

MISSION STATEMENT

Bethlehem University Irish Foundation

Bethlehem University is the only Catholic university in the Holy Land and it needs our help.

The town of Bethlehem is circumscribed by an 8 metre high Wall so that mobility by the Palestinian staff and students into or out of Bethlehem is very difficult, often impossible with closed Israeli checkpoints. In these extraordinary circumstances, Bethlehem University, (www.bethlehem.edu), a co-educational institution in the Lasallian tradition, carries out its mission to provide higher education to the people of Palestine of all creeds and nationalities, in the most difficult political, academic, and financial circumstances.

The mission of the Foundation is to assist Bethlehem University by establishing an academic co-operation programme with the Irish university world and thereby to assist in the overall development of the international programmes of all the universities involved. It has been established by the Friends of Bethlehem University in Ireland (www.fbui.ie) to provide a programme of visiting scholarships and fellowships to enable Bethlehem University staff make short visits out of Bethlehem to Irish universities, and conversely, to enable staff from Irish universities visit Bethlehem University in order, for example:

- to promote the establishment of teaching, research and other academic co-operative links,**
- to explore opportunities for collaboration in student mobility under the European Union ERASMUS MUNDUS and in other student oriented programmes,**
- to discuss the possibility for joint Masters or other degree programmes supported by the European Union, and**
- to examine the various university administrative structures for such programmes as research development, e-learning, international development studies, etc..**