USCRI Latin America and the Caribbean

HABESHA PROJECT

HABESHA PROTECTION SCHOLARSHIP

Call for Applications 2026

For Palestinians displaced from Gaza and currently residing in Egypt





Are you looking for an opportunity to transform your future through **HIGHER EDUCATION?**

HABESHA PROTECTION
SCHOLARSHIP
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PALESTINE

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USCRI Latin America and the Caribbean invites applications for **25 scholarships through the Habesha Project**. The program supports young Palestinians displaced from Gaza, who currently reside in Egypt with regular immigration status and need international protection. Selected students will travel to Aguascalientes, Mexico, for Spanish preparation and higher education.

Funding is secured for three years per student: one year of intensive Spanish followed by two years of studies toward a Técnico Superior Universitario (TSU) qualification.[1]

[1]TSU (Técnico Superior Universitario) is a two-year higher-education qualification in Mexico, broadly comparable to an associate degree. It combines academic coursework with practical training and a supervised workplace placement (estadía). Graduates may continue toward an engineering or other bachelor's degree (Ingeniería or Licenciatura), subject to university requirements and available programs. Further studies beyond the TSU are not covered by this scholarship.

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Key dates

- Applications open September 22, 2026, and close November 06, 2026, at 11:59 p.m., Egypt time.
- Expected arrival in Mexico is November 15, 2026, subject to completion of selection, documentation, visa issuance, and travel arrangements.
- Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted for the next stages of selection.
- ***Important Note on Applications:*** *Applications are reviewed and candidates will be interviewed on a rolling basis. Although the deadline to apply is October 21, we strongly encourage you to submit your application as early as possible, as positions may be filled before the closing date.*

What the scholarship covers

- Travel to Mexico, visa-related assistance, and necessary local travel and temporary transit accommodation associated with relocation.
- An intensive first year of Spanish through the Spanish Language Acquisition and Culture Intensive Course (CIAEC), with a target of B2 proficiency before TSU studies.
- Full academic funding for the two-year TSU, including tuition, registration, books, graduation fees, and other academic expenses.
- A monthly allowance of 9,000 MXN throughout the three-year program to support rent, food, and transportation.
- An academic welcome package including a laptop and other materials.
- Enrollment in the Mexican Social Security Institute (IMSS), ongoing case management, psychosocial support and specialized referrals when needed, and community integration activities.

Who can apply

Applicants must meet all of the following requirements:

- Be Palestinian, displaced from Gaza, and currently residing in Egypt with valid, regular immigration status.
- Be between 18 and 24 years old on November 06, 2026.
- Be single and without children.
- Have international protection needs and face significant barriers to accessing higher education.
- Have completed high school or equivalent secondary education, with a minimum academic average of 7 out of 10 on the Mexican scale or its assessed equivalent.

- Have at least B1 English. Proficiency will be assessed during the interview; no language certificate is required.

- Have a clear interest in one of the available fields of study and be willing to travel to Mexico, undertake intensive Spanish preparation, and participate in the full-time program.

- Have, or be able to obtain before departure, a valid passport (with validity of at least 6 months), birth certificate, high school diploma, and official high school transcript (kardex). Gazan ID and evidence of current regular immigration status in Egypt are also required.

How to apply

Complete the application form and upload legible documents. **Application link**.

Provide the following documents with your application:

- Gazan ID – you need to hold this at the time of application -MANDATORY
- Passport (Valid for at least 6 months) – MANDATORY
- Legal Residence in Egypt (Documentation showing regular status) – MANDATORY
- Birth Certificate
- High School Diploma
- Official High School Transcript

Important Note: *All listed documents—including ORIGINALS necessary for academic validation—must be fully available and presented prior to departure / at the time of travel.*

Missing Documents at Application: *If you are missing any document during the application stage, you will not be automatically disqualified. However, you must upload a brief explanation detailing how and when you will obtain it before your departure.*

To complete your application, you also need to provide:

- A recent face photograph with a white background.

- A 500-word cover letter in English following the guidance below.

Name all documents in the following way:
Last name_First name_Document name (e.g. Smith_John_ID or Smith_John_photo)

Complete all application questions accurately and provide all documents currently available, together with explanations for any pending documents. Unexplained omissions may prevent assessment of your application.

Application questions: ***gazascholarship@refugees.org***

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Available universities and fields of study

Scholarships are offered for TSU programs at the following institutions in the city of Aguascalientes, Mexico. Academic placement will take account of your interests, eligibility, and program availability. Instruction is in Spanish following the preparatory year.

Universidad Tecnológica del Norte de Aguascalientes

- Information Technologies – Multiplatform Software Development
- Administration
- Automation
- Mechanics – Automotive Area
- Flexible Manufacturing Systems (Mechatronics)
- Artificial Intelligence
- Production Processes
- Accounting
- Human Capital Management
- Industrial Maintenance
- Supply Chain Management
- Marketing
- Sustainable and Protected Agriculture



Universidad Tecnológica El Retoño

- Data Science – Artificial Intelligence Area
- Information Technologies – Multiplatform Software Development
- Mechatronics – Automation
- Marketing
- Human Capital Management (Human Resources)

The academic offer may be expanded. Any additional options will be communicated to selected candidates.

About USCRI

The U.S. Committee for Refugees and Immigrants (USCRI) is a nonprofit organization dedicated to the needs and rights of refugees and immigrants. Its regional office manages operations in Mexico, Honduras, and El Salvador. Through the Habesha Project, USCRI works with Mexican universities to help young people with international protection needs access higher education and build a stable future in Mexico.

The program combines education, legal accompaniment, and community support. Applicants are considered with respect for their dignity and without discrimination based on religion, race, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, or disability, within the eligibility requirements of this call.

Selection and acceptance

USCRI will review applications and documentation to identify candidates who meet the eligibility requirements. Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted. Shortlisted applicants will participate in interviews covering academic interests, motivation, adaptability, English proficiency, and international protection needs. Selection takes account of protection needs, competencies, academic performance, and vocational orientation.

Selected candidates will receive information on their academic placement and the scholarship's terms and conditions. Acceptance includes reviewing and signing the informed consent and scholarship regulations, and receiving an explanation of the Code of Conduct and the protocol for preventing and addressing abuse, exploitation, and sexual harassment. An official acceptance letter will be issued after the acceptance requirements are completed.

Travel arrangements will follow completion of the necessary documentation and visa procedures. The anticipated arrival date may change. Selection does not guarantee a visa, refugee recognition, or permanent residency; these decisions are made by the relevant authorities.

Cover letter guidance

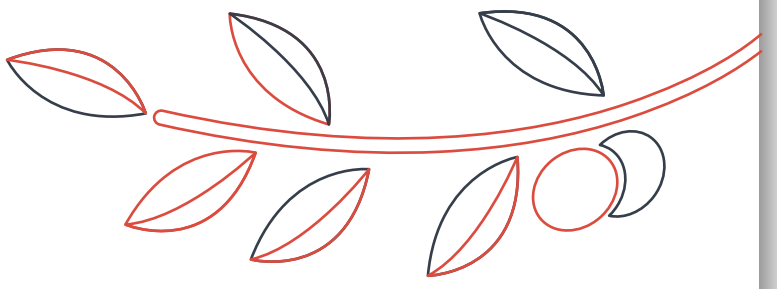
Submit a 500-word cover letter in English addressed to USCRI Latin America and the Caribbean. Use Arial or Times New Roman, size 12, with single spacing. Explain in your own words:

- Your background and why you are applying for the Habesha Protection Scholarship.
- Your preferred field of study and how it relates to your interests, experience, and future goals.
- The barriers you face in accessing higher education and why you need this opportunity.
- Your expectations about moving to Mexico and your readiness for intensive Spanish preparation and university studies.

The cover letter must reflect your own experiences, motivations, and ideas. Do not submit a letter generated by generative AI as your own work.

Important conditions

- All stages of the application and selection process are free of charge.
- If you submit more than one application, only the most recent will be considered. False information or falsified documents may lead to disqualification from this call and future opportunities.
- The scholarship covers the selected student only. It does not cover relocation of family members.
- Funding is secured for three years per student. Continued participation is subject to the scholarship regulations and the university's academic and conduct requirements.



Complementary Pathways
HABESHA PROTECTION SCHOLARSHIP 2026

USCRI Latinoamérica y el Caribe

PROYECTO HABESHA