PALESTINE AHLIYA UNIVERSITY

NEWSLETTER

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WINNER



International Strategy of the Year

Palestine Ahliya University, Palestine

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Academic Resilience: Palestinian Universities in a Time of Constraint and Hope



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In Palestine, where people experience the meaning of resilience in every detail of their daily lives, universities emerge as among the most vital institutions sustaining intellectual and cultural survival. In the heart of a reality constrained by political, economic, and social challenges, universities become bridges leading toward hope. Classrooms turn into laboratories for generating awareness and factories for shaping the future. Here, academic resilience is not an abstract value, but a lived practice—written by the footsteps of students as they pass through university gates each morning, reflected in the eyes of professors who illuminate knowledge despite all surrounding obstacles, and embodied in the hands of staff who uphold the continuity of the institution with a spirit of responsibility and belonging.

Palestinian higher education operates within an exceptional environment where crises intersect with aspirations, pressures accumulate, and the gap in resources continues to widen. Yet despite this, universities have remained for decades a steadfast pillar in a turbulent world—managing the crises of reality with wisdom and drawing on a determination that enables them to transform challenges into opportunities. Limited resources and harsh conditions have not prevented them from embracing their students, and the volatile political landscape has not obscured their profound human mission: to cultivate a Palestinian individual who can live, dream, and create.

In this complex context, the role of the university stands out as a vital space for human development, even before it functions as an institution awarding academic degrees. The Palestinian student sitting in a lecture hall participates in an act of intellectual resistance; they study not merely to pass an exam, but to preserve memory, fortify identity, and lay the foundations for a path capable of confronting time. With every research project, laboratory experiment, and student activity, the sphere of light within the university expands, despite all surrounding challenges. Here, confidence grows that education is not merely a response to the past, but a conscious shaping of the future.

Today, universities face a dual challenge: on one hand, they must maintain internal stability amid inherently unstable conditions; on the other hand, they are required to keep pace with the rapid global transformations driven by the digital revolution, advances in artificial intelligence, and emerging labor markets. The international landscape no longer waits for anyone, and universities that fail to renew themselves risk losing their rightful place in the knowledge ecosystem. Hence, strategic planning, program development, the creation of new specializations, and the modernization of teaching methods form the foundation for achieving a delicate balance between challenging local realities and integration into the broader global context.

At the heart of this equation, public and international relations emerge as a pivotal tool that enhances a university's resilience and impact. Through the practice of academic diplomacy, universities reshape their image on the global stage; they transcend geographic boundaries and become institutions with an international presence, showcasing their achievements, values, and vision. Every international partnership established, every cooperation agreement signed, and every academic visit received is not merely an administrative activity; it represents a new space that opens broader opportunities for students and faculty in research, training, and knowledge exchange. Building a strong network with global universities and institutions is not a luxury—it is a cornerstone for the sustainability of higher education in Palestine, granting the university soft power that extends beyond the constraints imposed upon it.

This mission takes on a human dimension when it translates into tangible impact: when a student receives a scholarship that enables them to continue their studies, when a faculty member participates in an international conference to showcase authentic Palestinian expertise, or when the world witnesses a university determined to be part of the global movement of knowledge despite all obstacles. Each time the university's flag is raised at an international forum, the voice of Palestine rises with it—as a country capable of contributing to knowledge, not merely experiencing the consequences of crises.

The role of media is no less important than the academic and international roles; university media shapes the narrative that informs society, the public, and the world about what happens within the university. Documenting achievements, highlighting inspiring student stories, showcasing faculty efforts, and presenting partnerships and initiatives—all contribute to building trust, establishing a strong institutional image, and crafting a university identity that understands and fulfills its role. Today's audience seeks a

genuine story, a model that shines amid the darkness of the news, and an institution that delivers value and creates impact. The Palestinian university embodies this story in all its human and intellectual dimensions.

Despite all this, the future remains open to greater possibilities. Academic resilience is not merely a defensive response to circumstances; it is an act of construction and foresight. It represents a long-term commitment to the principle that education is the cornerstone of a strong, thriving society. Universities that continue to operate despite challenges, develop their programs despite pressures, and keep their doors open despite difficulties are institutions that do more than preserve their existence—they create a new future for the country, for their students, and for generations to come.

At Palestinian universities, we do not experience resilience as a façade, but as a culture—a culture that believes in the invincible power of knowledge, that places the student at the center and purpose of the educational process, and that views engagement with the world as a space for life even in the harshest circumstances. When these values converge—the spirit of the student, the dedication of the faculty, the commitment of the staff, and a strategic vision—academic resilience becomes more than a term; it becomes a national story written daily within the universities.

Thus, universities continue, despite everything, to fulfill their noble mission: to teach, to inspire, and to open wide windows toward the future. The belief that tomorrow will be better remains the true driving force behind this journey. As experience has shown, walls may grow stronger, institutions may shake, yet universities that uphold their mission with sincerity remain standing—testifying that knowledge can triumph over all challenges, and that when a person carries the light of education, they are always capable of forging their path even in the most difficult circumstances.

Top News

Palestine Ahliya University Ranked First in THE Arab World Awards 2025 for International Strategy

Palestine Ahliya University secured first place in the 2025 Times Higher Education (THE) Arab World Awards in the International Strategy category, announced at the official ceremony in the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan. The award recognized the launch of the Arab Council for Academic Exchange (ACAE), the first initiative of its kind to enhance academic, research, and administrative collaboration among Arab universities. This achievement highlights the university's pioneering vision in promoting international cooperation despite regional challenges. The judging panel commended the university's efforts, noting: "Amid regional instability, Palestine Ahliya University chose to look outward, focusing on building support networks that benefit not only the institution but the entire region. The university successfully formed a distinguished coalition in a short period, demonstrating clarity of vision and rapid execution."



This achievement directly reflects the university's commitment to expanding its international presence and implementing its strategic plan for development, global expansion, and community service through innovative initiatives. Chief among these is the launch of the Arab Council for Academic Exchange (ACAE), which, in its inaugural phase, brought together dozens of universities from across the Arab world in an unprecedented institutional collaboration.

Palestine Ahliya University emphasizes that this recognition serves as an additional motivation to continue building bridges for academic communication and enhancing scientific and research exchange, contributing to a more integrated Arab higher education landscape that effectively addresses regional and global challenges.

International and Local Cooperation

The President of Palestine Ahliya University, Prof. Imad Al-Zeer, hosts the President of Palestine Technical University – Kadoorie, Prof. Hussein Shanak to discuss enhancing joint cooperation.







Palestine Ahliya University Seeks to Strengthen Cooperation with Permanent Qatari Committee for Jerusalem to Support Jerusalemite Students.



Palestine Ahliya University and Bank of Palestine Discuss Strengthening Partnership and Future Collaboration.



Palestine Ahliya University and Jubran Dannoun Trading Corporation sign a cooperation agreement to establish a Smart Systems and Industrial Innovation Lab.







Represented by Dr. Jamil Itmazi from the Faculty of Engineering and Information Technology, in collaboration with Dr. Hakam Hijjeh from the Faculty of Humanities and Educational Sciences, Palestine Ahliya University participated in an international workshop in Tunisia titled *“Capacity Building in Applied Research: Methods and Ethics.”* The workshop aimed to enhance participants’ applied research skills by introducing key concepts, methodologies, and ethical standards, while providing scientific tools and materials to assist in preparing applied research proposals for specific programs, with a focus on health-related fields. The university representatives submitted a joint research proposal and actively engaged in the workshop’s scientific and training activities.





Conferences

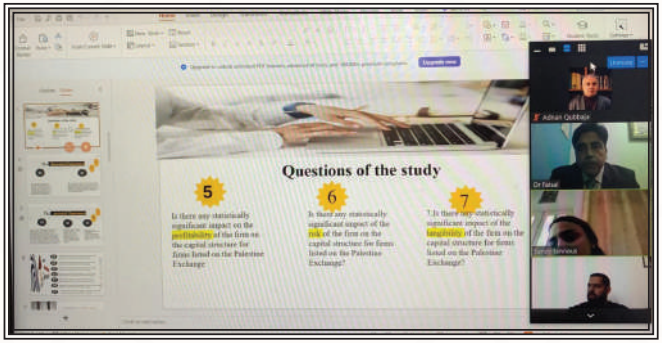
Palestine Ahliya University, represented by Dr. Dr. Mahmoud Itmeizeh, Dean of the Faculty of Humanities and Education, participated in the Third International Conference on English Language, Literature, and Translation titled

"**Insights into Applied English and Translation Studies in the AI Era**", organized by Middle East University in cooperation with the Association of English Language, Literature, and Translation Professors in the Arab World. Dr. Mahmoud chaired one of the academic sessions of the conference and then presented a research paper titled: "**Utilization of AI Tools in English Language Teaching and Learning as Perceived by EFL Instructors and Learners**."





Students Sandy Tannous and Issa Musallam participated in the International Conference on Applied Business and Economics Research (ICABER 2025) by presenting two research papers prepared in collaboration with their supervisor, Dr. Adnan Qabaja, and the Dean of Graduate Studies, Prof. Nasser Jardat.



Events and Activities

Prof. Imad Al-Zeer, President of Palestine Ahliya University, inaugurated the event entitled "In Tribute to Heritage… A Pledge to Independence… and in Commemoration of the National Icon," organized by the Deanship of Student Affairs in cooperation with the Student Union Council at the University.









The team from Palestine Ahliya University participated in the Orientation Day for Tawjihi students, organized by An-Najah National University in Nablus, under the patronage of the Ministry of Education and Higher Education.













Palestine Ahliya University organized a specialized training program targeting the coordinators and staff of the “Young Journalist” program in several schools in the southern region, in partnership with the Ministry of Education and Higher Education. The program aims to enhance their media skills and enable them to keep pace with technological advancements in the field of digital media.








The Deanship of Student Affairs and the Student Union Council at Palestine Ahliya University concluded the five-a-side football tournament for the University's faculties, titled "Martyr Yasser Arafat League." The Faculty of Law team secured first place among four participating college teams, which included the Faculty of Law, the Faculty of Allied Medical Sciences, the Faculty of Applied Sciences and Professions, and the Faculty of Engineering and Information Technology.





The Department of Therapeutic Medical Nutrition in the Faculty of Allied Medical Sciences organized an event titled "Food for Mood," aiming to raise awareness about the importance of nutrition in enhancing mental well-being and reducing stress, in celebration of World Health Day.





The Faculty of Humanities and Educational Sciences, in collaboration with the Ministry of Social Development and the Al-Ala'ia Resource Center, organized an awareness event on the occasion of White Cane Day, highlighting the rights of the visually impaired and their active role in society.





Palestine Ahliya University participated in a workshop on the outcomes of the EEE3 Project, funded by the European Union, held at Dar Al-Kalima University. The workshop was organized by the National Authority for Accreditation and Quality Assurance for Higher Education Institutions in coordination with the Erasmus Office in Palestine.





The Faculty of Applied Sciences and Professions organized the event "**Palestine Unites Us: Heritage and Identity**" in partnership with the Palestinian Ministry of Culture and in collaboration with the Students' Forum Foundation.













The Department of Technical Sciences in the Faculty of Applied Sciences and Professions at Palestine Ahliya University organized a specialized training workshop for students majoring in Graphic Design and Visual Effects, delivered by Mr. Mousa Al-Qawasmi, a certified photojournalist at Reuters News Agency.





The Department of Islamic Studies in the Faculty of Humanities and Education organized a workshop titled “Educational Games,” presented by Dr. Khalid Al-Jawarish. The workshop included a series of cultural activities and purposeful educational games.





The Graphic Design and Visual Effects program in the Faculty of Applied Sciences and Professions hosted artist Jasem Shuman in a distinguished lecture and workshop during which he provided students with a rich artistic and educational experience.









The Deanship of Student Affairs organized an interactive event on self-care for university students, titled "**Self-Care – Caring for Yourself… The Key to Your Academic Success,**" aiming to raise awareness about the importance of mental health and empower students to practice self-care safely and positively.













The Faculty of Allied Medical Sciences at Palestine Ahliya University, in collaboration with the Palestinian Ministry of Health – Bethlehem Health Directorate, organized a scientific meeting to highlight the importance of early detection and careful monitoring of children's growth, health, and behavior.













The Deanship of Student Affairs and the Youth-Friendly Health Center at Palestine Ahliya University, in partnership with Masaha Foundation, organized a workshop titled "**Yoga and Art: Breath and Balance**."





The Faculty of Engineering and Information Technology at Palestine Ahliya University held a specialized scientific lecture on the current state of the interior design profession and the challenges of practicing in the local market, presented by interior designer Hanadi Hijazi.









Palestine Ahliya University, in partnership with the Palestinian Medical Relief Society, Augusta Victoria Hospital (Al-Mutlaa), and Al-Sadeel Foundation, organized the event “The Story of Diabetes” as part of World Diabetes Day activities, attended by representatives of the partner institutions and university students.













The Deanship of Student Affairs and the Youth-Friendly Health Center at Palestine Ahliya University, in partnership with the Palestinian Medical Relief Society, organized a workshop titled "**Adolescent Health: Self-Awareness and Emotional Release.**"



The Faculty of Engineering and Information Technology held a specialized workshop on the Suspended Node System.





Palestine Ahliya University participated in the specialized panel discussion on youth-friendly health services in Palestinian universities.







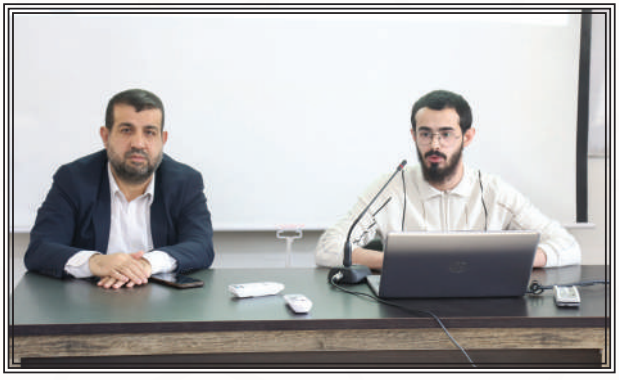
The Faculty of Law at Palestine Ahliya University organized a series of legal seminars on the following topics:





The Principle of Digital Will in Automated Contracts





Inheritance of Profitable Smart Applications from a Legal and Sharia Perspective

The Faculty of Law at Palestine Ahliya University organized a series of legal seminars on the following topics:





Personal Data Protection in the Digital Age





Smart Arbitration in Digital Contracts

The Faculty of Law at Palestine Ahliya University organized a series of legal seminars on the following topics:





Land under the Law: Challenges of Property Sale and Vacating through Power of Attorney in Palestine

Field Visits and Activities

The Beauty and Skincare Program at Palestine Ahliya University conducted a specialized training workshop on first aid, in collaboration with the Palestinian Red Crescent Society.





The Engineering and Information Technology Club at Palestine Ahliya University organized a visit to the Bethlehem Branch of the Engineers Association in collaboration with the Young Engineers Committee.





Students of the Social Work program in the Faculty of Humanities and Education conducted an educational visit Mehwar Center for the Protection and Empowerment of women and families to learn about the center's operations and the services it provides, as well as to gain insight into the cases handled by the center and the intervention mechanisms and professional strategies used in working with its beneficiaries.





Students of the Community Rehabilitation program organized a visit to St. Nicholas Home for the Elderly in Beit Jala, aiming to enhance their practical experience and connect academic knowledge with real-life application.



Students of the Physiotherapy program in the Faculty of Allied Medical Sciences conducted an awareness activity at Dheisheh Boys' School, during which they delivered practical lectures and provided guidance to the academic and administrative staff on preventing back and joint pain and optimizing classroom and office work environments.









The Debate Club, affiliated with the Deanship of Student Affairs, participated in the "**Palestine Debates 2025**" league as a part of Engage Project, implemented by the Filastiniyat Foundation in partnership with An-Najah National University, supported by the EU, and under the patronage of the Ministry of Education and Higher Education.













Scientific Research Corner



Palestine Ahliya University is pleased to announce the release of the second issue of Volume four (2025) of the

"Palestine Ahliya University Journal for Research and Studies"

published by the Scientific Research Department. This peer-reviewed, open-access academic journal serves as a trusted resource for researchers and specialists, providing a scholarly platform for disseminating high-quality, peer-reviewed research. It welcomes submissions across a diverse array of fields, including engineering, computer and information technology, literature and the humanities, business and economics, the social sciences, medicine and healthcare, the natural sciences, agricultural and food sciences, nutrition, as well as interdisciplinary studies.

To access the third issue and to submit manuscripts for consideration please visit the journal's website:
https://journal.paluniv.edu.ps/index.php/journal

The journal also invites inquiries from researchers interested in joining its editorial board. Interested candidates may contact us via email at: journal@paluniv.edu.ps



Dr. Haitham Hijazi published a new paper titled
"No Vibe Without Comprehension: Measuring Code Understanding in Modern Coding Workflows Using Neurophysiological Signals"

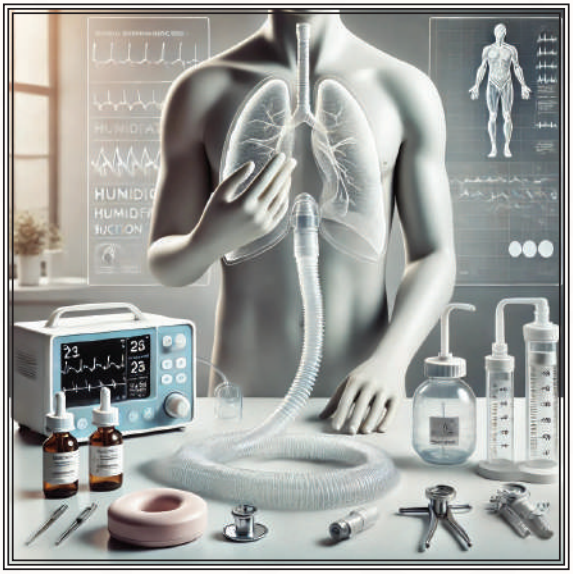
Dr. Mahmoud Itmeizeh published a new paper titled
"Impact of role-play on improving tenth-grade students' English-speaking skills and enhancing their personality skills"



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



Dr. Suhail Al-Ahmad and Dr. Alaa Al-Sartawi published a new paper titled
"Inheriting Profitable Digital Applications"



Prof. Ahmad Batran, Dr. Muath Abu Ejheisheh, Mrs. Wa'ed Salameh and Mrs. Alaa' Obeyat published a new paper titled
"Enhancing Tracheostomy Care: Knowledge Among Nurses in Intensive Care Units"

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The 100th among Arab Universities

The 5th among Palestinian Universities

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