



جامعة فلسطين الأهلية

Palestine Ahliya University

عمادة القبول والتسجيل

PALESTINE AHLIYA  
UNIVERSITY

**NEWSLETTER**

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# Continuation of Israeli violations against Palestine and higher education institutions

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# Israeli Occupation Violations Against Education in Palestine

7 October 2023 - 27 August 2024

Students	West Bank			Gaza Strip		
	Martyrs	Injured	Arrested	Martyrs	Injured	Arrested
Schools	76	411	209	9839 <sup>+</sup>	15394 <sup>+</sup>	-
Universities	34	123 <sup>+</sup>	197 <sup>+</sup>	651 <sup>+</sup>	1317 <sup>+</sup>	Unknown

Educational staff	West Bank			Gaza Strip		
	Martyrs	Injured	Arrested	Martyrs	Injured	Arrested
Schools	2	11	113 <sup>+</sup>	411	2411	Unknown
Universities	-	Unknown	8	111	1212 <sup>+</sup>	Unknown



## Attacks on Schools & Universities

West Bank		Gaza Strip	
Schools	Universities	Schools	Universities
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● (69) schools were subject to vandalism</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● (5) Universities were subject to repeated intrusions, vandalism and tampering with their possessions</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● (124) Schools severely damaged in Gaza, and more than (62) Schools completely destroyed.</li> <li>● (126) government schools/attacks &amp; vandalism</li> <li>● (65) UNRWA schools/attacks and vandalism</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● (20) Higher Education Institutions severely damaged in Gaza</li> <li>● More than (35) university buildings were completely destroyed.</li> <li>● Partial destruction of (57) university buildings</li> </ul>

### Since the outset of the aggression:

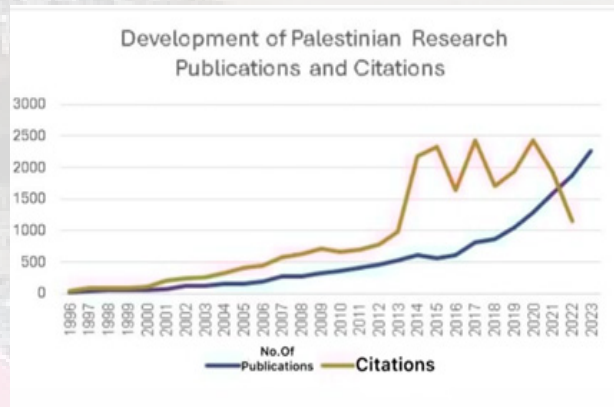
- (88) thousand students deprived to access to their universities.
- (630) thousand students deprived of access to their schools.

## An Analytical Review of the State of Scientific Research in Palestine

The state of scientific research in Palestine is characterized by a mix of challenges and opportunities shaped by political, economic, and social factors. Despite the relatively low contribution of Palestinian research to the global literature compared to neighboring countries such as Jordan, Egypt, Syria, and Iraq, Palestinian researchers have demonstrated resilience and creativity in addressing these challenges. According to the Scimago database for the period from 1996 to 2023, Palestine ranks 101 globally in research productivity, accounting for less than 0.02% of global research publications, with approximately 15,201 research papers. In contrast, Jordan is ranked 62 globally with a contribution of 0.10%, amounting to over 82,000 research papers, while Egypt is ranked 37 globally with a contribution of about 0.49%, totaling around 389,000 research papers. As for Syria and Iraq, they ranked 106 and 56, respectively, reflecting the significant gap in scientific production between Palestine and neighboring countries, some of which face similar conditions of political and economic instability and geopolitical challenges. Despite the significant chal-



**Dr. Imad Al-Zeer**  
University President



These numbers are negligible when compared to leading research-producing countries globally. In the USA, over 16 million studies are produced annually, China produces around 10 million studies per year, and in the UK, 477,000 studies are produced annually<sup>1</sup>.

<sup>1</sup> Scimago Journal & Country Rank (2023). Scimago Country Rankings by Research Output. Retrieved from <https://www.scimagojr.com/countryrank.php>.

lenges facing scientific research in Palestine, recent years have witnessed a notable increase in the number of Palestinian research publications, particularly in the fields of medicine, engineering, and social sciences. Statistics reveal an average increase of 21% in the number of publications indexed in the Scopus database between 2018 and 2023, along with a rise in citations. Palestinian research has achieved a citation rate of 1.71, which is higher than the global average of 1. However, Palestinian patents have experienced considerable fluctuations, dropping from 65 patents in 2018 to just 3 in 2023. This highlights the ongoing challenges in innovation and intellectual property development.

Despite the notable progress in scientific production in Palestine, the focus remains predominantly on theoretical research or humanities, with a significant gap in applied and experimental research that leads to industrial products and services or is closely linked to the needs of businesses and various economic sectors. This is evident in the limited collaboration between academics and commercial enterprises, which constitutes only about 1.3% of total research collaborations. This situation highlights significant challenges in integrating industry with scientific research in Palestine. However some initiatives have begun to improve this collaboration, such as partnerships between universities and local industries, particularly in the fields of energy, agriculture, and health. These efforts represent promising steps toward integrating scientific research with community and industrial needs but there remains a critical need for more comprehensive strategies to enhance the effectiveness of these partnerships and achieve a sustainable impact on economic and social development in Palestine.

Regarding Palestinian academic journals, the greatest challenge lies in achieving international recognition and enhancing their global presence. Palestinian journals face limitations in resources and infrastructure, making it difficult for them to compete with academic journals from other countries. Currently, only four Palestinian journals are indexed in Scopus database, compared to 18 Jordanian journals and 93 Egyptian ones. However, the Arab Citation and Impact Factor Platform (ARCIF) ) offers a more optimistic view, as 18 Palestinian journals were ranked on the platform for 2023, and

over 34 Palestinian journals are classified in the Arab Impact Factor, indicating a relative improvement compared to international participation.

A lack of funding is one of the biggest barriers to advancing scientific research in Palestine, as research institutions lack sufficient financial support to achieve significant progress. According to data from the World Bank for 2022, the expenditure on research and development (R&D) in Palestine is less than 0.1% of GDP, approximately \$19 million, which is modest compared to the global average of 2.6% and even the regional average in the Middle East, which is 1.59%. When comparing R&D expenditure in Palestine with neighboring countries, Jordan allocates around \$340 million of its GDP to R&D, while Egypt spends about \$4.8 billion. This significant gap highlights the challenges Palestine faces in making substantial leaps in scientific research. These low percentages make it difficult for Palestinian academic and research institutions to undertake impactful research projects, hindering innovation and the development of local technology.

On the other hand, universities are regarded as the primary source of scientific research in Palestine. Despite their pivotal role, they specialize in a narrow aspect of scientific research, which is academic research. However, they are still characterized by their traditional nature as academic and educational institutions rather than research-oriented ones. Furthermore, the financial allocations directed towards scientific research in Palestinian universities are limited and scarce. These funds are typically provided as rewards or to cover publication costs, rather than being directed towards providing research allocations and infrastructure to support scientific research. In contrast, there are about 80 research centers within Palestinian universities, but they are not independent research centers and do not fall under the supervision of the Scientific Research Council. Instead, they are registered under the university itself and its licensing. Outside of universities, there are approximately 97 research institutions in Palestine, most of which are inactive. Those that are still active suffer from institutional problems, such as the lack of research staff, weak research skills, and the absence of scientific methodology in presenting their results, which often raises doubts about the

accuracy of the findings they provide.

Despite the challenges and obstacles facing scientific research in Palestine, data indicates a noticeable increase in the number of Palestinian researchers annually. According to the Scopus database Palestine had more than 8,659 researchers over the past ten years, with an average growth rate of approximately 20%. While this figure represents positive progress, it remains modest compared to the number of researchers in regional countries such as Jordan and Egypt. Additionally, the number of Palestinian researchers relative to the population is still significantly lower than the global average, which is about 7,800 researchers per million people.

In addition, there are many promising opportunities to develop this vital sector. The most notable of these opportunities include increasing investment in research infrastructure, enhancing international collaboration with global academic institutions, and establishing policies that focus on the quality of research rather than its quantity. Moreover, Palestine has a competitive advantage in research areas more closely related to development scenarios in the context of political and economic instability, as well as sustainable development in the face of resource scarcity and control. Palestine can also excel in fields like risk management and complex financial issues, where significant scientific contributions can be made through innovative research. Furthermore, the Palestinian diaspora can play a significant role in supporting scientific research by contributing to research initiatives and international partnerships, particularly by directing European support towards developing genuine scientific production focused on applied fields that bolster the resilience of Palestinian economic sectors. Collaboration initiatives with European institutions have proven effective in improving research outcomes, especially in fields such as environmental sciences and renewable energy.



## International and Local Cooperation

### Palestine Ahliya University Visits Zarqa University in Jordan and Signs A Joint Cooperation Agreement



Within the framework of Palestine Ahliya University's regional and international activities, the university signed a joint cooperation agreement with Zarqa University in Jordan during a visit that included the university president Dr. Imad Al-Zeer, Mr. Jiries Abu Ghannam, President Assistant for International and Public Relations Affairs, and the director of the Computer Center Mr. Basem Tomazy. The delegation was welcomed by the President of Zarqa University

Prof. Nidal Al-Ramahi, the Vice President of Zarqa University, Prof. Ala'eddin Sadiq, the Dean of the Faculty of Law, Prof. Omar Al-Makhzumi, the Dean of Scientific Research, Dr. Khaled Al-Qawasmi, and the Director of the Computer Center, Dr. Amer Abu Salem



**Palestine Ahliya University Hosts  
His Excellency Palestinian Minister of Tourism and Antiquities  
Mr. Hani Al-Hayek to Discuss Ways of Joint Cooperation.**



## Activities and Events

- The Department of Academic Affairs, represented by the Monitoring and Evaluation Department, organized a comprehensive workshop in which the results of the evaluation and ranking of the university's academic faculties were reviewed. The workshop was attended by the deans of the faculties and heads of the academic departments. The aim of the workshop was to highlight the level of academic and administrative performance of the faculties, focusing on the criteria and indicators used in the evaluation process. These criteria were selected based on detailed analytical studies of global ranking standards, tailored to fit the local university environment.



- **Palestine Ahliya University Holds the First Session of the Placement Test for New Students for the Academic Year 2024-2025.**



- **Community Service students carried out a student initiative featuring a special day dedicated to physiotherapy at the Faculty of Applied Medical Sciences building. The event included informational sessions about the physiotherapy program and its fields, as well as free physiotherapy sessions, cupping therapy, and hopi ear candling.**



- **Community Service students carried out a series of initiatives at Beit Jala Governmental Hospital (Al-Hussein) under the title 'Reviving the Hospital Garden.'**



- Community Service students carried out a student initiative targeting pediatric patients in the Oncology Department at Beit Jala Governmental Hospital (Al-Hussein). The initiative included distributing various gifts such as toys and organizing recreational activities involving both the patients and their families



- Community Service students launched the ‘Back to School’ campaign as an initiative that included distributing school bags filled with essential supplies to needy students and orphans in the Bethlehem Governorate.



- Journalist Ali Smoudi delivered a lecture to the students of Global Culture course on 'The Importance of Media in Promoting the Palestinian Narrative.'



- The Deanship of Student Affairs, in collaboration with Women Media and Development (TAM), conducted a training workshop on 'Political Awareness for University Students' for a group of 20 students. The aim of this workshop was to enhance their knowledge and develop their leadership and transformative thinking skills, enabling them to become effective, adaptable leaders capable of driving positive change both within and outside the university.



- The Faculty of Law at Palestine Ahliya University Held a Legal Seminar titled 'Electronic Transactions: Theory and Practice,' featuring international expert and lawyer Dr. Shaaban Alameddine, President of the Arab Academy for Dispute Resolution. The seminar was moderated by Dr. Mohammad Sa'abneh, Dean of the Faculty of Law.



- A delegation from Palestine Ahliya University visited the Directorate of Education in Bethlehem Governorate. The delegation included Dr. Mahmoud Itmeizeh, Dean of the Faculty of Humanities and Educational Sciences; Prof. Aziz Khalil; and Dr. Mohammed Okka, Head of the Graduate Studies Department in the faculty.





- **Palestine Ahliya University Hosts Tawjihi Students from the Idna Student Services Center, where the students were introduced to the university's offered programs and available scholarships, given advice and guidance on choosing the appropriate major, and taken on a tour of the main and new university campuses to familiarize them with the university's facilities and laboratories.**



## Scientific Research Corner



Three research groups from Palestine Ahliya University participated in the 10th International Conference on Business and Technology 2024, which was held at the University of Jordan in Amman.

Prof. Nasser Jaradat, Dean of the Faculty of Post-graduate Studies and Scientific Research, presented a research paper titled

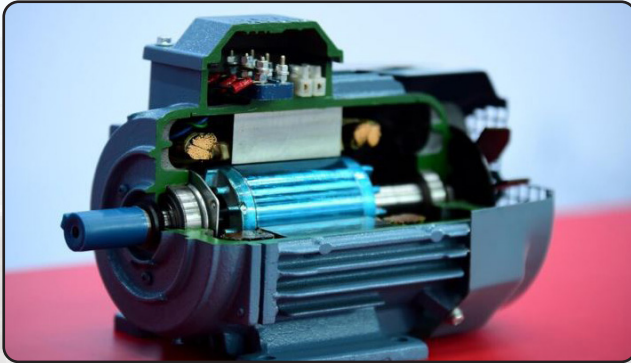
### **‘Sustainable Finance and Digital Transformation: Navigating Business Challenges in Uncertain Times’**

Dr. Majed Al-Shrouf, Dr. Amjad Al-Khateeb, Dr. Faeyz Abuamria, and Dr. Sadi Irzeeqat also presented a research paper titled

### **‘Factors Affecting the Adoption of Artificial Intelligence in Auditing Based on the UTAUT Model, IT Infrastructure as a Moderating Variable’**

Graduate of the Master’s Program in Accounting and Finance, Mrs. Jamila Raed Shamroukh, along with Dr. Mohamed Shadeed and Dr. Mousa Ajouz, presented a research paper derived from her master’s thesis titled

### **‘Environmental Management Accounting and Environmental Accounting Knowledge as Drivers of Enhanced Environmental Performance: The Mediating Role of Environmental Accounting Practices’**



Dr. Ahmed Abdo has published a new study titled  
“Practical Test on the Operation of the Three-Phase Induction Motor under  
Single-Phasing Fault”



Mrs. Rehab Al-Salameen has published a new study titled  
“The Effects of Training and Development on Achieving Institutional  
Excellence of Pharmaceutical Company in Jordan”



Dr. Imad Al-Zeer, Dr. Mahmoud Salahat, and Dr. Mousa Ajouz have published  
a new study titled  
“How Do Innovative Work Behavior and Organizational Citizenship Behavior  
Improve Employee Productivity?”



Dr. Montaser Sayed Ahmed has published a new study titled  
“Signal Quantification of Intravenous Contrast Agents Enhancement from  
Biphase Liver CT Scan Procedures”

Palestine Ahliya University is pleased to open its doors for productive research partnerships  
with academic institutions and distinguished researchers in various fields.

You can contact us via email at: [research.clinic@paluniv.edu.ps](mailto:research.clinic@paluniv.edu.ps)



جَامِعَةُ فَدَسْطِينِ الْأَهْلِيَّةِ  
Palestine Ahliya University

جامعة فلسطين الأهلية - جبل ظاهر - بيت لحم



02-2751566



02-2749652



P.O Box: 1041



palestineahliya



Bethlehem, Palestine



pau@paluniv.edu.ps



جامعة فلسطين الأهلية - Palestine Ahliya University



[www.paluniv.edu.ps](http://www.paluniv.edu.ps)