

Policy subject: Scholarship and Financial Aid Policy	Policy number: 3/P.D/2024	Date of last revision: 2024/11/15
Implementing body: Financial Affairs Department	Implementing start date: 2024/11/20	Policy reference: Planning And Development Department

Overview

The Scholarship and Financial Aid Policy at Palestine Ahliya University provides financial assistance based on merit, need, and other factors to ensure financial barriers don't hinder access to education. The university offers various forms of support, including scholarships, grants, loans, and work-study programs, to help all students pursue their academic goals.

Objectives

1. Provide Access to Higher Education: Offer financial aid to ensure academically qualified students can attend Palestine Ahliya University, covering tuition and related costs.
2. Support Academic Excellence: Reward outstanding academic performance with merit-based scholarships, promoting a culture of excellence.
3. Promote Inclusivity: Provide need-based assistance to students from diverse socioeconomic, cultural, and geographic backgrounds.
4. Encourage Retention and Success: Offer ongoing support to students in need or with excellent performance, ensuring their continued success.

Scope

This policy applies to all current and prospective students of Palestine Ahliya University, including:

- Undergraduate and graduate students.
- Domestic and international students.
- Students from low-income backgrounds, as well as those demonstrating exceptional academic or extracurricular achievements.

Statements

1. Non-Discrimination: Financial aid and scholarships are available to all students, regardless of race, ethnicity, gender, religion, disability, or nationality, based on policy criteria.
2. Equity and Transparency: Scholarship and financial aid decisions will be fair, transparent, and aligned with the university's mission to support a diverse student body.
3. Financial Need and Merit-Based Aid: Both need-based and merit-based scholarships will be offered to support economically disadvantaged and academically exceptional students.
4. Confidentiality: Financial aid information will be kept confidential and shared only with authorized staff.
5. Continuous Support: Awarded students will receive ongoing support, with periodic reviews to ensure continued eligibility based on academic performance and financial need.

Procedures

1. Application Process:

- A. Submission of Application: All students applying for financial aid or scholarships must complete an online application form through the university's financial aid portal. This will include detailed information about the applicant's financial status, academic performance, and any other relevant criteria (such as extracurricular involvement or special talents).
- B. Supporting Documentation: Students must submit the necessary documentation, including family income information, academic transcripts, letters of recommendation (where applicable), and any additional documents requested by the Financial Aid Office.
- C. Deadline: Applications for financial aid and scholarships must be submitted by the deadlines specified by Palestine Ahliya University for each academic year. Late applications will not be considered unless a valid reason is provided and approved by the university.

2. Types of Financial Aid:

- A. Merit-Based Scholarships: Awarded to students with exceptional academic performance, leadership, and extracurricular achievements. Scholarships are competitive and vary in amount.

- B. **Need-Based Scholarships and Grants:** Designed to support students from low-income families, based on financial need and academic standing.
- C. **Work-Study Programs:** Eligible students can participate in part-time on-campus jobs to help cover living and academic costs.
- D. **Emergency Financial Assistance:** Provides grants or loans for students facing unexpected financial hardship due to emergencies, health issues, or disasters.

3. Selection Criteria:

- **Merit-Based Aid:** Academic performance, including grades, test scores, and the rigor of the student's academic curriculum, will be a primary factor in the selection process. Leadership abilities, community involvement, and extracurricular achievements will also be considered.
 - **Need-Based Aid:** The financial aid office will assess applicants' financial need based on family income, household size, and other financial obligations. Special consideration may be given to students from underrepresented or marginalized communities, as well as those facing extraordinary financial hardships.
 - **Other Criteria:** For specific scholarships or financial aid programs, additional criteria such as student's major, geographic background, or special talents may be considered.
4. **Award Decision:** Once the application has been reviewed, students will be notified of their financial aid award, which will specify the amount and type of aid (scholarships, grants, loans, etc.) they are eligible to receive.
5. **Academic Performance:** To maintain eligibility for merit-based scholarships and need-based aid, students must meet the university's academic performance standards, which may include maintaining a minimum GPA.

6. Key Performance Indicators (KPIs):

1.	Number of Students Receiving Scholarships
2.	Number of Students Receiving Low-Interest Loans
3.	Average Amount of Financial Aid Per Student