

## GCUB-Palestine Program for Refugees

### Call for Applications No. 001/2024

#### About GCUB Initiatives:

The **International Cooperation Group of Brazilian Universities (GCUB)**, founded on October 29, 2008, is a private, non-profit civil association of an academic, scientific, and cultural nature, with unlimited duration. It comprises a network of 99 Brazilian higher education institutions and 6 foreign institutions.

Its institutional mission is to foster academic, scientific, and cultural relations among its member institutions and promote university internationalization through programs, projects, and actions related to international cooperation. These activities are carried out in collaboration with international organizations, foreign universities, university networks, and governmental bodies, spanning a wide range of countries.

#### About the Program:

Recognizing education as a fundamental tool for social transformation, the **GCUB-Palestine Mobility Program for Refugees** aims to provide Palestinian students with access to full undergraduate, master's, and doctoral programs at Brazilian universities affiliated with GCUB. This opportunity enables them to acquire knowledge and skills that contribute to building a brighter future.

The program is intended for Palestinians with verified refugee status, either through the **United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA)** or via a passport issued by the **Palestinian Authority**, confirming their and their family's place of origin.

### 1. GENERAL PROVISIONS

**1.1** The purpose of this Call for Applications is to regulate the selection process for candidates applying for positions and/or scholarships offered by Brazilian universities affiliated with GCUB, under the **GCUB-Palestine Program for Refugees**. These positions and/or scholarships are intended for full undergraduate, master's, or doctoral programs in Brazil, scheduled to begin in 2025, as detailed in the [Course Table](#) provided by the Brazilian universities.

1.2 The candidate must attend the level of study for which he/she has been selected. After successfully completing all assessments and other academic requirements, the candidate will receive from the host university a Bachelor's degree, or a Master's or Doctorate degree, depending on the level of study pursued.

1.3 The degree obtained will be officially valid in the Federative Republic of Brazil. The procedures for recognition in other countries are the responsibility of the interested party, and GCUB or the partner universities and institutions of the program cannot guarantee or assume responsibility for the related procedures.

1.4 Scholarships, when granted, in accordance with current Brazilian regulations and legislation, do not establish an employment or commercial relationship between GCUB, partner institutions and/or the candidate.

#### 1.5 Language:

1.5.1 Candidates must meet the language requirements of the undergraduate and graduate programs they are applying for. Information on this subject can be found in the [Course List](#) of Brazilian universities.

1.5.2 At the discretion of the host university, the first semester of studies may be dedicated to Portuguese for Foreigners Courses.

1.5.3 Before defending their final project, dissertation or thesis, all selected candidates must demonstrate at least an intermediate level of Portuguese, through certification at the discretion of the host university. This certification must be sent to the email address: [gcub.palestina@gcub.org.br](mailto:gcub.palestina@gcub.org.br) up to 30 days before the defense of the final project, dissertation or thesis.

#### 1.6 Calendar:

1.6.1 **Approximate start date for Undergraduate, Master's and Doctorate courses:** according to the academic calendar of each host university, in accordance with the [Course Table](#) of Brazilian universities.

1.6.2 **Approximate duration of Undergraduate, Master's and Doctorate studies:**

- **Undergraduate:** The duration of undergraduate courses in Brazil is, on average, 4 (four) to 5 (five) years, and may vary depending on the area of study and the specific curricular structure of each course.
- **Master's Degree:** Up to 24 months after the start date of the courses and in accordance with the internal rules and regulations of each course.

- **Doctorate:** Up to 48 months after the start date of the courses and in accordance with the internal rules and regulations of each course.

Note: See [Course Table](#)

## 2. SUPPORT MODALITIES

2.1 During the regular period of academic enrollment at the host university, each selected candidate will receive the following benefits:

a) Tuition exemption: Waiver of enrollment fees, monthly or annual tuition fees related to the program/level of study for which they were selected.

b) Scholarship: Detailed information about the courses offering scholarships, including scholarship amounts, is available in the [Course Table](#). Candidates must consult this table to verify the availability and specific conditions of the scholarships offered by each course and university.

NOTE: To receive any of the aforementioned benefits, the selected candidate must report to the host university and follow the instructions of the Institutional Coordinator of the GCUB-Palestine Program for Refugees regarding admission procedures, including: opening a bank account; issuing documents required by the Brazilian government; presenting proof of international insurance with full medical, laboratory, and hospital coverage, including funeral repatriation, valid throughout Brazilian territory; providing evidence of compliance with Brazilian immigration authorities and authorization for university enrollment (passport with Temporary Visa IV and/or receipt of application to immigration authorities for residency authorization). The selected candidate must submit the required documentation to GCUB within 45 days after enrollment at the host university. Failure to do so may result in the cancellation of their placement and scholarship.

c) Access to university dining facilities, if available, under the same terms and conditions applicable to other students at the host university.

d) Access to classes, study rooms, libraries, laboratories, and other university services under the same terms and conditions applicable to other students at the host university.

NOTE: In case the candidate has been selected for a program that offers a scholarship, they must have the financial means to support themselves from their arrival in Brazil until the first scholarship payment is made. For this reason, candidates should seek information from the host university regarding the start date of scholarship payments.

### 3. APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

3.1 The following criteria will be considered for student applications::

- A. Possess a Palestinian passport or documentation issued by UNRWA confirming Palestinian nationality, or, as a Palestinian, have recognized refugee status prior to arriving in Brazil.
- B. Provide proof of Palestinian Refugee Status through documentation issued by the National Committee for Refugees (Conare) for residents in Brazil.
- C. Indicate the level of study they are applying for: Undergraduate, Master's, or Doctorate.
- D. Submit a High School Completion Certificate for undergraduate applications.
- E. Provide proof of a Bachelor's Degree Diploma for postgraduate applications (master's and doctorate).
- F. Demonstrate the ability to cover additional expenses not covered by the scholarship (if offered), such as airfare, visa processing, international health insurance for the entire study period in Brazil, and other living expenses.
- G. Meet any other criteria defined by the GCUB-affiliated university, as specified in the [Course Table](#).

3.2 Each candidate may apply to up to three undergraduate, master's, or doctoral programs at different universities, preferably located in distinct regions of Brazil.

### 4. DOCUMENTS FOR APPLICATION

4.1 Applications for undergraduate, master's, or doctoral programs must be submitted exclusively through the Online Application Form.

4.1.1 The candidate must upload the following documents in PDF format to the Online Application Form:

Note: Documents must be submitted in English.

- a) Copy of identity document (nationality document, passport, or national ID card).
- b) Curriculum Vitae (proofs are not required at the time of application. However, they may be requested at any time by GCUB or the host university).
- c) For Master's applicants: Diploma, certificate of completion of undergraduate studies, or a declaration from the home university confirming the expected completion of studies (undergraduate degree, either bachelor's or licentiate).

- d) For Doctoral applicants: Diploma and certificate of completion of undergraduate studies (bachelor's or licentiate degree) and Master's degree, if required by the chosen doctoral program (refer to the [Course Table](#)).

**Note 1: If the candidate is unable to provide proof of any of the aforementioned requirements due to their refugee status, the program organization will assess each case on an individual basis.**

For each program the candidate is applying for, they must submit two texts:

Specifications: Times New Roman, size 12, line spacing of 1.5 cm; with 2.5 cm margins on the top, bottom, right, and left.

Content of the texts:

**Text 1:** Expectations and academic interests; professional perspectives (maximum of 1,000 words).

**Text 2:** For each Master's or Doctoral program the candidate is applying for, they must submit a text of up to 4,000 words, covering the following topics:

- Justification for the selection
- Central theme and research problem
- Delimitation and justification of the study object
- Literature review
- Methodological procedures
- Timeline
- Bibliographic references

**Note 2:** The research proposal presented in Text 2 serves as an evaluation tool and may be modified or replaced after enrollment in the program, based on the recommendation of a supervising professor, depending on its alignment with the program's research lines and the feasibility of the proposal.

**Note 3:** If the candidate is selected for the position and the host university requests it, the documents listed in subsections 4.1 (a, c, d) must be officially translated (sworn translation) into Portuguese.

Applications for the scholarships are free of charge, individual, and submitted electronically.

**Note 4:** It is advised that candidates submit their applications in advance, as GCUB is not responsible for applications not received due to technical issues or system congestion.

Applying for the GCUB Mobility Program - Palestine for Refugees implies knowledge and unconditional acceptance of the rules and conditions established in this call, which the candidate cannot claim ignorance of.

The information provided is the sole responsibility of the candidate, and GCUB and the host university reserve the right to exclude the candidate from the selection process at any stage if incomplete, incorrect, or inconsistent data is found, if deadlines are not met, or if it is later discovered that the information is false.

Original documents may be requested by GCUB or the host university at any time.

If the candidate submits more than one application, only the last submission will be considered valid.

**Note:** GCUB acknowledges the possibility that refugees may not have access to documents proving their educational background. In such cases, Palestinian refugees will be allowed to provide evidence through alternative means, as permitted by Brazilian law and in accordance with the requirements established by the host university. Depending on the university, the legalization and sworn translation of documents may be waived.

## 5.1. SELECTION PROCESS

5.2. The evaluation process for the GCUB-Palestine Refugee Program will be conducted in three phases, all of which are eliminatory. The candidate may be eliminated at any stage if they do not fully meet the requirements established for each phase.

5.2.1. The first phase of the selection process - **Document Consistency Analysis** - will be carried out by a committee appointed by the Executive Board of GCUB, and will take place under the responsibility of one or more universities associated with GCUB.

- a) This phase consists of the analysis of the documentation submitted in the applications for the available positions, as described in item 4 of this Notice (DOCUMENTS FOR APPLICATION).
- b) The Executive Board of GCUB may seek the cooperation of UNRWA and the Brazilian Embassies in Palestine, Lebanon, Jordan, Syria, and others, for the first phase of the selection process.
- c) The candidate will be eliminated if they have submitted incomplete documentation and/or have submitted the documentation after the deadline established by this Call for Applications.

5.2.2 The second phase of the selection process - **Merit and Admissibility Analysis** - is the responsibility of the receiving universities.

- a) The GCUB will send all applications approved in the first phase to the universities selected by the candidate. Each program will evaluate the applications based on the documents submitted according to item 4 of this notice (DOCUMENTS FOR APPLICATION) and will provide the GCUB with their decision of PRE-APPROVED or NOT APPROVED.

5.2.3 The third phase of the selection process - Final Classification - will be carried out by an Advisory Evaluation Committee, composed of Ph.D. holders and faculty members from universities affiliated with GCUB, appointed by the GCUB Executive Board.

- a) The Advisory Evaluation Committee referred to in item 5 of this Notice (SELECTION PROCESS) will distribute and classify the candidates approved by the universities in the second phase of the selection. The Advisory Evaluation Committee will make the final decisions regarding the allocation of spots and the distribution of candidates to the courses and universities to which they applied.
- b) Representatives from partner and/or supporting institutions may participate as observers in the evaluation meetings of the third phase.

**Note 1:** Requests for reconsideration will not be accepted at any stage of the application selection process.

**Nota 2:** Neither GCUB nor the participating universities will issue any documents to the applicants during the selection phases.

## 6. SELECTION RESULT

6.1. The GCUB will publish the results on its website: <https://www.gcub.org.br/>.

- 6.1.1. The selected candidate will be contacted by GCUB through the email provided in the application form and informed about their approval in the selection process, the university, and the course they have been selected for.
- 6.1.2. If the candidate declines the offer, GCUB, with the agreement of the receiving university, will call the alternates according to the ranking established by the Evaluation Advisory Committee.

- 6.2. The universities will send an Acceptance Letter to the candidates selected in the third phase, along with the list of documents required for enrollment in the courses.
- 6.2.1. For candidates selected for master's or doctoral programs in fields related to health sciences, the receiving university must send a supplementary letter signed by the Course Coordinator, stating that the selected candidate will not be allowed to perform procedures with patients in Brazil, except those strictly necessary for the development of research activities related to the dissertation or thesis, in accordance with the regulations of the respective Professional Councils.
- 6.2.2. In the specific case of candidates selected for the Medicine course, the letter signed by the Course Coordinator should indicate that the selected candidate will not be allowed to perform medical acts outside the educational institution to which they are affiliated, except those strictly necessary for their training. Similarly, it should state the name of the person responsible for the selected candidate before the Regional Medical Council, who will be responsible for informing the Council about the candidate's presence under their jurisdiction and will assume joint responsibility for them (as per CFM Resolution No. 1,832/2008, Article 5, items I and VI, and Article 7, § 5).

**Note 1:** The Acceptance Letter in electronic format must be sent by the receiving university to the selected candidates, with a copy to GCUB.

**Note 2:** At the discretion of the receiving university, the original printed Acceptance Letter may be sent directly to the address of the selected candidates, without prejudice to the electronic document being sent to the candidate and to GCUB.

- 6.3. Acceptance Agreement for the position and/or scholarship (when offered):
- 6.3.1. The GCUB will send the Acceptance Agreement for the position, along with the Scholarship (when offered), to all selected candidates via the email provided in the application form. Selected candidates have ten days from the date of sending to return the signed Agreement. If the candidate fails to return the signed Agreement within the established deadline, the lack of response will be considered as a refusal of the position.



## 7. OBLIGATIONS AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE SELECTED CANDIDATES

7.1. The final approval of the selected candidates for the granting of vacancies and/or scholarships in the GCUB-Palestine Refugees Program will be conditional on the signing of the Acceptance Contract, in which the candidate will be obligated to comply with the Program's requirements. In addition, the selected candidate must refrain from engaging in activities that violate the rules of the host university.

- a. The selected candidate must present all the documents required by the Graduate Program for which they have been selected.
- b. The selected candidate must dedicate themselves full-time to the activities of the study program<sup>1</sup> and comply with the legislation and regulations in effect in the graduate program, at the receiving university, and in Brazil.
- c. Without prejudice to the provisions in item 2 (MODALITIES AND DURATION OF SUPPORT), the selected candidate must cover all other expenses related to participation in the GCUB-Palestine Program for Refugees, such as personal expenses, airfare, international insurance, school service fees (e.g., certificate issuance), expenses for course completion (e.g., issuance of completion certificates), document legalization, visa processing and issuance, as well as any additional costs or expenses not expressly covered in this Call for Applications.
- d. It is the responsibility of the selected candidate to obtain the appropriate visa to travel to Brazil and bear any costs associated with this procedure. Before traveling to Brazil, the selected candidate must contact the Consulate or Consular Section of the Brazilian Embassy in their country of origin or current country of residence in order to obtain a valid Student Visa (Temporary Visa IV) or another visa that, according to Brazilian Legislation, grants the beneficiary authorization to engage in academic activities for the purpose of studying in Brazil.

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<sup>1</sup> Applicants should consult the Internal Regulations and all other regulations of the course they are applying for, whether it be an undergraduate, master's or doctoral degree. In addition, language requirements must be observed. Once enrolled at the institution, the candidate selected for the GCUB Mobility Program - Palestine for Refugees will have the same rights and therefore also the same responsibilities as other students.

PROMOTION:



SUPPORT:



- e. The selected candidate is responsible for keeping their National Migration Registry updated throughout the duration of their studies, complying with the immigration requirements related to it.
- f. If the selected candidate declines the spot and/or scholarship after signing the Acceptance Contract, without a justification expressly accepted by GCUB and/or the Host University, they will not be eligible to apply for any other GCUB scholarship programs for the next 2 (two) years. Additionally, in the case that the candidate has received any installment of the scholarship or any other financial support offered by the partners of the GCUB-Palestine Mobility Program for Refugees, they must reimburse the total amount received to the funding institution, in accordance with its rules and conditions.
- g. The host university may cancel the spot and scholarship if the student fails to comply with national regulations and legislation, academic standards, and the internal regulations of the institution. In this case, the host university and/or other financial supporters of the GCUB-Palestine Mobility Program for Refugees may require the reimbursement of all or part of the amounts paid to the student during their stay in Brazil.
- h. The selected candidate must inform the Institutional Coordinator of the GCUB-Palestine Mobility Program for Refugees at the host university whenever they intend to travel to another country. The regulations of the universities, Graduate Programs, or Research Agencies that provide scholarships and/or other financial support may contain rules that restrict international travel during the course or require justification for the trip. Therefore, it is important for the selected candidate to inquire about such conditions with the Institutional Coordinator.
- i. All communications from selected candidates must be sent to the email address - [gcub.palestina@gcub.org.br](mailto:gcub.palestina@gcub.org.br). No other form of communication will be considered for matters related to the Program.

## **8. FOLLOW-UP OF THE GCUB-PALESTINE PROGRAM FOR REFUGEES**

- 8.1. The receiving universities will be responsible for continuously monitoring the academic progress, as well as the integration and support of the selected candidates.
- 8.2. The Institutional Coordinators of the GCUB-Palestine for Refugees Program, together with the Program's General Coordination and its partners, will meet

once a year to evaluate and discuss proposals aimed at the continuity and improvement of the Program.

## 9. CALENDAR

DATE	ACTIVITY
December 4th, 2024	Publication of the Call for Applications
December 6th, 2024	Start of Online Applications
January 10th, 2025	Final Date for Online Applications
From 13 to 17 of January, 2025	<b>First Phase:</b> Document Review
From 20 to 31 of January, 2025	<b>Second Phase:</b> Merit and Eligibility Review by the Universities
From 3 to 7 of February, 2025	<b>Third Phase:</b> Final Selection and Distribution of Candidates Approved in Previous Phases
From 10 to 14 of February, 2025	Approval of the Results
February 19th, 2025	Publication of the Results

## 10. OMISSIONS AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

10.1 Situations not covered in this Call for Applications will be reviewed by the GCUB Committee for Research and Postgraduate Programs Support (CAPPPG).

10.2 Additional information can be requested through a direct inquiry exclusively to the following email: [gcub.palestina@gcub.org.br](mailto:gcub.palestina@gcub.org.br)

10.3 GCUB is responsible for communication with candidates of the GCUB Mobility Program - Palestine for Refugees throughout the selection process. Communication with selected candidates upon their arrival in Brazil and during their entire stay at the host university is the responsibility of the Institutional Coordinators of the associated universities and, when necessary, GCUB.