CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

Master Fellowships on Water Management in Crisis Contexts Between the Palestinian Water Authority (PWA) & MEDRC

The PWA and MEDRC are pleased to announce that applications for 2026 MSc Fellowship Awards in Palestine are open. The MEDRC MSc Fellowship Program provides funding to Master's students to help them pursue research in critically important areas and topics relevant to the water sector in Palestine. To date, MEDRC has supported over 350 water research projects across Palestine and Jordan, addressing national priorities of the water sector.

Fellowship Award Amount: $5,000 USD

Deadline to apply: 20 November 2026

Criteria: Fellowship Awards are open to Palestinian nationals studying a Masters Degree at a university in Palestine; research should focus on PWA water sector priorities highlighted below.

Objective

To enhance national capacity and knowledge and localization in sustainable water management under crisis and emergency conditions by supporting Palestinian students pursuing Master's degrees in relevant fields. The Master's Fellowship Program serves as an important initiative that fosters long-term support for higher education in Palestine. The program addresses immediate and long-term challenges while investing in the development of a skilled generation equipped to lead sustainable solutions for the future. Supporting academic pathways in such critical sectors is essential for building resilience, fostering local expertise, and enabling a more just and sustainable future for Palestine.

Research Priority Areas

The program will support research that aligns with priority areas identified by PWA, these include:

- Destruction of infrastructure: Including desalination plants, wells, distribution lines, and wastewater treatment plants. Research: Development of innovative and low-cost solutions for managing the water crises at the household level and within IDP camps.

- Fuel and energy shortages: Leading to the halt of water pumping and operation of treatment plants. Research: Using alternative energy sources such as solar or any type and localizing the technology to fit available water resources – with potential for replicability and scale-up.
- High levels of groundwater contamination - due to untreated sewage leakage and chemical pollutants. Research: There is a need for low-cost, decentralized methods to treat both biological and chemical pollutants, helping to control the spread of waterborne diseases. Research: Groundwater modelling and analysis is required for the future use of groundwater as a key source of water.
- Unsafe and unsustainable water sources: Many communities rely on unregulated wells or on purchasing water from unregulated tanker trucks. Research: Maintaining good quality drinking water in informal and emergency situations. Local/community-based water quality testing strategies.
- The integrated role of institutions in emergency water planning, coordination, and delivery.
- Emergency water supply and humanitarian response: effective and scalable responses to provide safe drinking water for communities and IDP's.
- Effectiveness of emergency plans to address water supply disruptions in the Gaza Strip.
- Strategies for long-term development and planning: The impact of the blockade and conflict on the sustainability of water resources in the Gaza Strip and strategies for long-term development.
- Application of Geographic Information Systems (GIS) in monitoring and water management.
- Integrated Water Resources Management / Water Crisis in the Gaza Strip. Research: How can IWRM principles be applied in crisis response?
- Effectiveness of public awareness programs in water resources protection in conflict and emergency crises.
- Water diplomacy.
- Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) in emergency crises and conflict
- Water rights, water and human rights.

Eligibility Criteria

- Must be a Palestinian national
- Hold a completed Bachelor's degree
- Be admitted to, or have applied to, a recognized Master’s program at a local university in Palestine
- Show a commitment to contributing to the development of the Palestinian water sector after graduation

*The Fellowship Awards are open to Masters students from all disciplines and backgrounds provided that they meet the eligibility criteria and that the research proposal aligns with the PWA research priorities.

How to Apply

You must complete the application form and submit the required supporting documents:

- Complete the online application form
- Submit a clear research thesis proposal, including a comprehensive budget and workplan
- Submit supporting documents – CV, statement of purpose, letter of recommendations, academic transcripts, ID/passport

Apply here: https://forms.gle/DoZ8Ew8qsAYRaML98

IMPORTANT: Once you have completed the application form – please send all required documents to fellowships@medrc.org

REQUIRED DOCUMENTS:

- Personal ID/Passport
- CV
- Personal Statement/Statement of purpose
- Research Proposal - this must include your proposal, workplan, and budget
- Proof of Enrollment in Master's Program
- 2 academic recommendations
- Academic transcripts

Application Process

1. Submit a completed application with required supporting documents before 20 November 2026
2. Shortlisted candidates will be invited to take part in the selection process at the end of November.
3. Successful applicants will be notified of the award by MEDRC Water Research in December.

Contact

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