



Supporting medical and health students from Gaza

A call to faculty members of the Faculty of Biomedical Sciences, Università della Svizzera italiana (USI)

Who we are

The AMAL Project – Educating to rebuild hope in Gaza is led by the Association Alama in partnership with the Collectif du Personnel Universitaire pour la Palestine (CPUP – University of Geneva). Since October 2023, Gaza's educational system has been dismantled: at least 20,000 students and teachers killed, 97% of school buildings damaged, 700,000 young people denied an education. AMAL rests on three pillars: the Taalam school (1,900 pupils in Nuseirat), the Gaza International Student Network (GISN), which opens access to higher education, and a pillar building connections between Gaza, Switzerland and beyond. GISN today brings together 40 Gazan students, 40 international mentors, 16 academics and 8 English teachers. It has submitted over 50 applications abroad and welcomed 9 students in Geneva for a Master or PhD, funded by a private foundation and hosted in families. The totality of the funds raised go to students in Gaza.

Our medical and health students at USI

GISN accompanies 14 students in medicine, dentistry, pharmacy and nursing (13 undergraduates in years 1 to 5 and one recent graduate) at Al-Azhar, the Islamic University, UCAS and Palestine University. They keep studying (mostly online, sometimes under a tent) and all aim to pursue a Master's degree in the medical field abroad. With Swiss Healthcare Workers Against Genocide (SHWAG), two students already have a sponsor and/or a tutor. The others are waiting for one.

What you can do to help

Become a tutor	Become a sponsor	Become both
• Regular Zoom meetings with one student • Personal, professional guidance and networking • Help with applications abroad • Free access to online courses, webinars or conferences whenever possible	• Fund the student's tuition fees in Gaza for 1, 2 or 3 years • CHF 1,700 to 5,800 per year, depending on the programme	• Tutor and sponsor the same student • The most complete support: financial security and a personal mentor who knows the field

Why it matters: a contradiction we cannot ignore

Our universities and the medical community are explicitly committed to humanitarian principles and human rights: the right to education, the protection of health care and of those who provide it, non-discrimination. Yet for a medical student from Gaza, coming to Switzerland to complete a Master's in medicine and then practice here is virtually impossible, even before facing visas, proof of financial means and an exit from Gaza that depends on evacuation lists beyond anyone's control. The paradox is stark: the students for whom these principles matter most are those our rules most effectively exclude. While these doors remain closed, Swiss academics can still act: by supporting these students where they are, and helping them reach programs abroad, we help train the doctors, dentists, pharmacists and nurses Gaza will need to rebuild its health system.

Contacts:

Julie Franck, Coordinator of the GISN, University of Geneva – julie.franck@unige.ch | www.alama.ch
Pietro Majno-Hurst, local coordinator, University of Southern Switzerland - USI - majnop@usi.ch