

## Call for Thesis Project Requests

### Joint Research and Education Programme “Palestinian-German Science Bridge PGSB” Forschungszentrum Jülich GmbH & Palestine Academy for Science and Technology

The Palestinian-German Science Bridge invites the most brilliant science and technology graduates from Palestinian universities to join a research group of Forschungszentrum Jülich GmbH for the experimental part of their BSc or MSc thesis or for a PhD thesis in connection with a German university.

The purpose of the programme is to

- provide access for Palestinian students to Jülich’s world-leading scientific infrastructure to experience and conduct frontier research in fundamental and applied sciences
- assist Jülich in recruiting the best and the brightest students from Palestinian universities and prepare Master and PhD theses for further progress of Palestinian science
- transfer knowledge to Palestinian universities in the development of Graduate Programmes as well as Research Programmes
- facilitate the mobility and exchange of students and academics in both directions
- establish solid and long lasting cooperation relations between Jülich and Palestinian research groups
- and in the long run, contribute to the development of a national science and technology infrastructure in Palestine

#### Objectives:

The Palestinian-German Science Bridge provides Palestinian Bachelor-, Master- and PhD students with the opportunity to carry out a research project at Forschungszentrum Jülich, and to establish long-term cooperation with researchers in Jülich, including their worldwide network of cooperation partners.

**A requirement is that the BSc, MSc or PhD thesis is integrated into a research project to initiate or strengthen a collaboration between the two institutions.** Please refer to the list of cooperation project offers available at [www.fz-juelich.de/ue/pgsb\\_ProjectOffers](http://www.fz-juelich.de/ue/pgsb_ProjectOffers). Upon completion of their visit in Jülich the students are expected to return to a Palestinian university and establish a research activity there based on the skills and knowledge acquired.

#### Duration:

The duration of the research visit for Bachelor and Master projects is determined by the curricula of the home university, but limited to a maximum of 3 months for BSc projects and 6 months for MSc projects, respectively. In well-founded exceptional cases they can be extended by an equally long second term. In the case of BSc projects the two terms need to be separated by a return to the home university in Palestine.

The research projects for PhD students are limited to three years in agreement with the Jülich Guideline for Doctoral Fellowships.

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## Funding guidelines:

BSc Projects within the PGSB programme will be carried out as short term visits and incurred expenses will be reimbursed according to *Bundesreisekostengesetz* (Federal Travelling Expenses Act). Each individual stay is limited to 3 months.

Visiting students carrying out an MSc Project within the PGSB programme need to be enrolled as guest student at a German university (e.g. RWTH Aachen University) for the duration of their visit and will be reimbursed with a gross lump-sum remuneration of 1.008,10 € per month.

Fellowships for PhD projects within the PGSB programme will be awarded according to the Jülich Guideline for Doctoral Fellowships. They consist of

- a monthly instalment of 1.333 €
- one return travel from Palestine to Jülich per year (subject to submission of relevant travel documents and limited to 700 € per year)
- additional payments may be possible under specific conditions such as:
  - child care allowance: 400 Euro for the first child, 100 Euro for each further child
  - health insurance allowance up to the amount of 50% of the monthly insurance contribution (max. 100 Euro);
  - additional insurance contribution possible for accompanying family members

## Formal prerequisites:

Formal requirements for participation in the PGSB programme are

- for BSc projects: enrolment as student in a corresponding programme at a Palestinian university
- for MSc projects: enrolment as student in a corresponding programme at a Palestinian university as well as enrolment as guest student at a German university (e.g. RWTH Aachen University) for the duration of the visit
- for PhD projects: recent Master's degree from a Palestinian university; enrolment at a German university for the duration of the PhD project
- Fluency in English
- Candidates will be chosen based on an excellent academic performance and should envisage an academic career at a Palestinian University
- Only the best applications will be selected for funding

## Application procedure:

Application and related documents should be submitted electronically to PALAST in English before **31 March 2017**. Each application must include the following documents and papers:

- PGSB student **application form**.
- Documentary evidence of **previous academic achievements**: School leaving certificate (Tawjihi or equivalent) and all higher education certificates (BA/BSc, MA/MSc) where applicable, as well as all transcripts, officially authenticated and in English translation.
- Proof of **English language skills** not older than 2 years (at least TOEFL iBT 80 / PBT 550 or IELTS 6.5).
- Tabular **curriculum vitae** (CV) with (portrait) **photo**.
- **Letter of motivation**: describing your particular interests and specialization, academic aims and prospective professional career, your expectations with regard to your stay in Jülich and your participation in the PGSB programme.

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- **Letter of recommendation** from the sending professor (supervisor) at a Palestinian university and at least one further academic teacher signed, dated and in sealed envelopes. The letter from the sending professor (supervisor) should also include his/her faculty profile unless contacts to the Jülich host are already established. Please use the templates provided at [www.fz-juelich.de/ue/pgsb\\_call2017](http://www.fz-juelich.de/ue/pgsb_call2017) . Letters of recommendation should not be older than six months.
- An **institutional recommendation** by the sending Palestinian university, as activities of the Palestinian-German Science Bridge are intended to support the long term development of research infrastructure at Palestinian institutions.
- Any other documents considered important or useful for the application (e.g. proof of internships, certificates of employment).

#### Selection procedure:

- PALAST will check fulfilment of formal requirements and academic quality of the application
- Applications approved at this stage will be submitted to the relevant host institute(s) who will decide upon the adequacy of the applicant on the basis of his/her academic expertise and further qualifications.
- After final approval by the advisory committee, admitted students will receive a letter of acceptance.
- Grantees and hosting institutes shall then agree upon the exact timing and further details of the research visit.

#### Contact at PALAST:

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#### Contact at FZJ:

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