under the framework of UNESCO's Information for All Program.
- Ahmad Bearat, Ala' Mohammad, and Imad Tartir, employees from Birzeit University's Information Technology Department, concluded a 20-day training course in China on incorporating technology into higher education, held in Guangzhou, Beijing, Wuhan, and Shenzhen.
- Professors from the Faculty of Science, including Dean Khalid Swaileh, Chemistry Department chair Hijazi Abu Ali, and Biology and Biochemistry professor Ademar Ezzughayyar, participated in the Ninth International Academic Scientific Conference held recently in Istanbul, Turkey.
- A team from Birzeit University visited University College Cork as part of the Erasmus+ project entitled "Transforming Assessment Practices in Large-Enrollment First-Year Education."
- Representatives from the Media Development Center at Birzeit University took part in the closing conference of MedMedia at the headquarters of the Arab States Broadcasting Union.
- The Department of Architectural Engineering participated in the sixth edition of the International Festival of Architecture Schools (IFAS 2018) held in the city of Amarousion in Greece.

- Dr. Jumane Qunnaisse, chair of the Department of Media, and Dr. Mohammed Abualrob, professor of media, delivered a lecture on Palestinian media to Icelandic media professionals, professors, and supporters of the Palestinian cause at the University of Iceland.
- French Department lecturer Dalia Afifi participated in an international conference entitled “Ten Years of Research, Work, and Renewal in the Service of the Francophone in Universities,” held at the University of Montreal in Canada.

Conferences

“Democracy in the Public Square”



The 23rd annual Muwatin Conference focused on prospects for democracy and its effects both locally, within a Palestinian context, and globally.

“The need arises for a redefinition of democracy instead of attempts to explain it, and this calls for a joint effort by everyone.” - Mudar Kassis, director of Muwatin Institute for Democracy and Human Rights

- Questions on structures, institutions and global dynamics were the focus of the “Politics of Contemporary Art Practices and Cultural Production” Conference, organized by the university’s museum and the Contemporary Visual Art Program in collaboration with Birmingham City University and Erasmus+.
- Faculty of Law professors organized a conference on transitional justice in the Arab world in cooperation with Institut Universitaire Varenne.
- Birzeit University, in partnership with the Palestinian Ministry of Local Government, UN-Habitat, and the German Corporation for International Cooperation (GIZ), organized a forum on “Localizing the New Urban Agenda: Shaping the Future of Palestinian Cities.”
- The Idea Factory, a Birzeit University student initiative, held its third conference “Made in Birzeit – Organic Thoughts,” posing questions about Palestinian youth identity and its role in public space.
- The Ibrahim Abu-Lughod Institute of International Studies and the Institute of Women’s Studies, in cooperation with the Arab and Muslim Ethnicities and Diasporas Studies program at San Francisco State University, organized an international conference entitled “Teaching Palestine: Pedagogical Praxis and the Indivisibility of Justice.”
- The Institute of Community and Public Health at Birzeit University, the Faculty of Health Sciences at the American University of Beirut, and the Lancet Palestinian Health Alliance (LPHA) organized a March 2018 conference on the “Health of Palestinians Inside and Outside the Occupied Palestinian Territory,” held at AUB.
- The Department of Mathematics at Birzeit University launched the “Applied Mathematics and Random Structures” conference, a four-day symposium that showcased research projects and studies on randomness, probability, statistics, random graphs and trees, and random walks.
- The Media Development Center launched the first solutions journalism forum – an approach in media and journalism that focuses on solutions and responses to societal issues, rather than only reporting on the problems themselves.
- Students of the Ph.D. Program in Social Sciences held their First International Graduate Student Conference in Social Sciences at Birzeit University, entitled, “Towards Anti-Hegemonic Knowledge Paradigms: Space, Place, Mobility and Power.” The conference brought together more than 25 graduate students, along with post-doctoral scholars and early career academics, from around the world, including India, Nigeria, Brazil, Thailand, Italy, Britain and the U.S.
- The Media Department at Birzeit University held its first Media Students Conference. Professors, experts, and around 400 media students gathered together for a discussion that highlighted the main issues faced by those who work in the field of media in Palestine.



- Trade and industry experts, entrepreneurs, and academics explored the realities, challenges, and opportunities of entrepreneurship in Palestine at a conference entitled "Entrepreneurship in Occupied Palestine: Policies and Prospects," organized by the Faculty of Business and Economics and the B-Hub.
- Ibrahim Abu-Lughod Institute of International Studies at Birzeit University held an international conference entitled "Palestine in a Changing World" to discuss the question of Palestine under the current changes in the region and the international system. A number of local and international academics, researchers and officials participated in the conference.
- Birzeit University hosted the 7th Annual Palestinian Diaspora Conference, organized by the Holy Land Christian Ecumenical Foundation under the Know Thy Heritage Program.

Open Days

- **Engineering Day:** students showcased their graduation projects and met with engineering firms and prospective employers.



- **Accounting Day:** students, experts, and professors examined the outlooks and realities of accounting and auditing, as professions, in the Seventh Accounting Day, entitled "Accounting and Auditing: Prospects and Challenges."
- Professors from the departments of Arabic Language and Literature and Languages and Translation to explore the evolution of the Arabic language, within the context of the vast technological shifts of this age, and the difficulties and challenges that these transformations present, in a study day entitled "**The Arabic Language and Interdisciplinary Studies.**"



Publications



Professor of Literature and Modern Criticism
Dr. Ibrahim Mousa published *Scenery of Jerusalem in Modern Palestinian Poetry* through the Kul Shee Library in Haifa.



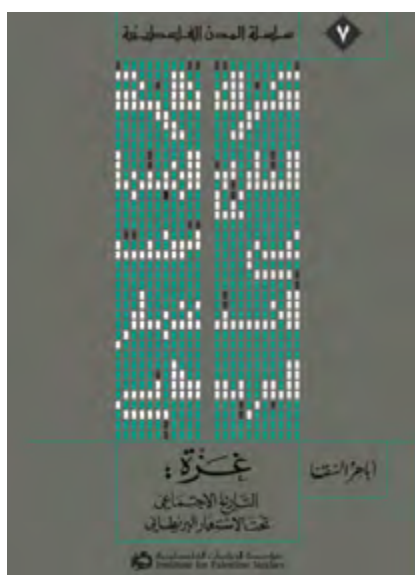
The Institute of Palestine Studies published a book on the *Transformations of the Palestinian Society since 1948: Between Loss and Challenges of Survival*. The book is authored by the dean of Birzeit University's Faculty of Arts Majdi Malki (author and chief editor), and Hasan Ladadwi (author and associate editor).



Professor of Media Dr. Walid Shurafa published, through Al Dar Al Ahlia Publishing and Distribution, a new novel titled *Heir of the Tombstones*.



Political Science professor Sameeh Hammoudeh celebrated the release of his new book, *Ottoman Ramallah: A Study in its Social History (1517-1918)*, published by the Institute of Palestine Studies, and presented by Dr. Salim Tamari.



Abaher El Sakka, associate professor of Social and Behavioral Sciences, launched a new book, *The Social History of Gaza under the British Mandate 1917-1948*.



A book on the urban landscape of the Old City in Jerusalem entitled *Jerusalem Properties and Endowments: A Study of the Old City Estates in the Twentieth Century*, was co-written by Professor Emeritus of Sociology Salim Tamari. Published by the Institute for Palestine Studies and the Taawon Organization, the book highlights the features of the Old City's urban space and its historical and social significance.



Dr. Ibrahim Abu Hashhash, professor of modern Arabic literature, has translated Ernst Cassirer's, *The Philosophy of the Enlightenment*, one of the most influential books on the history of enlightenment philosophy.



The Media Development Center at Birzeit University released a new book entitled, *A Tour of the World's Political Map*. The 108-page book, written by Aref Hijjawi, is filled with vibrant descriptions, maps, and photographs that explore each country from a different political starting point.



The Ibrahim Abu Lughod Institute of International Studies published *Refugees in their Homeland: the Question of Representation and Protection*, edited by Suhaila Abdel Latif (editor), and supervised and reviewed by Abdul Karim Barghouthi.



The Media Development Center published three studies on "Media Self-Regulation," "Editorial Policies in the Palestinian Media," "Press Coverage of the Relationship between UNRWA and Palestinian Refugees," in addition to two scholarly articles entitled, "Digital Diplomacy and its Status in Palestinian Foreign Politics," and "Social Media Investigation."

Birzeit's Working Papers Series in Legal Studies

The Constitutional Law Unit in the Faculty of Law and Public Administration at Birzeit University, with the support and supervision of the H.H. Shaikh Hamad Bin Khalifa Al-Thani Chair, published online a series of research and studies, listed below:

| # | Article Type | Researcher | Title |
|----|-----------------------------|--------------------|--|
| 1 | Translated papers | Asem Khalil | The Role of Written Constitutions in Fueling Constitutional Crisis: The Palestinian Authority after Hamas Came to Power in 2006 as a Case Study |
| 2 | | Asem Khalil | Courting Economic and Social Rights in Palestine: Justiciability, Enforceability and the Role of the Supreme Constitutional Court |
| 3 | | Asem Khalil | Impulses from the Arab Spring on the Palestinian State-Building Process |
| 4 | | Asem Khalil | State of Necessity From the Perspective of Comparative Constitutional Law |
| 5 | Thesis Dissertations | Malakeh Abdellatif | The Right of Muslim Women to Choose Their Husbands in the Palestinian Context |
| 6 | | Sama Saqf Al Hait | The Right to Image: A Reflection of the Right to Privacy or a Separate Right? |
| 7 | | Saja Majdoubeh | The Individual's Religious Identity and His/Her Identity Card |
| 8 | | Tala Naser | Divorce in Christianity: Between Equality and the Independency of Religious Communities |
| 9 | | Waad Qannam | Electoral Quota between Equality and Discrimination: An Analytical Study |
| 10 | | Rasha Amarneh | Civil and Security Public Servants' Right to Strike in Palestine: Balancing Rights and Public Interests |
| 11 | | Nora Taha | Constructing Places, De-constructing Rights: Understanding the Right to Housing in the Palestinian Context |
| 12 | | Leena AlKurd | A Dignified End: A Right to Live, Die or Exist? |

| | | | |
|----|---|---------------------------|---|
| 13 | Comparative Arab Constitutional Law Encyclopedia Project | Newar Bdair | The Judicial Control on the Constitutionality of Laws |
| 14 | | Newar Bdair | Right to Education |
| 15 | | Newar Bdair | Right to Health |
| 16 | | Newar Bdair & Asem Khalil | State of Necessity |
| 17 | | Newar Bdair & Asem Khalil | State of Emergency |
| 18 | | Newar Bdair | Constituent Authority |
| 19 | Position Papers | Constitutional Law Unit | Position Paper on the Decree Law Amending the Law Establishing the Supreme Constitutional |
| 20 | | | Position Paper on Security Clearance as a Condition for Access to Employment in Palestine |
| 21 | | | Position Paper on Constitutional Court Judgment Concerning the Status of International Conventions in the Palestinian Legal System |
| 22 | | | ورقة موقف حول جواز تعديل قانون السلطة القضائية بموجب قرار بقانون |
| 23 | | | Position Paper on the Constitutional Court's Interpretation of the Term 'Military Issue' and the Nature of the Police Force and the Prosecution of its Members |
| 24 | Reflection Papers | Newar Bdair | Decisions of the Palestinian Constitutional Judiciary |





Campus Life



Birzeit University organizes cultural and art events that serve to achieve its mission and bolster its values. The university hosts annual events, such as the graduation ceremony, the Student Council elections, and the Birzeit Nights festival, that develop and enrich Palestinian identity and heritage.

The 43rd Graduation Ceremony



Birzeit University celebrated the graduation of its 43rd class at its annual graduation ceremony. The university convened the commencement ceremony over three subsequent days, recognizing the success of 2,360 students. More than 37,000 students have graduated since 1976.

Student Council Elections 2017-2018

Around 8,404 out of 11,265 eligible student voters participated in the elections, with voting rates at 74.6 percent. Al Wafaa' Islamic Bloc won 24 out of 51 seats in Birzeit University's Student Council elections, while The Martyr Yasser Arafat bloc got 23 seats and the Democratic Progressive Student Pole claimed four seats.





■ Alumni Reunion in Dubai Honors Graduates' Achievements

The event, organized by the Advancement Office's Alumni Unit and the Public Relations Office, was attended by more than 150 of the university's graduates.

"We realize that our alumni are our ambassadors both in Palestine and abroad. As such, we strive to maintain our connections with them wherever they are." – President Abuhijleh

■ Alumni Reunion 2017

The main purpose of the reunion is to provide alumni with the chance to experience Birzeit University again and enjoy an afternoon together with their families on campus. The program of the alumni reunion is different from traditional reunion activities.

■ Conferring Honorary Doctorate on Riad Al Sadik

His Highness Sheikh Nahyan bin Mubarak Al Nahyan, the UAE Minister of Tolerance, has conferred the Doctorate Honoris Causa on Palestinian businessman Riad T. Al Sadik, for his great efforts in the social and economic development of the Arab world and his generous donations to Birzeit University.



■ Four New Board of Trustee Members Designated

The Board of Trustees announced the addition of four new members to its ranks: Dr. Rima Khalaf, former executive secretary of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA); Ms. Samia Totah, the COO of Bisan Systems Ltd; Mr. Ali Elhaj, an advisor to a private equity firm in New York and a Palestinian businessman; and Mr. Maher Al Masri, chair of the board of the Palestine Islamic Bank.

Arts & Culture



■ Birzeit Nights Festival: Performing Palestine

In support of the Student Fund, Birzeit University brought Palestine's folklore and culture to life at its eighth annual Birzeit Nights festival, sponsored by the Deanship of Student Affairs.

During the two-day festival, musical performances and art shows presented by local dance troupes and artists portrayed Palestinian indigenous collective identity, revived traditional culture, and reflected contemporary life in Palestine. The festival has been held as an annual tradition since 1984.



■ **“The Dragon of Bethlehem”: A Musical Narrative**

“The Dragon of Bethlehem” is based on a story of the same name by Huda Al Shawwa. The story explores the city of Bethlehem politically, socially, culturally, religiously, and geographically through the eyes of Khader, a 16-year-old boy who lives in the Dheisheh Refugee Camp. The musical narrates the everyday challenges that Khader faces and portrays the restricted movement in his blockaded city; Khader has never seen the sea, and he has never been to Jerusalem.

■ **In their Eyes: A photo gallery focuses on women during their work**

This unique photo gallery was hosted at Birzeit University and in Haifa, displaying 33 photographs printed with the generous support of the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA), and taken by female photographers and journalists from all parts of Palestine, each photo depicting women in the workforce.

■ **Exile is a Hard Work: An exhibition questions revolution, exile and national identity**

This solo exhibition by the Palestinian artist Aissa Deebi marks the themes of revolution and exile, raising a number of issues related to their original context in international exhibitions in which national identity plays a particular role. The exhibition includes two bodies of work by Deebi, “The Trial” (2013) and “Motherland” (2016).

■ The Folkwang International Ensemble performs a musical at Naseeb Aziz Shaheen Auditorium

The ensemble from the Folkwang University of Arts in Germany presented a musical performance of pieces by Johann Sebastian Bach, Dina Shilleh, Edvard Grieg and Béla Bartók.

■ On Women in Revolutions: Highlighting Pioneering Women in the history of Palestinian Revolutions

The items and works of art displayed in the exhibition explore women's relation to the social, political, and patriarchal structures that have permeated liberation movements, in addition to women's active role in countering colonial and authoritarian regimes.



Numerous Breaches of Academic Freedom

■ Armed Undercover Israeli Forces Enter Campus, Detain Student Council Head in Daylight Raid

An undercover Israeli army unit infiltrated the university's main campus on March 7, 2018 and arrested Omar Kiswani, a 24-year-old political science student and head of the university's Student Council. Special forces disguised as students entered the campus in the afternoon before accosting Kiswani and firing their weapons, thus terrifying and endangering the university's students and staff. Two students and one staff member were injured.

The raid was the first ever on such a brazen scale, although it was the latest in a series of campus raids, most of them at night, by Israeli occupation forces, and off-campus arrests targeting students and staff.



■ Early-morning campus raid by Israeli military

A large number of heavily-armed Israeli forces forced their way onto the university campus, entering the student council headquarters in the Sheikh Rashid Bin Said Al-Maktoum Building, Kamal Nasir Hall, and the Faculty of Science, and confiscating students' flags and banners.



■ Academics forced to leave Palestine

Since the beginning of the 2017-2018 academic year, scores of foreign passport holders, many of Palestinian origin but without residence documents, living and working in the occupied Palestinian territory have been denied entry in the country, or have had their visa renewal applications refused by the Israeli authorities. Birzeit University alone has had 15 foreign passport-holding faculty members request visa renewals and been refused or significantly delayed.



Engaging Across the Globe



Developing a clear and comprehensive strategy, strengthened by deep international partnerships, supports our ambition to be a genuinely global university.



- **Solar Power Milestone Met with New Energy Plant**

The university signed an agreement with the Arab Palestinian Investment Company (APIC) to install a solar system that will increase the university's renewable energy capacity and dependence on renewable energy in the near future.



- **On-Campus Student Dormitories Donated by Saudi Government**

The university, together with the Taawon organization, signed an agreement with the Saudi Fund for Development to establish fully-furnished dormitories for around 500 female Birzeit University students. The dormitories, housed in three buildings with a total size of 12,000 square meters, will provide students with safe and suitable housing options on the university's campus.

- **Arabic Lexicons Digitized and Integrated through ALESCO:** The Arab League Educational, Cultural, and Scientific Organization (ALESCO) and the university will cooperate in computational linguistics and language engineering. Through this agreement, the Department of Computer Science will digitize the lexicons issued by ALESCO and publish them in a specialized search engine titled "The Arabic Ontology."

- **Konstfack University to Facilitate Artistic Education:** Konstfack University College of Arts, Crafts and Design established channels of academic cooperation and student exchange in the fields of arts, design, and crafts.

- **Moscow State Institute of International Relations Offers Staff Mobility and Academic Cooperation:** The Moscow State Institute of International Relations – one of the most respected universities in Russia – will provide opportunities for expertise exchange, student and staff mobility, and cooperation on research, development, and publication.

- **Advisory and Legislation Council to Offer Legal Expertise:** An agreement with the university to exchange legal expertise especially in legal drafting and legal information.

- **Paltel Group Awards PhD Scholarships to Faculty:** The telecommunications company renewed its partnership with the university, offering grants for faculty members who seek their doctoral degrees from well-known international universities, and supporting the university's annual activities.

- **Diakonia Supports Masari's Social Entrepreneurship Learning Station:** The Social Entrepreneurship Station is a limited version of the Leadership and Active Citizenship Program (Masari), as it encourages students to apply what they learned during the course of the program.
- **Father Consulting to Empower Public Administration Students in Human Resource Management:** Via a three-month agreement, students will participate in the Chief People Officer Program in their third or fourth year of college. The program is designed to train students on human resource management practices and operations.
- **Four Incubation Agreements Support Entrepreneurial Startups:** The Palestine Techno Park signed incubation agreements with four entrepreneurial startup projects as part of the Creative Cluster Campus Project, implemented by the Palestine Techno Park in cooperation with Innovation and Entrepreneurship Unit at Birzeit University.
- **B-Hub and I3HUB Help Students Launch Software and High-tech Startups:** The two parties agreed to work together on supporting entrepreneurs and providing investment opportunities that will facilitate their expansion to regional and international markets. The services offered by both B-Hub and I3HUB would be available to entrepreneurs of both sides.
- **United Nations University Gender Equality Studies and Training Program Offers Student Opportunities:** This offers MA/ MSc students fellowship opportunities in a joint program under the framework of Erasmus+ to participate in International Gender Studies program at the University of Iceland.
- **AM Qattan Foundation to Support Arts Development:** The \$188,932 grant is part of Qattan Foundation's support for visual arts in the Birzeit University's community, in particular the Fine Arts and Music Faculty project, one component of AM Qattan's Culture and Arts program.



- **Palestine Capital Market Authority Develops Corporate Governance, Media, and Financial Law:** Three agreements will incorporate the Corporate Governance course within the Faculty of Business and Economics' academic program along with awareness-raising programs for the students of the Faculty of Law and Public Administration; and bolster joint cooperation with the Media Development Center by developing media coverage on the non-banking financial sector of Palestine.
- **United Nations Children's Fund Teams up with Center of Continuing Education on Elementary Curriculum:** The National Learning Objects Bank, an innovative, effective and affordable model in educational reform, will mainstream modern educational paradigms and produce learning outcomes needed by our children to meet challenges and capitalize on the opportunities of the 21st century.
- **New Partnerships with Arab & International Universities:** (رئيسي مع صورة) – Photo 68
 - Vrije Universiteit Brussel
 - Auckland University
 - Kent State University
 - Bülent Ecevit University – Turkey
 - Katholieke Universiteit te Leuven
 - Klaipeda State University of Applied Sciences-Lithuania
 - Konstfack University
 - MGIMO University
 - Nankai University
 - United Nations University Gender Equality Studies and Training Programme
 - Vytautas Magnus University
 - Petra University

Birzeit University received accreditation to implement several international projects, including:

- **E-Academy to Support Smart Cities Operations in Palestine (eSCO) (2017-2020):**
E-Academy builds capacity and enhances the human skills of Palestinian academics, fresh graduates, and technicians in order to support the establishment and operations of smart cities in Palestine and thereby reduce unemployment. The project will focus on three fields that are considered enablers for smart cities, namely IT security, telecommunication and computer networks, and smart grids.
- **Fostering Entrepreneurship in Science, Technology, Engineering & Math (2017-2020)**
This program is designed to enhance the outcomes of Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) in the formal education system in the occupied Palestinian territory in order to meet the needs of the labor market, with a view to meeting the current and emerging needs of the territory's start-ups ecosystem. The project introduces an innovative pathway that meets the multidisciplinary needs of the two domains, STEM education and entrepreneurship.



Community Outreach



As an international university with a strong focus on diversity and equity, connecting with our communities is at the heart of the university's engagement activities and events.



■ International Summer Camp 2018

The two-week camp will include a variety of activities, such as lectures, workshops, and visits to Palestinian cities, villages, and refugee camps. The camp will also provide the opportunity for internationals to engage with Palestinian heritage and culture.

The camp aims to engage locals and internationals in a comprehensive experience while strengthening the spirit of voluntary and interactive work.



■ Hana Khoury Receives High School Diploma 70 Years After Palestine's Theft

It took her 70 years, but Hana Khoury finally accomplished her dream at the age of 88. In 1948, Khoury was in her third year of high school. Jewish leaders that year announced the establishment of the state of Israel, throwing the area into upheaval and changing the course of history and millions of lives, including her own.

■ New Book "Palestine's Women: A Guide to Experts" Fills Gender Gap

"Palestine's Women: A Guide to Experts" is targeted at news media agencies in an effort to promote women's voices in the public sphere. The guide is a print and electronic listing of more than 260 women who are authorities in fields such as engineering and technology, agriculture, crafts, sports, politics, public relations, education, health care, law, economics, and finance.





■ Career Fair 2018

Annual Career Day featured new career zones and internship opportunities and was aimed at offering job opportunities and internships for Birzeit University's alumni and graduates. (photo 74)

■ Helping Hand Extended to Olive Farmers

Students, academics and staff help local farmers during the annual olive tree harvest, as part of the university's Community Work program. The program, founded in the early 1970s, aims to give back to the Palestinian public through initiatives and programs designed to support local communities. Birzeit University has made completion of the Community Work program a requirement for graduation, further cementing its status as part-and-parcel of the Palestinian community.

Community Engagement Projects by Institutes & Centers

- **"Together for Change" from Acre to Nablus:** The youth group Together for Change, which operates across all of Palestine, has launched its first activity, "Your Coffee, Our Treat," concurrently in Acre, Nablus, and Gaza.

Together for Change, which was spun off from the Palestinian Youth: Together for Change project implemented by the Center for Development Studies at Birzeit University and the American Friends Service Committee (Quakers), is an independent Palestinian youth group that aims to bolster the national identity among Palestinian youth.

- **B-HUB:** This innovative space is designed to nurture ideas and creativity and provide an environment conducive to new businesses start-ups or the development of existing ones by offering a unique and highly flexible combination of business development processes, people, academia, and infrastructure.
- **Experiential Learning Objects (xLOBs) for Grades 1 to 4:** The Center for Continuing Education, in cooperation with the Ministry of Education and Higher Education and UNICEF, launched the first phase of (xLOBs) for grades 1 through 4 in a symposium focused on creating an interactive, participatory learning environment.
- **New Web Campaign “Forsa”:** The Media Development Center, in cooperation with the National Team for the National Media Development Initiative, has launched a web campaign to tweet and blog using the #Forsa hashtag. The campaign aimed to increase the presence of the Forsa Campaign on social media platforms.



- **Parliamentary Affairs Training Program Completion:** Eighteen trainees from the legal departments of various official organizations, such as the Legislative Council, the High Judicial Council, the Public Prosecutors Office, the Palestinian Cabinet, and the Advisory and Legislation Bureau. The 90-hour program was comprised of five specialized courses, which were: “The Role of Committees in Parliamentary Work,” “Parliamentary Reports and Their Mechanisms,” “Parliament Budget Drafting,” “Community and Parliament Oversight,” and “Harmonization of Legislation and International Treaties.”
- **Seventh Class of Sports Management Graduates:** The Sports Management program is implemented in partnership with the Palestinian Football Federation and the International Centre for Sports Studies (CIES), a joint venture with the Fédération Internationale de Football Association (FIFA).
- **New Digital Learning Program Supports Syrian refugees:** Working with the International Education Association based in Lebanon, the Center for Continuing Education led a two-day workshop that marked the official launch of the Digital Learning Innovation Project at UNICEF’s Makani Centers in Jordan.



Facts & Figures

2017/2018

Academic Programs

108 Academic programs

72

Bachelor's programs

32

Master's programs

1

PhD program

2

Diploma programs

1

International students program



Campus

Campus Size

800 donums



70%

Green gardens and open areas

28 Main buildings contain

8

Faculties

7

Institutes

4

Centers

4

Libraries

6

Cafeterias



Clinic



Museum



Auditorium



Observatory

4

Sports fields



Gymnasium



Wastewater treatment plant



Faculty and Staff

433

Faculty members

%32



%61

PHD



436

Administrative staff

45%



نسبة الطلبة إلى أعضاء الهيئة الأكاديمية 1:24



Student Body

Enrolled students

13,963

12,297

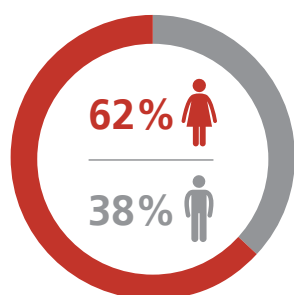
Undergraduate students

1,518

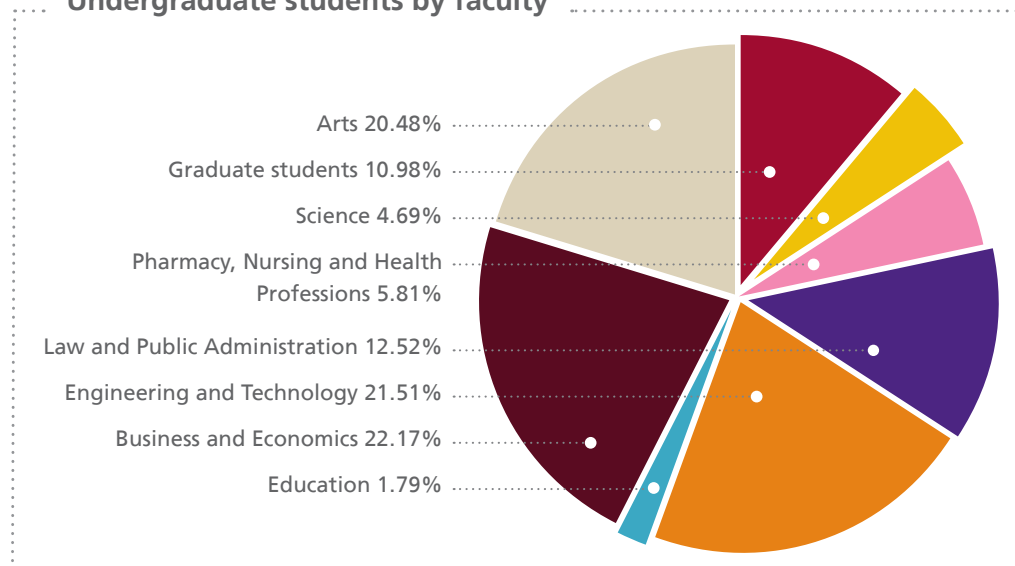
Graduate students

148

Diploma and other programs



Undergraduate students by faculty



Alumni

Around

36,000

Graduates / bachelor's and master's degrees

from the academic year 1975/1976 until the academic year 2016/2017



Student Financial Aid

4.2

Million Jordanian Dinars
(around \$5.9 Million USD)

Academic year 2016/2017



40%

of the total number of students were beneficiaries of scholarships, fee waivers, loans, and financial aid



60%

of the true cost of tuition is paid by the students

Public Relations Office, Birzeit University

PO Box 14, Birzeit, Palestine

TelFax: +970 2 298 2059

PR@birzeit.edu

www.birzeit.edu