



Galilee

FOUNDATION



SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMME ANNUAL REVIEW

2020-21





“THE SCHOLARSHIP WAS A TREMENDOUS SUPPORT FOR ME. IT PROVIDED FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE AND INSTILLED CULTURAL, SOCIAL AND NATIONAL PRIDE IN ME. THIS HELPED ME AS A UNIVERSITY STUDENT AND OPENED DOORS FOR ME IN MY LIFE.”

YEHIA ABU RAYYA



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Covid-19 pandemic brought unprecedented challenges to our students in Palestine/Israel. The dedication of our team in Haifa meant we were able to adapt quickly by moving our Educational Programme online. In a normal year, students collect their scholarship funds when they attend the workshops, but Covid restrictions prevented these gatherings. Our staff in Haifa worked tirelessly to safely deliver cheques to every student during lockdown. As we move forward to the new normal, our fieldtrips are back on track and workshops are once more held in person. Covid also affected our UK office and put our in-person fundraising plans on hold, but we look forward to the year ahead and the opportunity for others to join us in supporting Palestinian university students.

During the Unity Uprising in May 2021, we found ourselves in a position where we had to respond and adapt to the unrest and tension on campus. As our supporters know, we are an apolitical organisation focusing on education and encouraging students to be active participants in their community. However, the events of May 2021 caused a sense of anxiety amongst our students because of the random arrests targeting Palestinian youth. We managed to swiftly conduct an emergency meeting to inform students of their rights and how to behave in case of arrest, and we connected former and current law students who could provide support for young people who were detained.

We received over 2,000 applicants at the start of the 2020-2021 academic year, but we were only able to offer scholarships to 255 students. What makes our scholarship utterly unique in Israel is that we don't just pay tuition fees. Our programme includes a series of mandatory workshops to teach study skills essential for a successful university experience, to enhance Palestinian identity and to create opportunities for Palestinian students to meet their peers at other universities. Our programme also includes workshops which provide tools for civic participation and socio-political engagement.

When our students graduate, they consistently say they feel like they made new family and friends. The Galilee Foundation's ambition is to have sufficient funds to be able to award a scholarship to all deserving applicants.

Our work over the last year would not have been possible without generous donations from individuals and trusts. A heartfelt thank you to all for believing in our aim to make a positive, lasting difference to the lives of young, disadvantaged Palestinians.

LAST YEAR AT A GLANCE

98.5% OF OUR STUDENTS STAYED IN OUR SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMME IN THE 2020-2021 ACADEMIC YEAR. THIS IS AN EXTRAORDINARY ACHIEVEMENT WHEN STATISTICS SHOW THERE IS A 97.8% RETENTION RATE FOR JEWISH AND 96.8% RETENTION RATE FOR PALESTINIAN UNDERGRADUATES OVER THE LAST DECADE.

A student on a "Volunteer Day" helping to renovate walls in Akka.



Special Virtual Workshop for healthcare students during Covid pandemic.

261 STUDENTS GRADUATED

(Source: <https://files.eric.ed.gov/fulltext/EJ1260338.pdf>)

LIST OF ACTIVITIES & WORKSHOPS PROVIDED

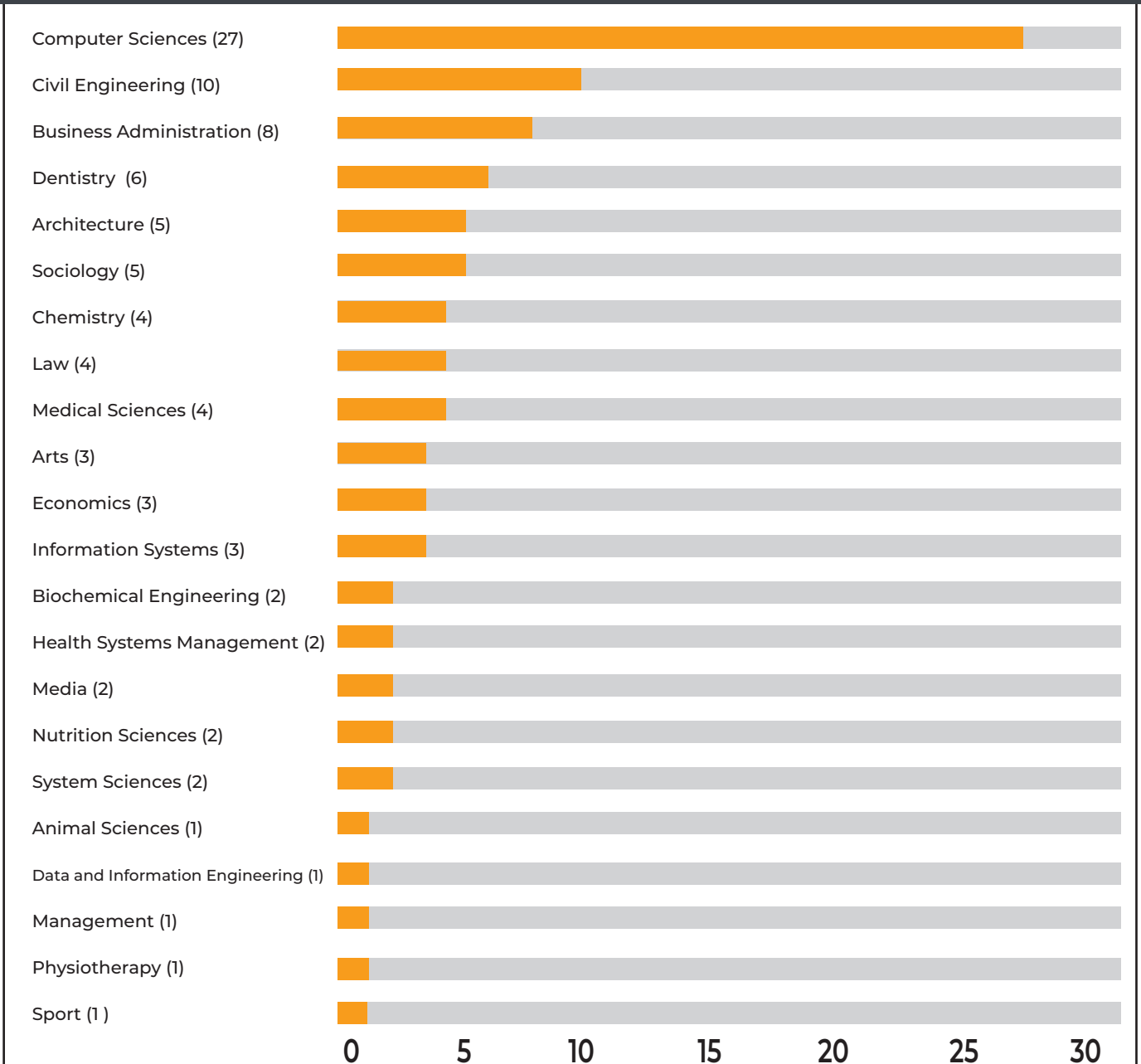
Induction to the Scholarship programme	Academic Research
Preparing for Student Life	Developing Personal Skills
Technological Tools for Academic Life	Labour Rights and Employment
Cultural Rights in Academic Sphere	Reinforcing the Palestinian Historical Narrative
Palestinian Literature	Volunteer Days to clean up a cemetery in Istiqlal mosque in Haifa and to help renovate walls in Akka (Acre)
Enhancing the Palestinian Identity	Student led trips to demolished villages in Wadi Al Salib in Haifa
Communication and Public Speaking Skills	Social change Initiative
Gender Rights	Fieldtrip to Jerusalem
Critical Thinking	Virtual workshop for nursing and healthcare students

87 % of students found the workshops and activities helpful & empowering

LECTURES PROVIDED TO STUDENTS:

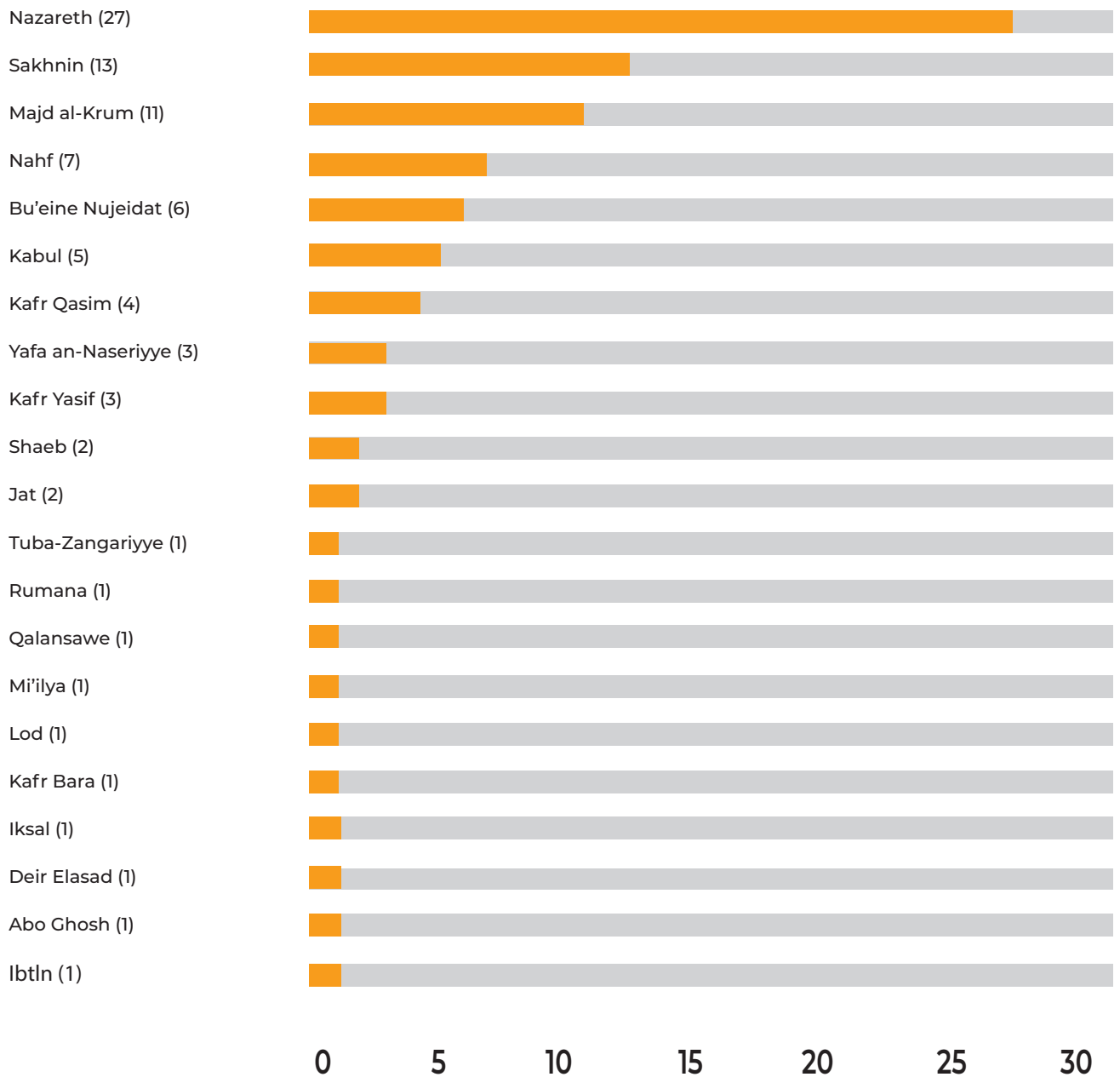
- Police, violence and suppression of demonstrations as security control
- Jerusalem: settlement projects and resilience
- Silencing the Palestinian narrative on social media
- Freedom and Human Rights
- Social Psychology
- The Concept of Volunteering and Initiative

Degrees our students are studying





Palestinian cities our students are from



SPOTLIGHT ON

JERUSALEM FIELD TRIP



Students gain a different viewpoint of Jerusalem on a "This is my homeland" trip. They visit the Holy Sepulchre (left) and travel to the Mount of Olives (right), with settlements and Jewish cemeteries and the Dome of the Rock in the distance.

STUDENTS EXPLORING JERUSALEM ON A FIELD TRIP

100%

of the students said they would participate in a similar activity in the future.

90%

said that they gained new information.

100%

said that the journey made them see Jerusalem in a different way.

"I walked in the Al-Quds alley in Jerusalem many times before and never tired of it. Now I know about new places and gained new information especially after all the events that happened [unity uprising]. We got to hear directly from the owners [at risk of expulsion] and because the media is not the most appropriate place to get information, it came at the right time and in the right place.
Thank you"

What's next for the Galilee Foundation?

Alumni Programme

We have had over 1,600 graduates since we started our programme in 2007. We are working on developing an alumni programme that will be a space which provides graduates with a professional network of Palestinians through Israel and the occupied territory. We want it to benefit the wider society through engagement in capacity building, entrepreneurial collaboration, and job creation.

Pilot group of 15 architects & civil engineers who have attended seminars on digital tools in architecture, landscape of buildings, 3D documentation, and history of Palestinian architecture





Fundraising

We held a number of fundraising events during the year including a Zakat appeal during Ramadan, the London Asics 10K, The Royal Parks Half Marathon and the Big Give. We are also launching new products in our online boutique, including Traces Jewellery, handmade in Israel by Palestinians, to place ourselves in front of potential supporters with a compelling new product.



Expanding into the West Bank

We have piloted a partnership with AlQuds University in East Jerusalem and we hope to expand by starting partnerships with other universities in the West Bank so that we can support even more Palestinian student to complete higher education.



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