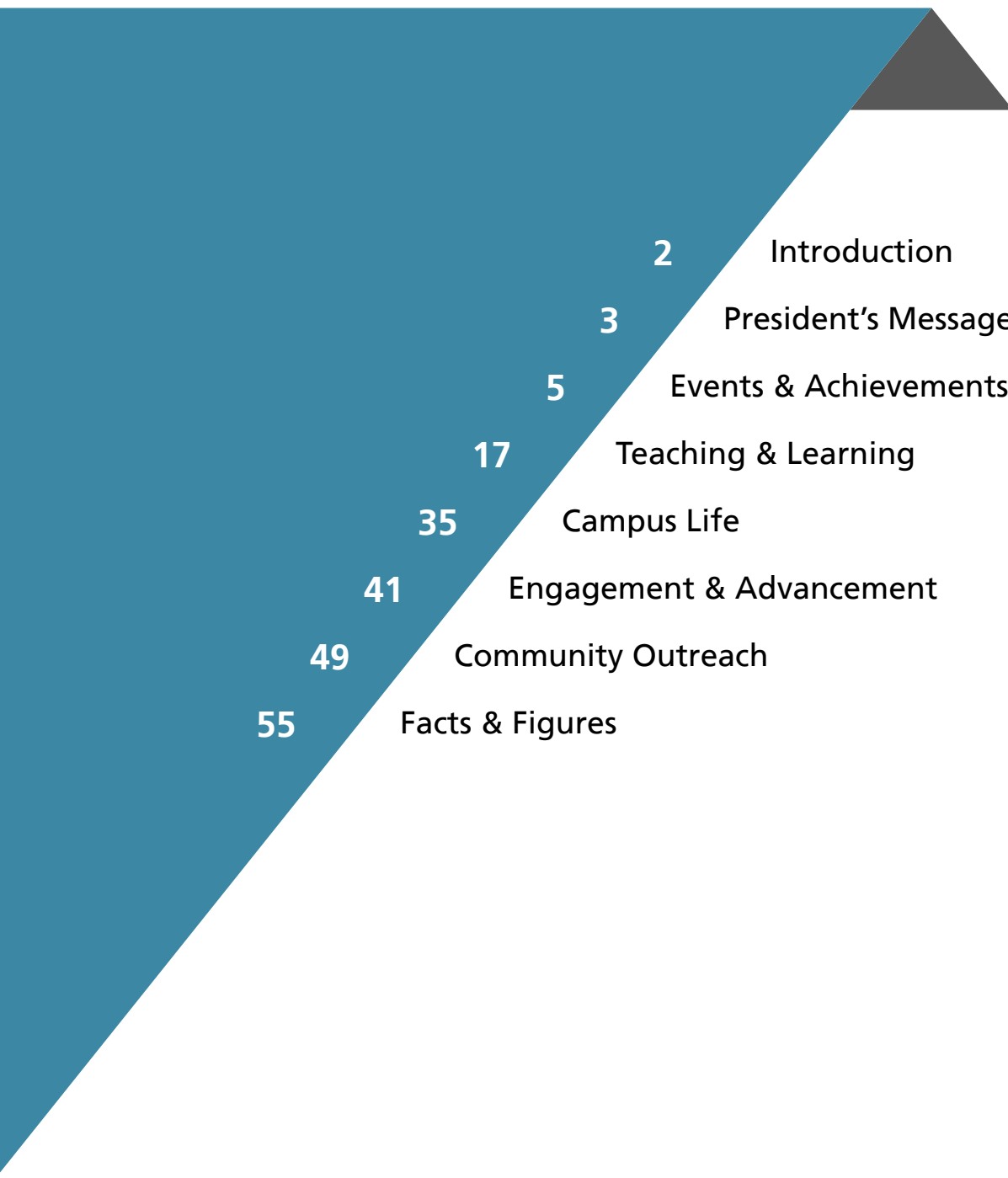




# Annual Report **2015 - 2016**



# Contents



2	Introduction
3	President's Message
5	Events & Achievements
17	Teaching & Learning
35	Campus Life
41	Engagement & Advancement
49	Community Outreach
55	Facts & Figures



## Introduction

This report aims to showcase the university's achievements in the academic year 2015/2016 on all levels and themes, most important of which are: academic development, research and studies, the university's national and societal roles, community outreach, scientific and literary awards, cultural and artistic activity, and international cooperation. The university has accomplished its goals within the scope of its mission and vision.

## Our Mission

Birzeit University an independent, not-for-profit institution of higher education overseen by an autonomous Board of Trustees. The University seeks to maintain excellence in teaching and learning, to advance knowledge through research, and to contribute to community service. It believes firmly in freedom of thought and expression, democratic practices, intellectual pluralism and civilized discourse. The University endeavors to produce leaders who hold themselves to high standards of personal integrity, and are committed to critical and innovative thinking and lifelong learning. The University strives to contribute to human civilization issuing from the Arab-Islamic heritage.

## Our Vision

Birzeit University would endeavor to remain the foremost Palestinian University, recognized for distinction in education, research and community service, and the institution of choice for the most promising students and academics in Palestine. The University would seek to maintain its preeminent role as a higher learning institution graduating leaders in all walks of life. The University would strive to become one of the best universities in the Arabic region in the medium term and a world-class University in the longer term.

## University History

In 1924, Nabiha Nasir founded an elementary girls' school in Birzeit to provide elementary education for the students of Birzeit and its neighboring towns at a time when there were no schools in the region. In 1930, the school developed into a secondary co-education school, and its name was changed to "Birzeit College" in 1942, although it remained a secondary school.

In 1953, the first college-level course was added and was followed in 1961 by the second. In 1972, it was decided to develop the institution into a four-year college that would award bachelor's degrees in arts and science, and a new campus on the outskirts of Birzeit was to be built.

On July 11, 1976, the university celebrated its first graduating class of arts and science bachelor's degree graduates, and between 1978 and 1980, the Faculty of Business and Economics was established and followed by the Faculty of Engineering. In addition to that, in 1976/1977, the university's first master's program –in education – was launched. The university's campus measures 800 dunums in size, on which stand 24 main buildings established primarily through Palestinian donations, especially from those living abroad. Birzeit University comprises eight faculties that offer 48 bachelor's programs, 23 master's programs, a Ph.D. program in social sciences, two diploma programs, and a program for international students. The university also includes 12 institutes and centers that operate in an array of social, academic, and professional fields.

## Our Values

- Excellence
- Diversity of student body
- Civic, social and humanitarian responsibility
- Integrity
- Concern for the environment
- Professional Ethics
- Lifelong learning

# President's Message



The stories shared within this annual report are the stories of ambitious students, faculty and staff; this has been a remarkable year, full of celebration, reflection, accomplishment and change. The pages that follow contain example after example of how Birzeit University, in the year 2015/2016, made a positive impact on individuals and the Palestinian community.

This report reveals the University's ongoing commitment to reach new heights of excellence in teaching, research, and service. We believe a deep sense of commitment lies at the center of each of the many achievements highlighted in this report. For example, our commitment to offer an excellent learning environment, designed to promote the highest levels of our students and faculty success, has helped our students earn world-class awards and prizes, as shown in the first section.

One of the university's most notable achievements this year was claiming a spot in the QS Rankings list of the 100 top universities in the Arab region in 2016. Birzeit University was ranked the top university in Palestine and one of the best 50 universities in the Arab World, as well as being the only Palestinian university on the list. Commitment to leading-edge research and discovery was the motivation for the targeted faculty research efforts outlined in the second section. This section reveals an unwavering commitment among our institutes, centers and other facilities to secure a sustainable added value through service to the Palestinian community.

We believe that in the evolving world, academia is repeatedly expected to cross new frontiers, whether they are geographical, physical, cultural or social. One of the most acute discussions of border crossings concerns our openness to the world. Therefore, this year, we celebrated new partnerships, and expanded existing ones with our peers in Palestine and the world.

None of our achievements in the past year would have been possible without the commitment, expertise and passion of our people. This is an amazing time for education. In this era of globalization, we must work together to face challenges and opportunities, to think of new solutions to maximize and expand our intellectual and fiscal resources, to do much better in research and more in outreach, and find better opportunities for our incredible students and faculty!





## Events & Achievements





The Academic year 2015/2016 began with the appointment of Dr. Abdul Latif Abu Hijleh as president of Birzeit University. Several buildings and facilities were opened to maintain academic development and promote the university's excellence locally and internationally. The university proceeded with its overall achievements especially in academics and for its students. This was accompanied by academic projects conducted by university faculties, departments, institutes and centers and the publication of specialized studies by academics and researchers.

**September 8, 2015**

### **Inauguration Ceremony for President of Birzeit University Dr. Abdullatif Abuhijleh**

Chairman of Birzeit University's Board of Trustees Dr. Hanna Nasir: "Transitions of the university's leadership happen smoothly. Birzeit University is a venerable institution that takes pride in its heritage and in its institutional systems, which facilitate this periodic leadership change without any setbacks. The university recognizes that leaders differ in their styles, models, and visions. This is a positive characteristic that the university's community accepts, given that the aim is to preserve the spirit of Birzeit University."

President of Birzeit University Dr. Abdullatif Abuhijleh noted: "I will work hand in hand, as president of this university, with its cooperative community – Board of Trustees, administration, and students – to upgrade the academic programs. The relevant academic departments will review their curricula and academic programs to keep abreast of international developments and quality standards."



**September 10, 2015**

### **Unveiling of the Michel and Sanieh Hakim Astronomical Observatory**

Birzeit University celebrated the opening of the Michel and Sanieh Hakim Observatory, which was established with a generous donation from Ramez Hakim to commemorate his parents.

The observatory will help spread the culture of astronomy throughout society, especially among students, allowing them to observe Palestine's night sky and placing Palestine on the map of astronomy research.





October 3, 2015

### The Samih Darwazeh Institute of Industrial Pharmacy

The Samih Darwazeh Institute of Industrial Pharmacy was established on campus to contribute to the development of the local pharmaceutical industry and to become the local and regional reference for high-quality pharmaceutical production and research.

***"The opening of the Institute is in response to the growing needs of higher education in Palestine, and to keep pace with the latest educational and training methods."***

Abdullatif Abuhijleh - President

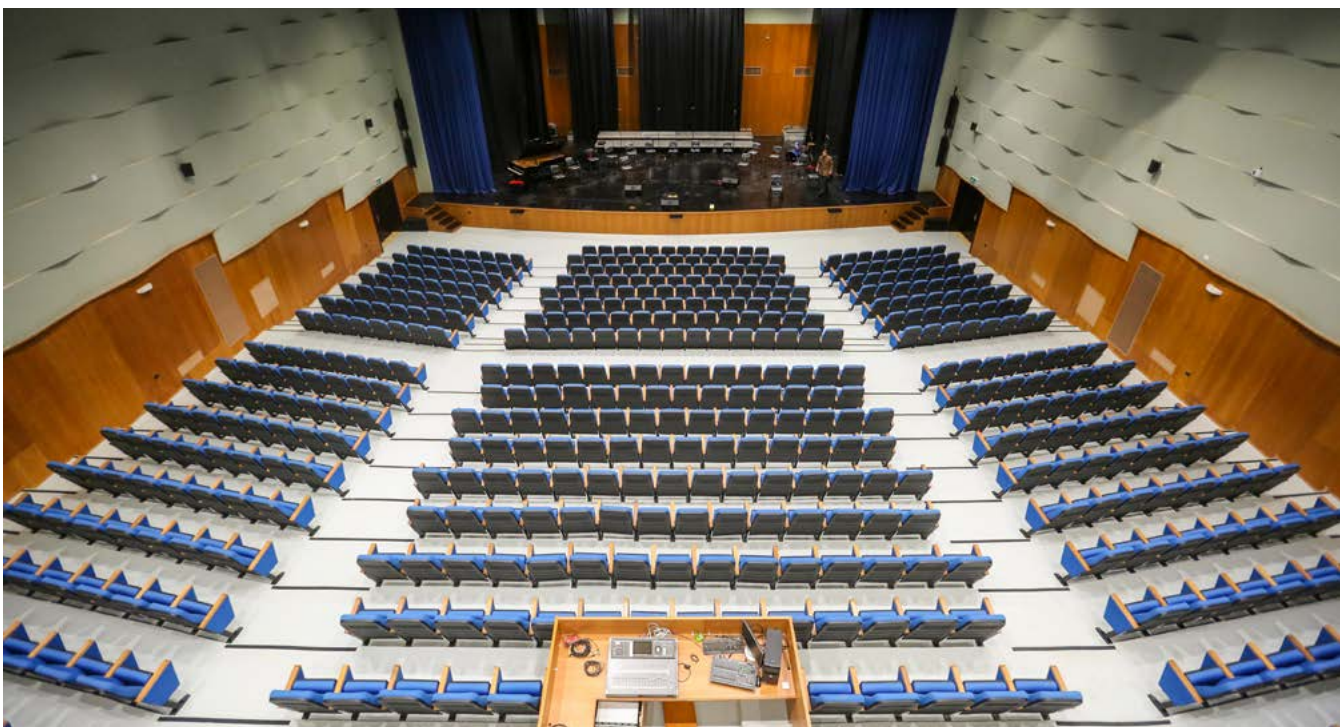
December 19, 2015

### The Naseeb Aziz Shaheen Auditorium

The Naseeb Aziz Shaheen Auditorium, inaugurated on December, represents an important space for creativity, enriching the cultural and intellectual life of Birzeit University and Palestine as a whole. From musical performances and theater, to dance and other cultural and scientific activities, it will embrace activities of local and international excellence.

***"The theatre will be a free space for movement and creativity, and will spark intellectual, theatrical and musical activities. It will also serve as an incubator for local and international cultural activities and performances,"***

Hanna Nasir - Chairman of the Board of Directors



# The top **100** universities in the Arab region for 2016 according to **QS** Rankings



Birzeit University is the top ranked university nationally and was able to claim a spot in the top 50 universities list in the Arab World, the only Palestinian university to do so. This ranking is one of the three most important world university rankings, and as such it is considered a vital source of guidance for students when choosing universities and majors.

**July 19, 2015**

## **Google Scholar University Rankings**



The university was ranked first in Palestine, 29th in the Arab World, and 1606th in the world from a list of 4128 universities included in the ranking.

**May 16, 2016**

## **Media Department Television Studio**

At a cost of \$100,000, half of which will be donated by local institutions and companies, a Media Department television studio is planned for rehabilitation. The aim of the project is to introduce a qualitative academic transition into practical application. A new bachelor's degree program will improve students' knowledge and techniques, enabling them to master various media activities.



# Awards & Contests

## ■ IEEE Xtreme Global Competition

Birzeit University claimed the first spot nationally, the fourth spot in the Arab region, and the 111th spot globally in the competition, which was organized by the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers.



## ■ Best Arab Photograph Award

Awarded to Photographic and Visual Imaging Officer in the Public Relations Office at Birzeit University Eyad Jadallah as part of the Arab Media Excellence Award. The award was presented during the 47th regular session of the Arab Media Ministers Council, held at the headquarters of the General Secretariat of the League of Arab States. Eyad's winning photograph was taken during clashes with Israeli Occupation soldiers at Al-Bireh's northern entrance.

## ■ The 2015 King Abdullah II Award for Youth Innovation and Achievement (KAAYIA)

Won by Birzeit University graduate Saed Karazoun, the \$50,000 prize is awarded throughout the Arab region and allows the winners to promote positive change and challenge negativity in communities.



## Faculty and Staff Excellence

BZU faculty and staff members earned recognition from national and international academic entities for their research, books publications, scholarship, and teaching, as well as for their service to their disciplines and their students.



■ Excellence Award for Best Scientific Research in 2015 was awarded to the Director of the MBA program at Birzeit University, Suhail Sami Sultan. It was awarded at the closing ceremony of the Annual Euro-Mediterranean Conference, held at the University Of Verona, Italy by the Emerald Publishing Group.

■ Professor of Architectural Engineering Shadi Ghadban was acknowledged by being named a member of the International Committee of Experts (CIVVIH-ICOMOS) (September 12, 2015)

■ Mirabo Shammass became a Certified Public Accountant in the International Public Sector Accounting Standards (3 March 2016)

■ Ibrahim Nimer Mousa won the State of Palestine's Social Studies and Humanities Prize in 2015 for his book, The Manifestations of the Homeland and Self-Introspection in the Poetry of Kamal Nasser.



■ Professor of Computer Science Mustafa Jarrar was awarded a Google grant dedicated to supporting scientific research in the field of computer linguistics. The grant for research in the engineering of Arabic dictionaries was awarded in the amount of \$50,000. (February 25, 2016)

■ A Protocol on Deep Vein Thrombosis Prophylaxis was recognized by the Department of General Surgery at Makassed Hospital, represented by its Director Haitham Al Hasan who honored Kholoud Quresh and Birzeit University students of clinical pharmacy in their efforts to promote the educational process. (May 15, 2016)

### Staff Innovation

Architectural Engineering Department lecturer Moayyad Al-Rimawi has designed a "Smart Brick." He received a certificate of registration from the Palestinian Ministry of National Economy. Its work mechanism is based on the intersection of the bricks similar to Lego toys, saving time, effort and money in the construction process.

## Exceptional learners

### Students of the Year

The following students were recognized for their excellence and innovation in the academic year 2015/2016:

Majd Daghlas	Gabi Baramki Award for Excellence
Khawla Kahla	Yousef Nawas Award
Mariam Barghouthi	Nimeh Faris Award for excellence in English literature
Nadine Aranki	Tawfiq Canaan Award



## Students Accomplishments

Alongside the academic excellence of Birzeit University students, Birzeit University students have also made individual achievements that deserve to be recognized. These accomplishments emerged and developed on campus, while reaching out to other horizons.

### ■ Graduate Muath Natsheh to Skip MA, Pursue PhD in the U.S.

Muath Al Natsheh graduated from Birzeit University with a bachelor's degree in Physics, which he attained in three years' time. Muath was on the honor list each semester, which qualified him to deliver the graduation speech to his class.

At a later stage, Natsheh sat for the GRE exam in Physics in the U.S., which qualified him to enroll in a doctorate program without a master's degree. He achieved a full mark after a one-month preparation period. This period was the most difficult because he had to read about many topics in physics that he never heard of. Today, Muath Natsheh is studying at New York University on a full scholarship.

### ■ Three Students Design Rumor Detection Software

Three students from the Computer Systems Engineering Program Esraa' Ellayan, Wafa Abu Makho and Izdihar Shenaina, worked on developing an information system for Arab content that simulates real-time detection of rumors on social media networks. This project is supervised by computer engineering professor Mohammed Hussein and a graduate of Birzeit University, a PhD student at Toulouse University Mehdi Washha, who specializes in social media networks.

### ■ Students Invent Sorting Machine for Recycling Cans and Bottles

Three students from the Birzeit University Faculty of Engineering and Technology invented a CanBot machine that sorts water, metal, plastic and glass juice containers and bottles for recycling. Students Intranik Amerzian and Nicola Al-Sha'er from the mechanical engineering department and Mutassem Hidmi from the computer systems engineering worked on the project, supervised by Professor Simon Al-Araj from the Department of Mechanical Engineering. The machine processes various containers for recycling using their barcode numbers. photo # 09



## Students Awards & Prizes

### ■ Research and Innovation Conference Awards

Students from the Engineering and Technology Faculty won three awards in the first Undergraduate Research and Innovation Conference in Engineering and Information Technology, held at Palestine Technical University “Kadoorie”.

### ■ Hult Prize Global Competition

Two students won first place in Hult Prize Global Competition under the theme “Double the income of 10 million urban dwellers around the world within five years.” The winning students were a group from the Architectural Engineering Departmen.



### ■ Zuhair Hijjawi Award in Medical and Biological Techniques and Agricultural Sciences

Students from the Biology and Biochemistry Department won the award, for their research entitled “Carbon dioxide in soft drinks leads to the secretion of the hormone ghrelin and increases consumption of food in male rats: its effects on the emergence of obesity in mammals.” The research was carried out under the supervision of Johnny Esteban, chairperson of the Biology and Biochemistry Department.

### ■ Berkeley University Prize for Scientific Research and Architecture

Won by student Nadia Al-Asali from the Architectural Engineering Department won the Berkeley Prize for Community Architecture. Also, third and fourth year students also received four awards out of eight in the architectural projects competition for students, which was held in Amman with the participation of 16 Arab universities.



### ■ Jury Tour Day Prize

Four students from the Architectural Engineering Department were recognized among the top 10 architectural projects out of a total of 60: Husam Barham, Matthew Stephan, Hadeel Abu Yassin and Sajida Barghouthi received the prize. This annual initiative is the sixth organized by the Architectural Forum in Jordan.

### ■ The Annual Tom Kay Awards for Free Architectural Drawing

Six students won six out of ten prizes in the 2016 competition. The competition was organized by the Riwaq Centre for Architectural Conservation.

### ■ Arab Mock Trial Contest

Birzeit University Law Department students were awarded third place in the Arab Mock Trial Contest hosted by the Sultan Qaboos at the University in Oman.

### ■ Creativity and Excellence Award

A book machine project, machine that automatically sells and lends books while controlled by a tablet or smart phone, was awarded this prize.

### ■ The Philadelphia Arab Theater Festival

The Mawasem Student Drama Theater Group won five awards for their play, "The House of Bernarda Alba at the Philadelphia Arab Theater Festival." The Director of the play Fathi Abdelrahman won the Best Theater Director Award. Lara Nasr won the Best Theatre Make-up Award. Student Marah Yaseen won the Best Actor Runner up. The play won Best Fashion and Design prizes. The awards were distributed at the 12th Arab University Theater Festival at Philadelphia University in Amman.



### ■ Amwaj Farah Program

First place was won by a team of university students who competed with 22 teams from six Arab countries to earn a \$10,000 grant. The team used the grant to finance and expand their project, which set-up a specialized child music education center in Safa village, Ramallah and Al Bireh Governorate.

### ■ Tunisia Debate Program

Media student Ahmed Nabhan took third place in the English language debate program organized by the Regional Forum for Youth in Tunisia the first time in which Palestine has participated in this debate.

### ■ The “Women’s Right to Heritage” Competition

Won by three students from the Birzeit University Media Department, awarded prizes of 200 Euros to each awardee. Student Sara Al-Dajani received the prize for the best television report, Hanan Bairat received the prize for best short story, while student Mohammed Abu-Rabei’ received the prize for the best press release.

### ■ Scholarship for the Study of Medical Physics at ICTP Institute in Italy

Received by the student Nihad Abu Awad after obtaining one of the highest marks ever in the grant’s entrance exam.

### ■ Outstanding Legal Research Competition in the Field of Anti-Corruption for Palestinian University Students 2016

Three students from the Faculty of Law and Public Administration won the competition. The students received the second, third and fourth prizes.

### ■ The First International Professional Belt and International Arbitration Certificate

Faculty of Law and Public Administration student received a belt in Kickboxing and Mwai Tai, while Faculty of Business and Economics student Adnan Husary received an international arbitration certificate to represent Palestine during World Cup Boxing and Muay Thai Championship, which was held in the Thai capital Bangkok.



### ■ The Human Rights Mock Trial Competition, 2015

A team of Law Students ranked second place in the Human Rights Mock Trial Competition, and were awarded other individual excellence awards in the MENA region. The competition was held at the University of Tunis Al Manar by the Raoul Wallenberg Institute for Human Rights and Humanitarian Law.

### ■ Best Palestinian Film at the third International Youth Film Festival

A graduate of the Media Department at Birzeit University, Mahmoud Al-Khawaja, was awarded for his film "Still Present" in the Palestinian Film category in the festival. The seven-minute film presents the life of Abdul Qadir al-Husseini and his personality through the memories of his daughter Haifa.

### ■ The French Consulate Short Films Competition

Students from the university's French Language Department won first and second prizes for short documentaries written, photographed and produced by students.

### ■ The "Brain Remote Control"

Project for the installation of microprocessor controlled body parts reaches the final stage of the 13th Imagine Cup. The project was designed by students Mohammed Ateeq, Hassan Bakr and Ayham Jaradat under the supervision of Wasel Ghanem.







# Teaching & Learning



Birzeit University continues to develop its academic offerings, which include bachelor's, master's, doctorate and diploma degrees, along with providing increasing support to research platforms through its outstanding contributions.

Birzeit University has organized and hosted several specialized local, regional and international conferences, in which a number of its academics have participated. This has coincided with student academic achievements in internal and external competitions and contests.

## New Academic Programs

### Bachelor's programs



#### ■ Arabic Music Program

The University obtained accreditation for the “Bachelor’s Degree in Arabic Music”. It is the first of its kind in Palestine; this offering is also a rare specialty in the Arab region and aims to develop culture and artistic taste and performance in music. The university hopes that this program will be the first step for upcoming changes in the Faculty of Fine Arts.

#### ■ Media Program

A new program in “Media” was accredited in 2015-2016, in which students will learn all the basics of journalism and related fields, such as television, radio, print and electronic media, as well as social media. It also includes several courses that promote mobile journalism, which has become a major focus of world media.

#### ■ English as a Foreign Language

A new Curriculum for teaching “English as a Foreign Language” was accredited in the year 2015-2016. It is designed to support student and teacher needs. The university’s requirements for English language courses have been adapted to international practice and test standards, making it easier for students to pursue their achievements by focusing on enhancing the four language skills: reading, writing, listening and speaking.

#### ■ German Language Program

The Department of Languages and Translation has officially began teaching “German Language” as a comprehensive undergraduate program, with full support from the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD).



## Master's programs

### ■ Law and Economics Program

A new program in "Law and Economics" seeks to develop graduates' knowledge of law and economics, especially preparing them to contribute to the formulation of economic policies by graduating legal cadres with a high degree of knowledge and qualifications in the economic sciences and visa versa.

### ■ Pharmaceutical Industries Program

A new master's degree in "Pharmaceutical Industries" aiming to to prepare a cadre of specialized scientific competencies in the pharmaceutical industries. It produces distinguished students with the practical experience to work in local pharmaceutical factories or related government institutions and to bring about the necessary changes and development in the pharmaceutical sector.

### ■ Doctoral Program in Social Sciences

A crosscutting or cross-field approach to social sciences, based on the notion that existing individual knowledge fields are unable to provide the analytical tools necessary to understand complex social, economic, political and cultural phenomena.



## Research and Scholarships

It has been another outstanding year for Birzeit University. The number of supported research projects stood at 17 project, whereas the University faculties have implemented research projects, with the support of the university or in cooperation with other universities and specialized institutions.

### ■ Strong Research Ranking

Over the past two years, the university's professors and students have increasingly targeted the Research Gate (RG) network and the number of university publications uploaded online on the international platform has steadily increased.

The total number of users from Birzeit University was 584 professors, researchers and students. The total RG score was 1290, a figure that still does not reflect the university's true contributions, due to the lack of accounts and publications by many university professors.

When examining the influence of university-related publications, they are superior to those of other local universities. According to data available on the Research Gate network, 337 of the university's publications have been downloaded online and received a total of 1,026 points regarding their influence.

When calculating the rate of impact indicators for university publications, Birzeit University tops the list at 3.04 points, while publications issued by other major local universities scored 2.65, 1.79, 1.30 and 1.27 for the impact of their publications.

## ■ Career-Oriented Curricula Development for Road Vehicle Maintenance

The Faculty of Engineering and Technology implemented from January 1, 2014 to December 31, 2016 the Career-Oriented Curricula Development for Road Vehicle Maintenance.

The project aims to create a sustainable model for formal professional academic partnership that can deliver tangible results by directing higher education and creating employment opportunities. The project will develop labor market oriented approaches in the field of modern car maintenance.

The Ministry of Higher Education and the Ministry of Labor in Palestine are working on setting up a center for excellence in car maintenance.

CODE aims at creating a sustainable model for an academic-official-professional partnership that can deliver concrete results for targeted higher education reform and employability. To serve this purpose, CODE is designed to develop specific competencies and know-how through joint implementation of well-structured activities, and cross-cutting initiatives to develop career-oriented curricula for road vehicle maintenance.

CODE aims to develop a model for career-oriented curricula and to establish the basis for a relevant Centre of Competence for road vehicle specialization. Its specific objective is to develop curricula that covers engineering, technical, and vocational training, and to create an academic-official-professional partnership for the vehicle maintenance profession. The Ministries of Higher Education (MOHE) and of Labor (MOL) in Palestine plan to establish a Competence Centre in vehicle maintenance. This requires building competencies and establishing partnerships with the relevant business sector, the outputs of this project. Technical education departments in the ministry have decided to combine efforts in establishing the center.

## Other university projects

### ■ Urban Transformation in the Southern Levant

Implemented by the Faculty of Arts from July 1, 2014 to July 1, 2019

### ■ Empowering Male and Female Students by Bridging the Gender Gap at Birzeit University

Implemented by the Institute of Women's Studies, from April 15, 2016 to November 30, 2016.

### ■ Advocating Sexual Reproductive Health among Birzeit University Students

Carried out by the Faculty of Law and Public Administration from December 1, 2015 to December 1, 2016.

### ■ Measurement and Explanation of Inequalities in Health and Access to Health Care in the MENA Region

Implemented by the Faculty of Law and Public Administration from December 1, 2015 to December 1, 2016.

### ■ Cost-effectiveness Analysis of Counseling and Multi-drug Therapy Intervention for Secondary Prevention of Type II Diabetes in the West Bank / Palestine

Implemented by the Institute of Public and Community Health from May 30, 2016 to December 15, 2016.

### ■ Supporting One Fellowship in the Interdisciplinary Ph.D. Program in the Social Sciences, Salim Abu Dahir

Implemented by the Faculty of Graduate Studies from January 2, 2016 to December 31, 2016.

### ■ Sign Language Course Project

Carried out by the Faculty of Arts from January 1, 2016 to December 31, 2016



- **Multi-Family Approach in Community Based Rehabilitation CBR**

Carried out by the Institute of Public and Community Health from January 1, 2016 to December 31, 2016.

- **Management of Legislative Activity in Palestine: Critical Policy Papers (2nd year of strategic partnership with KAS 2015-2017)**

Implemented by the Institute of Law from January 1, 2016 to December 31, 2016.

- **Media Literacy for young Palestinian Journalists**

Carried out by the Media Development Center from April 1, 2015 to December 16, 2016.

- **Mainstreaming the Rights of Children with Disabilities Within the Work of the PGUPWD**

Implemented by the Center for Development Studies during the period from April 1, 2016 to December 31, 2016.

- **Development of the Palestinian Academic Archeology Program offered by Birzeit University for the Benefit of the Rural Tourism in Palestine**

Carried out by the Faculty of Arts from November 1, 2014 to February 28, 2017.

- **Development of the Palestinian Academic Archeology Program offered by Birzeit University for the benefit of the Rural Tourism in Palestine**

Implemented by the Institute of Law from June 30, 2016 to April 29, 2017.

- **Harmonization of Legislation**

Implemented by the Institute of Law from April 1, 2016 to April 30, 2017.

- **Teams for Innovation in Management Skills - Rule of Law**

Carried out by the Center for Continuing Education from April 20, 2015 to April 30, 2017.

- **Mobility for Learners and Staff**

Implemented by the Office of External Academic Relations from June 20, 2016 to June 15, 2017



- **Advancing Research and Teaching in Political Economy in the OPT**  
Implemented by the Ibrahim Abu Lughod Institute of International Studies from August 1, 2015 to July 1, 2017.
- **Modernization of Teaching Methodologies in Higher Education: EU Experience for Jordan and Palestinian Territory**  
Implemented by the Faculty of Engineering and Technology from October 15, 2015 to October 14, 2018.
- **Support Three Diploma Modules, Strategic Thinking, and Political International Communications**  
Implemented by the Ibrahim Abu Lughod Institute of International Studies from December 1, 2015 to December 1, 2018.
- **A Road Map to Attaining Universal Health Coverage in Palestine: A Dynamic Micro-Simulation Model**  
Implemented by the Institute of Community and Public Health, from September 1, 2015 to August 31, 2017.
- **Evaluating a Multi-Family Approach Intervention in West Bank Villages**  
Implemented by the Institute of Community and Public Health from September 1, 2014 to August 31, 2017.
- **Teachers and Counselors Trained on Inclusive Education**  
Carried out by the Faculty of Education from April 1, 2015 to 12 December 2017.
- **Interdisciplinary PhD Program in the Social Sciences**  
Implemented by the Faculty of Graduate Studies from January 15, 2015 to January 15, 2018.
- **Design Requirements: Capability-Driven Requirements Engineering with Application on i-Doha for the 2022 World Cup**  
Implemented by the Faculty of Engineering and Technology from March 1, 2015 to March 1, 2018.
- **EU Studies "Building the Foundation"**  
Implemented by the Ibrahim Abu Lughod Institute of International Studies from September 1, 2015 to August 31, 2018.
- **A Bottom-up Approach for Opening up Education in South-Mediterranean Countries - OPEN MED**  
Implemented by the Center for Continuing Education from October 15, 2015 to September 15, 2018.



- **Development of Health Informatics Integrated Curricula in Computing and Health - Oriented Undergraduate Degrees**  
Implemented by the Faculty of Engineering and Technology from October 15, 2015 to October 14, 2018.
- **Raising the Quality of Teacher Education Programs in Palestine**  
Implemented by the Faculty of Education from October 15, 2015 to October 14, 2018.
- **Master in Health Informatics**  
Implemented by the Faculty of Engineering and Technology from October 15, 2015 to October 14, 2018.
- **Modernization of Teaching Methodologies in Higher Education: EU Experience for Jordan and Palestinian Occupied Territories**  
Implemented by the Faculty of Engineering and Technology from October 15, 2015 to October 14, 2018.
- **Support for Three Diploma Modules, Strategic Thinking, and International Political Communications**  
Implemented by the Ibrahim Abu Lughod Institute of International Studies from December 1, 2015 to December 1, 2018.
- **Professional Radio Programs**  
Implemented by the Media Development Center from September 15, 2015 to December 1, 2018.
- **Joint Radio Broadcasting with Monti Carlo International**  
Implemented by the Media Development Center from July 1, 2014 to December 31, 2018.
- **Palestinian Perineum Study**  
Implemented by the Institute of Community and Public Health from January 1, 2015 to December 31, 2018.
- **Supporting the Interdisciplinary PhD Program in the Social Sciences 2015-2019**  
Implemented by the PhD Program in Social Sciences from September 1, 2015 to May 30, 2019.

#### **Funded Research Projects by the University Institutes and Centers during 2015/2016**

- **The Diploma in Strategy and International Communication**, bestowed by the Birzeit University Abu Lughod Institute of International Studies, and funded by the British Council. The project targets a group of public and private sector employees, and those working in NGOs to contribute to developing their skills in formulating and developing strategic communications messages in the most effective way.
- **EU Studies: Building the Foundation**, implemented by the Birzeit University Abu Lughod Institute of International Studies, and funded by Erasmus +. The project aims to promote and develop EU studies in Palestinian universities, especially at the Abu Lughod Institute, and to bridge the gap in academic Palestinian research related to the European Union.
- **The Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law Secretariat in the Occupied Palestinian Territories**, implemented by the Birzeit University Institute of Law, and funded by Denmark, the Netherlands, Switzerland and Sweden, as an initiative to promote, comply and to apply human rights and International Humanitarian Law principles in the occupied Palestinian territories, as well as to influence the practices of responsible actors.
- **Updating and Nourishing the Al-Muqtafi**, implemented by the Birzeit University Institute of law, and funded by the UNDP, aiming to update the Al-Muqtafi by continuing to enter reference information and new documents on the databases of legislation and rule provisions, in addition to linking these databases.

- **The Legal Portal**, implemented by the Birzeit University Institute of Law, and funded by the German Konrad Adenauer Foundation. The portal focuses on the constitutional aspects and the work of the three authorities. In its first year, it will focus on the work of the legislative authority, and linking it conceptually, in addition to creating a legal action via this portal regarding the targeted subjects through the preparation of specialized research.
- **Legislative Harmony**, implemented by the Institute of Law, and funded by the UNDP aims primarily at supporting the rule of law and access to justice in Palestinian society by reviewing legislation issued after 2007 and preparing policy and background papers on the subject.
- **The Montesquieu Legal Library**, implemented by the Institute of Law, whereas the library provides access to the legal community in its various categories, especially academics and researchers, access to justice, free access to the necessary information around the clock.
- **The Annual Book of Palestine for International Law, Volume 19**, authored by the Institute of Law. The book is based on a general invitation to papers containing various topics in international law, especially those relating to the Palestinian issue, Arab issues in general or some important debates in general international law.
- **The Sports Management Training Program**, implemented by the Birzeit University Center for Continuing Education, and funded by FIFA II. The program aims to improve the performance of staff in the management of sports institutions, including managerial skills, financial management, marketing, communication, sport event management and sports law.
- **BIG Data in the Environment and Science**, implemented by the Center for Continuing Education, and funded by AUC 2 - BIG DATA. The project seeks to build capacities in data science.
- **Palestinian Development Project**, implemented by Birzeit University Center for Development Studies, and funded by the Austrian Development Agency (ADA). This project aims to develop a Palestinian development agenda and train new Palestinian field researchers in the Palestinian camps in Jordan and Lebanon, as well as to set up an advanced training program for graduates of humanities at Birzeit and Al-Azhar universities, in addition to build a network of young field researchers in the occupied Palestinian territories and Palestinian camps in Jordan, Lebanon and Austria.
- **Survey on Cohesion in Palestinian society**, implemented by the Center for Development Studies, and funded by the Friends of Quakers. The survey focuses on the issues of knowledge, attitudes, Palestinian stands and experiences between three generations on issues of identity in light of fragmentation and disintegration.
- **N-AS-PEER (National Academy of Sciences)**, implemented by the Birzeit University Institute of Environmental and Water Studies, and funded by the National Academy of Sciences, aiming to analyze rainwater by developing the Water Harvest Assessment Tool.
- **Power2Youth**, implemented by the Birzeit University Institute of Community and Public Health, and funded by the European Union, aiming to conduct a comparative study on youth inclusion and exclusion in the Eastern and Southern Mediterranean region.
- **Core Fund from the VELO Foundation 2014-2019**, implemented by the Birzeit University Institute of Community and Public Health, and funded by Veleo Foundation, aiming at capacity building and promoting research.





- **Palestinian Perineum Study**, implemented by the Institute of Community and Public Health, and funded by The Research Council, aiming to reduce injuries during vaginal delivery in Palestine.
- **Evaluating a Multi-Family Approach Intervention in West Bank Villages**, implemented by the Institute of Community and Public Health, and funded by King's College in London - University of London. The project aims to monitor and evaluate community rehabilitation through a family approach in West Bank villages.
- **Training a Gender-Based Violence Group**, implemented by the Birzeit University Institute of Women's Studies, and funded by the Italian Cooperation. The project aims to train a group of about 30 participants (females & males) among them social and psychosocial counselors, police, nurses, prosecutors and lawyers on the subject of gender-based violence and how to deal with victimized women.
- **Development of a Training Curriculum on Gender-based Violence**, implemented by the Institute of Women's Studies, and funded by Italian Cooperation. The project seeks to prepare and deliver training materials to the Italian Cooperation on gender-based violence.
- **Palestinizing Development**, in cooperation with the Birzeit University Center for Development Studies, implemented by the Institute of Women's Studies, and funded by the Commission for Development. The project aims to comprehend the status of cooperative work and its gender relations through studying gender dynamics and division of labor.

- **Empowering Male and Female Students at Birzeit University**, implemented by the Institute of Women's Studies, and funded by the Friedrich Ebert Foundation, aiming to bridge the gender gap at the University by conducting training workshops for the Deanship of Student Affairs Staff.
- Under the auspices of the International Labor Office, the Institute of Women's Studies, with the funding of the International Labor Office has undertaken to explore the issue of **Sex Discrimination in the Workplace**, using specific qualitative research methods, including gender audit tools.
- **Reintegration of Women Survivors of Violence in the Society**, implemented by the Institute of Women's Studies, and funded by the Italian Cooperation, aiming at reintegrating victims of sexual violence into the family and society.
- **Critical Knowledge for Strategic Change in Gender Equity and Development Agendas in the oPt**, implemented by the Institute of Women's Studies, and funded by the Open Society Foundation (OSF), in order to support the activities and expenses of the Institute.
- **Income Analysis 627003**, implemented by the Birzeit University Testing Laboratories - the Food, Drug and Environmental Safety Unit. This unit is mainly concerned with examining the quality of food products, feed, human and veterinary medicines and environmental samples from soil, wastewater, and others.
- **Income Petrol 627006**, implemented by the Birzeit University Testing Laboratories - the only laboratory in Palestine that provides such services - which aims to examine petroleum products and mineral oils.





- **Income Gaza 627002**, implemented by the Birzeit University Testing Laboratories, a project specialized in laboratory analysis of water and wastewater in particular.
- **Towards a Promising Future for a Palestinian Democratic Media Environment – National Strategy Planning and Capacity Building**, implemented by the Birzeit University Media Development Center, and funded by the Swedish Agency for Development and International Cooperation (SIDA), aiming at developing a national strategic media plan for training journalists.
- **Empowering Female Journalists in Legal Concepts**, funded by The Heinrich Boll Stiftung - Arab Middle East Office. This project is part of the National Strategic Media Plan formulation, which focuses on empowering female Palestinian journalists at various levels.
- **Civic skills Via Media Education in Palestine**, implemented by the Media Development Center, and funded by the Finnish Lifelong Learning Foundation (KVS), Helsinki, Finland. This project aims to promote media education and its role and to develop the materials used in this type of training.
- **Development of the “Publications Law”**, implemented by the Media Development Center, and funded by Med Media, aiming to reform the legislative media environment.

## Research grants and scholarships

Our research is driven by the big picture. We take a problem and look at it from all angles, combining the expertise and talents of scholars from many disciplines to provide tangible benefits to the wider community, both locally and internationally.

Many university professors have participated in research visits and research scholarships, as listed below:

- Sharif Ghayzan has participated in the 66th Lindau Forum for Young Researchers with a group of Nobel Prize winners in Physics and Chemistry.
- Professor of Cultural Studies and Philosophy Abdul Rahim Al-Shaikh, and Professor of Law Asem Khalil were accepted for a Post-Doctorate Fulbright Fellowship in the United States.
- Professor of Library Science Bahia Jaber has received a Fulbright Scholarship for two years to study library science (MILS).
- Professor of Education Jihad Al-Shuwaikh was awarded a two-year grant for post-doctoral research in mathematics education in South Africa.
- Ahmed Janazrah has earned a scholarship to conduct research on educational technology in Germany, with the participation of German researchers.
- Professor of Nutrition Science Lina Adwan has obtained a research fellowship at the University of Cambridge.
- Aseel Samaro has been awarded a scholarship from the Palestinian Telecommunications Company (PALTEL) to pursue her PhD graduate studies in Pharmaceutical Sciences.



## Academic Development Projects

### ■ Fellowship Program

This program is funded by the Bank of Palestine and managed by the Welfare Foundation. It aims to improve the quality of higher education and teaching methods in Palestinian universities by training university teachers academically, professionally and technically by providing training at prestigious international institutions for a duration ranging from two months to a full academic year.

A number of faculty members have earned fellowships in 2015, as shown in the following table:

#### Grants and fellowship program for 2015

Name	Fellowship or Grant Topic
Lina Adwan	The effect of Tau and alpha synuclein proteins on Alzheimer 's disease
Grace Khoury	Role of institutions, government support and family policies for promoting mum- entrepreneurs
Salam Awad Malloul	Research project in cooperation with ULM in Germany for the purpose of developing research potential
Maysa' Barbar	Training and acquiring new skills in management sciences
Marwan Ghanem	Time project in Germany

## New Books and Publications

### ■ "Cross-border Climate Security: Climate Sensitivity and Rural Livelihoods in the Jordan River Basin"

Authored by Birzeit University Civil Engineering Department Chairperson Ziad Al-Mimi and Professor at the London School of Economics and Political Science Michael Mason.

### ■ "Palestine Yearbook of International Law - Volume 18 & 19"

Issued by the Institute of Law and including various topics in international law, especially those relating to the Palestinian issue or general Arab world issues or important international debates.

### ■ "Improving the Compatibility of Palestinian Security Legislation with the United Nations Convention against Corruption"

Issued by the Institute of Law, authored by law professor Mahmoud Alawneh

### ■ **"Palestinian Development"**

A research publication published by the Center for Development Studies, and prepared by Ayman Abdel Majeed.

### ■ **Two studies under the project "Towards Monitoring Violations against Workers' Rights and their Working Conditions in the Small Service and Agricultural Sectors"**

Published by the Center for Development Studies. The first study deals with monitoring the reality and rights of women workers in the small services sector, prepared by Nahed Samara and Ayman Abdul Majeed. The second is about monitoring the reality of women's rights in agriculture, prepared by Imad Al-Sayrafi and Ayman Abdel-Majeed.

### ■ **Readings on Some Socio-urban Changes in Ramallah and Kufur Aqab, 2015""**

Published by the Center for Development Studies, and prepared by Abaher Al Sakka and Jamil Hilal

### ■ **Rainwater Harvesting Guide at the Household Level"**

Published as part of the project carried out by the Institute of Environmental and Water Studies "Rainwater Harvesting Analysis Using Water Harvesting Evaluation Tool-WHEAT- (National Academy of Sciences-NAS). Supervised by Essam Al Khatib.

### ■ **"A Guide to Electronic Media Education"**

Published in cooperation between the Media Development Center and the Finnish Foundation for Continuing Education.

### ■ **"Press Profession Ethics in the Context of the Palestinian-Israeli Conflict"**

Issued by the Birzeit University Media Development Center

### ■ **"Palestinian Public Media"**

Issued by the Media Development Center

### ■ **"Explaining the Palestinian Penal Code"**

Authored by university law professor Mustafa Abdel Baqi. This book is the second edition published by the Faculty of Law and Public Administration, as part of the teaching curricula series. The book contributes to the promotion of legal education in Palestine and the Arab world.

### ■ **"Accountability of Foreign Institutions Operating in Palestine"**

A study by political science professor Lord Habash, issued by the Aman Foundation

### ■ **“Palestinian Legislation during the Hamas-Fateh Split”**

Published by the Palestinian Institute for the Study of Democracy Muwatin, with a contributed chapter in this book by the Professor of Political Science, Lord Habash.

### ■ **“Legal Development of Local Authorities in Palestine”**

A book written by the law professor Ahmed Khaled, and published by the Faculty of Law and Public Administration - Birzeit University.

### ■ **“Absence of the Administrative Decision in Light of the Provisions of the Palestinian and Jordanian Supreme Court of Justice”**

Authored by law professor Ashraf Siam and published by the Faculty of Law and Public Administration, Birzeit University.

### ■ **Book on Refugee Makeup and Legal Status**

A text written by a team from Birzeit University's Ibrahim Abu Lughod Institute of International Studies includes two studies, the first on political and socio-economic aspects of Palestinian refugees in the West Bank and Gaza Strip camps. The second section is a legal paper that analyzes international laws on refugees, human rights, international protection, and the protection gap.

## Lectures and Conferences

### ■ **The Palestinian Economy: Fragmentation and Colonialism**

The conference was organized by the Birzeit University Institute of Women's Studies and Birzeit University's Ibrahim Abu Lughod Institute of International Studies in order to revive the critical perspective of political economy in studying issues related to Palestine.





### ■ **7<sup>th</sup> Annual 'Struggles for Freedom' Conference**

The conference aimed to discuss and review the experiences of the liberation struggle of the Palestinian people and the peoples of the world, and discuss the common dimensions of national liberation movements in Palestine and elsewhere.

### ■ **The Palestinian Conference on Rainwater Harvesting and Management**

The conference aimed at promoting the optimal harvesting and management of rainwater in Palestine through the exchange of experiences among various concerned Palestinian academic, research, community and governmental institutions. It issued a set of recommendations and a joint vision of the Palestinian reality in this area and ways to strengthen it.

### ■ **Conference to strengthen culture in media**

Aimed to present the most important issues and difficulties facing cultural media and to diagnose the status quo, in order to develop a national plan capable of achieving sustainable cultural development, and to consolidate the interrelationship between media and culture and thus creating a new generation capable of dealing with cultural media.

### ■ **"The Loss of Palestine: Between Nakba and Naksa"**

The conference encouraged history students, who are about to present their research and research innovations to their professors, colleagues and university community.

## **Participation in international conferences**

### ■ **World Conference on Mechanical Engineering "IWME-2015"**

The Chairperson of the Department of Mechanical Engineering and Mechatronics Mohamed Qarai'n and Research Assistant and Teaching Engineer Mohamed Wahid Odeh submitted a research paper on "Dew precipitation as a source of water in the central mountainous areas of the West Bank in Palestine"

### ■ **Conference on "Rewriting the Narrative: Higher Education for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century**

Professor of Education Khawla Shakhshir presented a paper entitled "Sustainable Development in Palestinian Higher Education" at the conference held at Malaysia.



### ■ **“Teaching Media in the Arab World between a Traditional and Revolutionary Style”**

Media Professors Bassam Owaida, Walid Al-Shurafa and Juman Kneis participated in the conference organized by the Deutsche Welle Academy and in partnership with the Higher Institute of Media and Communication in Rabat.

### ■ **“Special Education and the challenges of integration”**

An International Conference “Special Education and the challenges of integration” was held at the University of Abu Dhabi. Dean of the Faculty of Education Hasan Abdul Karim and Professor of Education Ahmed Fteihah participated and presented a paper entitled, “The challenges facing Palestinian school teachers in integrating students with learning difficulties and the role of school principals.”

### ■ **The Arab-Turkish Conference on Higher Education:**

The university was represented by the Dean of Graduate Studies, Talal Shahwan, discussing research cooperation between Arab and Turkish higher education institutions, exchange of students and professors, joint degrees, and distance education.

### ■ **The 50<sup>th</sup> Annual Scientific Conference of the European Association of Clinical Research, Birzeit University**

Department of Biology and Biochemistry chairperson Johnny Esteban represented the university. He also represented the university in the Golden Jubilee Conference of the 50th scientific meeting of the European Association for Clinical Research (CES).

### ■ The 18<sup>th</sup> Conference on Space Engineering and Modern Communications

The conference was organized by the International Academy of Science, Engineering and Technology in Paris, France. Mohammed Hussein from the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering participated in the conference, which aimed to bring together leading scientists, academics and researchers to share experiences and research results related to satellite and space communications.

### ■ Conference Wikiarabic 2016

The Chairperson of the Department of Biology and Biochemistry Johnny Esteban and students Doha Shallah and Tigrid Farid participated in the conference organized by the Wikimedia Group Sham in Amman, Jordan.







# Campus Life





Birzeit University organizes regular annual events, such as a yearly graduation ceremony, student council elections, and a jobs week. This academic year saw honors bestowed on Arab and Palestinian supporters of the university, and the remembrance by daughters of two professors who passed away after a long journey of generous giving.

### ■ Celebrating the Graduation of the 41<sup>st</sup> Class

The graduation celebration was a three-day event from May 20-22, 2016, in which 1,930 students graduated from eight faculties, including bachelor's and master's degree students. Female graduates accounted for 70% of the graduates.





## ■ Donation for a Modern Gymnasium

The businessman and BZU graduate Ali Al-Haj pledged one million dollars to support the building of a stadium and sports facility. The university decided to name the stadium as Ali Al Haj Stadium, in recognition of his generosity. The inauguration of this gym coincides with the start of the bachelor's degree program in Physical Education this academic year.

"Birzeit and Palestine have a special place in my heart, and my family appreciates education before anything else. We have worked hard to provide quality education for our children to be successful and self-reliant. [and we] have supported many students in the United States and in Palestine, so they can pursue their education."- Al Haj

## ■ Student Council Elections for 2016/2017

Birzeit University Student Council elections were held for the 2016/2017 year. The Al Wafa' Islamic Group, the student arm of Hamas, won 25 seats with a total of 3,481 votes over Yaser Arafat's Fateh Movement, which won 21 seats, with a total of 3,035 votes.

**In total, six student blocs competed in this year's elections to win the 51 student council seats:**

- Martyr Yasser Arafat Bloc
- Al-Wafa' Islamic Bloc
- The Progressive Democratic Student Bloc (Al-Qutob)
- The Birzeit University Student Alliance
- The National Student Initiative Bloc
- The Palestine for all Bloc







### ■ International Taekwondo Championship

On July 17, 2016, Birzeit University hosted the first international championship of the Taekwondo G1, which was held by Palestine for the first time in tournament history - the first Arab country to host this major sports event. Thirteen countries participated in the event.

The tournament is the most important sporting event ever hosted by Palestine. All teams ranked internationally under the banner of the International Federation of the Taekwondo Game participated, after Palestine was adopted by the World Taekwondo Federation (WTF).

### ■ Annual Career Week

In May of each year, the university organizes Employment Week, hosting a large number of companies and institutions for hundreds of interviews with university graduates and students from all disciplines.



## ■ Exhibitions

### A pursuit towards positive, social, cultural change

- **The “Unlike Other Springs” Exhibitin:** Birzeit University Museum celebrated the 20-year anniversary of its art collection, which was started in 1994 with a generous donation by Swiss artist René Feurer. “Unlike Other Springs,” an exhibition curated by Vera Tamari, shed light on the genesis and evolution of the museum’s art collection, showcasing the deep and historical relationship between Birzeit University and Palestinian, Arab and international artists.



- **The “Cities Exhibition: Gaza Reconstruction” Exhibitin:** Birzeit University Museum opened the fifth edition of “Cities Exhibition: Gaza Reconstruction”. The exhibition was an inquiry on the recurrent notion of destruction and reconstruction as a systematic reinstitution of societies and subjugation of local modes of resistance.
- **The “El Che, Endless Reader” Exhibitin:** The Museum hosted “El Che, Endless Reader” exhibition. The exhibition, curated by Ziad Yousef Haj Ali, aims to show a different face of the revolutionary icon, Ernesto Che Guevara. It contained unique photos depicting Guevara as an exceptional reader, in addition to letters written by him about his reading schedule, and his comrades’ comments on his reading habits.







# Engagement & Advancement



In order to enhance its local presence and better serve students and academics, Birzeit University during the academic year 2015/2016 signed several agreements and memoranda of understanding with various Palestinian and international institutions.

## International cooperation

- **French government cooperation**, offering scholarships to Birzeit University bachelor's and master's degree students. Outstanding students of the Faculty of Law and Public Administration have earned the following scholarships:
  - **Sorbonne University Scholarship for Academic Exchange** as part of the Erasmus Plus Program was awarded to students Ahmed Al-Shuwaiki, Amir Al-Azayzeh and Areen Moadi, all from the Law Department.
  - **International Support Fund at the Institute of Political Studies Awards in Rennes** awarded scholarships to Meral Abu Maizer and Hala Mari to study for one semester at the Institute of Political Studies in the French city of Rennes.
- Cooperation with the **University of Mohammed V, Morocco** through an executive agreement between the Birzeit University Faculty of Law and Public Administration and the Faculty of Legal Sciences at Mohammed V University.
- A memorandum of understanding with the **Open Society Institute** on "Gender and Reproductive Health."
- Cooperation between the Birzeit University Faculty of Pharmacy, Nursing and Allied Health Professions and the **Federation of Doctors and Pharmacists in Germany**, where Birzeit students visited several German field hospitals in Dortmund and Lippstadt. Five students were trained at these hospitals for three months.
- Cooperation between the various departments of the Birzeit University Faculty of Engineering and Technology and local, regional and international partners carrying out development and research projects within the **EU-Erasmus Plus project** for financial support. Several projects were funded from abroad, in partnership with several local, Arab and European universities, as listed below:
  - **Qatar National Research Fund** aims at building a specifications model and applying it to smart cities.
  - **Tempus Projects**: The Birzeit University Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering alongside the Computer Science Department are implementing two EU TEMPUS program projects on the development of curricula for a course in games in software engineering.
  - A project funded by **Tempus** to develop a master's program in electrical engineering, in partnership with local and European universities. The program was submitted to the Accreditation Authority at the beginning of 2015.
- Cooperation between the Architectural Engineering and the **University of Bourg-France**, as part of the draft memorandum of understanding with the University of Bourg-France (Re-Territories), which incorporates exchanges between the department and the University of Bourg.



- Birzeit University Ibrahim Abu Lughod Institute of International Studies is cooperating with educational institutions in South Africa through its African Studies Program to build collaborative relationships with educational institutions in South Africa in general, and the **University of Johannesburg** in particular. This program seeks to bridge the knowledge gap between South Africa and Palestine, and to benefit from South African experience in their struggle for freedom.
- As part of the Erasmus Plus Program, the Ibrahim Abu-Lughod Institute has cooperated with the **University of Siena in Italy**. A memorandum of understanding was signed to encourage exchange between the two universities, especially for master's degree students and faculty students.
- The Ibrahim Abu Lughod Institute collaborated with the **London School of Economics and Political Science** and the **British Research Council in the Levant**. Jason Hickle from the London School of Economics and Political Science was hosted for over a week, during which he delivered a series of lectures on international development and the global political economy.
- As part of a training project entitled "Youth for Change," the Birzeit University Center for Development Studies cooperated with the **German Quakers** and **BROT institution**. This project aims to cooperate in raising conceptual capacities and creating viable community initiatives
- Through the "Mainstreaming Development in the Palestinian Context" project, Birzeit University's Center for Development Studies worked with the **University of Vienna** to develop a Palestinian development agenda and to train researchers.
- Birzeit University signed a memorandum of understanding with the **Anti-Corruption Commission**, aiming at cooperating with the Birzeit University Media Development Center in order to enhance the media's monitoring role.



- The Birzeit University Institute of Environmental and Water Studies collaborated with the **Dutch government and non-governmental institutions** to strengthen relationships related to research studies or academic development, for the purpose of improving the performance of the water sector in Palestine.
- As part of the “iPIER” project with the **World Health Organization (WHO) – WHO Long Term institutional Development Program**, Birzeit University’s Institute of Community and Public Health has contributed in the fields of research development, capacity building and research opportunities. The project aims to collaborate in the analysis and evaluation of the types of reproductive health services provided at the primary health care level.
- Within the framework of the **Lancet Alliance for the Health of Palestinians**, the Institute of Public and Community Health is collaborating with researchers from different countries and universities. The aim of this cooperation is to build scientific research capacities in the field of health, conduct training workshops, and provide summaries of conferences. Moreover, there is cooperation with the **United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA)** to study the health situation of the Gaza Strip after the 2014 war. It also includes collaboration with **Kings College University in London** on the implementation of research projects and in monitoring and evaluating multi-family approaches to community-based rehabilitation in West Bank villages. There is further joint work on research projects with the **London School of Economics** that seek to gain new knowledge about the factors affecting women’s health in Palestine, especially those who marry under the age of 18.
- Cooperation between the Birzeit University Media Development Center and the **French Consulate** in partnership with **Radio Monte Carlo**, where 20 radio reports were presented and broadcast live. Moreover, the center maintained cooperation with the **Finnish Center for Continuing Education**, as part of the Media Education project on acquiring and developing new information about the media.
- The **Institute of Environmental and Water Studies** collaborated with Dutch universities in the second phase of the **Palestinian-Dutch Academic Partnership on Water (Paduco)** dealing with water scarcity as a major problem in the West Bank and, even more so, in the Gaza Strip. One of the most important areas of cooperation is scientific research and capacity building in Palestinian universities, in order to improve their performance in the Palestinian water sector service and benefit from the Dutch experience in this field.
- A memorandum of understanding was signed between the Birzeit University Faculty of Engineering and Technology and **Red Crow Community College** for research cooperation and training of students from the Computer Science Department by **Express Integrated Solutions**, and to develop a training program for students of the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering.





■ An agreement with the **Islamic Development Bank** was signed by Birzeit University to implement a rehabilitation project for the university's academic infrastructure. The value of the agreement is \$1.5 million and covers the academic infrastructure of the Engineering and Science Faculties and the university's computer network. The project is funded by the **Arab Bank for Economic and Social Development in Africa** and managed by the **Islamic Development Bank** and seeks to develop and improve the scientific laboratories and keep pace with worldwide technology development and scientific progress.

- As part of a proposed project submitted to Erasmus Plus, Key Action I, the Faculty of Engineering and Technology signed exchange agreements for faculty members and students of the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering with **Middlesex University in the UK** and with **Siegen University in Germany**, within a proposal submitted to the **German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD)**.
- Cooperation between the Faculty of Engineering and **Technology with the Consolidated Contractors Company (CCC)**. The company contributed to providing specialized training courses and sponsorship of Engineering Day on campus when the CCC interviewed and recruited a number of graduates in the fields of civil engineering, electrical engineering and mechanical engineering.
- Cooperation between the Faculty of Engineering and Technology with the **European Union (Erasmus+) Project** on development and research projects.
- A delegation from Birzeit University visited the **University of Tallinn and other academic institutions in Estonia** in October 2015. The delegation included Jihad Al-Aissa from the Public Administration Department, Amir Khalil from the Law Department, and Mustafa Jarrar from the Computer Science Department. The visit aimed to exchange knowledge and discuss academic cooperation in a number of areas, including e-governance, e-learning, IT laws, entrepreneurship and innovation. The visit was concluded with the idea of introducing a draft policy that could be presented to the Palestinian government on behalf of Birzeit University for the purpose of establishing a civil database for the Palestinian people in the diaspora that links them electronically.
- The Faculty of Education visited **Fontys University in the Netherlands** on April 27, 2016. Student Ahmed Fteihah and Professor Abdullah Bisharat from the Faculty of Education along with Professor Nabil El-Jundi from Hebron University, and **representatives of the University of Eastern Finland and the University of Canterbury in Britain** were all in attendance. The visit included training on the use of practical research in the educational process. It was part of the Erasmus Plus project that is mainly concerned with improving the quality of education in Palestinian universities, with the participation and support of three European universities and three Palestinian universities.





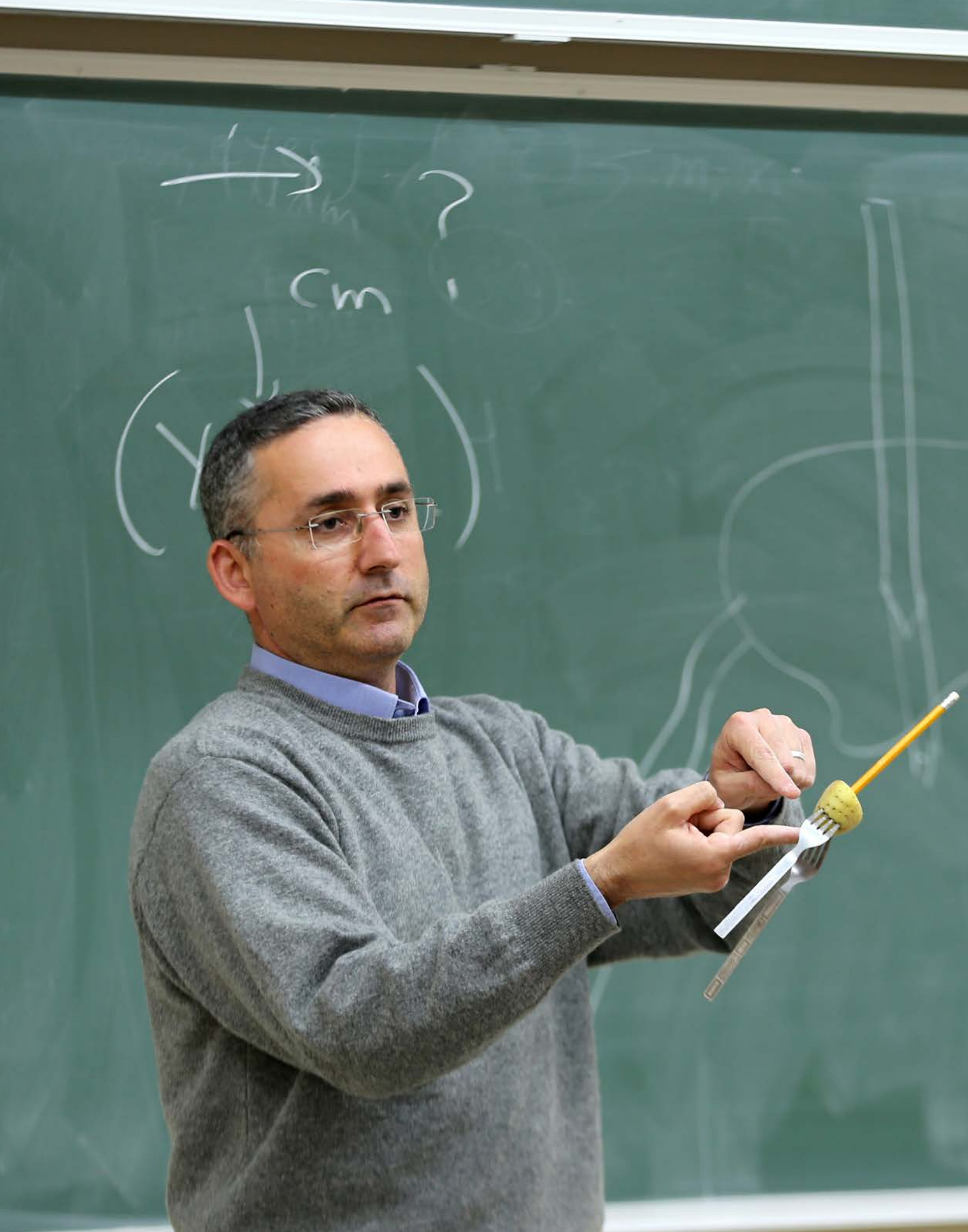
- The university and **Al-Bireh Municipality** have a signed agreement until the end of December 2017 to help Birzeit University solve some of its practical problems, and provide university students with practical experience in finding problems on the ground and developing solutions. The agreement aims to serve the public interest, benefit from the results, and apply student ideas in order to trigger their creativity and excellence.
- Cooperation with the Department of Modern Literature at the **University of Montpellier 3 in France**. Professor of French Language Basmah Al-Omari from the Department of French Language, and Assistant Dean of the Faculty of Arts at Birzeit University gave two lectures from September to October 2016. The first lecture was on fiction and non-fiction in Prisoner of Love, the book by Jean Genet, and the second was on language policies and teaching the French language in Palestine.
- Collaboration with the **University of Illinois Board of Trustees - Chicago** and Birzeit University Institute for Women's Studies signed a memorandum of understanding in June 2016, stipulating a five-year period of cooperative relationships. The cooperation will include the exchange of experiences between faculty members and students, research activities, and production of Joint academic materials.
- Cooperation agreement with **Matej** Bel University (Slovak), **Univerzita Mateja Bela in Slovakia**. This agreement is part of the university's vision of expanding its relations with international universities, emphasizing the importance of exchanging cultural, educational and scientific knowledge with international research universities, while encouraging the exchange of faculty members, researchers and students.
- A memorandum of understanding for cooperation with the **Economium Economic Networks** was signed by the Faculty of Business and Economics. The partner will provide training and employment opportunities for students and graduates of the faculty, and provide recommendations on courses and training that should be added to faculty curricula and programming, in order to provide students with the skills they need to compete in the labor market.
- A cooperation agreement with **MASDAR International Ltd.**, an international consulting company with substantial and extensive worldwide experience in rural development, was signed by the Birzeit University

Faculty of Business and Economics. The agreement supports the cooperative education program **Cooperative CO-OP Education**, which allows students to rotate over three semesters in work positions related to their academic specialization and obtain professional development.

- A memorandum of understanding with the **Palestinian Minister of Education and Higher Education** seeks to organize and strengthen cooperative relations between the ministry and the university in various fields of education and research. The agreement strengthens cooperation in teacher training, and training for supervisors, administrators and educational technicians that develops their pre- and post-service capacities, applied scientific research, vocational and technical education, developing educational resources and curricula enrichment.
- **The Birzeit Municipality Tourism Route Planning Project** is being developed through an agreement with the **Municipal Development Fund**. The project plans tourist routes in the Birzeit Municipality and maps them.
- The project on the Tal al-Tal site in the village of **Deir Dibwan** in Ramallah and Al-Bireh Governorate is being implemented in its first phase by Birzeit University **in cooperation with the Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities, funded by the Norwegian Norad Foundation**. The Tel Tal site is one of the oldest archaeological sites in Palestine, believed to be one of the urbanized locales in the Canaanite period. The project is expected to be completed within five years.
- The Faculty of Nursing, Pharmacy and Allied Health Professions and the **General Federation of Palestinian Doctors and Pharmacists - the German branch** signed a memorandum of understanding and joint cooperation to provide training for students of medical and nursing schools in Palestinian hospitals. The agreement is part of the framework of the desire of the General Federation of Physicians and Pharmacists in Germany to provide medical support to the Palestinian people, and as a contribution from the Palestinian community in Germany to help Palestinian students.
- An agreement between Defense for Children International - Palestine and the Faculty of Law and Public Administration at Birzeit University seeks to promote the rule of law and achieve national interests by preparing joint legal studies and research in areas related to the national and international rights of children.









# Community Outreach



**"Work for a cause, not for applause. Live life to express, not to impress..."**

Birzeit University centers, institutes and departments have responded to the surrounding community's needs by organizing activities, moving from the university campus outward, in order to benefit different segments of society.

## Initiatives by our Institutes and Centers

- **The Institute of Ibrahim Abu Lughod Institute of International Studies** organized a series of seminars on "The "Palestine and International Protection", "Deep State and Foreign Policy", and the "The Role of Civil Society in Palestinian Reconciliation". It also organized a number of lectures on the "Brazilian foreign policy towards the Syrian crisis", "Non-governmental organizations in Palestine", "Palestinian Diplomacy in the United Nations and its impact on the international community".
- **The Institute of Law** has organized a conference and workshop on various community service components, including: "Alternative Strategies for Justice in Palestine" and the "Birzeit Legal Knowledge Portal". The Institute also launched two campaigns:
  - "Tamanni - Wish" campaign to support children with cancer
  - A campaign to restore a piece of land next to Ein Boubin in the village of Deir Ibzea and plant it with vegetables and seasonal crops.



- **The Institute of Community and Public Health** has worked to develop a training program and provided technical support on national health policies, through the:
  - The integration of midwives into six public hospitals and the application of modern technology in maternity departments was implemented by the institute, which sought also to develop the public's knowledge, especially by supporting capacity building for maternal health providers in different hospitals.
  - Formulation of the National Policy for the Reduction of Chronic Diseases was carried out as technical support to the Palestinian Ministry of Health and UNRWA and included the monitoring and development of maternal mortality in Palestine and other countries.

■ **The Institute of Environmental and Water Studies** provided advisory services and raised the level of community awareness.

■ **The Testing Laboratories** has provides services in the following areas:

- **Nutrition:** food, drink, animal feed and raw materials used in the food industry.
- **Environment:** plants, soil, wastewater, chemicals, cleaning materials, cosmetics, personal care products, plastic and metal materials, and others.
- **Medications:** human and veterinary medicines.
- **Petroleum products and mineral oils.**



■ **The Center for Development Studies** has worked on expanding its work circle and implementing activities and workshops with the various segments of the Palestinian people, in cooperation with partners on youth and identity in Lebanon, Jordan, Palestine of 1948, in addition to the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

■ **The Media Development Center** has taken the lead on developing media policies in the government and private sector, including:

- Developing and Implementing the media component of the “Strategic Plan” of the Anti-Corruption Commission;
- Launching an electronic media education platform, in cooperation with the Finnish Foundation for Continuing Education, as part of the educational project “Civil Skills through Media Education in Palestine.” photo # 03

**The center also offered a number of local and international courses:**

- Social media course – offering strategies and tools to enhance students’ skills in the use of media and social networking
- Process of creating visual content
- Course on media and professional behavior ethics
- Journalistic writing arts
- Preparation of morning radio programs





- Production of television programs
- Preparation of economic reports
- Press report
- Several training courses on graphic television production
- Documentary film production
- Radio spot making

## Initiatives by the Deanship of Student Affairs

- **Raising awareness of the importance of early screening for breast cancer** is an initiative launched by the Deanship of Student Affairs in cooperation with the Faculty of Pharmacy, Nursing and Health Professions and Dunya Women's Cancer Center, as part of Global Breast Cancer Awareness Campaign, which takes place in October each year.
- **Friends of the Elderly Project** organized by the Deanship of Student Affairs on December 7, 2015, in cooperation with the Arab Women's Union in Al-Bireh provided student support for elderly women.
- **The Volunteer Group Highlights Project** was launched by the Deanship of Student Affairs in March 2016 in partnership with the Ministry of Social Affairs and the Municipality of Al-Bireh, seeking to support local social institutions.

- **Earth Week**, organized by the Deanship of Student Affairs in April 2016, was held in cooperation with Arab Youth - Our Country Haifa.



- **Olive Harvesting campaigns** organized by the Cooperative Work Program organized students to visit several villages, including the university campus, and support residents by harvesting olives. The campaigns reflect the university's historical relationship with the person, an approach adopted by the university since the 1970s.

"Community service has taught me all kinds of skills and increased my confidence. You do out there and think on your feet, work with others and create something from nothing. That's what life is all about." – Actor and entrepreneur Andrew Shue.







# Facts & Figures



2015/2016



## Academic Programs

# 99

Academic programs

## 65

Bachelor's programs

## 30

Master's programs

## 1

PhD program

## 2

Diploma programs

## 1

International students program



## Campus

Campus Size

# 800

donums



## 70%

Green gardens and open areas

# 25

Main buildings contain

## 8

Faculties

## 8

Institutes

## 5

Centers

## 4

Libraries

## 6

Cafeterias



Clinic



Museum



Auditorium



Observatory

## 4

Sports fields



Gymnasium



Wastewater treatment plant



## Faculty and Staff

# 529

Full-time and part-time faculty members



# 520

Full-time and part-time administrative staff





## Student Body

Enrolled students

# 13,963

# 10,710

Undergraduate students

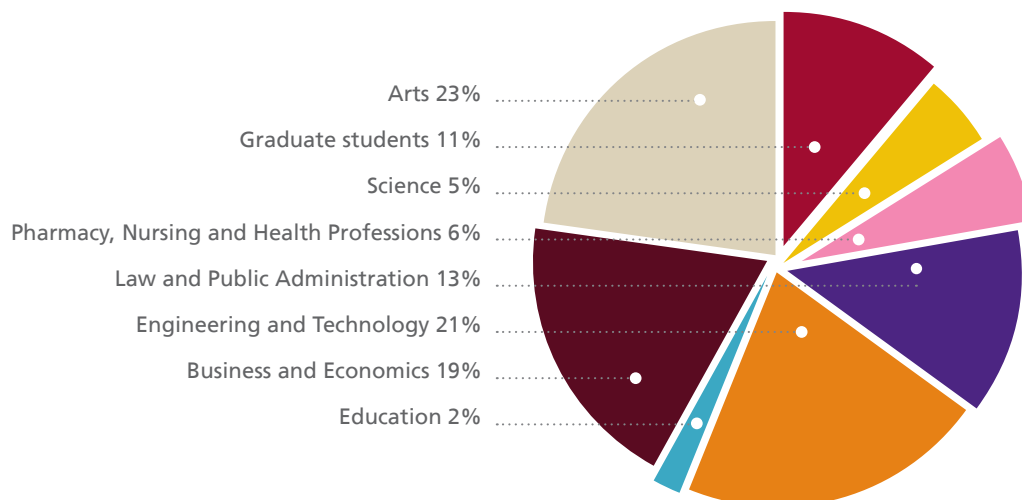
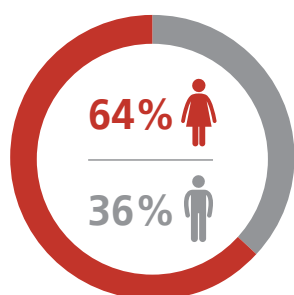
# 1,290

Graduate students

# 101

Diploma and other programs

### Undergraduate students by faculty



## Alumni

Around

# 32,000

Graduates / bachelor's  
and master's degrees

from the academic year 1975/1976  
until the academic year 2014/2015



## Student Financial Aid

# 3.3

Million Jordanian Dinars  
(around \$4.7 Million USD)

Academic year 2014/2015



## 45%

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](http://www.birzeit.edu)