Dear Mr / Mrs

North Rhine-Westphalia is the largest and, economically, the strongest state of Germany’s 16 states. More than 18 million people live between the Rhine and Weser rivers, or roughly as many people as in Australia or the state of New York.

The State Government of the German State of North Rhine-Westphalia decided to continue a bursary program for students from the Palestinian territories in 2011. The program, which started in 2007, offers short-term bursaries for students from the selected Palestinian universities

- Birzeit University near Ramallah;
- Al Quds University in East-Jerusalem;
- Bethlehem University;
- National University of Nablus;
- Palestine Polytechnic University;

wishing to undertake studies and research in North Rhine-Westphalia.

Studies are offered amongst others in the following fields:

- Natural, Information and Social Sciences;
- Medicine and Life Sciences;
- Engineering und Architecture, Physics.
By this letter I am now calling for applications for 2011!

Please find attached the full description of the grant program plus an appropriate application form.

The program and the form can also be downloaded from

http://www.uni-duesseldorf.de/NRW-Nahost-Foerderprogramme.

Please be aware of the deadline for applications: 1 March, 2011.

We kindly ask you to make the call for applications available to your teaching staff and especially to the students of your institution. This letter will also be sent as e-mail to a couple of scientists at palestinian universities and research institutions.

We are looking forward to applications of your highly-qualified students and thus wish to further strengthen the academic bonds between our states.

Yours sincerely,

Helmut Dockter

(Deputy Minister for Innovation, Science and Research of North Rhine-Westphalia)