

NorPal Workshop:

Strengthening of higher education and research in Palestine:

What can Norwegian academic institutions and environments do?

Time: 26 February 2026, 10:00 - 15:00
Registration and coffee
from 09:00 - 10:00

Place: Oslo Metropolitan University,
[OsloMets festsal](#),
[Pilestredet 52, Oslo](#)

[Registration for the workshop](#)

[NorPal website](#)



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I. Opening session

- 10:00 - 10:05** **Welcome remarks**
Chair of the NorPal Board Monica Rolfsen
- 10:05 - 10:25** **Opening address: The needs of the higher education sector in Palestine**
Mr. Amjad Barham,
Minister of Education, Palestine
- 10:25 - 10:40** **Norway's cooperation with Palestine**
Councillor Geir Yngve Hermansen,
Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- 10:40 - 11:20** **Keynote: Rebuilding after war and catastrophe – a theoretical and practical approach**
Professor Sultan Barakat, Hamad Bin Khalifa University
- 11:20 - 11:40** *Break*

II. Experiences and examples - preparation of proposals for the NorPal call

- 11:40 – 11:50** **Cooperation between Palestinian and Norwegian higher education institutions and academics**
Dr. Ahmed Abu Shabaan, Dean, Faculty of Agriculture and Veterinary Medicine,
Al-Azhar University and Emergency Committee of Universities in Gaza
- 11:50 - 12:35** **Short presentations of ongoing and planned cooperation between Palestine and Norway**
Academics and students

12:35 - 13:15 Discussion and exchange in groups around areas of interest and importance in support of higher education and research in Palestine – planning of applications for the NorPal call

All workshop participants

13:15 - 14:00 *Lunch and mingling*

III. Closing session: Where do we go from here?

Chair: Tanja Storsul, NorPal Board

14:00 - 14:25 Panel discussion – building on experience

- Researcher Rawia Awadallah, OsloMet
- Associate Professor Marius Grønning, NMBU
- Professor Anne Kveim Lie, University of Oslo
- Professor Hans Skotte, NTNU
- Assistant Professor Anders Davidsen, University of South-Eastern Norway

14:25 - 14:55 Closing dialogue – the next steps

- Dr. Omar Shweiki, Director, Friends of Palestinian Universities
- Professor Sultan Barakat, Hamad Bin Khalifa University
- Councillor Geir Yngve Hermansen, Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- Oscar dos Santos Hellberg-Kvalsvik, National Union of Students in Norway
- NorPal Chair Monica Rolfsen

14:55 - 15:00 Closing of the workshop

NorPal Chair Monica Rolfsen



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Norwegian Consortium for Higher
Education in Palestine