



Annual Report **2017 - 2016**

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Message from the President



Birzeit University is home to a community of entrepreneurs and inquisitive faculty and staff, with their own distinctive history built on the ideals of liberalism, freedom and democracy. This unique, diverse environment fuels our ability to contribute to finding solutions for society's most daunting contemporary and not-yet-known problems.

The work of the university and its faculty spans a broad range of disciplines, and seeks to address scientific, societal and cultural questions of our time.

This report outlines some of our achievements and progress over the past year. It provides an update on what sets us apart from our peers in Palestine and the world.

It was a significant year in terms of academic accomplishment and student initiative. Together, we took major steps to move the university forward and, as we continue into the New Year, I would like to acknowledge the ongoing commitment and dedication of our faculty, students, staff and supporters.

Abdullatif Abuhijleh
President

Introduction

This report aims to showcase Birzeit University's achievements in the academic year 2015/2016. Through academic development, research and studies, a national and societal role, community outreach, scientific and literary awards, cultural and artistic activities, and international cooperation, the university has surpassed its goals critical to meeting its mission and vision.

Our Vision

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

Our Mission

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.

Our 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 and equality
- Freedom of expression
- Integrity and professionalism
- Diversity
- Sustainable development
- Lifelong learning



University History

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 to be both co-ed and encompass secondary school. Its name was changed to "Birzeit College" in 1942, although it remained a secondary school.

In 1953, the institution offered its first college-level course, to be followed in 1961 by another. In 1972, steps were taken to expand 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 candidates, and 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 comprises eight faculties that 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



During the academic year 2016-2017, we continued to pursue our mission of excellence by launching new academic programs, inaugurating buildings, and enhancing our infrastructure. This quest maintains our local reputation as Palestine's best university, and has put us on the map among the best universities in the world.



Breaking into QS World University Rankings

Birzeit University was listed, for the first time ever, in the 14th edition of the "QS World University Rankings 2018." Chosen from 26,000 universities worldwide, the university was ranked among 950 of the best universities in the world.

The university was also named among 32 of the most prominent Arab universities from 12 different countries, out of a total of 500 other Arab universities.

■ Laying the Cornerstone for Palestine-India Techno Park

The Palestine-India Techno Park will help in creating work, business, and other innovative opportunities for young Palestinians. The project will also enhance the infrastructure of the 20 dunums of land offered by Birzeit University.

“The park will complement Birzeit’s mission to reach out to the Palestinian community [and] bring knowledge to those in the fields of science, technology and economy.”

Hanna Nasir, Head of BoT

The park will provide a stimulating environment facilitating innovation and contributing to the creation of new jobs and enhanced economic viability. It will nurture innovation-led programs across knowledge-based industries and develop synergies in the creative and technology clusters.

■ Launching Open Access Repository “Fada”

Birzeit University’s library recently launched the open access repository “FADA,” which is housed online at fada.birzeit.edu. This new institutional repository will aggregate and disseminate the wealth of scholar knowledge created by the university’s faculty, staff and students. “FADA” or “space” in Arabic, welcomes materials of scholarly focus, including published journal articles, working papers, reports, studies, projects, multimedia content and datasets.

■ Building a New Faculty of Law and Public Administration

Palestinian businessman Riad T. Al Sadik contributed generously to the establishment of the four-story, 5,200-square-meter Riad Tawfik Al-Sadik Faculty of Law and Public Administration. The faculty includes tens of bachelor and master’s programs, and is comprised of three departments (Law, Public Administration and Political Science).



■ Ranking First Locally, and Second among Arabs in Arabic Debating

Birzeit University students added another accolade, ranking first among Palestinians, second among Arabs, and fourth among the world's universities in the Fourth International Universities Arabic Debating Championship in Qatar. The five-day championship brought together 84 universities from 46 Arab and foreign countries with 87 teams competing for the title.

Students Omran Tamimi, Amjad Abu Lafi, Yasmine Khamis and Dalia Hamayel, supervised by the head of the political science department Abdel Rahman Haj Ibrahim, shone in the championship.



Faculty & Staff Excellence

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



■ Faculty Member Wins Award for Best Paper at Human Rights Conference

Public Administration professor Luna Shamieh won the Best Paper Award in the 18th International Conference on Human Rights and Human Security 2016 in France. Shamieh presented her research on human security providers in fragile states under asymmetric war conditions.

■ Library Director Takes Second Prize Among Arab Librarians

Director of Yusuf Ahmad Al Ghanim Library Diana Nasir Sayej took second prize for the Pioneer Women Librarian Award for 2017, organized by the Library Experts Organization in the Arab world.



■ Physical Education Instructor Earns Jiu-Jitsu Black Belt

Professor of physical education Rami Shouli earned the Brazilian Jiu Jitsu black belt at the World Jiu-Jitsu Championship in Dubai. More than 7,000 participants from over 100 countries attended the championship.

■ Environmental Professor Wins Prestigious Arab Award for Scientific Research

Institute of Environmental and Water Studies professor Maher Abu Madi won the Federation of Arab Scientific Research Councils award in 2016 for his contribution to the water sector. Abu Madi won the award for his research entitled, "Farm-level perspectives regarding irrigation water prices in Tulkarem District - Palestine."



Exceptional Learners

Winning for Innovation and Distinction

SummaryTasksScoreboardOwn SubmissionsAnnouncements1HelpPhotos

Rank 2164 / 4289 (Score: 0)Server time: 08:59:30

Show Me








Teams

Palestinian Territory

All regions

Find team...

Show scores on tasks

Rank	Team	Score (Penalty)	University	Region
1	 BZUOneLastTime	1377.93 (12621)	Birzeit University	(R8) Africa, Europe, Middle East
2	 BZUc137	1260.31 (11172)	Birzeit University	(R8) Africa, Europe, Middle East
3	 BZUNaturalIntel	1027.13 (7029)	Birzeit University	(R8) Africa, Europe, Middle East
4	 BZUY2EZ	986.26 (7660)	Birzeit University	(R8) Africa, Europe, Middle East
5	 BZUmms	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	 Monarchs	663.27 (2972)	An-Najah National University	(R8) Africa, Europe, Middle East

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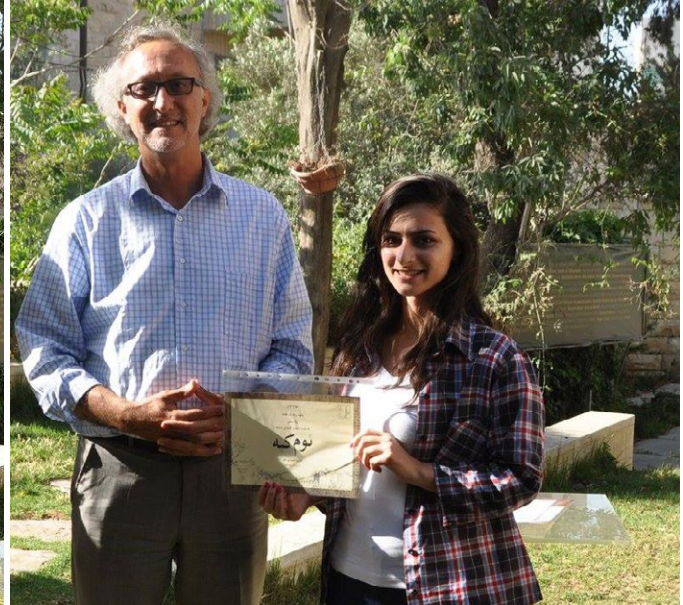
Go

- Birzeit University students took first place nationally, and ranked 93rd globally, in the international **IEEEExtreme competition**, which is organized by the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers.



- For the third year in a row, Birzeit University political science students competing in the **Cairo International Model Arab League**, held on November 15-19, 2016 at the American University in Cairo, earning two awards for best representation and best delegation.

Roxana Salameh, Mariam Abu Laban, and Mai Al Saghir represented the university on three different councils: the Council of Arab-Iranian Affairs, the Council of Joint Defense, and the Council on Counter-Terrorism.



- Architectural engineering students at Birzeit University won the first and second prizes in the 2017 **Tom Kay award** for free architectural drawing.
- Israeli Studies master's students Marah Khalifeh and Faris Shomali were named the winners of the **Elias Khoury Award for Distinguished Students**.
- Graduate and teaching assistant in the Department of Architectural Engineering Hussam Barham was named the first-place winner of the **Competition for the Reconstruction of Destroyed Palestinian Villages** in London. The award is given to the best design reconstructing Palestinian villages destroyed in 1948.

QULA VILLAGE REGAINED AND DESIGNED

MASTER PLAN

agricultural lands, forest, park, forest, forest

Listening to stories of people from Qula Village and translating their memories into architecture. The main force for my concept was to restore Palestinian memories by using elements of the traditional Palestinian architecture, in which the old will mix with the new to sustain the Palestinian heritage. Therefore, the overall design is a reflection of the Palestinian collective memory.

RESIDENTIAL AREA

COURTYARD

SOCIAL PUBLIC SPACES

MOSQUE

PALESTINIAN MARKET

CHURCH

COMMERCIAL CENTER

MEMORIALS IN FOREST

USE OF BRICK, STONE AND ARCHITECTURE

Old Village reconstructed

A contemporary blend between the traditional and the modern.

VIVIDNESS AND INTERACTIVITY

The sense of community is generated by merging people and space through the formal and informal activities that aim to revive and reinforce the Palestinian memory

The demolished houses were reconstructed in their same exact location, starting from the same demolished stone, and continuing with modern building materials.

PALESTINE LAND SOCIETY COMPETITION: THE RECONSTRUCTION OF PALESTINIAN VILLAGES DESTROYED IN 1948

ARWA QALALWA

- For excelling in creativity in arts, Mohammad Al Hasni and Hasan Al Barham, two architectural engineering students, were awarded the **Yousef Nawas Award for Innovation**, an annual award presented by Birzeit University. Hasni has shown creativity in visual arts and painting, while Al Barham has excelled in composing music, playing the violin, and painting.
- Two student teams from the Faculty of Engineering and Technology won second and third places in the **ACM International Collegiate Programming Contest**, held at An-Najah National University. Both teams, from the Department of Computer Science and the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering, were selected to participate in the regional competition in Egypt.
- Two teams from the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering won the first and second place in the **local Microsoft Imagine Cup competition**, which included contending teams from Palestinian universities. Qusay Safa, Riyadh Yahya, and Omar Muhtaseb took first place, while Sarah Yaseen, Ali Nobani, and Ameer Alqam took second.
- Mohammad Al Hosni, a student in the Department of Architectural Engineering, was awarded second prize by the 2017 **Freedom Award**, organized by the Commission of Detainees and Ex- Detainees Affairs. The award seeks to highlight the prisoners' cause through arts and culture.
- Mohammad Abdeh, a mechanical engineering student, won the **IMS Manufacturing Competition**, one of the challenges organized under the 2016 Fifth Annual Arab Innovation Network Conference, held in Amman, Jordan.
- A team of students from the Department of Architectural Engineering at Birzeit University designed and built a **diorama that was placed in the Samir Aweidah Garden** on university campus. Supervised by Samer Wanan and Abdallah Hammad, two instructors in the department, the project served to connect students with the university's green spaces.
- A team of 11 architectural engineering students at Birzeit University participated in the **7th Jury Tour Day**, an annual competition organized by the Architectural Forum Mediator in Amman, Jordan, which involves group design projects. Amjad Alyan and Zaina Al Khatib, two team members, received recognition for having one of the top ten academic architectural projects out of 90 submissions.
- Maha Zayoud, a student enrolled in the Master in Physics Program at Birzeit University, finished a summer training course at the **European Organization for Nuclear Research, also known as CERN**. While there, Zayoud researched the properties of particles that emerge from the collision of hydrogen atoms.



Distinguished Graduates

- **Graduate Recognized as Best Female Reporter of 2016:** Birzeit University graduate Zeina Sandouka was recognized as the Best Female Arab Reporter of 2016, an award bestowed by the Princess Bassma bint Talal in Jordan.
- **Law Graduate Wins Honors for Best Master's Dissertation from SOAS University:** Birzeit University Master of Law alumna Tamara Tamimi received honors from SOAS University of London for Best Thesis Dissertation. Tamimi's thesis focused on the legal implications of Israel's violent practices against Palestinians, such as house demolitions, house evictions, revocation of residency and imposition of limitations on registration of newborns, based on the resources of international law, and the Charter of the United Nations.
- **Graduate Wins International Award for Best Documentary:** Media graduate Elia Ghorbiah won the Emerging Film Director Award at Al Ard Documentary Film Festival for her short documentary, "The Bitter Ink."
- **Architecture Magazine Features Student Project on Colonialism:** Funambulist Magazine, a bimестrial magazine that examines the political relationships between the designed environment and surrounding bodies, has published the graduation project of Adele Jarrar and Haneen Odetalla, two Birzeit University architecture students, in the March 2017 issue under the theme "Architecture and Colonialism."
- **First Falling Walls Lab Palestine Awards Business Graduate:** Mohammad Daghamin, a graduate of Birzeit University's Faculty of Business and Economics, won first prize in the first Falling Walls Lab Palestine for his concept of a fiber optics display.



- **Energy-Production Project Breaks Ground, Wins Prize:** Rowayda Ali, a graduate of the Institute of Environmental and Water Studies, took first place in the locally-held International Energy Competition for her project, "Biogas Production from Poultry Manure Using a Novel Solar Assisted System." The project was supervised by Dr. Rashed Al-Sa'ed, director of the institute, and funded by the Scientific Research Committee at Birzeit University.
- **Graduate Takes Gold for Environmental TV Show:** Nimer Ameen, a graduate of the Department of Media, was awarded the gold for his show, "My Environment," at the Cairo Artworks and Media Mondial.

Innovative Designs

- **Automatic Wall Sanding Machine:** Mohammad Abdeh, Fadel Ajouli, and Dana Al Ramahi, three students from the Department of Mechanical and Mechatronics Engineering, designed a machine that automatically transfers and applies coating to the walls.
- **A "Smart" Traffic Controller:** Sundos Dahbour, Yara Al Shaf'l, and Raghad Qutaina, three electrical engineering majors, designed and tested a "smart" automatic traffic controller for use in cities. The project, which directs both automotive and pedestrian traffic, was supervised by Iyad Tumar, a professor of electrical and computer engineering at Birzeit University.
- **Application for Measuring Heart Size:** Three students from the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering, QusaySafa, Riyadh Yahya, and Omar Muhtaseb, under the supervision of Electrical and Computer Engineering Instructor Aziz Qaroush, created an application that measures the size of the human heart by taking advantage of magnetic resonance imagery.



- **Application that Manages Patient Data:** Three electrical engineering majors at Birzeit University, Eman Abu Ayyash, Salam Radaidah, and Vivian Dawood, developed an application that controls and manages access to patient data. The project was developed under the supervision of Jamal Seyam, assistant professor in the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering.
- **Video-Compression Software:** Saja Al Junaidi, Eman Qundah, and Tala Tarazi created a program that compacts videos by removing irrelevant frames. Developed under the supervision of Radi Jarrar, a professor of computer science at Birzeit University, the program analyzes videos through specialized algorithms and deletes any frames that are unnecessary for the viewer.
- **Robot that Cleans Hard-to-Reach Solar Panels:** Musalem Barghouthi, a student in the Mechanical and Mechatronics Department, designed a robot for cleaning solar panels. This new competitive technology mitigates the adverse effects of dust, which reduces the effectiveness of photovoltaic cells in solar panels. The robot is able to clean all panels of different sizes and shapes, and, with increased effectiveness, will help expand the use of solar panels and green energy.
- **“HAT Society” Brings Students and Teachers Together:** Hadeel Musleh, Amneh Salameh, and Tasneem Barghouthi, three computer science majors, built a social media platform for use in academic settings. The platform helps students, professors, and researchers to connect outside of the traditional classroom setting.
- **Stone Crusher for Farm Use:** Sameh Abu Ghosh, Suhaib Mansour, Basil Dalbah, and Mahdi Al Salem, from the Department of Mechanical and Mechatronics Engineering, designed a machine that can grind large stones into smaller, more easily-managed ones. The machine is primarily designed for use on farms, and can be attached to the back of a farm tractor.



- **Social Media Fact Checker:** Three Birzeit University computer engineering majors, Israa' Elayyan, Wafa Abu Makhrou, and Izdihar Shnaine, designed a real-time fact checker that specializes in Arabic content. The program, supervised by Mohammed Hussein, an assistant professor in the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering, was developed with the help of Mahdi Washaha, a Ph.D. candidate at the University of Toulouse and a social media expert.
- **Construction Management of Tunnel Network in Qatar:** Mus'ab Maraqa, Abdelhamed Mimi, and Mohammad Musleh, three civil engineering majors at Birzeit University, presented a detailed schedule for completion, bills of quantity, and bills of material for Lusail, a planned city in Qatar. The team enlisted the help of Emad Hamdan, an engineer who works with the Consolidated Contractors Company, and their project supervisor, Mustafa Abed Musa, an instructor in the Department of Civil Engineering.

World Rankings

- Based on the **Google Scholar** citation data issued in the current edition (December 2017) by Webometrics, Birzeit University was first among nine Palestinian universities that entered the ranking list of this year, and the 29th among Arab universities. Globally, the university has been ranked 1,598 out of more than 5,000 world universities.
- Birzeit University claimed the top spot in social media penetration and interaction, leading all Palestinian universities for the second year in a row, according to **Social Palestine 2017**, an annual report on social media in Palestine. Birzeit University's Facebook page, "Birzeit University," is the leading social media page among local universities, based on the number of followers, interaction, and access.
- According to **SCOPUS**, the largest international abstract and citation database, 83 studies by Birzeit University were published in significant international journals, which is an increase in the number of publications by 25% since 2015.
- Birzeit University Open Access Repository "FADA" topped local university repositories, and was ranked 15th among Arabs in the Ranking Web of Repositories issued by **Webometrics Ranking of World Universities**. Globally, the university's rank was 1,425.





Teaching & Learning



The university continues to promote equitable and engaged teaching, and support students across the curriculum as they take ownership of their learning. Every Birzeit University student develops the critical reflection that marks deep, creative participatory learning.

New Academic Programs



● New English Language Curricula “UNLOCK” Elevates Instruction

A new English language education program for undergraduates, aligned with the common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR) was deployed at the university. It includes six levels of language attainment starting from level A1 at the basic user level to level C2 at the proficient user level of English language competence.

● New “Media Program” Provides Students with Interdisciplinary Knowledge

The media department is now offering an interdisciplinary curriculum in media theory, design, and practice with an emphasis on the production of video, audio, and web-based and mobile-based media. Journalists will be qualified to work in interdisciplinary careers, i.e., in television, radio, print and electronic media, social media, and mobile-based media.



● Chinese Joins Seven Foreign Languages Taught

Birzeit University began offering Chinese language instruction through the support of China's representative in Palestine.

"A new language is a step forward as the university develops into a full-fledged, global university, offering distinctive high-quality education"-

Majdi Abu Zahra, Head of the Department of Languages and Translation.

● Mechanical and Electrical Engineering Programs Earns ABET Accreditation

The two programs have earned the seal of the Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology (ABET) for six years until September 2023.



● Executive MBA Program is First in Palestine

The program, the first in Palestine, is tailored for professionals with extensive executive experience in the Palestinian marketplace with the purpose of enhancing their collective business acumen through a series of specialized courses that meet their ever-changing needs.

● Master's Degree in Law and Economics Adds to Interdisciplinary Offerings

The new program combines the foundations of law with modules in economics, aiming to develop students' academic capacities and research skills by blending specializations, which will eventually help those who work in economic policymaking.

● Master's Program in Government and Local Governance Targets Mid-Career Students

The new program will provide the public and private sector with an advanced body of knowledge and skills to implement comprehensive national strategies that reform local entities and achieve sustainable development. The program specifically targets employees in the private sector, local government sector, the private sector, and public administration and administrative sciences graduates.

Research & Scholarships

● **Zamalah Fellowship Program:** 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. The program trains fellows at prestigious international institutions for a duration ranging from two months to a full academic year. Fellowships were awarded in 2015 to the following faculty members:

Fellow Name	Fellow's Faculty
Mary Abedrabu	Faculty of Nursing, Pharmacy and Health Professions
Arwa Abu Khweek	Faculty of Science/ Department of Biology and Biochemistry
Johnny Stiban	Department of Biology and Biochemistry
Thaer Assi	Samih Darwazeh Institute of Industrial Pharmacy

● **Erasmus+ Program:** A European Union student exchange program that offers students in Bachelor, Masters and PhD programs the opportunity to study at European and non-European universities. This year:

- **37** students from Birzeit University benefited from exchange opportunities to European universities
- **8** international students got the opportunity to study at Birzeit University (1 PhD, 4 Masters, 3 Bachelor)
- **25** professors from Birzeit University went to partner universities in Europe, where 11 international professors were hosted at Birzeit University

Scholarships & Fellowships

- Nursing professors participated in a training workshop about traditional medical policies and alternative therapy management in China
- A number of female students, teaching assistants, and professors from the Computer Science Department participated in the fifth Annual International Conference on Arab Women in Computing (ARABWIC), held at the American University in Beirut
- Birzeit University's physics professor Edward Sader, and lecturer Doa Abu Murra and lecturer Areej Abdelrahman participated in the Fifth International Conference on Advanced Technology and Science (ICAT'17) in Istanbul, Turkey

- French language faculty participates in workshops and lectures at French and Belgian universities
- Physics students participated in the First Arab Winter School for Astrophysics at Cadi Ayyad University in Morocco
- Seven faculty members won the HESPAL Scholarship to study at UK higher education institutions
- Masters students attended a post-graduate diploma program in international gender studies at the University of Iceland under the Erasmus+ exchange program
- Geography professor Marwan Ghanem took a teaching staff opportunity at the University of Barcelona
- Delegation from Birzeit University discussed prospects for academic interactions between universities at International Networking Week held at the University of Duesto in Spain
- Delegation from the Faculty of Education at Birzeit University visited Canterbury Christ Church University in Kent, UK
- The Head of the Department of Biology and Biochemistry at Birzeit University Johnny Stiban participated in the Young Scientist Networking Meeting 2017 in Barcelona, Spain.
- Through the Erasmus+ Project entitled "Develop Business and Economic Research Centers Capacity at Palestinian Higher Education Institutions (BERC)," four professors from the Faculty of Business and Economics participated in a session at the University of L'Aquila in Italy
- Birzeit University Museum collections custodian Ayman Alshweiki participated in a workshop on cultural heritage and museum studies, held in China
- Three faculty members participated in a seminar on University Governance Capacity building for Developing Countries at Zhejiang Normal University in China





- Media professor and coordinator of research and studies in 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 by UNESCO.
- Faculty members participated in the British Council’s annual “Going Global” Conference held at the Queen Elizabeth II Centre in London. The delegation explored the conference theme “Global Cities: Connecting Talent Driving Change.”

Lectures & Conferences

“Palestine in a Changing World”:

Organized by the Ibrahim Abu-Lughod Institute of
International Studies



University president Abdullatif Abuhijleh pointed in his welcoming remarks to major changes underway in the international system, which are vital for academic institutions to discuss and analyze vis-a-vis the Palestinian cause, especially that the country is located in the center of the complicated and tense regional and international systems.

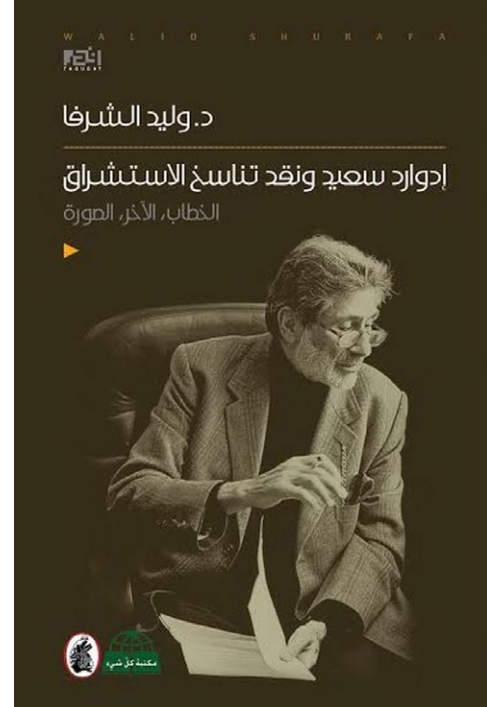
- **“Are Palestinian Universities in Crisis?”:** The 22nd annual Muwatin Institute for Democracy and Human Rights conference marks the gradual integration of the programs of the Palestinian Institute for the Study of Democracy (Muwatin) into the programs of Muwatin Institute for Democracy and Human Rights at the university. The conference brought together a number of academics and officials to explore key questions around the complex challenges faced by higher education in Palestine. One of the main focuses of the conference was a collective analysis of the conditions for higher education in Palestine and the role of the government and political elites. Panelists spoke of the dwindling role of the Palestinian government in supporting higher education, which negatively affects the quality and quantity of education and research at universities, and all participants emphasized the need for a collective effort between academic institutions and the private and public sector to overcome hurdles and enhance the efficiency of higher education institutions.



- **First international conference to discuss the question of government effectiveness under occupation:** Organized by the Faculty of Law and Public Administration at Birzeit University, the conference discussed the process of creating public policy under the occupation.
- **“The Law of the Occupier - The Israeli Hegemony Apparatus and Palestinian Countermeasures”:** The conference was organized by students in the Israeli Studies Master’s Program, and introduced various analytical methods to study and investigate Israeli measures.
- **“Palestinian Youth Conference - Identity, Space & Collective Participation”:** Based on a study by the Center of Development Studies targeting historical Palestine and the Palestinian refugee camps in Lebanon, the conference aims to present analytical papers on the effects of social fragmentation on the Palestinian identity.
- **Second Idea Factory Conference - “Made in Birzeit - Organic Thoughts”:** The conference concentrated on the role of the youth in shaping the future and actively engaging within the public sphere.
- **The Eighth Lancet Palestinian Health Alliance (LPHA) Conference - “Health of Palestinians Inside and Outside the Occupied Palestinian Territory”:** Organized by the Institute of Community and Public Health at Birzeit University, the conference was attended by local, regional, and international researchers committed to the best scientific practices that were utilized to evaluate the health and healthcare of Palestinians.

Publications

- **"Edward Said and Criticism of the Reincarnation of Orientalism":** Written by Professor of Media Dr. Walid Shurafa, the book criticizes the reincarnation that took place in the re-production of the East based on the major theoretical theses introduced by Said in his book "The World, Text and Criticism."
- **"The Archival Globalization of Palestine: Towards a Chaotic Order":** Released by The Ibrahim Abu Lughod Institute of International Studies at Birzeit University, the book was edited by Professor of History Dr. Roger Heacock.
- **"Reintegration of Women Survivors of Gender-Based Violence: Combating Violence against Women in Palestinian Society":** Published by the Institute of Women's Studies at Birzeit University, the book includes a study conducted by Nida' Abu Awwad, a member at the institute, and field researchers Eman Assaf and Arine Howari.
- **Translation of "The Notebooks of Malte Laurids Brigge" by Rainer Maria Rilke:** Translated to Arabic by Professor of Modern Literature Dr. Ibrahim Abu Hashhash, the novel is a great addition to the corpus of the Arabic language.
- **Research published in the Turkish Journal of Physics:** The research paper, published by Professor of Physics Hazem Abu Sara, in cooperation with Dr. Shaked Ahmad from the Aligarh Muslim University in India, concentrates on the stability of heavy elements and magic numbers by using the probability density function.
- **Special edition of the Journal of Palestine Studies:** The edition included a number of studies published by the Center for Development Studies on alternatives to neo-liberal development in the occupied Palestinian territory.





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, which develop and enrich Palestinian identity and heritage.

Graduation Celebrations of the 42nd Class



Birzeit University held its annual graduation ceremony over three days. The ceremony saw around 2,000 students awarded graduate and postgraduate degrees, joining over 35,000 Birzeit University alumni.

2017-2018 Student Council Elections



Al Wafaa' Islamic Bloc won 25 out of 51 seats in Birzeit University Students Council elections. Competing factions Martyr Yasser Arafat got 22 seats and the Democratic Progressive Student Pole won four seats. Other competing blocs did not receive any seats. Head of the Elections Preparatory Committee and Dean of Student Affairs Mohammad Al-Ahmad said that 8,032 out of 10,859 eligible students to vote participated in the elections, with voting rates at 74%.

Festival

Organized by the Deanship of Student Affairs, the 6th Birzeit Nights Festival featured a number of shows and musical performances by Samer Jaradat, Sanaa Mousa, Somood Dabke Troupe, the Asayel Band, the Ouf Band, Funoneyat, Naqsh, Sareyyet Ramallah, and Wishah.



Exhibitions



■ 5th Edition Cities Exhibition: “Gaza - Reconstruction”

The Cities Exhibition was an inquiry on the recurrent notion of w destruction and re-construction as a systematic reinstitution of societies and subjugation of local modes of resistance. “Gaza – Reconstruction” questions whether the inevitable economic doctrine of reconstruction complements the perpetual Israeli military destruction of Gaza, by removing what is left of its social sphere and resilient communities.



■ Documenting the Kafr Qasim Massacre in Painting

On February 22, 2017, Birzeit University Museum launched a unique exhibition by artist Samia Halaby. In this exhibition, Samia Halaby used illustrations and detailed scenes to document a painful and largely undocumented historical event, the Kafr Qasim Massacre. The exhibition includes 16 prints as reproduction of her drawings, which will become a permanent part of the Birzeit University Museum collection and thus be forever present in the consciousness of future generations.



Performing Arts

■ “Where Can I Find Someone Like You, Ali?”

Raeda Taha offered a one-person show on the wide stage of Birzeit’s Nasib Aziz Shaheen Theatre, portraying the story of many Palestinian families torn between the public celebration of those who die fighting the Israeli occupation, and the private suffering of those they leave behind. Moving between narration and acting, Taha took the audience back in time to an important period of the Palestinian’s struggle against occupation. The play recalls her own childhood and living an open-ended fatherlessness in the name of the Palestinian cause.

■ “The Waste Container,” A Comedic Play

At the Naseeb Azeez Shaheen Auditorium, Al Harah Theater’s “The Waste Container” realistically portrayed the difficulties and challenges of Palestinian and Arab life. The comedy was directed by Firas Abu Sabah and performed by Aws Al-Zubaidy and Munther Bannourah.

■ “Return to Palestine”

The Freedom Theatre’s “Return to Palestine” was performed at Birzeit University as part of annual Cultural Week.

■ **"Abu Al Khairazan" Play**

"The Travels of Abu Al Khairazan," performed at Birzeit University, brought the difficulties of living in the Yarmouk Camp to life. It hauntingly explored the destruction of entire neighborhoods, and the dilemma of waiting for certain death or escaping and leaving everything behind.

Music Performances

■ **Baltic Sea Philharmonic**

Gidon Kramer, the famed violinist, and the Baltic Sea Philharmonic performed their first ever rendition in Palestine in the Naseeb Azeez Shaheen Auditorium. The performance is part of Kramer's world tour, which includes over 35 countries, in honor of him turning 70 and the Baltic Sea Philharmonic turning 20.

■ **"Choral al-Thawra" Concert**

Organized by the Edward Said National Conservatory of Music, Palestinian band "Choral al-Thawra" sang Palestinian national and revolutionary songs on the stages of Naseeb Azeez Shaheen Auditorium.



■ Palestinian-British Tenor Marwan Shamiyeh

As part of Edward Said National Conservatory's winter program, the notable Palestinian-British tenor Marwan Shamiyeh performed on the stages of Naseeb Azeez Shaheen Auditorium.

■ Palestinian National Orchestra

The Palestinian National Orchestra, conducted by Vincent de Kort and accompanied by Simon Shaheen, performed at Naseeb Azeez Shaheen Auditorium. The Palestinian National Orchestra is a festival orchestra, meaning it is not a permanent orchestra, but aims to meet once or twice a year to bring high quality professional music making to Palestinian communities, and provide an international platform to promote Palestinian cultural achievements worldwide.

■ Student Musicians with Conductor Ahmad Al-Khatib

Students in the newly-launched Birzeit University Music Program performed on the stage of Naseeb Azeez Shaheen Auditorium, led by international oud musician and conductor Ahmad Al-Khatib. Dean of the Faculty of Art Majdi Malki said that "this program creates unique opportunities for talented students and young musicians to be recognized in Palestine and overseas as leaders in their chosen artistic discipline."

■ Students with Irish Musicians

An Irish musical performance by the Arabic Music Program students alongside international musicians Niall Keegan and Avril McLoughlin offered a mixture of Irish and Palestinian folkloric tunes. It gave students an opportunity to present what they had learned over the preceding two semesters.





International Cultural Days

■ Maltese Cultural Day in Birzeit, Palestine

Celebrating the Maltese culture on campus, Birzeit University students, faculty and staff gathered to experience Maltese traditions, culture and literature during the "Maltese Cultural Day" organized by the Deanship of Student Affairs and the Palestine Arabic Studies Program (PAS).

■ Second Ecuador Cultural Week

"Latin countries have always great supporters of Palestine. It is vital to expand our academic networks with our peers."

Henry Giacaman, Vice President for Academic Affairs

Sporting Achievements

■ Women's Basketball Team Wins University Championship

Birzeit University's women's basketball squad won the university championship hosted on its home court. Three other teams played in the championship, Al Quds University, An Najah National University, and Bethlehem University. Birzeit's team tenaciously beat Bethlehem University in the final, with a score of 32 to 24.

■ Birzeit Ranks Second in Universities Union Soccer Finals

The finals were held on campus at Birzeit University with 11 teams from various Palestinian universities, and the home team came in second in the tournament.



Engagement & Advancement



Birzeit University regularly signs agreements and memorandums of understanding with local and international institutions and universities for programs that serve its community, bolster the exchange of ideas and values, and foster scientific research. In 2016/2017, Birzeit University signed more than 76 agreements with various local, regional, and international institutions.



- A memorandum of understanding between the Faculty of Law and Public Administration and **Matej Bel University**.
- A memorandum of understanding between the Institute of Women's Studies at Birzeit University and the **University of Illinois at Chicago** to promote research into women and conflict.
- A memorandum of understanding between Birzeit University and the **Palestinian Museum** to bolster cooperation between the two parties by connecting the university's various institutes and centers with the museum's staff and facilitating its services.
- An agreement between the Faculty of Law and Public Administration and the **Italian Development Cooperation** on promoting debates and a series of activities on capital punishment as part of the "Dignity" initiative.

- An agreement between the **OPEC Fund for International Development** and Birzeit University to develop the testing laboratories at the university.
- An agreement between the Center for Continuing Education at Birzeit University and **UNICEF** to develop the National Bank for Learning Objects.
- An agreement between the Center for Continuing Education at Birzeit University and the **International Education Association** to ensure quality education for Syria's young refugees in Jordan and Lebanon.
- A memorandum of understanding between the **Palestinian National Commission for Education, Culture and Science** and Birzeit University.
- An agreement between the **Palestinian Company for Veterinary Pharmaceuticals** and Birzeit University to develop new veterinary products and conduct new studies in veterinary therapy.
- An agreement between the **Cairo Amman Bank** and Birzeit University to sponsor the Leadership and Active Citizenship Program - Masari.





- A memorandum of understanding between Birzeit University and the **Palestine Monetary Authority** to enhance research on and promote awareness of the banking and financial sectors in Palestine.
- An agreement between Birzeit University and **Palolea Company** to develop new pharmaceutical and nutritional products, and conduct studies to advance new products manufacturing.
- An agreement between Birzeit University and the **Anti-Corruption Commission** to jointly develop new academic courses and conduct research and awareness projects to promote integrity, transparency, accountability to combat corruption.
- An agreement between Birzeit University and **Mohammed V University** in Rabat, Morocco, to promote academic exchange and joint research.
- An agreement between **Al Jazeera Media Network** and the Media Development Center at Birzeit University to hold training courses and professional seminars for Palestinian journalists.
- An agreement to develop cultural dialogue and **bolster cooperation between traditional craftsmen and the relevant institutions in Hebron**, with the aim of promoting creativity and design in the Old City.

- An agreement between Birzeit University and the **General Directorate of Police** to bolster cooperation between academia and the security sector, and build the capacities of both.
- An agreement between Birzeit University and the **Palestinian National Commission for Education, Culture and Science** to promote a joint academic conference on Arabic Language Teaching as a foreign language, which was held at Birzeit University.
- An agreement between Birzeit University and the **Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities** to train students on archiving, museum curating, national archives documenting, and tourist site management.
- Agreement between Birzeit University and **Beijing International Studies University** to facilitate student and faculty exchange, and promote joint research projects.
- Agreement between Birzeit University and the **University of Copenhagen** on student and faculty exchange, and joint academic research.
- Agreement between Birzeit University and the **University of Johannesburg** to establish an African studies center at the Ibrahim Abu-Lughod Institute of International Studies, and host joint academic conferences.

Birzeit University has also initiated a number of major research projects, such as:

- **The Research Output Management Through Open Access Institutional Repositories in Palestinian Higher Education Project**, which is implemented by the Faculty of Graduate Studies. The project began on October 15, 2016, and will end on October 14, 2019.
- **Raising the Quality of Teacher Education Programs in Palestine**, which is implemented by the Faculty of Education. The project began on October 1, 2014, and will end on October 14, 2018.
- **Pluralistic Memories in Palestine**, which is implemented by the Faculty of Arts. The project began on May 1, 2014, and will end on December 31, 2019.
- **Development of Health Informatics Integrated Curricula in Computing and Health-Oriented Undergraduate Degrees**, which is implemented by the Faculty of Engineering and Technology. The project began in 2015, and will end in 2018.



Community Outreach



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



■ Running in Pursuit of Education

Two thousands runners raced for education in the first marathon entitled “Run for Birzeit University.” The marathon, organized by Birzeit University Friend’s Association, was a sports fundraiser organized to support need-based scholarships for the university’s students.

■ Extending Continuing Education

Hundreds graduated with the professional diplomas offered by the university’s institutes and centers:

- The Center for Continuing Education graduated the sixth class of its sports management program.
- The first class graduated from the Center for Continuing Education program for improving local economies and enhancing competitiveness among municipalities.



- The Ibrahim Abu-Lughod Institute of International Studies graduated its first ever class with the “Strategy and International Communications Diploma.” Thirty-four students received their diplomas after two years of extensive theoretical, practical and interactive courses.
- The Center for Continuing Education and the Institute of Law celebrated the graduation of 150 participants with professional diplomas specialized in legislative drafting, legal skills, managerial skills and organizational development. The diplomas are part of the program “Strengthening the Rule of Law in the oPt: Justice and Security for the Palestinian People,” conducted with the United Nations Development Programme.

■ Engaging with the International Community

- Birzeit University’s Center for Continuing Education joined 15 countries from across the world to take part in “Ecopreneurs for the Climate 2016,” the Global Week of Green Business and the Climate Movement.
- The UNESCO-IHE Delft Institute for Water Education and the Institute of Environmental and Water Studies held a training workshop on the newly-launched “FAO Water Productivity Database (WaPOR),” a portal to monitor water productivity through open access to remotely-sensed derived data monitors and reports on agriculture water productivity.
- The Ibrahim Abu Lughod Institute for International Studies organized a number of lectures about various local and international issues, including:
 - A lecture series featuring Toby Dodge, a professor of International Relations at the London School of Economics and Political Science about Iraq, Libya and the birth of the Islamic State.

- A roundtable with chief economist of the World Bank's Middle East and North Africa Region, Shanta Devarjan.
- A symposium on the 40th anniversary of the disappearance of the Palestinian revolutionary Hanna Mikhail "Abu Omar," highlighting the role of intellectuals in the Palestinian struggle after 1967.
- A lecture on "Illegalized Bodies Crossing the Mediterranean" featuring Maria Pisani, a Maltese professor in Community and Youth Studies that focused on securitization and the issue of national borders within the Maltese context.
- The Institute of Law hosted a number of events, public lectures and conferences focusing on legal and juridical issues such as:
 - The amendment to the honor killing law
 - Cybercrimes



- Diversion of land for colonial expansion
- The role of Group-77 in empowering international coordination and development
- Legalizing Israeli settlements
- The legal and social frameworks of the Palestinian Road Accident Casualties Compensation Fund

■ Student Enrichment & Community Outreach

The Deanship of Student Affairs plays a vital role in the personal growth, wellness, intellectual development and academic achievement of students through the organization of various projects, events and workshops such as:

- Friends of the Elderly Project: held in cooperation with Arab Women Union Society
- Olive Picking Campaigns

The Deanship of Student Affairs also held several community-engagement activities:

- **Friend of the Elderly Initiative:** Together with the Arab Women Union Society in Al-Bireh, Birzeit University students provided care and support for elderly women.

- **Supporting children with cancer:** Birzeit University students visited children with cancer as part of the Wish Campaign. Dean of Student Affairs Dr. Mohammad Al Ahmad said the aim of the visit was to “provide children and their parents with emotional and social support, especially as children are vulnerable to relapses during their treatment. Birzeit University is proud to be part of the effort to provide the needed material and emotional support to make children’s wishes come true.”
- **The Hope in Our Heart Initiative:** Birzeit University students, together with Armaa Organization and the Augusta Victoria Hospital in Jerusalem, provided joy and hope for children staying in hospitals by offering entertaining activities and assisting them in their school work.
- **The Book Exchange Initiative:** A team of students collects used books and lends them to other students, who in turn give them back after the end of the semester for others to use. The initiative helps recycle books and cuts back on environmental pollution, in addition to fostering a spirit of community within the university.
- **The Olive Picking Initiative:** Organized by the Voluntary Work Office at Birzeit University, the annual olive picking initiative allows students to join their local communities in harvesting olive trees both on the university’s campus and in nearby villages and towns. This has been an annual event at the university since the 1970s.





Facts & Figures



2016/2017



Academic Programs

101

Academic programs

67

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

417

Full-time and part-time
faculty members

%31



%61

PHD



444

Full-time and part-time
administrative staff

43%





Student Body

Enrolled students

13,000

11,540

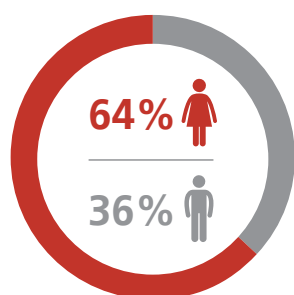
Undergraduate students

1,356

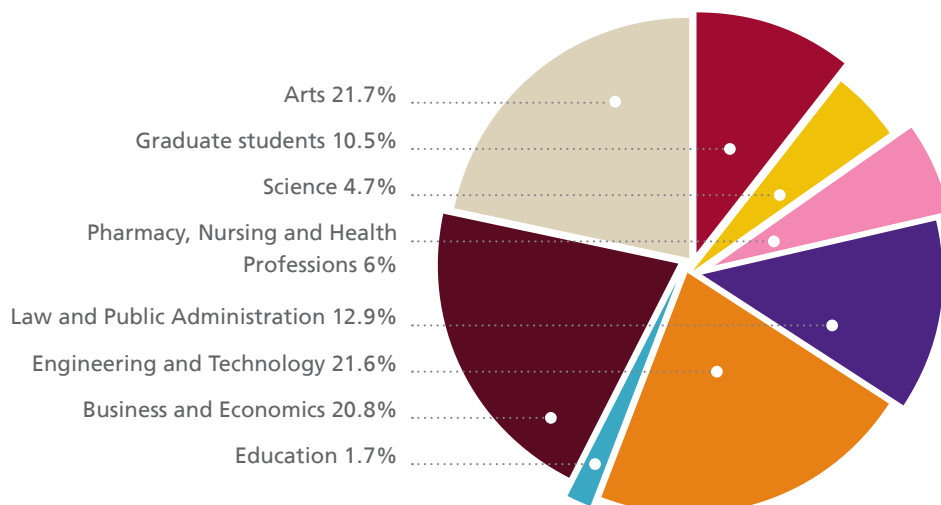
Graduate students

108

Diploma and other programs



Undergraduate students by faculty



Alumni

Around

34,100

Graduates / bachelor's and master's degrees

from the academic year 1975/1976 until the academic year 2015/2016



Student Financial Aid

3.9

Million Jordanian Dinars
(around \$5.4 Million USD)

Academic year 2015/2016



43%

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

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