Friends of Palestinian Universities

England & Wales · Charity number 1114343

Details

Other names	THE FRIENDS OF BIRZEIT UNIVERSITY
Status	Registered
Legal form	Charitable company
Company number	05713430
Registered	2006-05-23
Register	View on the Charity Commission register

Contact

Address	1 Gough Square London EC4A 3DE
Phone	02078321352
Email	info@friendsofpalunis.org
Website	https://friendsofpalunis.org/

Activities

Objects: THE CHARITY'S OBJECTS ARE TO PROMOTE THE ADVANCEMENT OF EDUCATION OF PALESTINIANS SEEKING EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES AT HIGHER AND TERTIARY EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS AND/OR THROUGH EDUCATIONAL, COMMUNITY OR CULTURAL PROGRAMMES IN SUCH WAYS AS THE DIRECTORS THINK FIT.

Activities: To promote the advancement of education of Palestinians seeking educational opportunities at higher and tertiary education institutions and/or through educational, community or cultural programmes in such ways as the Directors see fit.

Classification

- **How:** Makes Grants To Individuals, Makes Grants To Organisations, Provides Advocacy/advice/information
- **What:** Education/training, Human Rights/religious Or Racial Harmony/equality Or Diversity
- **Who:** People With Disabilities, People Of A Particular Ethnic Or Racial Origin

Geography

- Occupied Palestinian Territories
- Throughout England

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-08-31	£291,163	£215,459	-	-
2024-08-31	£103,001	£111,114	-	-
2023-08-31	£64,712	£115,940	-	-
2022-08-31	£51,896	£80,464	-	-
2021-08-31	£153,778	£87,279	-	-
2020-08-31	£18,220	£37,647	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Ahmed Najar		2023-06-13
DR Aimee Shalan		2017-06-29
Dr Helen Frances Murray		2023-12-01
Dr Mazen Masri		2018-03-22
Dr Mezna Qato		2018-03-22
Sandra Hamrouni		2020-06-30

Accounts

REGISTERED COMPANY NUMBER: 05713430 (England and Wales)
REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER: 1114343

Report of the Trustees and

Unaudited Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2025

for

Friends of Palestinian Universities

Dial Square Associates Limited
Chartered Accountants
9 St George's Yard
Farnham
Surrey
GU9 7LW

Contents of the Financial Statements
for the Year Ended 31 August 2025

Friends of Palestinian Universities

Reference and Administrative Details
for the Year Ended 31 August 2025

TRUSTEES	Dr A Shalan Dr M Masri Dr M Quato Ms S Hamrouni Dr H Murray A Najar
COMPANY SECRETARY	O Shweiki
REGISTERED OFFICE	1 Gough Square London EC4A 3DE
REGISTERED COMPANY NUMBER	05713430 (England and Wales)
REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER	1114343
INDEPENDENT EXAMINER	Dial Square Associates Limited Chartered Accountants 9 St George's Yard Farnham Surrey GU9 7LW
SOLICITORS	Thomas Eggar The Corn Exchange Baffins Lane Chichester West Sussex PO19 1GE
BANKERS	Unity Trust Bank plc Nine Brindley Place Birmingham B1 2HB COIF Charity Deposit Fund 80 Cheapside London EC2V 6DZ

The Trustees present their annual report and financial statements for the year ended 31 August 2025.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in note 1 to the financial statements and comply with the charity's Articles of Association, the Companies Act 2006 and "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (issued in October 2019).

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Governing document

Friends of Palestinian Universities (formerly The Friends of Birzeit University of Palestinian Universities was established in 1978, registered with the Charity Commission in 1979 and subsequently incorporated as a company limited by guarantee in 2006. Friends of Palestinian Universities is governed in accordance with its Memorandum and Articles of Association.

Trustees, who are also directors of the company, are appointed for a 3-year term that may be renewed. When considering new trustees, desired skills and experience are assessed prior to a meeting between board members and the potential trustee. New trustees are inducted to the work and ethos of the charity. The Board of Trustees meets at least 4 times a year. Day-to-day management is delegated to the Director, who is accountable to and supervised by the Board.

The major risks to which the charity is exposed, as identified by trustees, are regularly reviewed and systems established to mitigate those risks. The major risks facing Friends of Palestinian Universities are:

- financial performance, notably continuity of incoming funds to sustain operations;
- availability of expertise and resources for day to day operations;
- operational performance, including bank de-risking and risks to staff when operating in a conflict zone;
- the profile and reputation of the Charity.

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Friends of Palestinian Universities objects are to "promote the advancement of education of Palestinians seeking educational opportunities at higher education institutions and/or through educational, community or cultural programmes in such ways as the Directors see fit."

The charity is extending opportunities and providing access to education to young Palestinians at educational institutions in the West Bank and Gaza.

The principal strands of activities carried out by Friends of Palestinian Universities for the public benefit are:

- **Academic scholarships** : supporting Palestinian students in financial need through scholarships and a hardship fund;
- **Building Higher Education Links**: facilitating links and understanding between UK and Palestinian students, educators and higher education in stitutions;
- **Advocacy and Awareness**: raising awareness in the UK amongst the higher education sector, government officials, parliamentarians, diplom ats and the general public, of the barriers to education for Palestinians.

The Trustees have paid due regard to guidance issued by the Charity Commission regarding public benefit in deciding what activities the charity should undertake.

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

Academic Scholarships

The scholarship programme comprises scholarships at Birzeit University, and joint Friends of Palestinian Universities-UNRWA scholarships for Palestinian refugee students. Scholarships are provided on the basis of financial need and academic merit.

The scholarship programme in Gaza, delivered in partnership with UNRWA, was temporarily suspended as a result of the outbreak of war in October 2023. The destruction of the university campuses halted teaching for most of the academic year, only to be resumed in the Spring.

Friends of Palestinian Universities endowments are:

- Adela Every Scholarship: funds a female student from villages or refugee camps.
- Doreen Ingrams Scholarship: funds one or more female students with special needs.
- Peter Holliday Scholarship: funds female students facing financial hardship.

Friends of Palestinian Universities also runs multi-year scholarships supported by sponsoring donors. Multi-year scholarships typically cover tuition fees and a scholarship administration fee. Sponsoring donors are consulted on specific requirements such as: gender, place of residence, academic record, faculty or subject, special needs. Sponsors are kept informed of their students' progress through personal student statements and academic reports.

A Hardship Fund is also in place to provide scholarships or alternatively, small grants to cover books, accommodation, transportation and housing, or subsidies students tuition fees at Birzeit University.

In 2024/25, Friends of Palestinian Universities provided 20 undergraduate scholarships and one masters scholarships to a students at Birzeit University through its partnership with Birzeit University and Welfare Association. We also continued to support three scholars in Gaza through our partnership with UNRWA.

Advocacy & Awareness

Friends of Palestinian Universities Advocacy & Awareness programme in 2024/25 focused on building understanding of the devastating impact of the war on Gaza on Palestinian higher education, while amplifying the voices of Palestinian academics, students and university leaders. We worked to communicate a core message: despite the destruction of campuses, infrastructure and academic life in Gaza, Gaza's universities continue to exist and require sustained institutional support. Through our "Our Universities Live On" series, public briefings, articles, blogs, webinars and social media content, we highlighted the resilience of students and staff continuing to teach, learn and research under extreme conditions.

During the year, Friends of Palestinian Universities played a leading role in convening and informing the UK higher education sector response. We participated actively in the UK Higher Education Humanitarian Working Group on Gaza alongside representatives Universities UK International, CARA, the British Council and university leaders, and helped advance discussions on coordinated sector-wide support. We also supported direct engagement between Gaza's university leadership and UK higher education institutions, including a meeting co-convened with Universities UK International where the Presidents of Gaza's non-profit universities addressed UK Vice-Chancellors and senior university representatives. Friends of Palestinian Universities also continued to facilitate and promote the work of the Emergency Committee of Universities in Gaza as the representative body of the higher education sector in Gaza.

The programme included a wide range of public and sector-facing activity, including webinars in the Education, Occupation & Liberation series, co-convened with UCU, briefings on scholasticide and the Emergency Committee, parliamentary and university events, contributions to conferences in the UK and internationally, and the co-organisation of a major education conference on "Responding to Scholasticide in Gaza" with UKFIET. Friends of Palestinian Universities also launched a research project on 'scholasticide' with international scholars of education.

Building Higher Education Links

Friends of Palestinian Universities Building Higher Education Links programme in 2024/25 focused on strengthening institutional partnerships and exchange between Palestinian and UK universities and faculty, with a particular emphasis on supporting Gaza's higher education sector through the Emergency Committee of Universities in Gaza. We continued to provide direct support to the Committee, including convening regular strategy meetings, preparing briefings on emerging policy developments, and developing practical models for institutional collaboration. Alongside this, we advanced sector-wide engagement by supporting the representation of the Committee in international fora and contributing to its initiatives mobilising assistance to Gaza's non-profit universities in Gaza.

A major milestone in the year was the development and launch of Partnerships with Palestine: A practical guide to UK-Palestinian higher education institutional collaboration, produced with partners at the University of Bristol and the University of Oxford. The guide has been widely promoted across the UK higher education sector and has informed the development of new partnerships and proposed mechanisms for UK university coordination in support of Palestinian higher education. Friends of Palestinian Universities also supported and promoted the expansion of virtual fellowship and research collaboration models, with programmes established at the University of Bristol, the University of St Andrews and under development at other institutions. Through initiatives such as the PALS Fellowship Programme and targeted partnership development with institutions including UCL and Oxford, the programme has contributed to building sustainable, institution-led links that support teaching, research and academic exchange in line with the priorities of Palestinian universities.

FUTURE PLANS

In the coming year, the Trustees will focus on strengthening the charity's capacity to deliver its objectives at a time of significant need. This will include modest expansion of staff capacity to support programme delivery, partnerships and fundraising, alongside a planned rebranding to reflect the organisation's sector-wide focus.

A key priority will be to support more coordinated engagement across the UK higher education sector in response to the crisis facing Gaza's universities. The charity will work with partners to mobilise institutional resources, develop partnerships and promote approaches that strengthen Palestinian higher education institutions. This will be accompanied by continued efforts to raise awareness of the challenges facing Palestinian higher education, including through research, public engagement and sector-facing guidance.

Alongside this, the Trustees will focus on advancing a sustainable fundraising strategy to diversify income and support the charity's long-term work. A review of the scholarship programme will also be undertaken to ensure it remains relevant and aligned with the evolving needs of the Palestinian higher education sector.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Friends of Palestinian Universities recorded an income over expenditure of £71,130 in fiscal year 2025 (2024: deficit of income over expenditure £7,553). Despite ongoing economic and political uncertainties, the charity has made progress in fundraising while maintaining adequate reserves. The trustees will aim to prioritise the need to secure sufficient income streams in order to sustain and expand programmes in response to growing needs on the ground.

In the past year, Friends of Palestinian Universities has taken important steps towards diversifying its funding base and building institutional support. Notably, the charity held its annual away day, which culminated in the further development of a strategy for fundraising and programme development. Implementation began in late 2023, with an emphasis on securing institutional funding to meet the urgent needs arising from the crisis in the Palestinian higher education sector and to support increased organisational capacity. Expanding funding streams remains essential to the long-term viability of Friends of Palestinian Universities work and its ability to scale impact.

The trustees have the power to invest in such assets as they see fit. Treasury activities aim to ensure sufficient liquidity for Friends of Palestinian Universities operational needs while minimising risk in a cost-effective manner.

Reserves Policy
The trustees aim to maintain reserves at a level equivalent to approximately six months of management and administrative costs in unrestricted funds, after accounting for known scholarship commitments. This provides a financial cushion in the event of unforeseen circumstances and helps safeguard the continuity of the charity's work.

The Trustees, who are also the directors for the purpose of company law, and who served during the year and up to the date of signature of the financial statements were:

Dr A Shalan
Dr M Masri
Dr M Qato
Ms S Hamrouni
Dr H Murray
A Najar

Approved by order of the board of trustees on 25 June 2026 and signed on its behalf by:

Ms S Hamrouni - Trustee

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of
Friends of Palestinian Universities

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of Friends of Palestinian Universities ('the Company')
I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Company for the year ended 31 August 2025.

Responsibilities and basis of report
As the charity's trustees of the Company (and also its directors for the purposes of company law) you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 ('the 2006 Act').

Having satisfied myself that the accounts of the Company are not required to be audited under Part 16 of the 2006 Act and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of your charity's accounts as carried out under Section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 ('the 2011 Act'). In carrying out my examination I have followed the Directions given by the Charity Commission under Section 145(5) (b) of the 2011 Act.

Independent examiner's statement
Since your charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 your examiner must be a member of a listed body. I can confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales, which is one of the listed bodies.

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Company as required by Section 386 of the 2006 Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of Section 396 of the 2006 Act other than any requirement that the accounts give a true and fair view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination; or
4. the accounts have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice for accounting and reporting by charities (applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)).

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

I R Futcher FCA

Dial Square Associates Limited
Chartered Accountants
9 St George's Yard
Farnham
Surrey
GU9 7LW

Date: 25/06/2026

Friends of Palestinian Universities

Statement of Financial Activities for the Year Ended 31 August 2025

	Notes	Unrestricted fund £	Restricted fund £	31.8.25 Total funds £	31.8.24 Total funds £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM					
Donations and legacies		99,682	179,891	279,573	100,286
Investment income	2	9,526	2,064	11,590	2,715
Total		109,208	181,955	291,163	103,001
EXPENDITURE ON					
Raising funds					
Raising donations and legacies	3	12,069	21,646	33,715	14,742
		12,069	21,646	33,715	14,742
Charitable activities	4				
Charitable activities		76,647	105,097	181,744	96,372
Total		88,716	126,743	215,459	111,114
Net gains/(losses) on investments		(4,574)	-	(4,574)	560
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)		15,918	55,212	71,130	(7,553)
Transfers between funds	13	8,816	(8,816)	-	-
Net movement in funds		24,734	46,396	71,130	(7,553)
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS					
Total funds brought forward		95,401	114,530	209,931	217,484
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD		120,135	160,926	281,061	209,931

Friends of Palestinian Universities

Balance Sheet
31 August 2025

	Notes	Unrestricted fund £	Restricted fund £	31.8.25 Total funds £	31.8.24 Total funds £
FIXED ASSETS					
Tangible assets	9	2,548	-	2,548	-
Investments	10	100,348	48,517	148,865	143,918
		102,896	48,517	151,413	143,918
CURRENT ASSETS					
Debtors	11	21,054	-	21,054	5,151
Cash at bank		8,583	112,409	120,992	70,141
		29,637	112,409	142,046	75,292
CREDITORS					
Amounts falling due within one year	12	(12,398)	-	(12,398)	(9,279)
NET CURRENT ASSETS		17,239	112,409	129,648	66,013
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES		120,135	160,926	281,061	209,931
NET ASSETS		120,135	160,926	281,061	209,931
FUNDS	13				
Unrestricted funds:					
Unrestricted				120,135	95,401
Restricted funds:					
Restricted				160,926	114,530
TOTAL FUNDS				281,061	209,931

The charitable company is entitled to exemption from audit under Section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 for the year ended 31 August 2025.

The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its financial statements for the year ended 31 August 2025 in accordance with Section 476 of the Companies Act 2006.

The trustees acknowledge their responsibilities for
(a) ensuring that the charitable company keeps accounting records that comply with Sections 386 and 387 of the Companies Act 2006 and
(b) preparing financial statements which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company as at the end of each financial year and of its surplus or deficit for each financial year in accordance with the requirements of Sections 394 and 395 and which otherwise comply with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 relating to financial statements, so far as applicable to the charitable company.

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to charitable companies subject to the small companies regime.

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees and authorised for issue on 25/6/2026 and were signed on its behalf by:

Sandra Hamrouni

S Hamrouni - Trustee

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Charity information
The charity is a company limited by guarantee and has no share capital. In the event of the charity being wound up, the liability in respect of the guarantee is limited to £10 per member of the charity.

Accounting convention
The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the charity's Articles of Association, the Companies Act 2006 and "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019)". The charity is a Public Benefit Entity as defined by FRS 102.

The accounts are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the charity. Monetary amounts in these financial statements are rounded to the nearest £1.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, modified to include certain financial instruments at fair value. The principal accounting policies adopted are set out below.

Going concern
At the time of approving the financial statements, the Trustees have a reasonable expectation that the charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. Thus the Trustees continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the financial statements.

Charitable funds
Unrestricted funds comprise general funds created by the accumulated surplus within the statement of financial activities. They are available for use at the discretion of the Trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the charity.

Restricted funds represent amounts received for a specific purpose, which have not yet been fully spent, on that purpose by the year end.

Adela Every Scholarship - This fund was set up to cover the cost of a scholarship under the following criteria, 'A female student from vil lages or refugee camps'.

Doreen & Leila Ingrams Scholarship - This fund was set up to cover the cost of a scholarship for, 'One or more female students with special needs '.

Peter Holliday Scholarship - This fund was set up to cover the cost of scholarship under the following criteria, 'Female students facing fi nancial hardship.'

The Hardship Fund - a 'quick response' fund that contributes towards tuition fees, living expenses, housing, IT, travel and books.

Sarah Hayward Scholarship - This fund was set up for scholarships for undergraduate students in financial need.

Boulos and Margaret Kaibni - This fund was set up to cover the cost of a scholarship under the following criteria - 'for a female student in fi nancial need at Birzeit University'.

Dr Salem H. Khamis Scholarship - Supports a Palestinian student in financial need to study statistics or mathematics at masters level.

Al-Shehabi Family Scholarship - Supports a Palestinian student in financial need.

Dominic Simpson Memorial Scholarship - Supports a female student at Birzeit University based upon financial need and academic merit.

El-Gomati Scholarship - This fund was set up to cover the cost of a scholarship under the following criteria, 'for a female student in fin ancial need'.

Leri Scholarship - This fund supports a student in financial need.

Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust Main Fund - This fund provides support for the charity's programme.

Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust Development Fund - This fund provides support for the associated costs of developing of the organisation.

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1. **ACCOUNTING POLICIES - continued**

Charity information
Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust Wellbeing Fund - This fund provides support for the wellbeing of Fobzu staff, university students and faculty.

The board took the decision in 2021 that future annual scholarship sponsorships should be recorded as unrestricted funds in order to ensure the efficient use of resources. Existing donors were consulted about this change and their agreement secured.

Endowment funds are subject to specific conditions by donors that the capital must be maintained by the charity.

Income
Income is recognised when the charity is legally entitled to it after any performance conditions have been met, the amounts can be measured reliably, and it is probable that income will be received.

Cash donations are recognised on receipt. Other donations are recognised once the charity has been notified of the donation, unless performance conditions require deferral of the amount. Income tax recoverable in relation to donations received under Gift Aid or deeds of covenant is recognised at the time of the donation.

Legacies are recognised on receipt or otherwise if the charity has been notified of an impending distribution, the amount is known, and receipt is expected. If the amount is not known, the legacy is treated as a contingent asset .

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to make a payment to a third party, it is probable that settlement will be required and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is classified under the following activity headings on a time spent basis:

Costs of raising funds comprise the costs of fundraising activities and their associated support costs.

Expenditure on charitable activities includes the costs of scholarship, advocacy, awareness and academic activities undertaken to further the purposes of the charity and their associated support costs.

Support costs are those functions that assist the work of the charity but do not directly undertake charitable activities. Support costs include payroll and governance costs which support the programmes. These costs have been allocated between cost of raising funds and expenditure on charitable activities.

Expenditure
Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to that expenditure, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all cost related to the category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

Tangible fixed assets
Tangible fixed assets are initially measured at cost and subsequently measured at cost or valuation, net of depreciation and any impairment losses.

Depreciation is recognised so as to write off the cost or valuation of assets less their residual values over their useful lives on the following bases:

Fixtures, fitting and equipment	5 years straight line

The gain or loss arising on the disposal of an asset is determined as the difference between the sale proceeds and the carrying value of the asset and is recognised in the statement of financial activities.

Fixed asset Investments

Fixed asset investments are initially measured at transaction price excluding transaction costs and are subsequently measured at fair value at each reporting date. Changes in fair value are recognised in net income/(expenditure) for the year.Transaction costs are expensed as incurred.

Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include cash in hand, deposits held at call with banks, other short-term liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less, and bank overdrafts. Bank overdrafts are shown within borrowings in current liabilities.

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1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES - continued

Taxation
The charity is exempt from corporation tax on its charitable activities.

Fund accounting
Unrestricted funds can be used in accordance with the charitable objectives at the discretion of the trustees.

Restricted funds can only be used for particular restricted purposes within the objects of the charity. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for particular restricted purposes.

Further explanation of the nature and purpose of each fund is included in the notes to the financial statements.

Financial instruments
The company only enters into basic financial instruments transactions that result in the recognition of financial assets and liabilities like trade and other accounts receivable and payable, loans from banks and other third parties, loans to related parties and investments in non-puttable ordinary shares.

Financial assets that are measured at cost and amortised cost are assessed at the end of each reporting period for objective evidence of impairment. If objective evidence of impairment is found, an impairment loss is recognised in profit or loss.

For financial assets measured at amortised cost, the impairment loss is measured as the difference between an asset's carrying amount and the present value of estimated cash flows discounted at the asset's original effective interest rate. If a financial asset has a variable interest rate, the discount rate for measuring any impairment loss is the current effective interest rate determined under the contract.

For financial assets measured at cost less impairment, the impairment loss is measured as the difference between an asset's carrying amount and the best estimate, which is an approximation, of the amount that the company would receive for the asset if it were to be sold at the reporting date.

Financial assets and liabilities are offset and the net amount reported in the statement of financial position when there is an enforceable right to set off the recognised amounts and there is an intention to settle on a net basis or to realise the asset and settle the liability simultaneously.

Employee Benefits

The cost of any unused holiday entitlement is recognised in the period in which the employee's services are received.

Termination benefits are recognised immediately as an expense when the charity is demonstrably committed to terminate the employment of an employee or to provide termination benefits.

Retirement benefits

Payments to defined contribution retirement benefit schemes are charged as an expense when they fall due.

2. INVESTMENT INCOME

	31.8.25	31.8.24
	£	£
Deposit account interest	2,289	2,715
Dividends received	9,301	-
	11,590	2,715

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3. RAISING DONATIONS AND LEGACIES

	31.8.25	31.8.24
	£	£
Staff costs	25,449	11,006
Office costs	4,113	739
Website costs	493	478
Bank charges	417	296
Support costs	2,328	1,577
Rent and utility costs	915	646
	33,715	14,742

4. CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES COSTS

	Direct Costs
	£
Charitable activities	181,744

5. NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)

Net income/(expenditure) is stated after charging/(crediting):

	31.8.25	31.8.24
	£	£
Depreciation - owned assets	337	-

6. TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION AND BENEFITS

There were no trustees' remuneration or other benefits for the year ended 31 August 2025 nor for the year ended 31 August 2024.

Trustees' expenses

There were no trustees' expenses paid for the year ended 31 August 2025 nor for the year ended 31 August 2024.

7. STAFF COSTS

	31.8.25	31.8.24
	£	£
Wages and salaries	25,449	11,006
	25,449	11,006

The average monthly number of employees during the year was as follows:

	31.8.25	31.8.24
Employees	3	2

No employees received emoluments in excess of £60,000.

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8. COMPARATIVES FOR THE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted fund £	Restricted fund £	Total funds £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM			
Donations and legacies	80,388	19,898	100,286
Investment income	47	2,668	2,715
Total	80,435	22,566	103,001
EXPENDITURE ON			
Raising funds			
Raising donations and legacies	14,682	60	14,742
	14,682	60	14,742
Charitable activities			
Charitable activities	68,984	27,388	96,372
Total	83,666	27,448	111,114
Net gains on investments	560	-	560
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)	(2,671)	(4,882)	(7,553)
Transfers between funds	119	(119)	-
Net movement in funds	(2,552)	(5,001)	(7,553)
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS			
Total funds brought forward	97,953	119,531	217,484
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD	95,401	114,530	209,931

9. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Fixtures and fittings £
COST	
At 1 September 2024	200
Additions	2,885
At 31 August 2025	3,085
DEPRECIATION	
At 1 September 2024	200
Charge for year	337
At 31 August 2025	537
NET BOOK VALUE	
At 31 August 2025	2,548
At 31 August 2024	-

continued...

10. FIXED ASSET INVESTMENTS

	Listed investments £	Cash held in portfolio £	Totals £
MARKET VALUE			
At 1 September 2024	136,243	7,675	143,918
Additions	-	9,521	9,521
Revaluations	(4,574)	-	(4,574)
At 31 August 2025	131,669	17,196	148,865
NET BOOK VALUE			
At 31 August 2025	131,669	17,196	148,865
At 31 August 2024	136,243	7,675	143,918

There were no investment assets outside the UK.

Cost or valuation at 31 August 2025 is represented by:

	Listed investments £	Cash held in portfolio £	Totals £
Valuation in 2024	(2,232)	2,567	335
Valuation in 2025	(4,574)	-	(4,574)
Cost	138,475	14,629	153,104
	131,669	17,196	148,865

Fixed asset investments were valued on an open market basis on 31 August 2025 by Hargreaves Lansdown.

11. DEBTORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	31.8.25 £	31.8.24 £
Other debtors	7,259	4,145
Prepayments and accrued income	13,795	1,006
	21,054	5,151

12. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	31.8.25 £	31.8.24 £
Trade creditors	3,801	-
Social security and other taxes	2,463	1,270
Other creditors	497	1,560
Accruals and deferred income	5,637	6,449
	12,398	9,279

continued...

13. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS

	At 1.9.24 £	Net movement in funds £	Transfers between funds £	At 31.8.25 £
Unrestricted funds				
Unrestricted	95,401	15,918	8,816	120,135
Restricted funds				
Restricted	114,530	55,212	(8,816)	160,926
TOTAL FUNDS	209,931	71,130	-	281,061

Net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Gains and losses £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds				
Unrestricted	109,208	(88,716)	(4,574)	15,918
Restricted funds				
Restricted	181,955	(126,743)	-	55,212
TOTAL FUNDS	291,163	(215,459)	(4,574)	71,130

Comparatives for movement in funds

	At 1.9.23 £	Net movement in funds £	Transfers between funds £	At 31.8.24 £
Unrestricted funds				
Unrestricted	97,953	(2,671)	119	95,401
Restricted funds				
Restricted	119,531	(4,882)	(119)	114,530
TOTAL FUNDS	217,484	(7,553)	-	209,931

Comparative net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Gains and losses £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds				
Unrestricted	80,435	(83,666)	560	(2,671)
Restricted funds				
Restricted	22,566	(27,448)	-	(4,882)
TOTAL FUNDS	103,001	(111,114)	560	(7,553)

continued...

13. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

A current year 12 months and prior year 12 months combined position is as follows:

	At 1.9.23 £	Net movement in funds £	Transfers between funds £	At 31.8.25 £
Unrestricted funds				
Unrestricted	97,953	13,247	8,935	120,135
Restricted funds				
Restricted	119,531	50,330	(8,935)	160,926
TOTAL FUNDS	217,484	63,577	-	281,061

A current year 12 months and prior year 12 months combined net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Gains and losses £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds				
Unrestricted	189,643	(172,382)	(4,014)	13,247
Restricted funds				
Restricted	204,521	(154,191)	-	50,330
TOTAL FUNDS	394,164	(326,573)	(4,014)	63,577

14. RELATED PARTY DISCLOSURES

There were no related party transactions for the year ended 31 August 2025.

Friends of Palestinian Universities

Detailed Statement of Financial Activities
for the Year Ended 31 August 2025

	31.8.25 £	31.8.24 £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS		
Donations and legacies		
Donations and legacies	269,855	87,787
Charitable activities	9,718	12,499
	279,573	100,286
Investment income		
Deposit account interest	2,289	2,715
Dividends received	9,301	-
	11,590	2,715
Total incoming resources	291,163	103,001
EXPENDITURE		
Raising donations and legacies		
Staff costs	25,449	11,006
Office costs	4,113	739
Website costs	493	478
Bank charges	417	296
Support costs	2,328	1,577
Rent and utility costs	915	646
	33,715	14,742
Charitable activities		
Consultancy and contracted services	12,200	11,877
Office costs	9,157	2,279
Bank charges	1,283	914
Website costs	1,520	1,473
Share of support costs	6,996	4,866
Rent and utilities	2,819	1,994
Staff costs	78,434	33,956
Travel expenses	382	676
Workshops and conferences	25,441	11,560
Grant fundings of activities	43,512	26,777
	181,744	96,372
Total resources expended	215,459	111,114
Net income/(expenditure) before gains and losses	75,704	(8,113)
Realised recognised gains and losses		
Net gains/losses on investments	(4,574)	335
Other gains or losses	-	225
Net income/(expenditure)	71,130	(7,553)

This page does not form part of the statutory financial statements

Accounts

Charity registration number 1114343

Company registration number 05713430 (England and Wales)

THE FRIENDS OF BIRZEIT UNIVERSITY

ANNUAL REPORT AND UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

THE FRIENDS OF BIRZEIT UNIVERSITY

LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Trustees (who are directors of the Limited company)	Dr A Shalan Dr M Masri Dr M Qato Ms S Hamrouni Dr H Murray (appointed 1 December 2023) A Najar
Secretary	Mr O Shweiki
Charity number	1114343
Company number	05713430
Registered office	1 Gough Square London EC4A 3DE
Independent examiner	Mercer & Hole LLP 21 Lombard Street London EC3V 9AH
Bankers	Unity Trust Bank plc Nine Brindley Place Birmingham B1 2HB COIF Charity Deposit Fund 80 Cheapside London EC2V 6DZ
Solicitors	Thomas Eggar The Corn Exchange Trust Baffins Lane Chichester West Sussex PO19 1GE

Honorary positions	William Dalrymple	Patron
	Professor Khalil Hindi	Patron
	Professor David McLellan	Patron
	Rev Duncan MacPherson	Patron
	Professor Steven Rose	Patron
	The Rt. Hon. Lord Steel of Aikwood KT KBE DL	Patron
	Juliet Stevenson	Patron

THE FRIENDS OF BIRZEIT UNIVERSITY

CONTENTS

The Trustees present their annual report and financial statements for the year ended 31 August 2024.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in note 1 to the financial statements and comply with the charity's Articles of Association, the Companies Act 2006 and "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (issued in October 2019).

Structure, governance and management

The Friends of Birzeit University (Fobzu) is a UK-based Charity. Fobzu was established in 1978, registered with the Charity Commission in 1979 and subsequently incorporated as a company limited by guarantee in 2006. Fobzu is governed in accordance with its Memorandum and Articles of Association.

Trustees, who are also directors of the company, are appointed for a 3-year term that may be renewed. When considering new trustees, desired skills and experience are assessed prior to a meeting between board members and the potential trustee. New trustees are inducted to the work and ethos of the charity. The Board of Trustees meets at least 4 times a year. Day-to-day management is delegated to the Development Director, who is accountable to and supervised by the Board. Committees and working groups are set up to address specific matters.

The major risks to which the charity is exposed, as identified by the trustees, are regularly reviewed and systems established to mitigate those risks. The major risks facing Fobzu are:

- financial performance, notably the continuity of incoming funds to sustain operations;
- availability of expertise and resources for day to day operations;
- operational performance, including bank de-risking and risks to staff when operating in a conflict zone;
- the profile and reputation of the Charity.

Objectives and activities

Fobzu's objects are to *"To promote the advancement of education of Palestinians seeking educational opportunities at higher and tertiary education institutions and/or through educational, community or cultural programmes in such ways as the Directors see fit."*

The charity is extending opportunities and providing access to education to young Palestinians at educational institutions in the West Bank and Gaza.

The principle strands of activities carried out by Fobzu for the public benefit are:

- *Academic scholarships:* supporting Palestinian students in financial need through scholarships and a hardship fund.
- *Building Higher Education Links:* facilitating links and understanding between UK and Palestinian students, educators and higher education institutions.
- *Academic Development:* supporting the research and professional development of Palestinian academics.
- *Advocacy and Awareness:* raising awareness in the UK amongst the higher education sector, government officials, parliamentarians, diplomats and the general public, of the barriers to education for Palestinians.

The Trustees have paid due regard to guidance issued by the Charity Commission regarding public benefit in deciding what activities the charity should undertake.

Achievements and performance
Academic Scholarships

The scholarship programme comprises scholarships at Birzeit University, and joint Fobzu-UNRWA scholarships for Palestinian refugee students. Scholarships are provided on the basis of financial need and academic merit.

The scholarship programme in Gaza, delivered in partnership with UNRWA was temporarily suspended as a result of the outbreak of war in October 2023. The destruction of the university campuses halted teaching for most of the academic year, only to be resumed in the Spring.

Fobzu's endowments are:

- Adela Every Scholarship: funds a female student from villages or refugee camps.
- Doreen Ingrams Scholarship: funds one or more female students with special needs.
- Peter Holliday Scholarship: funds female students facing financial hardship.

Fobzu also runs multi-year scholarships supported by sponsoring donors. Multi-year scholarships typically cover tuition fees and a scholarship administration fee. Sponsoring donors are consulted on specific requirements such as: gender, place of residence, academic record, faculty or subject, special needs. Sponsors are kept informed of their student’s progress through personal student statements and academic reports.

A Hardship Fund is also in place to provide scholarships or alternatively, small grants to cover books, accommodation, transportation and housing, or subsidise students' tuition fees at Birzeit University.

In 2023/24, Fobzu provided 14 undergraduate scholarships to female students and one masters scholarships to a male student at Birzeit University through its partnership with Birzeit University and Welfare Association.

Advocacy and Awareness
In 2023/24, Fobzu significantly expanded its advocacy and awareness work to highlight the devastating impact of the war on Palestinian higher education. Through events, publications, and digital communications, Fobzu worked to amplify the voices of Palestinian students and academics under siege. As part of our *Education, Occupation and Liberation* programme in partnership with UCU, we organised events addressing the destruction of Gaza’s universities and the broader targeting of educational institutions. In June 2024, Fobzu hosted a landmark event at the Frontline Club in London on the systematic targeting of education in Gaza, or *scholasticide*, featuring Palestinian academics and international experts. Throughout the year, our newsletters and online platforms have served as vital tools for raising public awareness and solidarity, sharing testimonies, interviews, and updates from within Palestinian universities.
Fobzu also played an active role in advocacy initiatives at the national level. In October 2023, we joined a coalition of UK charities in issuing a public statement calling for an immediate ceasefire. Earlier that month before the war, we co-authored a letter with UK NGOs to the Foreign Secretary, raising alarm over the Israeli military raid on Birzeit University. In response to the escalating crisis, Fobzu published briefing papers detailing the impact of the war on Palestinian education and the arbitrary arrest and detention of students and staff since October 2023. These efforts have helped keep the challenges facing Palestinian higher education on the agenda of the UK higher education sector, policymakers, and the wider public.

Building UK–Palestinian Academic Links
In 2023/24, Fobzu deepened its efforts to strengthen academic links between the UK and Palestine, with a particular focus on responding to the unprecedented crisis facing higher education in Gaza. Central to this work was our support for the *Emergency Committee of Universities in Gaza*, established by formal mandate from Gaza’s non-profit universities to coordinate emergency support and international engagement. Fobzu has worked closely with the Committee to facilitate dialogue and collaboration with UK higher education institutions, helping to ensure that Palestinian voices remain central in shaping solidarity efforts.

Achievements and performance (continued)

Our *UK–Palestine Academic Links Seminar* programme continued to grow this year, with 11 UK-based academic fellows participating in a UK-based and hybrid series of workshops designed to foster sustainable partnerships with Palestinian universities. This programme culminated in Fobzu's annual conference, held in June 2024 at the National Education Union under the theme *"Overcoming Barriers, Building Links: Emergency Support for Palestinian Higher Education."* Co-sponsored by UCU, the Independent Social Research Foundation, the Galilee Foundation, and the School of Education, Community & Society at King's College London, the conference brought together Palestinian and UK academics, including representatives of the Emergency Committee, to share experiences, forge new relationships, and explore avenues for meaningful institutional collaboration in the face of ongoing crisis.

Future Plans

Looking ahead, Fobzu remains committed to supporting Palestinian higher education through programmes that respond effectively to both long-term challenges and the urgent needs created by the current crisis. We will continue to deliver and evolve our scholarship programme to ensure it offers meaningful and flexible support to students facing immense hardship. At the same time, we will build on our advocacy work to raise awareness of the ongoing attacks on Palestinian education and promote solidarity with students, faculty, and staff across the higher education sector.

In the coming year, Fobzu will prioritise advancing partnerships between UK and Palestinian universities, working to strengthen academic cooperation and support the recovery and resilience of Palestinian institutions. We are also focused on developing sustainable sources of funding to secure the charity's future and expand our capacity to respond to the needs of the moment. As the situation on the ground continues to evolve, Fobzu will remain guided by the principle of educational justice, committed to standing alongside the Palestinian academic community in pursuit of their right to education and academic freedom.

Financial Review

Fobzu recorded a deficit of income over expenditure of £7,553 in fiscal year 2024 (2023: £65,085). Despite ongoing economic and political uncertainties, the charity has made progress in fundraising while maintaining adequate reserves. Trustees continue to prioritise the need to secure sustainable income in order to maintain and expand Fobzu's programmes in response to growing needs on the ground.

In the past year, Fobzu has taken important steps towards diversifying its funding base and building institutional support. Notably, the charity held its annual away day, which culminated in the further development of a strategy for fundraising and programme development. Implementation began in late 2023, with an emphasis on securing institutional funding to meet the urgent needs arising from the crisis and to support increased organisational capacity. Expanding funding streams remains essential to the long-term viability of Fobzu's work and its ability to scale impact.

The trustees have the power to invest in such assets as they see fit. Treasury activities aim to ensure sufficient liquidity for Fobzu's operational needs while minimising risk in a cost-effective manner.

Reserves Policy

The trustees aim to maintain reserves at a level equivalent to approximately one year of management and administrative costs in unrestricted funds, after accounting for known scholarship commitments. This provides a financial cushion in the event of unforeseen circumstances and helps safeguard the continuity of the charity's work.

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)(INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

The Trustees, who are also the directors for the purpose of company law, and who served during the year and up to the date of signature of the financial statements were:

SS

Dr A Shalan
Dr M Masri
Dr M Qato
Ms S Hamrouni
Dr H Murray (Appointed 1 December 2023)
A Najar

Approved by the Board of trustees and signed on its behalf by:

Sandra Hamrouni

Ms S Hamrouni
Chair
Dated: 30 June 2025

THE FRIENDS OF BIRZEIT UNIVERSITY

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT

TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE FRIENDS OF BIRZEIT UNIVERSITY

I report to the Trustees on my examination of the financial statements of The Friends of Birzeit University (the charity) for the year ended 31 August 2024 which are set out on pages 6 to 20.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the Trustees of the charity (and also its directors for the purposes of company law) you are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 (the 2006 Act).

Having satisfied myself that the financial statements of the charity are not required to be audited under Part 16 of the 2006 Act and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of the charity's financial statements carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act). In carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by section 386 of the 2006 Act; or
2. the financial statements do not accord with those records; or
3. the financial statements do not comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the 2006 Act other than any requirement that the accounts give a true and fair view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination; or
4. the financial statements have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice for accounting and reporting by charities applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102).

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the financial statements to be reached.

Andrew Dean

Andrew Dean ACA
Mercer & Hole LLP

21 Lombard Street
London
EC3V 9AH

Dated: 30 June 2025

THE FRIENDS OF BIRZEIT UNIVERSITY

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

	Notes	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total Year ended 31 August 2024	Total Year ended 31 August 2023
		£	£	£	£
Income and endowments from:					
Donations and legacies	**2**	77,888	9,899	87,787	57,022
Charitable activities		2,500	9,999	12,499	16
Investment income	**3**	47	2,668	2,715	4,930
Other income	**4**	-	-	-	2,744
Total income		80,435	22,566	103,001	64,712
Expenditure on:					
Raising funds	**5**	14,682	60	14.742	14,294
Charitable activities	**6**	68,984	27,388	96.372	101,646
Total expenditure		83,666	27,448	111,114	115,940
Net gains/(losses) on investments	**12**	335	-	335	(14,053)
Net outgoing before transfers					(65,281)
Gross transfers between funds	**18**	119	(119)	-	-
Net outgoing resources					(65,281)
Other recognised gains and losses					
Other gains or losses	**13**	225	-	225	196
Net expenditure & net movement in funds		(2,552)	(5,001)	(7,553)	(65,085)
Fund balances at 1 September 2023		97,953	119,531	217,484	282,569
Fund balances at 31 August 2024		95,401	114,530	209,931	217,484

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year. All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

The statement of financial activities also complies with the requirements for an income and expenditure account under the Companies Act 2006.

THE FRIENDS OF BIRZEIT UNIVERSITY

BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 31 AUGUST 2024

	Notes	2024		2023	
		£	£	£	£
Fixed assets					
Tangible fixed assets	**14**		-		-
Investments	**15**		143,918		143,583
Current assets					
Debtors	**16**	5,151		5,454	
Cash at bank and in hand		70,141		77,835	
		75,292		83,289	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	**17**	(9,279)		(9,388)	
Net current assets			66,013		73,901
Total assets less current liabilities			209,931		217,484
Net assets			209,931		217,484
Income funds					
Restricted funds	**18**		114,530		119,531
Unrestricted funds			95,401		97,953
			209,931		217,484

The company is entitled to the exemption from the audit requirement contained in section 477 of the Companies Act 2006, for the year ended 31 August 2024.

The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its financial statements for the year in question in accordance with section 476.

The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 with respect to accounting records and the preparation of financial statements.

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies regime.

The accounts were approved by the Trustees on 30 June 2025

Sandra Hamrouni

Ms S Hamrouni
Chair

Company Registration No. 05713430

1 Accounting policies

Charity information

The charity is a company limited by guarantee and has no share capital. In the event of the charity being wound up, the liability in respect of the guarantee is limited to £10 per member of the charity.

1.1 Accounting convention

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the charity's Articles of Association, the Companies Act 2006 and "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019)". The charity is a Public Benefit Entity as defined by FRS 102.

The accounts are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the charity. Monetary amounts in these financial statements are rounded to the nearest £1.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, modified to include certain financial instruments at fair value. The principal accounting policies adopted are set out below.

1.2 Going concern

At the time of approving the financial statements, the Trustees have a reasonable expectation that the charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. Thus the Trustees continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the financial statements.

1.3 Charitable funds

Unrestricted funds comprise general funds created by the accumulated surplus within the statement of financial activities. They are available for use at the discretion of the Trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the charity.

Restricted funds represent amounts received for a specific purpose, which have not yet been fully spent, on that purpose by the year end.

- Adela Every Scholarship - This fund was set up to cover the cost of a scholarship under the following criteria, 'A female student from villages or refugee camps'.
- Doreen & Leila Ingrams Scholarship - This fund was set up to cover the cost of a scholarship for, 'One or more female students with special needs'.
- Peter Holliday Scholarship - This fund was set up to cover the cost of scholarship under the following criteria, 'Female students facing financial hardship.'
- The Hardship Fund - a 'quick response' fund that contributes towards tuition fees, living expenses, housing, IT, travel and books.
- Sarah Hayward Scholarship - This fund was set up for scholarships for undergraduate students in financial need.
- Boulos and Margaret Kaibni - This fund was set up to cover the cost of a scholarship under the following criteria - 'for a female student in financial need at Birzeit University'.
- Dr Salem H. Khamis Scholarship - Supports a Palestinian student in financial need to study statistics or mathematics at masters level.
- Al-Shehabi Family Scholarship - Supports a Palestinian student in financial need.
- Dominic Simpson Memorial Scholarship - Supports a female student at Birzeit University based upon financial need and academic merit.
- El-Gomati Scholarship - This fund was set up to cover the cost of a scholarship under the following criteria, 'for a female student in financial need'.
- Leri Scholarship –This fund supports a student in financial need.
-

The board took the decision in 2021 that future annual scholarship sponsorships should be recorded as unrestricted funds in order to ensure the efficient use of resources. Existing donors were consulted about this change and their agreement secured.

1 Accounting policies **(Continued)**

Endowment funds are subject to specific conditions by donors that the capital must be maintained by the charity.

1.4 Income

Income is recognised when the charity is legally entitled to it after any performance conditions have been met, the amounts can be measured reliably, and it is probable that income will be received.

Cash donations are recognised on receipt. Other donations are recognised once the charity has been notified of the donation, unless performance conditions require deferral of the amount. Income tax recoverable in relation to donations received under Gift Aid or deeds of covenant is recognised at the time of the donation.

Legacies are recognised on receipt or otherwise if the charity has been notified of an impending distribution, the amount is known, and receipt is expected. If the amount is not known, the legacy is treated as a contingent asset.

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to make a payment to a third party, it is probable that settlement will be required and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is classified under the following activity headings on a time spent basis:

- Costs of raising funds comprise the costs of fundraising activities and their associated support costs.
- Expenditure on charitable activities includes the costs of scholarship, advocacy, awareness and academic activities undertaken to further the purposes of the charity and their associated support costs.

Support costs are those functions that assist the work of the charity but do not directly undertake charitable activities. Support costs include payroll and governance costs which support the programmes. These costs have been allocated between cost of raising funds and expenditure on charitable activities.

1.5 Tangible fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets are initially measured at cost and subsequently measured at cost or valuation, net of depreciation and any impairment losses.

Depreciation is recognised so as to write off the cost or valuation of assets less their residual values over their useful lives on the following bases:

Fixtures, fittings & equipment	5 years straight line

The gain or loss arising on the disposal of an asset is determined as the difference between the sale proceeds and the carrying value of the asset and is recognised in the statement of financial activities.

1.6 Fixed asset investments

Fixed asset investments are initially measured at transaction price excluding transaction costs and are subsequently measured at fair value at each reporting date. Changes in fair value are recognised in net income/ (expenditure) for the year. Transaction costs are expensed as incurred.

1.7 Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include cash in hand, deposits held at call with banks, other short-term liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less, and bank overdrafts. Bank overdrafts are shown within borrowings in current liabilities.

1 Accounting policies **(Continued)**

1.8 Financial instruments

The charity has elected to apply the provisions of Section 11 'Basic Financial Instruments' and Section 12 'Other Financial Instruments Issues' of FRS 102 to all of its financial instruments.

Financial instruments are recognised in the charity's balance sheet when the charity becomes party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

Financial assets and liabilities are offset, with the net amounts presented in the financial statements, when there is a legally enforceable right to set off the recognised amounts and there is an intention to settle on a net basis or to realise the asset and settle the liability simultaneously.

Basic financial assets

Basic financial assets, which include debtors and cash and bank balances, are initially measured at transaction price including transaction costs and are subsequently carried at amortised cost using the effective interest method unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the transaction is measured at the present value of the future receipts discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial assets classified as receivable within one year are not amortised.

Basic financial liabilities

Basic financial liabilities, including creditors and bank loans are initially recognised at transaction price unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the debt instrument is measured at the present value of the future payments discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial liabilities classified as payable within one year are not amortised.

Debt instruments are subsequently carried at amortised cost, using the effective interest rate method.

Trade creditors are obligations to pay for goods or services that have been acquired in the ordinary course of operations from suppliers. Amounts payable are classified as current liabilities if payment is due within one year or less. If not, they are presented as non-current liabilities. Trade creditors are recognised initially at transaction price and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

Derecognition of financial liabilities

Financial liabilities are derecognised when the charity's contractual obligations expire or are discharged or cancelled.

1.9 Employee benefits

The cost of any unused holiday entitlement is recognised in the period in which the employee's services are received.

Termination benefits are recognised immediately as an expense when the charity is demonstrably committed to terminate the employment of an employee or to provide termination benefits.

1.10 Retirement benefits

Payments to defined contribution retirement benefit schemes are charged as an expense as they fall due.

2 Subscriptions and Donations

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
Donations and gifts	71,670	21,749	93,419	57,022
HMRC Gift Aid	6,075	793	6,868	16
For the year ended 31 August 2023	77,745	6,836	100,287	57,038

3 Investment income

	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Unrestricted funds 2023 £
Income from bank deposits	2,715	4,930

4 Other income

	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Unrestricted funds 2023 £
Other income	-	2,744

5 Raising funds

	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Restricted funds 2024 £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
Consultancy/contracted services	-	-	-	1,600
Office Costs	739	-	739	61
Bank charges	296	-	296	113
Website costs	418	60	478	245
Support costs	1,577	-	1,577	11,321
Rent and utilities costs	646	-	646	432
Staff costs	11,006	-	11,006	_
For the year ended 31 August 2024	14,682	60	14,742	13,772

6 Charitable activities

	Scholarship	Advocacy and Awareness	Building H.E Links	Academic	Total	Total
	2024	2024	2024	2024	2024	2023
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Consultancy/contracted services	2,405	4,382	5,090	-	11,877	27,110
Office costs	450	847	982	-	2,279	233
Bank charges	180	340	394	-	914	440
Website costs	291	547	635	-	1,473	946
Share of support costs (see note 9)	960	1,809	2,097	-	4,866	43,790
Share of governance costs (see note 9)	-	-	-	-	-	4,320
Rent and utilities	394	741	859	-	1,994	1,671
Staff costs	6,701	12,622	14,633	-	33,956	-
Travel Expenses	137	249	290	-	676	-
Workshops and conferences	2,341	4,265	4,954	-	11,560	-
Grant fundings of activities (see note 8)	26,777	-	-	-	26,777	23,136
	40,636	25,802	29,934	-	96,372	101,646

Analysis by fund

Unrestricted funds	18,098	23,559	27,327	-	68,984	81,766
Restricted funds	22,538	2,244	2,606	-	27,388	19,880
	40,636	25,803	29,933	-	96,372	101,646

6 Charitable activities **(Continued)**

For the year ended 31 August 2023

	Scholarship	Advocacy and Awareness	Academic Development	Building H.E Links	Total 2023
	£	£	£	£	£
Consultancy/contracted services	2,119	1,207	5,766	18,018	27,110
Office costs	127	57	3	46	233
Bank charges	239	108	6	87	440
Website costs	513	232	14	187	946
Rent & utilities	908	409	24	330	1,671
	3,906	2,013	5,813	18,668	30,400
Grant funding of activities (see note 8)	23,136	-	-	-	23,136
Share of support costs (see note 9)	23,792	10,723	628	8,647	43,790
Share of governance costs (see note 9)	4,320	-	-	-	4,320
	55,154	12,736	6,441	27,315	101,646
Analysis by fund					
Unrestricted funds	35,274	12,736	6,441	27,315	81,766
Restricted funds	19,880	-	-	-	19,880
	55,154	12,736	6,441	27,315	101,646

7 Description of charitable activities

Scholarship

Working with UNRWA and Birzeit University, the Fobzu scholarship programme supports Palestinian students in financial need at universities in the West Bank and Gaza.

Advocacy and Awareness

Fobzu's work in Parliament and civil society, independently and in coalition with other UK charities and NGOs to promote Palestinian access to education.

The Education, Occupation & Liberation events programme and other activities to raise awareness within the UK education sector and general public about the experience of Palestinian students and educators, the barriers they face to education and how they seek to overcome them.

Academic Development

Support for Palestinian academics and institutions of higher education through the Fobzu-Oxford Writing Residency for Palestinian Scholars and other work to promote Palestinian scholarship and educational exchange.

Building H.E Links

Designed to foster collaboration and knowledge exchange between Palestinian academics and universities and their counterparts in the UK. This programme aims to address the challenges faced by Palestinian academia due to isolation and restricted access through primarily the Palestine-UK Academic Links (PALS) programme and the annual ‘Overcoming Barriers, Building Links: Supporting Palestinian Higher Education’ workshop.

8 Grants payable

Scholarship
Grants totalling £26,776 (2023: £23,136) were awarded to 20 (2023: 20) individuals.

9 Support costs

	Support costs	Governance costs	2024	2023
	£	£	£	£
Staff costs	-	-	-	44,963
Staff training	150	-	150	150
Consultancy	-	-	-	8,925
Office costs	-	-	-	673
Other overheads	-	297	297	-
Professional Fees	235	-	235	-
Audit fees	-	5,760	5,760	5,760
	385	6,057	6,442	60,471
Analysed between				
Fundraising	385	6,057	6,442	25,182
Charitable activities	-	-	-	35,289
	385	6,057	6,442	60,471

10 Trustees

None of the Trustees (or any persons connected with them) received any remuneration or benefits from the charity during the year.

One trustee was reimbursed £297 against travel expenses during the year None (2023: None).

11 Employees

Number of employees
The average number of employees during the year was:

	2024 Number	2023 Number
Employees	2	2

Employment costs	2024	2023
	£	£
Wages and salaries	43,630	49,972
Social security costs	(405)	418
Other pension costs	1,737	1,878
	44,963	52,268

There were no employees whose annual remuneration was £60,000 (2023: £nil).

12 Net gains/(losses) on investments

	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Unrestricted funds 2023 £
Revaluation of investments	335	(14,053)

13 Other gains and losses

(Gains)/losses upon:	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Unrestricted funds 2023 £
Foreign exchange	(225)	(196)

14 Tangible fixed assets

	Fixtures, fittings & equipment £
Cost	
At 1 September 2023	200
At 31 August 2024	200
Depreciation	
At 1 September 2023	200
At 31 August 2024	200
Carrying amount	
At 31 August 2024	-
At 31 August 2023	-

15 Fixed asset investments

	Listed investments	Cash in portfolio	Total
	£		£
Cost or valuation			
At 1 September 2023	138,475	5,108	143,583
Valuation changes	(2,232)	2,567	335
At 31 August 2024	136,243	7,675	143,918
Carrying amount			
At 31 August 2024	136,243	7,675	143,918
At 31 August 2023	138,475	5,108	143,583

16 Debtors

	2024	2023
Amounts falling due within one year:	£	£
Other debtors	4,145	4,824
Prepayments and accrued income	1,006	630
	5,151	5,454

17 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2024	2023
	£	£
Other taxation and social security	1,270	876
Other creditors	1,560	2,975
Accruals and deferred income	6,449	5,537
	9,279	9,388

18 Restricted funds

The restricted funds of the charity comprise the unexpended balances of donations and grants held on trust subject to specific conditions by donors as to how they may be used.

Current year

	Balance at 01-Sep 2023 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Movement between Funds £	Balance at August 2024 £
Adela Every Scholarship	27,978	1,212	0		29,190
Doreen & Leila Ingrams Scholarships	11,717	2,050	(1,074)		12,693
Peter Holliday Scholarships	32,762	1,171	0		33,933
Sarah Hayward Scholarships	9,659	-	(314)		9,345
El-Gomati Scholarships	15,022	-	(13)	(280)	14,729
Al-Shehabi Family Scholarships	338	-	(637)	299	-
Dr Salem H. Khamis Scholarships	3,000	-	(2,120)	(280)	600
Leri Scholarships		1,850	(2,352)	502	-
Boulos and Margaret Kaibni	6,715	-	(3,525)	(280)	2,910
Boulos and Margaret Kaibni Student Exp		-		0	-
Bseisu-Fobzu STEM Scholarships		-	(10,505)		(10,505)
Advocacy and Awareness Raising Programme					-
ISRF		3,000	(3,200)	200	-
Dominic Simpson Memorial Scholarship fund	9,743	-	(1,520)	(280)	7,943
Evan Cornish Foundation		10,000	(1,014)		8,986
Hardship Fund	2,596	1,358	752		4,705
Kings College		1,926	(1,926)		0
W Barnaby	1				1
	119,531	**22,566**	**(27,448)**	**(119)**	**114,530**

In the year, £119 was transferred from restricted to unrestricted funds. Fobzu covers the overhead expenditure associated with managing the scholarship by charging a student admin for each scholarship to the relevant fund, and transferring it to unrestricted reserves. Additionally, one of the funds was changed from an unrestricted fund to a restricted fund on donor request. Their reserves were transferred to restricted funds.

18 Restricted funds **(Continued)**

Comparative year

		Movement in funds				
	Balance at 1 September 2022	**Income**	**Other expenditure**	**Scholarships**	**Transfers**	**Balance at 31 August 2023**
	£	**£**	**£**	**£**	**£**	**£**
Adela Every Scholarship	32,333	-	-	(4,355)	-	27,978
Doreen & Leila Ingrams Scholarship	11,720	2,150	-	(2,153)	-	11,717
Peter Holliday Scholarship	32,762	-	-	-	-	32,762
Hardship Fund	4,934	1,573	-	(3,911)	-	2,596
Sarah Hayward Scholarship	11,814	-	-	(2,155)	-	9,659
El-Gomati Scholarship	16,957	-	-	(1,375)	(560)	15,022
Boulos and Margaret Kaibni	11,317	416	-	(4,738)	(280)	6,715
Al-Shehabi Family Scholarship	1,422	-	-	(804)	(280)	338
W Barnaby	1	-	-	-	-	1
Dominic Simpson Memorial Scholarship	10,412	-	-	(389)	(280)	9,743
Dr Salem H. Khamis Scholarship	-	3,000	-	-	-	3,000
	133,672	7,139	-	(19,880)	(1,400)	119,531

In the prior year, £1,400 was transferred from restricted to unrestricted funds. Fobzu covers the overhead expenditure associated with managing the scholarship by charging a student admin for each scholarship to the relevant fund, and transferring it to unrestricted reserves. Additionally, one of the funds was changed from a restricted fund to an unrestricted fund. Their reserves were transferred to unrestricted reserves.

19 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted 2024	**Restricted 2024**	**Total 2024**	Unrestricted 2023	Restricted 2023	Total 2023
	£	**£**	**£**	£	£	£
Fund balances at 31 August are represented by:						
Investments	95,401	48,517	143,918	97,953	45,630	143,583
Current assets	-	66,013	66,013	-	73,901	73,901
	95.401	113,411	209,931	97,953	119,531	217,484

20 Control

The Trustees have overall control of the activity.

21 Related party transactions

Unrestricted donations totaling £nil (2023: £nil) were received from trustees in the year. There were no other related party transactions.

Accounts

Charity registration number 1114343

Company registration number 05713430 (England and Wales)

THE FRIENDS OF BIRZEIT UNIVERSITY

ANNUAL REPORT AND UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

THE FRIENDS OF BIRZEIT UNIVERSITY

LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Trustees (who are directors of the Limited company)	Dr A Shalan	
	Dr M Masri	
	Dr M Qato	
	Ms S Hamrouni	
	Dr H Murray	(Appointed 1 December 2023)
	A Najar	(Appointed 13 June 2023)
Secretary	Mr O Shweiki	
Charity number	1114343	
Company number	05713430	
Registered office	1 Gough Square London EC4A 3DE	
Independent examiner	Mercer & Hole LLP 21 Lombard Street London EC3V 9AH	
Bankers	Unity Trust Bank plc Nine Brindley Place Birmingham B1 2HB	
	COIF Charity Deposit Fund 80 Cheapside London EC2V 6DZ	
Solicitors	Thomas Eggar The Corn Exchange Trust Baffins Lane Chichester West Sussex PO19 1GE	
Honorary positions	William Dalrymple	Patron
	Professor Khalil Hindi	Patron
	Professor David McLellan	Patron
	Rev Duncan MacPherson	Patron
	Professor Steven Rose	Patron
	The Rt. Hon. Lord Steel of Aikwood KT KBE DL	Patron
	Juliet Stevenson	Patron

THE FRIENDS OF BIRZEIT UNIVERSITY

CONTENTS

THE FRIENDS OF BIRZEIT UNIVERSITY

TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

The Trustees present their annual report and financial statements for the year ended 31 August 2023.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in note 1 to the financial statements and comply with the charity's Articles of Association, the Companies Act 2006 and "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (issued in October 2019).

Structure, governance and management

The Friends of Birzeit University (Fobzu) is a UK-based Charity. Fobzu was established in 1978, registered with the Charity Commission in 1979 and subsequently incorporated as a company limited by guarantee in 2006. Fobzu is governed in accordance with its Memorandum and Articles of Association.

Trustees, who are also directors of the company, are appointed for a 3-year term that may be renewed. When considering new trustees, desired skills and experience are assessed prior to a meeting between board members and the potential trustee. New trustees are inducted to the work and ethos of the charity. The Board of Trustees meets at least 4 times a year. Day-to-day management is delegated to the Development Director, who is accountable to and supervised by the Board. Committees and working groups are set up to address specific matters.

The major risks to which the charity is exposed, as identified by the trustees, are regularly reviewed and systems established to mitigate those risks. The major risks facing Fobzu are:

- financial performance, notably the continuity of incoming funds to sustain operations;
- availability of expertise and resources for day to day operations;
- operational performance, including bank de-risking and risks to staff when operating in a conflict zone;
- the profile and reputation of the Charity.

Objectives and activities

Fobzu’s objects are to *“To promote the advancement of education of Palestinians seeking educational opportunities at higher and tertiary education institutions and/or through educational, community or cultural programmes in such ways as the Directors see fit.”*

The charity is extending opportunities and providing access to education to young Palestinians at educational institutions in the West Bank and Gaza.

The principle strands of activities carried out by Fobzu for the public benefit are:

- *Academic scholarships:* supporting Palestinian students in financial need through scholarships and a hardship fund.
- *Building Higher Education Links:* facilitating links and understanding between UK and Palestinian students, educators and higher education institutions.
- *Academic Development:* supporting the research and professional development of Palestinian academics.
- *Advocacy and Awareness:* raising awareness in the UK amongst the higher education sector, government officials, parliamentarians, diplomats and the general public, of the barriers to education for Palestinians.

The Trustees have paid due regard to guidance issued by the Charity Commission regarding public benefit in deciding what activities the charity should undertake.

Achievements and performance

Academic Scholarships

The scholarship programme comprises scholarships at Birzeit University, and joint Fobzu-UNRWA scholarships for Palestinian refugee students. Scholarships are provided on the basis of financial need and academic merit.

Our working relationship with UNRWA has enabled Fobzu to securely provide support to one of the most marginalized sections of Palestinian society. Since academic year 2018/19, Fobzu scholarships supported through UNRWA are have been enabling Palestinian refugee students in financial need to access higher education at Birzeit University in the West Bank and universities in Gaza.

Fobzu's endowments are:

- Adela Every Scholarship: funds a female student from villages or refugee camps.
- Doreen Ingrams Scholarship: funds one or more female students with special needs.
- Peter Holliday Scholarship: funds female students facing financial hardship.

Fobzu also runs multi-year scholarships supported by sponsoring donors. Multi-year scholarships typically cover tuition fees and a scholarship administration fee. Sponsoring donors are consulted on specific requirements such as: gender, place of residence, academic record, faculty or subject, special needs. Sponsors are kept informed of their student’s progress through personal student statements and academic reports.

A Hardship Fund is also in place to provide small grants to cover books, accommodation, transportation and housing, or subsidise students' tuition fees at Birzeit University.

In 2022/23 Fobzu worked with UNRWA to provide 13 scholarships to Palestinian refugee students, of which 9 were female and 4 male. Three students were supported at Birzeit University and 10 at universities in Gaza.

In 2022/23, Fobzu provided an additional 7 scholarships to female students at Birzeit University through its partnership with Birzeit University and Welfare Association.

Building Higher Education Links

In 2022/23 Fobzu launched the Fobzu Palestine-UK Academic Links Seminar (PALS) designed to address the urgent need to build educational links and promote mutual understanding between UK and Palestinian faculty. The PALS programme facilitated a visit to Palestine for up to 12 faculty members and PhD students based at UK universities undertaking an educational itinerary of roundtable discussions, visits to Palestinian higher education and cultural institutions and meetings with Palestinian colleagues. Through participation in the programme, attendees were able to enhance their understanding of the Palestinian higher education sector, its achievements and challenges and develop their awareness of the structural impediments to education for Palestinians living under occupation and in exile. The priority of this programme has been to achieve provide a tangible contribution to building networks and links between UK and Palestinian colleagues, so participants have been encouraged and supported to develop projects that achieve this.

In March 2023, Fobzu held a one-day workshop in London aimed at advancing understanding of Palestinian higher education in the UK sector and advancing support for it. Titled ‘Overcoming Barriers, Building Links: Supporting Access to Higher Education for Palestinians’, the workshop was hosted by Fobzu and Dr Mark Griffiths of Newcastle University, the culmination of a four-year British Academy funded research project on Israel’s visa regime and its impact on Palestinians. UK and Palestinian academics, practitioners and policymakers came together at the National Education Union to take stock of the present challenges facing Palestinian higher education, identify resource and capacity gaps, and discuss approaches to advancing academic collaboration between academics and their institutions in the UK and Palestine. The workshop report summarised the discussions of the event and included recommendations on work to take forward in this area.

Achievements and performance (continued)

Academic Development

In 2023, Fobzu resumed the Fobzu-Oxford University Middle East Centre Writing Residency for Palestinian Scholars after it had been postponed as a result of Covid-19. The Residency is dedicated to promoting Palestinian scholarship and building links between UK and Palestinian higher education by supporting an academic from a Palestinian university to complete a writing project at St Antony's College, Oxford. The second Fobzu-Oxford Writer in Residence spent six weeks in Oxford during the summer of 2023.

Advocacy and Campaigning

In 2022/23 Fobzu continued the Education, Occupation & Liberation Programme co-hosted with the University & College Union (UCU), holding online events related to education in Palestine. Fobzu also co-hosted an event at King's College London to mark International Women's Day with the Department of International Development at King's College.

Fobzu continued to collaborate with other UK charities working for the rights and welfare of the Palestinian people, in order to raise further awareness about the obstacles to the right to education for Palestinians. In coalition with other charities, Fobzu has participated in meetings with members of the Government and Opposition joined coalition awareness raising initiatives such as a public statement on the 75 anniversary of the Nakba calling on the Government to uphold its legal and moral duties to the Palestinian people.

Fobzu continues to also raise awareness amongst the UK higher education sector about violations of Palestinian right to education through outreach to UK academics and engagement with the University and College Union (UCU), and through its email newsletter and social media platforms.

Other activities

In 2022/23, Fobzu launched three fundraising appeals.

Fobzu continues to see greater potential for increasing income by extending outreach as well as pursuing institutional funding opportunities. Over the coming year, Fobzu aims to raise general funds in order to develop two priority areas:

1. Building Higher Education Links
2. Advocacy and Awareness

Volunteers' support

Fobzu greatly appreciates the role played by its volunteer trustees and other volunteers who are committed to the aims of the Charity. Their skills, and the work performed, deliver much valued support.

Online activity

Fobzu's website is regularly updated with engaging written and audio-visual material. Our YouTube channel features videos of Fobzu events and other videos related to Fobzu's programme. Fobzu has active Facebook and Twitter accounts that continue to grow in popularity and continues to attract more subscribers to its e-newsletter 'Access Online'.

Future plans

In 2023 Fobzu plans to build on its existing programme, ensuring the charity can continue to have a positive impact on support for Palestinian higher education in the UK. At the same time, Fobzu will work to secure the long-term sustainability of the charity through targeted fundraising efforts. Resources will be invested in outreach to institutional funders, working to expand small donations and developing a legacy and bequest strategy as part of its long term strategy.

Working with Birzeit University, Welfare Association and UNRWA, Fobzu will continue to provide scholarships to Palestinian students in financial need. The charity will also work to promote links between UK and Palestinian higher education, with plans for a second workshop and PALS Programme.

Fobzu will also continue with its Education, Occupation & Liberation Programme, furthering exchange between Palestinian and UK academics and raising awareness in the UK higher education sector about the experience of Palestinian students and educators. The charity Fobzu will also continue to work with other UK charities to advance advocacy for Palestinian access to education.

Financial review

Fobzu recorded a deficit of income over expenditure of £65,085 in fiscal year 2023.

Trustees continue to prioritise the need to secure sustainable income to maintain the charity's programmes. Given economic and political uncertainties, Fobzu has been successful in raising funds whilst retaining adequate reserves. However, expanding funding streams is vital to longer-term viability and the expansion of Fobzu's work and impact.

Fobzu held its second annual away day culminating in the development of a strategy for fundraising and programme development, which will be implemented in 2023.

The trustees have power to invest in such assets as they see fit. Treasury activities have the objective of providing adequate liquidity for Fobzu's needs and of minimising risk in a cost-effective way.

Reserves Policy

The trustees aim for the level of reserves to be equivalent to approximately one year of management and administrative costs in unrestricted funds to provide for unforeseen circumstances, after accounting for our known scholarship commitments.

The Trustees, who are also the directors for the purpose of company law, and who served during the year and up to the date of signature of the financial statements were:

Dr A Owaineh	(Resigned 25 September 2023)
Dr A Shalan	
Dr D Baillie	(Resigned 15 August 2023)
Dr M Masri	
Dr M Qato	
Ms S Hamrouni	
Dr H Murray	(Appointed 1 December 2023)
A Najar	(Appointed 13 June 2023)

Approved by the Board of trustees and signed on its behalf by:

....

Ms S Hamrouni

Chair

Dated: 26/06/2024

THE FRIENDS OF BIRZEIT UNIVERSITY

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT

TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE FRIENDS OF BIRZEIT UNIVERSITY

I report to the Trustees on my examination of the financial statements of The Friends of Birzeit University (the charity) for the year ended 31 August 2023 which are set out on pages 7 to 20.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the Trustees of the charity (and also its directors for the purposes of company law) you are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 (the 2006 Act).

Having satisfied myself that the financial statements of the charity are not required to be audited under Part 16 of the 2006 Act and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of the charity's financial statements carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act). In carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1 accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by section 386 of the 2006 Act; or
2 the financial statements do not accord with those records; or
3 the financial statements do not comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the 2006 Act other than any requirement that the accounts give a true and fair view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination; or
4 the financial statements have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice for accounting and reporting by charities applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102).

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the financial statements to be reached.

Andrew Dean ACA
Mercer & Hole LLP

21 Lombard Street
London
EC3V 9AH

Dated: 26/06/2024

THE FRIENDS OF BIRZEIT UNIVERSITY

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

	Notes	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total Year ended 31 August 2023	Total Year ended 31 August 2022
		£	£	£	£
Income and endowments from:					
Subscriptions and Donations	**2**	50,186	6,836	57,022	46,623
HMRC Gift Aid		(287)	303	16	2,558
Investment income	**3**	4,930	-	4,930	751
Other income	**4**	2,744	-	2,744	1,964
Total income		57,573	7,139	64,712	51,896
Expenditure on:					
Raising funds	**5**	14,294	-	14,294	22,981
Charitable activities	**6**	81,766	19,880	101,646	57,483
Total expenditure		96,060	19,880	115,940	80,464
Net gains on investments	**12**	(14,053)	-	(14,053)	17,456
Net outgoing before transfers		(52,540)	(12,741)	(65,281)	(11,112)
Gross transfers between funds	**18**	1,400	(1,400)	-	-
Net outgoing resources		(51,140)	(14,141)	(65,281)	(11,112)
Other recognised gains and losses					
Other gains or losses	**13**	196	-	196	-
Net expenditure & net movement in funds		(50,944)	(14,141)	(65,085)	(11,112)
Fund balances at 1 September 2022		148,897	133,672	282,569	293,681
Fund balances at 31 August 2023		97,953	119,531	217,484	282,569

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year. All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

The statement of financial activities also complies with the requirements for an income and expenditure account under the Companies Act 2006.

THE FRIENDS OF BIRZEIT UNIVERSITY

BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 31 AUGUST 2023

	Notes	2023 £	2023 £	2022 £	2022 £
Fixed assets					
Tangible fixed assets	**14**		-		-
Investments	**15**		143,583		154,477
Current assets					
Debtors	**16**	5,454		13,137	
Cash at bank and in hand		77,835		119,084	
		83,289		132,221	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	**17**	(9,388)		(4,129)	
Net current assets			73,901		128,092
Total assets less current liabilities			217,484		282,569
Net assets			217,484		282,569
Income funds					
Restricted funds	**18**		119,531		133,672
Unrestricted funds			97,953		148,897
			217,484		282,569

The company is entitled to the exemption from the audit requirement contained in section 477 of the Companies Act 2006, for the year ended 31 August 2023.

The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 with respect to accounting records and the preparation of financial statements.

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies regime.

The accounts were approved by the Trustees on 26/06/2024

....
Ms S Hamrouni
Treasurer

....
A Najar
Chair

Company Registration No. 05713430

1 Accounting policies

Charity information

The charity is a company limited by guarantee and has no share capital. In the event of the charity being wound up, the liability in respect of the guarantee is limited to £10 per member of the charity.

1.1 Accounting convention

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the charity's Articles of Association, the Companies Act 2006 and "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019)". The charity is a Public Benefit Entity as defined by FRS 102.

The accounts are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the charity. Monetary amounts in these financial statements are rounded to the nearest £1.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, modified to include certain financial instruments at fair value. The principal accounting policies adopted are set out below.

1.2 Going concern

At the time of approving the financial statements, the Trustees have a reasonable expectation that the charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. Thus the Trustees continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the financial statements.

1.3 Charitable funds

Unrestricted funds comprise general funds created by the accumulated surplus within the statement of financial activities. They are available for use at the discretion of the Trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the charity.

Restricted funds represent amounts received for a specific purpose, which have not yet been fully spent, on that purpose by the year end.

- Adela Every Scholarship - this fund was set up to cover the cost of a scholarship under the following criteria, 'A female student from villages or refugee camps'.
- Doreen & Leila Ingrams Scholarship - this fund was set up to cover the cost of a scholarship for, 'One or more female students with special needs'.
- Peter Holliday Scholarship - this fund was set up to cover the cost of scholarship under the following criteria, 'Female students facing financial hardship.'
- The Hardship Fund - a 'quick response' fund that contributes towards the tuition fees, living expenses, housing, IT, travel and books.
- Sarah Hayward Scholarship - this fund was set up for scholarships for undergraduate students.
- Boulos and Margaret Kaibni - this fund was set up to cover the cost of a scholarship under the following criteria - 'for a female student in financial need at Birzeit University'.
- Dr Salem H. Khamis Scholarship - Supports a Palestinian student in financial need to study statistics or mathematics.
- Al-Shehabi Family Scholarship - Supports a Palestinian student in financial need.
- Dominic Simpson Memorial Scholarship - Supports a female student at Birzeit University based upon financial need and academic merit.
- W Barnaby - Supports a university scholarship for a female Palestinian student in financial need.
- El-Gomati Scholarship - this fund was set up to cover the cost of a scholarship under the following criteria, 'for a female student in financial need'.
- Leri Scholarship - The board took the decision in 2021 that future annual scholarship sponsorships should be recorded as unrestricted funds in order to ensure the efficient use of resources. Existing donors were consulted about this change and their agreement secured.

1 Accounting policies **(Continued)**

Endowment funds are subject to specific conditions by donors that the capital must be maintained by the charity.

1.4 Income

Income is recognised when the charity is legally entitled to it after any performance conditions have been met, the amounts can be measured reliably, and it is probable that income will be received.

Cash donations are recognised on receipt. Other donations are recognised once the charity has been notified of the donation, unless performance conditions require deferral of the amount. Income tax recoverable in relation to donations received under Gift Aid or deeds of covenant is recognised at the time of the donation.

Legacies are recognised on receipt or otherwise if the charity has been notified of an impending distribution, the amount is known, and receipt is expected. If the amount is not known, the legacy is treated as a contingent asset.

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to make a payment to a third party, it is probable that settlement will be required and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is classified under the following activity headings on a time spent basis:

- Costs of raising funds comprise the costs of fundraising activities and their associated support costs.
- Expenditure on charitable activities includes the costs of scholarship, advocacy, awareness and academic activities undertaken to further the purposes of the charity and their associated support costs.

Support costs are those functions that assist the work of the charity but do not directly undertake charitable activities. Support costs include payroll and governance costs which support the programmes. These costs have been allocated between cost of raising funds and expenditure on charitable activities.

1.5 Tangible fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets are initially measured at cost and subsequently measured at cost or valuation, net of depreciation and any impairment losses.

Depreciation is recognised so as to write off the cost or valuation of assets less their residual values over their useful lives on the following bases:

Fixtures, fittings & equipment	5 years straight line

The gain or loss arising on the disposal of an asset is determined as the difference between the sale proceeds and the carrying value of the asset, and is recognised in the statement of financial activities.

1.6 Fixed asset investments

Fixed asset investments are initially measured at transaction price excluding transaction costs, and are subsequently measured at fair value at each reporting date. Changes in fair value are recognised in net income/(expenditure) for the year. Transaction costs are expensed as incurred.

1.7 Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include cash in hand, deposits held at call with banks, other short-term liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less, and bank overdrafts. Bank overdrafts are shown within borrowings in current liabilities.

1 Accounting policies **(Continued)**

1.8 Financial instruments

The charity has elected to apply the provisions of Section 11 ‘Basic Financial Instruments’ and Section 12 ‘Other Financial Instruments Issues’ of FRS 102 to all of its financial instruments.

Financial instruments are recognised in the charity's balance sheet when the charity becomes party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

Financial assets and liabilities are offset, with the net amounts presented in the financial statements, when there is a legally enforceable right to set off the recognised amounts and there is an intention to settle on a net basis or to realise the asset and settle the liability simultaneously.

Basic financial assets

Basic financial assets, which include debtors and cash and bank balances, are initially measured at transaction price including transaction costs and are subsequently carried at amortised cost using the effective interest method unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the transaction is measured at the present value of the future receipts discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial assets classified as receivable within one year are not amortised.

Basic financial liabilities

Basic financial liabilities, including creditors and bank loans are initially recognised at transaction price unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the debt instrument is measured at the present value of the future payments discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial liabilities classified as payable within one year are not amortised.

Debt instruments are subsequently carried at amortised cost, using the effective interest rate method.

Trade creditors are obligations to pay for goods or services that have been acquired in the ordinary course of operations from suppliers. Amounts payable are classified as current liabilities if payment is due within one year or less. If not, they are presented as non-current liabilities. Trade creditors are recognised initially at transaction price and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

Derecognition of financial liabilities

Financial liabilities are derecognised when the charity’s contractual obligations expire or are discharged or cancelled.

1.9 Employee benefits

The cost of any unused holiday entitlement is recognised in the period in which the employee’s services are received.

Termination benefits are recognised immediately as an expense when the charity is demonstrably committed to terminate the employment of an employee or to provide termination benefits.

1.10 Retirement benefits

Payments to defined contribution retirement benefit schemes are charged as an expense as they fall due.

2 Subscriptions and Donations

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
Donations and gifts	50,186	6,836	57,022	46,623
For the year ended 31 August 2022	44,103	2,520		46,623

3 Investment income

	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Unrestricted funds 2022 £
Income from listed investments	4,930	751

4 Other income

	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Unrestricted funds 2022 £
Other income	2,744	1,964

5 Raising funds

	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Restricted funds 2023 £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
Consultancy/contracted services	1,600	-	1,600	925
Office Costs	61	-	61	345
Bank charges	113	-	113	165
Website costs	245	-	245	846
Support costs	11,321	-	11,321	20,617
Rent and utilities costs	432	-	432	30
Travel costs	522	-	522	53
	14,294	-	14,294	22,981
For the year ended 31 August 2022				
Cost of Raising Funds	22,981	-		22,981

6 Charitable activities

	Scholarship	Advocacy and Awareness	Academic Development	Building H.E Links	Total	Total
	2023	2023	2023	2023	2023	2022
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Consultancy/ contracted services	2,119	1,207	5,766	18,018	27,110	609
Office costs	127	57	3	46	233	99
Bank charges	239	108	6	87	440	109
Website costs	513	232	14	187	946	558
Rent & utilities	908	409	24	330	1,671	20
	3,906	2,013	5,813	18,668	30,400	1,395
Grant funding of activities (see note 8)	23,136	-	-	-	23,136	39,010
Share of support costs (see note 9)	23,792	10,723	628	8,647	43,790	13,598
Share of governance costs (see note 9)	4,320	-	-	-	4,320	3,480
	55,154	12,736	6,441	27,315	101,646	57,483
Analysis by fund						
Unrestricted funds	35,274	12,736	6,441	27,315	81,766	28,915
Restricted funds	19,880	-	-	-	19,880	28,568
	55,154	12,736	6,441	27,315	101,646	57,483

6 Charitable activities **(Continued)**

For the year ended 31 August 2022

	Scholarship	Advocacy	Awareness	Academic Development	Total 2022
	£	£	£	£	£
Consultancy/contracted services	209	260	91	49	609
Office costs	34	42	15	8	99
Bank charges	37	47	16	9	109
Website costs	191	238	84	45	558
Rent & utilities	7	8	3	2	20
	478	595	209	113	1,395
Grant funding of activities (see note 8)	39,010	-	-	-	39,010
Share of support costs (see note 9)	4,661	5,799	2,040	1,098	13,598
Share of governance costs (see note 9)	3,480	-	-	-	3,480
	47,629	6,394	2,249	1,211	57,483
Analysis by fund					
Unrestricted funds	19,061	6,394	2,249	1,211	28,915
Restricted funds	28,568	-	-	-	28,568
	47,629	6,394	2,249	1,211	57,483

7 Description of charitable activities

Scholarship
Working with UNRWA and Birzeit University, the Fobzu scholarship programme supports Palestinian students in financial need at universities in the West Bank and Gaza.

Advocacy and Awareness
Fobzu's work in Parliament and civil society, independently and in coalition with other UK charities and NGOs to promote Palestinian access to education.

The Education, Occupation & Liberation events programme and other activities to raise awareness within the UK education sector and general public about the experience of Palestinian students and educators, the barriers they face to education and how they seek to overcome them.

Academic Development
Support for Palestinian academics and institutions of higher education through the Fobzu-Oxford Writing Residency for Palestinian Scholars and other work to promote Palestinian scholarship and educational exchange.

Building H.E Links
Designed to foster collaboration and knowledge exchange between Palestinian academics and universities and their counterparts in the UK. This programme aims to address the challenges faced by Palestinian academia due to isolation and restricted access through primarily the Palestine-UK Academic Links (PALS) programme and the annual ‘Overcoming Barriers, Building Links: Supporting Palestinian Higher Education’ workshop.

8 Grants payable

Scholarship
Grants totalling £23,136 (2022: £39,010) were awarded to 20 (2022: 20) individuals.

9 Support costs

	Support costs	Governance costs	2023	2022
	£	£	£	£
Staff costs	52,268	-	52,268	34,215
Office costs	1,463	-	1,463	-
Other overheads	1,380	-	1,380	-
Audit fees	-	4,320	4,320	3,480
	55,111	4,320	59,431	37,695
Analysed between				
Fundraising	11,321	-	11,321	20,617
Charitable activities	43,790	4,320	48,110	17,078
	55,111	4,320	59,431	37,695

10 Trustees

None of the Trustees (or any persons connected with them) received any remuneration or benefits from the charity during the year.

No trustee was reimbursed during the year (2022: None).

11 Employees

Number of employees
The average monthly number employees during the year was:

	2023 Number	2022 Number
Employees	2	1

Employment costs	2023	2022
	£	£
Wages and salaries	49,972	32,883
Social security costs	418	-
Other pension costs	1,878	1,332
	52,268	34,215

There were no employees whose annual remuneration was £60,000 or more (2022: nil).

12 Net gains/(losses) on investments

	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Unrestricted funds 2022 £
Revaluation of investments	(14,053)	17,456

13 Other gains and losses

(Gains)/losses upon:	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Unrestricted funds 2022 £
Foreign exchange	(196)	-

14 Tangible fixed assets

	Fixtures, fittings & equipment £
Cost	
At 1 September 2022	200
At 31 August 2023	200
Depreciation	
At 1 September 2022	200
At 31 August 2023	200
Carrying amount	
At 31 August 2023	-
At 31 August 2022	-

15 Fixed asset investments

	Listed investments	Cash in portfolio	Total
	£		£
Cost or valuation			
At 1 September 2022	152,528	1,949	154,477
Valuation changes	(14,053)	3,159	(10,894)
At 31 August 2023	138,475	5,108	143,583
Carrying amount			
At 31 August 2023	138,475	5,108	143,583
At 31 August 2022	152,528	1,949	154,477

16 Debtors

	2023	2022
Amounts falling due within one year:	£	£
Other debtors	4,824	13,137
Prepayments and accrued income	630	-
	5,454	13,137

17 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2023	2022
	£	£
Other taxation and social security	876	-
Other creditors	2,975	769
Accruals and deferred income	5,537	3,360
	9,388	4,129

18 Restricted funds

The restricted funds of the charity comprise the unexpended balances of donations and grants held on trust subject to specific conditions by donors as to how they may be used.

Current year

			Movement in funds			
	Balance at 1 September 2022	Income	Other expenditure	Scholarships	Transfers	Balance at 31 August 2023
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Adela Every Scholarship	32,333	-	-	(4,355)	-	27,978
Doreen & Leila Ingrams Scholarship	11,720	2,150	-	(2,153)	-	11,717
Peter Holliday Scholarship	32,762	-	-	-	-	32,762
Hardship Fund	4,934	1,573		(3,911)	-	2,596
Sarah Hayward Scholarship	11,814	-	-	(2,155)	-	9,659
El-Gomati Scholarship	16,957	-	-	(1,375)	(560)	15,022
Boulos and Margaret Kaibni	11,317	416	-	(4,738)	(280)	6,715
Al-Shehabi Family Scholarship	1,422	-	-	(804)	(280)	338
Dominic Simpson Memorial Scholarship	10,412	-	-	(389)	(280)	9,743
W Barnaby	1	-	-	-	-	1
Dr Salem H. Khamis Scholarship	-	3,000	-	-	-	3,000
	133,672	7,139	-	(19,880)	(1,400)	119,531

In the year, £1,400 was transferred from restricted to unrestricted funds. Fobzu covers the overhead expenditure associated with managing the scholarship by charging a student admin for each scholarship to the relevant fund, and transferring it to unrestricted reserves. Additionally, one of the funds was changed from a restricted fund to an unrestricted fund. Their reserves were transferred to unrestricted reserves.

18 Restricted funds **(Continued)**

Comparative year

			Movement in funds			
	Balance at 1 September 2021	**Income**	**Other expenditure**	**Scholarships**	**Transfers**	**Balance at 31 August 2022**
	£	**£**	**£**	**£**	**£**	**£**
Adela Every Scholarship	34,318	-	-	(1,985)	-	32,333
Doreen & Leila Ingrams Scholarship	11,802	1,475	-	(1,557)	-	11,720
Peter Holliday Scholarship	34,423	-	-	(1,661)	-	32,762
Hardship Fund	7,199	1,320	-	(3,585)	-	4,934
Sarah Hayward Scholarship	17,893	-	-	(4,679)	(1,400)	11,814
El-Gomati Scholarship	22,170	-	-	(4,373)	(840)	16,957
Boulos and Margaret Kaibni	16,295	-	-	(4,418)	(560)	11,317
Al-Shehabi Family Scholarship	3,015	-	-	(1,313)	(280)	1,422
Leri Scholarship	1,935	-	-	-	(1,935)	-
Dominic Simpson Memorial Scholarship	15,000	-	-	(3,748)	(840)	10,412
W Barnaby	204	-	-	(1,249)	1,046	1
	164,254	2,795	-	(28,568)	(4,809)	133,672

In the prior year, £4,809 was transferred from restricted to unrestricted funds. Fobzu covers the overhead expenditure associated with managing the scholarship by charging a student admin for each scholarship to the relevant fund, and transferring it to unrestricted reserves. Additionally, one of the funds was changed from a restricted fund to an unrestricted fund. Their reserves were transferred to unrestricted reserves.

19 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted 2023	**Restricted 2023**	**Total 2023**	Unrestricted 2022	Restricted 2022	Total 2022
	£	**£**	**£**	£	£	£
Fund balances at 31 August 2023 are represented by:						
Investments	97,953	45,630	143,583	148,897	5,580	154,477
Current assets/(liabilities)	-	73,901	73,901	-	128,092	128,092
	97,953	119,531	217,484	148,897	133,672	282,569

20 Control

The Trustees have overall control of the activity.

21 Related party transactions

Unrestricted donations totalling £nil (2022: £nil) were received from trustees in the year. There were no other related party transactions.

Accounts

Charity registration number 1114343

Company registration number 05713430 (England and Wales)

THE FRIENDS OF BIRZEIT UNIVERSITY

ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022

THE FRIENDS OF BIRZEIT UNIVERSITY

LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Trustees (who are directors of the Limited company)	Dr A Owaineh
	Dr A Shalan Dr D Baillie Dr M Masri Dr M Qato Ms S Hamrouni
Secretary	Mr O Shweiki
Charity number	1114343
Company number	05713430
Registered office	1 Gough Square London EC4A 3DE
Auditors	Mercer & Hole LLP 21 Lombard Street London EC3V 9AH
Bankers	Unity Trust Bank plc Nine Brindley Place Birmingham B1 2HB
	COIF Charity Deposit Fund 80 Cheapside London EC2V 6DZ
Solicitors	Thomas Eggar The Corn ExchangeTrust Baffins Lane Chichester West Sussex PO19 1GE

Honorary positions	William Dalrymple	Patron
	Professor Khalil Hindi	Patron
	Professor David McLellan	Patron
	Rev Duncan MacPherson	Patron
	Professor Steven Rose	Patron
	The Rt. Hon. Lord Steel of Aikwood KT KBE DL	Patron
	Juliet Stevenson	Patron

THE FRIENDS OF BIRZEIT UNIVERSITY

CONTENTS

The Trustees present their annual report and financial statements for the year ended 31 August 2022.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in note 1 to the financial statements and comply with the charity's Articles of Association, the Companies Act 2006 and "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (issued in October 2019).

Structure, governance and management

The Friends of Birzeit University (Fobzu) is a UK-based Charity. Fobzu was established in 1978, registered with the Charity Commission in 1979 and subsequently incorporated as a company limited by guarantee in 2006. Fobzu is governed in accordance with its Memorandum and Articles of Association.

Trustees, who are also directors of the company, are appointed for a 3-year term that may be renewed. When considering new trustees, desired skills and experience are assessed prior to a meeting between board members and the potential trustee. New trustees are inducted to the work and ethos of the charity. The Board of Trustees meets at least 4 times a year. Day-to-day management is delegated to the Development Director, who is accountable to and supervised by the Board. Committees and working groups are set up to address specific matters.

The major risks to which the charity is exposed, as identified by the trustees, are regularly reviewed and systems established to mitigate those risks. The major risks facing Fobzu are:

- financial performance, notably the continuity of incoming funds to sustain operations;
- availability of expertise and resources for day to day operations;
- operational performance, including bank de-risking and risks to staff when operating in a conflict zone;
- the profile and reputation of the Charity.

Objectives and activities

Fobzu's objects are to *"To promote the advancement of education of Palestinians seeking educational opportunities at higher and tertiary education institutions and/or through educational, community or cultural programmes in such ways as the Directors see fit."*

The charity is extending opportunities and providing access to education to young Palestinians at educational institutions in the West Bank and Gaza.

The principle strands of activities carried out by Fobzu for the public benefit are:

- *Academic scholarships:* supporting Palestinian students in financial need through scholarships and a hardship fund.
- *Educational exchange:* facilitating links and understanding between UK and Palestinian students and educators.
- *Educational projects:* supporting Palestinian education.
- *Advocacy and campaigning:* raising awareness in the UK amongst government officials, parliamentarians, diplomats and the general public, of the obstacles to education for Palestinians.

The Trustees have paid due regard to guidance issued by the Charity Commission regarding public benefit in deciding what activities the charity should undertake.

Achievements and performance

Academic Scholarships

The scholarship programme comprises scholarships at Birzeit University, and joint Fobzu-UNRWA scholarships for Palestinian refugee students. Scholarships are provided on the basis of financial need and academic merit.

Our working relationship with UNRWA has enabled Fobzu to securely provide support to one of the most marginalized sections of Palestinian society. Since academic year 2018/19, Fobzu scholarships supported through UNRWA are enabling Palestinian refugee students in financial need to access higher education at Birzeit University in the West Bank and universities in Gaza.

Fobzu's endowments are:

- *Adela Every Scholarship:* funds a female student from villages or refugee camps.
- *Doreen Ingrams Scholarship:* funds one or more female students with special needs.
- *Peter Holliday Scholarship:* funds female students facing financial hardship.

Annual Scholarships cover tuition fees, administration and a contribution to Fobzu’s running costs. Sponsoring donors are consulted on specific requirements such as: gender, place of residence, academic record, faculty or subject, special needs. Sponsors are kept informed of their student’s progress through personal letters and academic reports.

A Hardship Fund is also in place to provide small grants to cover books, accommodation, transportation and housing, or subsidise students' tuition fees at Birzeit University.

In 2021/22 Fobzu worked with UNRWA to provide 18 scholarships to Palestinian refugee students, of which 10 were female and 8 male. Five students were supported at Birzeit University and 13 at universities in Gaza.

In 2021/22, Fobzu provided an additional 8 scholarships to female students at Birzeit University through its partnership with Birzeit University and Welfare Association.

Educational Exchange

In 2021/22 Fobzu continued the Education, Occupation & Liberation Programme co-hosted with the University & College Union (UCU). Before the Covid-19 pandemic, the series of lectures and seminars were usually held at the Institute of Education at University College, London, bringing together Palestinian, UK and international scholars, students and practitioners to explore the challenges facing Palestinian education and its role in creating a free and flourishing Palestine. In 2021/22, Covid-19 restrictions continued so events were held online. Despite the challenges posed by the pandemic, this programme has continued to prove successful in furthering educational exchange, raising awareness, engaging new supporters and raising Fobzu’s profile.

In May 2022, Fobzu held the first Leila Ingrams Memorial webinar commemorating the life of leading campaigner for Palestinian rights and advocate for British-Arab understanding and promote the Doreen and Leila Ingrams Scholarship. Events held in 2021/22 have covered topics such as higher education in Gaza, the arbitrary detention of Palestinian students and the legacies of British colonialism in Palestine, with UK and Palestinian academics and practitioners.

In 2021/22, Fobzu was forced to postpone the Fobzu-Oxford University Middle East Centre Writing Residency for Palestinian Scholars due to the ongoing unpredictability of travel as a result of Covid-19. The Residency is dedicated to promoting Palestinian scholarship and building links between UK and Palestinian higher education by supporting an academic from a Palestinian university to complete a writing project at St Antony’s College, Oxford. The first Fobzu-Oxford Writer in Residence spent six weeks in Oxford during the summer of 2019. The Residency is planned to resume in the summer of 2023.

Achievements and performance (continued)

Advocacy and Campaigning

Fobzu continued to actively engage with other UK charities working for the rights and welfare of the Palestinian people, in order to raise further awareness about the obstacles to the right to education for Palestinians. In coalition with other charities, Fobzu has participated in meetings with the Minister of State for the Middle East and North Africa and the Shadow Minister for International Development. This has enabled Fobzu to promote Palestinian access to education among key policy makers. Fobzu has also joined public coalition initiatives to raise awareness about the threats to Palestinian rights, including public statements on support for Palestinian civil society facing repressive policies of Israeli military authorities and ending the blockade of Gaza.

Fobzu continues to also raise awareness about violations of Palestinian academic freedom and the right to education among UK higher education sector through outreach to UK academics and engagement with the University and College Union (UCU).

In order to raise awareness about the experience of Palestinian students studying under occupation, in 2021/22, Fobzu ran a student video competition at Birzeit University. The winning video was publicised on Fobzu's YouTube channel.

Other activities

Fundraising

In 2021/22, Fobzu launched three fundraising appeals.

Fobzu continues to see greater potential for increasing income by reengaging former donors and extending outreach as well as pursuing institutional funding opportunities. Over the coming year, Fobzu aims to raise general funds in order to develop 3 priority areas:

1. Fobzu scholarship programme and Hardship Fund
2. Supporting UK-Palestinian educational exchange
3. Raising awareness about the rights and needs of Palestinian students and educators

Volunteers' support

Fobzu greatly appreciates the role played by its volunteers who are committed to the aims of the Charity. Their skills, and the work performed, deliver much valued support.

Online activity

Fobzu's website is regularly updated with engaging written and audio-visual material. Our YouTube channel features videos of Fobzu events and other videos related to Fobzu's programme. Fobzu has active Facebook and Twitter accounts that continue to grow in popularity and continues to attract more subscribers to its e-newsletter 'Access Online'.

Future plans
In 2023 Fobzu plans to consolidate its existing programme, while expanding in key areas. Working with Birzeit University, Welfare Association and UNRWA, Fobzu will continue to provide scholarships to Palestinian students in financial need.

Fobzu will also continue with its Education, Occupation & Liberation Programme, furthering exchange between Palestinian and UK academics and raising awareness in the UK higher education sector about the experience of Palestinian students and educators.

In 2023, Fobzu plans to host the second Fobzu Writer in Residence for six to eight weeks in the UK completing a writing project with access to UK academic networks and research facilities.

Fobzu will continue to work with other UK charities to advance advocacy for Palestinian access to education. We will conduct three fundraising campaigns as well as review our fundraising strategy to ensure the long-term sustainability of the charity. Building on its achievements in 2021/22, Fobzu hopes to expand its existing programme, prioritising the development of activities furthering educational exchange between UK and Palestinian academics, and enhancement of the scholarship programme.

Financial review
Fobzu recorded a deficit of income over expenditure of £11,112 in fiscal year 2022.

This is lower than the previous year, and is largely due to a single large unrestricted donation of £60,000 received in 2021, from an individual supporter.

Trustees continue to focus on the need to secure funds to sustain the ongoing scholarship and non-scholarship programmes. Given economic conditions, Fobzu has been reasonably successful in raising funds whilst sustaining an adequate reserves position to cover ongoing and anticipated commitments and programmes, particularly scholarships. Nevertheless, securing further funding streams remains vital to longer-term viability and the expansion of our programmes.

Fobzu has recently held an away day attended by its Director and Board to set out a long-term strategy around fundraising and programme development. As many of our scholarship recipients are graduating over the next two years, our forward financial commitments will decline rapidly, and this gives Fobzu an opportunity to invest in new scholarships and other programme activities.

The trustees have power to invest in such assets as they see fit. Treasury activities have the objective of providing adequate liquidity for Fobzu’s needs and of minimising risk in a cost-effective way.

Reserves Policy
The trustees aim for the level of reserves to be equivalent to approximately one year of management and administrative costs in unrestricted funds to provide for unforeseen circumstances, after accounting for our known scholarship commitments.

The Trustees, who are also the directors for the purpose of company law, and who served during the year and up to the date of signature of the financial statements were:

Dr A Owaineh
Dr A Shalan
Dr D Baillie
Mr M Arafat Nomura (Resigned 28 January 2022)
Dr M Masri
Dr M Qato
Ms S Hamrouni

Auditor

The charity's auditor, Mercer & Hole, incorporated on 1 October 2022 to become Mercer & Hole LLP. The directors have consented to treating the incorporation of Mercer & Hole LLP as a continuation of the existing audit arrangement and in accordance with the charity's articles, a resolution proposing that Mercer & Hole LLP be reappointed as auditor of the charity will be put at a General Meeting.

Disclosure of information to auditor

So far as the trustees are aware, there is no relevant audit information of which the company’s auditors are unaware. Additionally, the trustees have taken all the necessary steps that they ought to have taken as trustees in order to make them aware of all relevant audit information and to establish that the company’s auditors are aware of that information.

Approved by the Board of trustees and signed on its behalf by:

Dr D Baillie
Chair
Dated: 26 May 2023

STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022

The Trustees, who are also the directors of The Friends of Birzeit University for the purpose of company law, are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Company Law requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable company for that year.

In preparing these financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;

- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP 2019 (FRS 102);

- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;

- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and

- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE FRIENDS OF BIRZEIT UNIVERSITY

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of The Friends of Birzeit University (the 'charity') for the year ended 31 August 2022 which comprise the statement of financial activities, the balance sheet and the notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 *The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland* (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion, the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charitable company's affairs as at 31 August 2022 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements* section of our report. We are independent of the charity in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the Trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the charity's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the Trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Other information

The other information comprises the information included in the annual report other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The Trustees are responsible for the other information contained within the annual report. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon. Our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the course of the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 require us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- the information given in the financial statements is inconsistent in any material respect with the Trustees' report; or
- sufficient accounting records have not been kept; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT (CONTINUED)

TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE FRIENDS OF BIRZEIT UNIVERSITY

Responsibilities of Trustees

As explained more fully in the statement of Trustees' responsibilities, the Trustees, who are also the directors of the charity for the purpose of company law, are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the Trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error. In preparing the financial statements, the Trustees are responsible for assessing the charity’s ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the Trustees either intend to liquidate the charitable company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

We have been appointed as auditor under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 and report in accordance with the Act and relevant regulations made or having effect thereunder.

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud, is detailed below.

We gained an understanding of the legal and regulatory framework applicable to the company and the industry in which it operates and considered the risk of acts by the company that were contrary to applicable laws and regulations, including fraud. These included, but were not limited to, the Companies Act 2006 and the Charities Act 2011.

We evaluated management's incentives and opportunities for fraudulent manipulation of the financial statements and the financial report (including the risk of override of controls), and determined that the principal risks were related to posting inappropriate entries including journals to overstate revenue or understate expenditure and management bias in accounting estimates.

Audit procedures performed by the engagement team included:

- discussions with management, including considerations of known or suspected instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations and fraud;
- gaining an understanding of management's controls designed to prevent and detect irregularities; and
- identifying and testing journal entries.

Owing to the inherent limitations of an audit, there is an unavoidable risk that we may not have detected some material misstatements in the financial statements, even though we have properly planned and performed our audit in accordance with auditing standards. For example, the further removed non-compliance with laws and regulations (irregularities) is from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, the less likely the inherently limited procedures required by auditing standards would identify it. In addition, as with any audit, there remained a higher risk of non-detection of irregularities, as these may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal controls. We are not responsible for preventing non- compliance and cannot be expected to detect non-compliance with all laws and regulations.

A further description of our responsibilities is available on the Financial Reporting Council’s website at: https://www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

Other matters

The prior year's financial statements were not audited and therefore in these financial statements the comparative figures are not audited.

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT (CONTINUED)

TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE FRIENDS OF BIRZEIT UNIVERSITY

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charity's trustees, as a body, in accordance with part 4 of the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charity's trustees those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charity and the charity's trustees as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Andrew Crook BA ACA (Senior Statutory Auditor)
for and on behalf of Mercer & Hole Mercer & Hole LLP

31 May 2023

Chartered Accountants
Statutory Auditor

21 Lombard Street
London
EC3V 9AH
London
EC3V 9AH

Mercer & Hole LLP is eligible for appointment as auditor of the charity by virtue of its eligibility for appointment as auditor of a company under section 1212 of the Companies Act 2006.

THE FRIENDS OF BIRZEIT UNIVERSITY

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022

	Notes	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total Year ended 31 August 2022	Unaudited Total Period ended 31 August 2021
		£	£	£	£
Income and endowments from:					
Subscriptions and Donations	**2**	44,103	2,520	46,623	144,575
HMRC Gift Aid		2,283	275	2,558	8,710
Investment income	**3**	751	-	751	493
Other income	**4**	1,964	-	1,964	-
Total income		49,101	2,795	51,896	153,778
Expenditure on:					
Raising funds	**5**	22,981	-	22,981	17,713
Charitable activities	**6**	28,915	28,568	57,483	69,566
Total expenditure		51,896	28,568	80,464	87,279
Net gains on investments	**12**	17,456	-	17,456	(3,806)
Net income/(expenditure) before transfers		14,661	(25,773)	(11,112)	62,693
Gross transfers between funds	**18**	4,809	(4,809)	-	-
Net expenditure & net movement in funds		19,470	(30,582)	(11,112)	62,693
Fund balances at 1 September 2021		129,427	164,254	293,681	230,988
Fund balances at 31 August 2022		148,897	133,672	282,569	293,681

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.

All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

The statement of financial activities also complies with the requirements for an income and expenditure account under the Companies Act 2006.

THE FRIENDS OF BIRZEIT UNIVERSITY

BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 31 AUGUST 2022

	Notes	2022 £	2022 £	2021 £	2021 £
Fixed assets					
Tangible fixed assets	**13**		-		-
Investments	**14**		154,477		136,423
Current assets					
Debtors	**16**	13,137		15,439	
Cash at bank and in hand		119,084		147,469	
		132,221		162,908	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	**17**	(4,129)		(5,650)	
Net current assets			128,092		157,258
Total assets less current liabilities			282,569		293,681
Net assets			282,569		293,681
Income funds					
Restricted funds	**18**		133,672		164,254
Unrestricted funds			148,897		129,427
			282,569		293,681

The company is entitled to the exemption from the audit requirement contained in section 477 of the Companies Act 2006, for the year ended 31 August 2022, although an audit has been carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011.

The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 with respect to accounting records and the preparation of financial statements.

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies regime.

The accounts were approved by the Trustees on 26 May 2023

Dr A Owaineh
Treasurer

Dr D Baillie
Chair

Company Registration No. 05713430

1 Accounting policies

Charity information

The charity is a company limited by guarantee and has no share capital. In the event of the charity being wound up, the liability in respect of the guarantee is limited to £10 per member of the charity.

1.1 Accounting convention

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the charity's Articles of Association, the Companies Act 2006 and "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019)". The charity is a Public Benefit Entity as defined by FRS 102.

The accounts are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the charity. Monetary amounts in these financial statements are rounded to the nearest £1.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, modified to include certain financial instruments at fair value. The principal accounting policies adopted are set out below.

1.2 Going concern

At the time of approving the financial statements, the Trustees have a reasonable expectation that the charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. Thus the Trustees continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the financial statements.

1.3 Charitable funds

Unrestricted funds comprise of general funds created by the accumulated surplus within the statement of financial activities. They are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the charity.

Restricted funds represent amounts received for a specific purpose, which have not yet been fully spent, on that purpose by the year end.

- Adela Every Scholarship - this fund was set up to cover the cost of a scholarship under the following criteria, 'A female student from villages or refugee camps'.
- Doreen & Leila Ingrams Scholarship - this fund was set up to cover the cost of a scholarship for, 'One or more female students with special needs'.
- Peter Holliday Scholarship - this fund was set up to cover the cost of scholarship under the following criteria, 'Female students facing financial hardship.'
- The Hardship Fund - a 'quick response' fund that contributes towards the tuition fees, living expenses, housing, IT, travel and books.
- Sarah Hayward Scholarship - this fund was set up for scholarships for undergraduate students.
- El-Gomati Scholarship - this fund was set up to cover the cost of a scholarship under the following criteria, 'for a female student in financial need'.
- Boulos and Margaret Kaibni - this fund was set up to cover the cost of a scholarship under the following criteria - 'for a female student in financial need at Birzeit University'.
- Dr Salem H. Khamis Scholarship - Supports a Palestinian student in financial need to study statistics or mathematics.
- Al-Shehabi Family Scholarship - Supports a Palestinian student in financial need.
- Leri Scholarship - The board took the decision in 2021 that future annual scholarship sponsorships should be recorded as unrestricted funds in order to ensure the efficient use of resources. Existing donors were consulted about this change and their agreement secured.
- Dominic Simpson Memorial Scholarship - Supports a female student at Birzeit University based upon financial need and academic merit.
- W Barnaby - Supports a university scholarship for a female Palestinian student in financial need.
- Distance Education Capacity Project - targeted intervention supporting staff development in online and blended learning to Palestinian faculty at four universities in the occupied Palestinian territories.

1 Accounting policies (Continued)

Endowment funds are subject to specific conditions by donors that the capital must be maintained by the charity.

1.4 Income

Income is recognised when the charity is legally entitled to it after any performance conditions have been met, the amounts can be measured reliably, and it is probable that income will be received.

Cash donations are recognised on receipt. Other donations are recognised once the charity has been notified of the donation, unless performance conditions require deferral of the amount. Income tax recoverable in relation to donations received under Gift Aid or deeds of covenant is recognised at the time of the donation.

Legacies are recognised on receipt or otherwise if the charity has been notified of an impending distribution, the amount is known, and receipt is expected. If the amount is not known, the legacy is treated as a contingent asset.

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to make a payment to a third party, it is probable that settlement will be required and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is classified under the following activity headings on a time spent basis:

- Costs of raising funds comprise the costs of fundraising activities and their associated support costs.
- Expenditure on charitable activities includes the costs of scholarship, advocacy, awareness and academic activities undertaken to further the purposes of the charity and their associated support costs.

Support costs are those functions that assist the work of the charity but do not directly undertake charitable activities. Support costs include payroll and governance costs which support the programmes. These costs have been allocated between cost of raising funds and expenditure on charitable activities.

1.5 Tangible fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets are initially measured at cost and subsequently measured at cost or valuation, net of depreciation and any impairment losses.

Depreciation is recognised so as to write off the cost or valuation of assets less their residual values over their useful lives on the following bases:

Fixtures, fittings & equipment	5 years straight line

The gain or loss arising on the disposal of an asset is determined as the difference between the sale proceeds and the carrying value of the asset, and is recognised in the statement of financial activities.

1.6 Fixed asset investments

Fixed asset investments are initially measured at transaction price excluding transaction costs, and are subsequently measured at fair value at each reporting date. Changes in fair value are recognised in net income/(expenditure) for the year. Transaction costs are expensed as incurred.

1.7 Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include cash in hand, deposits held at call with banks, other short-term liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less, and bank overdrafts. Bank overdrafts are shown within borrowings in current liabilities.

1 Accounting policies **(Continued)**

1.8 Financial instruments

The charity has elected to apply the provisions of Section 11 ‘Basic Financial Instruments’ and Section 12 ‘Other Financial Instruments Issues’ of FRS 102 to all of its financial instruments.

Financial instruments are recognised in the charity's balance sheet when the charity becomes party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

Financial assets and liabilities are offset, with the net amounts presented in the financial statements, when there is a legally enforceable right to set off the recognised amounts and there is an intention to settle on a net basis or to realise the asset and settle the liability simultaneously.

Basic financial assets

Basic financial assets, which include debtors and cash and bank balances, are initially measured at transaction price including transaction costs and are subsequently carried at amortised cost using the effective interest method unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the transaction is measured at the present value of the future receipts discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial assets classified as receivable within one year are not amortised.

Basic financial liabilities

Basic financial liabilities, including creditors and bank loans are initially recognised at transaction price unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the debt instrument is measured at the present value of the future payments discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial liabilities classified as payable within one year are not amortised.

Debt instruments are subsequently carried at amortised cost, using the effective interest rate method.

Trade creditors are obligations to pay for goods or services that have been acquired in the ordinary course of operations from suppliers. Amounts payable are classified as current liabilities if payment is due within one year or less. If not, they are presented as non-current liabilities. Trade creditors are recognised initially at transaction price and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

Derecognition of financial liabilities

Financial liabilities are derecognised when the charity’s contractual obligations expire or are discharged or cancelled.

1.9 Employee benefits

The cost of any unused holiday entitlement is recognised in the period in which the employee’s services are received.

Termination benefits are recognised immediately as an expense when the charity is demonstrably committed to terminate the employment of an employee or to provide termination benefits.

1.10 Retirement benefits

Payments to defined contribution retirement benefit schemes are charged as an expense as they fall due.

1.11 Reporting period

The comparative period was shortened to eight months in order to align with the academic year and therefore the two periods are not comparable.

2 Subscriptions and Donations

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2022 £	Total 2021 £
Donations and gifts	44,103	2,520	46,623	144,575
For the year ended 31 August 2021	105,859	38,716		144,575

3 Investment income

	Unrestricted funds £	Total 2021 £
Income from listed investments	751	493

4 Other income

	Unrestricted funds 2022 £	Total 2021 £
Other income	1,964	-

5 Raising funds

	Unrestricted funds 2022 £	Restricted funds 2022 £	Total 2022 £	Total 2021 £
Consultancy/contracted services	925	-	925	817
Office Costs	345	-	345	789
Bank charges	165	-	165	40
Website costs	846	-	846	845
Support costs	20,617	-	20,617	14,957
Rent and utilities costs	30	-	30	265
Travel costs	53	-	53	-
	22,981	-	22,981	17,713
For the year ended 31 August 2021				
Cost of Raising Funds	17,713	-		17,713

6 Charitable activities

	Scholarship 2022 £	Advocacy 2022 £	Awareness 2022 £	Academic 2022 £	Total 2022 £	Total 2021 £
Awareness programme	-	-	-	-	-	3,000
Consultancy/contracted services	209	260	91	49	609	968
Office costs	34	42	15	8	99	895
Bank charges	37	47	16	9	109	48
Website costs	191	238	84	45	558	1,003
Rent & utilities	7	8	3	2	20	315
	478	595	209	113	1,395	6,229
Grant funding of activities (see note 8)	39,010	-	-	-	39,010	42,235
Share of support costs (see note 9)	4,661	5,799	2,040	1,098	13,598	17,742
Share of governance costs (see note 9)	3,480	-	-	-	3,480	3,360
	47,629	6,394	2,249	1,211	57,483	69,566
Analysis by fund						
Unrestricted funds	19,061	6,394	2,249	1,211	28,915	38,866
Restricted funds	28,568	-	-	-	28,568	30,700
	47,629	6,394	2,249	1,211	57,483	69,566

6 Charitable activities (Continued)

For the year ended 31 August 2021

	Scholarship	Advocacy	Awareness	Academic	Total 2021
	£	£	£	£	£
Awareness programme	-	-	-	3,000	3,000
Consultancy/contracted services	304	203	197	264	968
Office costs	281	188	182	244	895
Bank charges	15	10	10	13	48
Website costs	315	211	204	273	1,003
Rent & utilities	99	66	64	86	315
	1,014	678	657	3,880	6,229
Grant funding of activities (see note 8)	42,235	-	-	-	42,235
Share of support costs (see note 9)	5,573	3,727	3,607	4,835	17,742
Share of governance costs (see note 9)	3,360	-	-	-	3,360
	52,182	4,405	4,264	8,715	69,566
Analysis by fund					
Unrestricted funds	24,482	4,405	4,264	5,715	38,866
Restricted funds	27,700	-	-	3,000	30,700
	52,182	4,405	4,264	8,715	69,566

7 Description of charitable activities

Scholarship
Working with UNRWA and Birzeit University, the Fobzu scholarship programme supports Palestinian students in financial need at universities in the West Bank and Gaza.

Advocacy
Fobzu's work in Parliament and civil society, independently and in coalition with other UK charities and NGOs to promote Palestinian access to education.

Awareness
The Education, Occupation & Liberation events programme and other activities to raise awareness within the UK education sector and general public about the experience of Palestinian students and educators, the barriers they face to education and how they seek to overcome them.

Academic
Support for Palestinian academics and institutions of higher education through the Fobzu-Oxford Writing Residency for Palestinian Scholars and other work to promote Palestinian scholarship and educational exchange.

8 Grants payable

Scholarship
Grants totalling £39,010 (2021: £42,235) were awarded to 20 (2021: 20) individuals.

9 Support costs

	Support costs	Governance costs	2022	2021
	£	£	£	£
Staff costs	34,215	-	34,215	32,699
Audit fees	-	3,480	3,480	3,360
	34,215	3,480	37,695	36,059
Analysed between				
Fundraising	20,617	-	20,617	14,957
Charitable activities	13,598	3,480	17,078	21,102
	34,215	3,480	37,695	36,059

10 Trustees

None of the Trustees (or any persons connected with them) received any remuneration or benefits from the charity during the year.

No trustee was reimbursed during the year (2021: None).

11 Employees

Number of employees
The average monthly number employees during the year was:

	2022 Number	2021 Number
Employees	1	1

Employment costs	2022	2021
	£	£
Wages and salaries	32,883	31,439
Other pension costs	1,332	1,260
	34,215	32,699

There were no employees whose annual remuneration was £60,000 or more.

12 Net gains/(losses) on investments

	Unrestricted funds	Unrestricted funds
	2022	2021
	£	£
Revaluation of investments	17,456	(3,806)

13 Tangible fixed assets

	Fixtures, fittings & equipment
	£
Cost	
At 1 September 2021	200
At 31 August 2022	200
Depreciation	
At 1 September 2021	200
At 31 August 2022	200
Carrying amount	
At 31 August 2022	-
At 31 August 2021	-

14 Fixed asset investments

	Listed investments	**Cash in portfolio**	**Total**
	£		**£**
Cost or valuation			
At 1 September 2021	135,072	1,351	136,423
Valuation changes	17,456	598	18,054
At 31 August 2022	152,528	1,949	154,477
Carrying amount			
At 31 August 2022	152,528	1,949	154,477
At 31 August 2021	135,072	1,351	136,423

15 Financial instruments

	2022	2021
	£	£
Carrying amount of financial assets		
Instruments measured at fair value through profit or loss	152,528	135,072

16 Debtors

	2022	2021
Amounts falling due within one year:	£	£
Other debtors	13,137	15,439

17 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2022	2021
	£	£
Other creditors	769	2,290
Accruals and deferred income	3,360	3,360
	4,129	5,650

18 Restricted funds

The income funds of the charity include restricted funds comprising the following unexpended balances of donations and grants held on trust for specific purposes:

Current year

			Movement in funds			
	Balance at 1 September 2021	Income	Other expenditure	Scholarships	Transfers	Balance at 31 August 2022
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Adela Every Scholarship	34,318	-	-	(1,985)	-	32,333
Doreen & Leila Ingrams Scholarship	11,802	1,475	-	(1,557)	-	11,720
Peter Holliday Scholarship	34,423	-	-	(1,661)	-	32,762
Hardship Fund	7,199	1,320		(3,585)	-	4,934
Sarah Hayward Scholarship	17,893	-	-	(4,679)	(1,400)	11,814
El-Gomati Scholarship	22,170	-	-	(4,373)	(840)	16,957
Boulos and Margaret Kaibni	16,295	-	-	(4,418)	(560)	11,317
Al-Shehabi Family Scholarship	3,015	-	-	(1,313)	(280)	1,422
Leri Scholarship	1,935	-	-	-	(1,935)	-
Dominic Simpson Memorial Scholarship	15,000	-	-	(3,748)	(840)	10,412
W Barnaby	204	-	-	(1,249)	1,046	1
	164,254	2,795	-	(28,568)	(4,809)	133,672

In the year, £4,809 was transferred from restricted to unrestricted funds. Fobzu covers the overhead expenditure associated with managing the scholarship by charging a student admin for each scholarship to the relevant fund, and transferring it to unrestricted reserves. Additionally, one of the funds was changed from a restricted fund to an unrestricted fund. Their reserves were transferred to unrestricted reserves.

18 Restricted funds **(Continued)**

Comparative year

	Balance at 1 September 2020	Movement in funds: Income	Other expenditure	Scholarships	Transfers	Balance at 31 August 2021
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Adela Every Scholarship	34,318	-	-	-	-	34,318
Doreen & Leila Ingrams Scholarship	10,854	2,840	-	(1,892)	-	11,802
Peter Holliday Scholarship	34,423	-	-	-	-	34,423
Hardship Fund	9,821	1,730	-	(4,352)	-	7,199
Dr Salem H. Khamis Scholarship	144	1,950	-	(4,866)	2,772	-
Sarah Hayward Scholarship	24,164	-	-	(6,271)	-	17,893
El-Gomati Scholarship	11,074	12,500	-	(1,404)	-	22,170
Boulos and Margaret Kaibni	19,918	-	-	(3,623)	-	16,295
Al-Shehabi Family Scholarship	2,782	1,880	-	(1,647)	-	3,015
Leri Scholarship	2,000	2,000	-	(2,065)	-	1,935
Awareness programme	(200)	-	-	-	200	-
Distance Education Capacity Building	-	2,150	(3,000)	-	850	-
Dominic Simpson Memorial Scholarship	-	15,000	-	-	-	15,000
W Barnaby	-	1,784	-	(1,580)	-	204
	149,298	41,834	(3,000)	(27,700)	3,822	164,254

In the year, £3,822 was transferred from unrestricted to restricted funds. This relates to excess costs for restricted projects reimbursed from unrestricted reserves.

19 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted 2022	**Restricted 2022**	**Total 2022**	Unrestricted 2021	Restricted 2021	Total 2021
	£	**£**	**£**	£	£	£
Fund balances at 31 August 2022 are represented by:						
Investments	148,897	5,580	154,477	81,690	54,733	136,423
Current assets/(liabilities)	-	128,092	128,092	47,737	109,521	157,258
	148,897	133,672	282,569	129,427	164,254	293,681

20 Control

The Trustees have overall control of the activity.

21 Related party transactions

Unrestricted donations totalling £nil (2021: £5,550) were received from trustees in the year. There were no other related party transactions.

Friends of Palestinian Universities

England & Wales - Charity number 1114343

Accounts

Charity Registration No. 1114343

Company Registration No. 05713430 (England and Wales)

THE FRIENDS OF BIRZEIT UNIVERSITY

ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

THE FRIENDS OF BIRZEIT UNIVERSITY

LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Charity number	1114343	
Company number	05713430	
Registered office	1 Gough Square London EC4A 3DE	
Auditors	Mercer & Hole 21 Lombard Street London EC3V 9AH	
Bankers	Unity Trust Bank plc Nine Brindley Place Birmingham B1 2HB	
	COIF Charity Deposit Fund 80 Cheapside London EC2V 6DZ	
Solicitors	Thomas Eggar The Corn ExchangeTrust Baffins Lane Chichester West Sussex PO19 1GE	
Honorary positions	William Dalrymple	Patron
	Professor Khalil Hindi	Patron
	Professor David McLellan	Patron
	Rev Duncan MacPherson	Patron
	Professor Steven Rose	Patron
	The Rt. Hon. Lord Steel of Aikwood KT KBE DL	Patron
	Juliet Stevenson	Patron

THE FRIENDS OF BIRZEIT UNIVERSITY

CONTENTS

The Trustees present their report and financial statements for the year ended 31 August 2021.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in note 1 to the financial statements and comply with the charity's Articles of Association, the Companies Act 2006 and "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (issued in October 2019).

Structure, governance and management
The Friends of Birzeit University (Fobzu) is a UK-based Charity. Fobzu was established in 1978, registered with the Charity Commission in 1979 and subsequently incorporated as a company limited by guarantee in 2006. Fobzu is governed in accordance with its Memorandum and Articles of Association.

Trustees, who are also directors of the company, are appointed for a 3-year term that may be renewed. When considering new trustees, desired skills and experience are assessed prior to a meeting between board members and the potential trustee. New trustees are inducted to the work and ethos of the charity. The Board of Trustees meets at least 4 times a year. Day-to-day management is delegated to the Development Director, who is accountable to and supervised by the Board. Committees and working groups are set up to address specific matters.

The major risks to which the charity is exposed, as identified by the trustees, are regularly reviewed and systems established to mitigate those risks. The major risks facing Fobzu are:
- financial performance, notably the continuity of incoming funds to sustain operations;
- availability of expertise and resources for day to day operations;
- operational performance, including bank de-risking and risks to staff when operating in a conflict zone;
- the profile and reputation of the Charity.

Objectives and activities
Fobzu's objects are to *"To promote the advancement of education of Palestinians seeking educational opportunities at higher and tertiary education institutions and/or through educational, community or cultural programmes in such ways as the Directors see fit."*

The charity is extending opportunities and providing access to education to young Palestinians at educational institutions in the West Bank and Gaza.

The principle strands of activities carried out by Fobzu for the public benefit are:

- *Academic scholarships:* supporting Palestinian students in financial need through scholarships and a hardship fund.
- *Educational exchange:* facilitating links and understanding between UK and Palestinian students and educators.
- *Educational projects:* supporting Palestinian education.
- *Advocacy and campaigning:* raising awareness in the UK amongst government officials, parliamentarians, diplomats and the general public, of the obstacles to education for Palestinians.

The Trustees have paid due regard to guidance issued by the Charity Commission regarding public benefit in deciding what activities the charity should undertake.

Achievements and performance

Academic Scholarships

The scholarship programme comprises scholarships at Birzeit University, and joint Fobzu-UNRWA scholarships for Palestinian refugee students. Scholarships are provided on the basis of financial need and academic merit.

Our working relationship with UNRWA has enabled Fobzu to securely provide support to one of the most marginalized sections of Palestinian society. Since academic year 2018/19, Fobzu scholarships supported through UNRWA are enabling Palestinian refugee students in financial need to access higher education at Birzeit University in the West Bank and universities in Gaza.

Fobzu's endowments are:

- *Adela Every Scholarship:* funds a female student from villages or refugee camps.
- *Doreen Ingrams Scholarship:* funds one or more female students with special needs.
- *Peter Holliday Scholarship:* funds female students facing financial hardship.

Annual Scholarships cover tuition fees, administration and a contribution to Fobzu's running costs. Sponsoring donors are consulted on specific requirements such as: gender, place of residence, academic record, faculty or subject, special needs. Sponsors are kept informed of their student's progress through personal letters and academic reports.

A Hardship Fund is also in place to provide small grants to cover books, accommodation, transportation and housing, or subsidise students' tuition fees at Birzeit University.

In 2020/21 Fobzu worked with UNRWA to provide 19 scholarships to Palestinian refugee students, of which 12 were female and 7 male. Six students were supported at Birzeit University and 13 at universities in Gaza.

In 2020/21, Fobzu provided an additional 5 scholarships to female students at Birzeit University through its partnership with Birzeit University and Welfare Association.

Educational Exchange

In 2020/21 Fobzu continued the Education, Occupation & Liberation Programme co-hosted with the University & College Union (UCU). Before the Covid-19 pandemic, the series of lectures and seminars were usually held at the Institute of Education at University College, London, bringing together Palestinian, UK and international scholars, students and practitioners to explore the challenges facing Palestinian education and its role in creating a free and flourishing Palestine. In 2020/21, as a result of the impact of Covid-19, the programme was reduced and events were held online. Despite the challenges posed by the pandemic, this programme has continued to prove successful in furthering educational exchange, raising awareness, engaging new supporters and raising Fobzu's profile.

In 2020/21, for the second year running, Fobzu was forced to postpone the Fobzu-Oxford University Middle East Centre Writing Residency for Palestinian Scholars due to the difficulties of travel as a result of Covid-19. The Residency is dedicated to promoting Palestinian scholarship and building links between UK and Palestinian higher education by supporting an academic from a Palestinian university to complete a writing project at St Antony's College, Oxford. The first Fobzu-Oxford Writer in Residence spent six weeks in Oxford during the summer of 2019. The Residency is expected to resume in the summer of 2022.

Achievements and performance (continued)
Educational Projects

Distance Education Capacity Building in Palestine Project

Running through March 2021 and with sponsorship from the Welfare Association, the Fobzu Distance Education Capacity Building (‘Distance Education’) project provided a four-week programme supporting staff development in online and blended learning to 30 key Palestinian faculty at four universities in the occupied Palestinian territories: Birzeit, An-Najah, Bethlehem and Al-Azhar. Delivered by the internationally leading Centre for Distance Education (CDE) at the University of London and designed with input from Palestinian stakeholders, the course covered core themes in the designing of effective teaching, learning and assessment.

The intervention proved to be a successful response to the current need for assistance to Palestinian faculty who have been conducting teaching online since the Covid-19 pandemic reached Palestine. The project has ensured sustainability by adopting a cascade-learning approach with dissemination reaching up to 160 university staff and faculty.

Advocacy and Campaigning

Fobzu continued to actively engage with other UK charities working for the rights and welfare of the Palestinian people, in order to raise further awareness about the obstacles to the right to education for Palestinians. In coalition with other charities, Fobzu has participated in meetings with the Minister of State for the Middle East and North Africa and the Shadow Minister for International Development. This has enabled Fobzu to promote Palestinian access to education among key policy makers. Fobzu has also joined public coalition initiatives to raise awareness about the threats to Palestinian rights, including public statements on the targeting of Palestinian students for arbitrary detention by Israel’s military authorities, the UK government’s policy on the International Criminal Court’s investigation into alleged grave crimes committed in the oPt and on attacks against Palestinian civil society institutions.

Other activities
Fundraising

In 2020/21, Fobzu launched three fundraising appeals.

Fobzu continues to see greater potential for increasing income by reengaging former donors and extending outreach as well as pursuing institutional funding opportunities. Over the coming year, Fobzu aims to raise funds for 3 priority areas:

1. Fobzu scholarship programme and Hardship Fund
2. Supporting UK-Palestinian educational exchange
3. Raising awareness about the rights and needs of Palestinian students and educators

Volunteers’ support

Fobzu greatly appreciates the role played by its volunteers who are committed to the aims of the Charity. Their skills, and the work performed, deliver much valued support.

Online activity

Fobzu’s website is regularly updated with engaging written and audio-visual material. Our Youtube channel features videos of Fobzu events and other videos related to Fobzu’s programme. Fobzu has active Facebook and Twitter accounts that continue to grow in popularity and continues to attract more subscribers to its e-newsletter ‘Access Online’.

Future plans
In 2022 Fobzu plans to build on a successful phase of renewal. Working with Birzeit University and UNRWA, Fobzu will continue to provide scholarships to Palestinian students in financial need.

Fobzu will also continue with its Education, Occupation & Liberation Programme, furthering exchange between Palestinian and UK academics and raising awareness in the UK higher education sector about the experience of Palestinian students and educators.

In 2022, Fobzu plans to host the second Fobzu Writer in Residence for six to eight weeks in the UK completing a writing project with access to UK academic networks and research facilities.

Fobzu will continue to work with other UK charities to advance advocacy for Palestinian access to education. We will conduct three fundraising campaigns as well as review our fundraising strategy in order to ensure the long term sustainability of the charity. Building on its achievements in 2020/21, Fobzu will continue to explore potential areas of work that will enrich its programme of charitable activities.

Financial review
Fobzu recorded a surplus of income over expenditure of £62,693 in fiscal year 2021.

This is significantly higher than the two previous years, and is largely due to a single large unrestricted donation of £60,000, from an individual supporter. Discounting the impact of this single one-off donation, Fobzu's financial position is similar to past years in terms of the level of income and expenses, and the COVID-19 pandemic has not had a significant impact on the organisation's finances or operations.

Trustees continue to focus on the need to secure funds to sustain the ongoing scholarship and non-scholarship programmes. Given economic conditions, Fobzu has been reasonably successful in raising funds whilst sustaining an adequate reserves position to cover ongoing and anticipated commitments and programmes, particularly scholarships. Nevertheless, securing further funding streams remains vital to longer-term viability and the expansion of our programmes.

Fobzu has recently held an away day attended by its Director and Board to set out a long-term strategy around fundraising and programme development. As many of our scholarship recipients are graduating over the next two years, our forward financial commitments will decline rapidly, and this gives Fobzu an opportunity to invest in new scholarships and other programme activities.

The trustees have power to invest in such assets as they see fit. Treasury activities have the objective of providing adequate liquidity for Fobzu's needs and of minimising risk in a cost-effective way.

Reserves Policy
The trustees aim for the level of reserves to be equivalent to approximately one year of management and administrative costs in unrestricted funds to provide for unforeseen circumstances, after accounting for our known scholarship commitments.

The Trustees, who are also the directors for the purpose of company law, and who served during the year and up to the date of signature of the financial statements were:

Dr M Darweish	(Resigned 22 September 2020)
Dr A Owaineh	
Dr A Shalan	
Dr D Baillie	
Mr M Arafat Nomura	(Resigned 28 January 2022)
Dr M Masri	
Dr M Qato	
Dr J Harkin	(Resigned 22 September 2020)
Ms S Hamrouni	

Auditor
The auditor, Mercer & Hole Chartered Accountants, deemed to be reappointed under section 487(2) of the Companies Act 2006.

Disclosure of information to auditor
So far as the trustees are aware, there is no relevant audit information of which the company's auditors are unaware. Additionally, the trustees have taken all the necessary steps that they ought to have taken as trustees in order to make them aware of all relevant audit information and to establish that the company's auditors are aware of that information.

Approved by the Board of trustees and signed on its behalf by:

Dr D Baillie
Chair
Dated: 31 May 2022

THE FRIENDS OF BIRZEIT UNIVERSITY

STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

The Trustees, who are also the directors of The Friends of Birzeit University for the purpose of company law, are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Company Law requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable company for that year.

In preparing these financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;

- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP 2019 (FRS 102);

- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;

- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and

- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

THE FRIENDS OF BIRZEIT UNIVERSITY

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE FRIENDS OF BIRZEIT UNIVERSITY

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of The Friends of Birzeit University (the 'charity') for the year ended 31 August 2021 which comprise the statement of financial activities, the balance sheet and the notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 *The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland* (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion, the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charitable company's affairs as at 31 August 2021 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements* section of our report. We are independent of the charity in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the Trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the charity's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the Trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Other information

The other information comprises the information included in the annual report other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The Trustees are responsible for the other information contained within the annual report. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon. Our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the course of the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 require us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- the information given in the financial statements is inconsistent in any material respect with the Trustees' report; or
- sufficient accounting records have not been kept; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

Responsibilities of Trustees

As explained more fully in the statement of Trustees' responsibilities, the Trustees, who are also the directors of the charity for the purpose of company law, are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the Trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error. In preparing the financial statements, the Trustees are responsible for assessing the charity’s ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the Trustees either intend to liquidate the charitable company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

We have been appointed as auditor under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 and report in accordance with the Act and relevant regulations made or having effect thereunder.

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud, is detailed below.

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT (CONTINUED)

TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE FRIENDS OF BIRZEIT UNIVERSITY

We gained an understanding of the legal and regulatory framework applicable to the company and the industry in which it operates and considered the risk of acts by the company that were contrary to applicable laws and regulations, including fraud. These included, but were not limited to, the Companies Act 2006 and the Charities Act 2011.

We evaluated management's incentives and opportunities for fraudulent manipulation of the financial statements and the financial report (including the risk of override of controls), and determined that the principal risks were related to posting inappropriate entries including journals to overstate revenue or understate expenditure and management bias in accounting estimates.

Audit procedures performed by the engagement team included:

- discussions with management, including considerations of known or suspected instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations and fraud;
- gaining an understanding of management's controls designed to prevent and detect irregularities; and
- identifying and testing journal entries.

Owing to the inherent limitations of an audit, there is an unavoidable risk that we may not have detected some material misstatements in the financial statements, even though we have properly planned and performed our audit in accordance with auditing standards. For example, the further removed non-compliance with laws and regulations (irregularities) is from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, the less likely the inherently limited procedures required by auditing standards would identify it. In addition, as with any audit, there remained a higher risk of non-detection of irregularities, as these may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal controls. We are not responsible for preventing non-compliance and cannot be expected to detect non-compliance with all laws and regulations.

A further description of our responsibilities is available on the Financial Reporting Council’s website at: https://www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

Other matters
The prior year's financial statements were not audited and therefore in these financial statements the comparative figures are not audited.

Use of our report
This report is made solely to the charity’s trustees, as a body, in accordance with part 4 of the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charity's trustees those matters we are required to state to them in an auditors' report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charity and the charity’s trustees as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Andrew Crook BA ACA (Senior Statutory Auditor)
for and on behalf of Mercer & Hole

31 May 2022

Chartered Accountants
Statutory Auditor

21 Lombard Street
London
EC3V 9AH

is eligible for appointment as auditor of the charity by virtue of its eligibility for appointment as auditor of a company under of section 1212 of the Companies Act 2006.

THE FRIENDS OF BIRZEIT UNIVERSITY

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

	Notes	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total Year ended 31 August 2021	Unaudited Total Period ended 31 August 2020
		£	£	£	£
Income from:					
Subscriptions and Donations	**2**	105,859	38,716	144,575	18,968
HMRC Gift Aid		5,592	3,118	8,710	1,671
Investment income	**3**	493	-	493	2,279
Total income		111,944	41,834	153,778	22,918
Expenditure on:					
Raising funds	**4**	17,713	-	17,713	15,660
Charitable activities	**5**	38,866	30,700	69,566	24,695
Total expenditure		56,579	30,700	87,279	40,355
Net gains on investments	**11**	(3,806)	-	(3,806)	(586)
Net income/(expenditure) before transfers		51,559	11,134	62,693	(18,023)
Gross transfers between funds	**17**	(3,822)	3,822	-	-
Net expenditure & net movement in funds		47,737	14,956	62,693	(18,023)
Fund balances at 1 September 2020		81,690	149,298	230,988	249,011
Fund balances at 31 August 2021		129,427	164,254	293,681	230,988

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.

All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

The statement of financial activities also complies with the requirements for an income and expenditure account under the Companies Act 2006.

THE FRIENDS OF BIRZEIT UNIVERSITY

BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 31 AUGUST 2021

	Notes	2021 £	2021 £	Unaudited 2020 £	Unaudited 2020 £
Fixed assets					
Tangible fixed assets	**12**		-		-
Investments	**13**		136,423		139,736
Current assets					
Debtors	**15**	15,439		11,914	
Cash at bank and in hand		147,469		89,123	
		162,908		101,037	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	**16**	(5,650)		(9,785)	
Net current assets			157,258		91,252
Total assets less current liabilities			293,681		230,988
Net assets			293,681		230,988
Income funds					
Restricted funds	**17**		164,254		149,298
Unrestricted funds			129,427		81,690
			293,681		230,988

The company is entitled to the exemption from the audit requirement contained in section 477 of the Companies Act 2006, for the year ended 31 August 2021, although an audit has been carried out under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011.

The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 with respect to accounting records and the preparation of financial statements.

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies regime.

The accounts were approved by the Trustees on 31 May 2022

Dr A Owaineh
Treasurer

Dr D Baillie
Chair

Company Registration No. 05713430

1 Accounting policies

Charity information

The charity is a company limited by guarantee and has no share capital. In the event of the charity being wound up, the liability in respect of the guarantee is limited to £10 per member of the charity.

1.1 Accounting convention

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the charity's Articles of Association, the Companies Act 2006 and "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019)". The charity is a Public Benefit Entity as defined by FRS 102.

The accounts are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the charity. Monetary amounts in these financial statements are rounded to the nearest £1.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, modified to include certain financial instruments at fair value. The principal accounting policies adopted are set out below.

1.2 Going concern

At the time of approving the financial statements, the Trustees have a reasonable expectation that the charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. Thus the Trustees continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the financial statements.

1.3 Charitable funds

Unrestricted funds comprise of general funds created by the accumulated surplus within the statement of financial activities. They are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the charity.

Restricted funds represent amounts received for a specific purpose, which have not yet been fully spent, on that purpose by the year end.

- Adela Every Scholarship - this fund was set up to cover the cost of a scholarship under the following criteria, 'A female student from villages or refugee camps'.
- Doreen & Leila Ingrams Scholarship - this fund was set up to cover the cost of a scholarship for, 'One or more female students with special needs'.
- Peter Holliday Scholarship - this fund was set up to cover the cost of scholarship under the following criteria, 'Female students facing financial hardship.'
- The Hardship Fund - a 'quick response' fund that contributes towards the tuition fees, living expenses, housing, IT, travel and books.
- Sarah Hayward Scholarship- this fund was set up for scholarships for undergraduate students.
- El-Gomati Scholarship- this fund was set up to cover the cost of a scholarship under the following criteria, 'for a female student in financial need'.
- Boulos and Margaret Kaibni - this fund was set up to cover the cost of a scholarship under the following criteria - 'for a female student in financial need at Birzeit University'.
- Dr Salem H. Khamis Scholarship -Supports a Palestinian student in financial need to study statistics or mathematics.
- Al-Shehabi Family Scholarship - Supports a Palestinian student in financial need.
- Leri Scholarship - Supports a student at Birzeit University in financial need.
- Dominic Simpson Memorial Scholarship - Supports a female student at Birzeit University based upon financial need and academic merit.
- W Barnaby - Supports a university scholarship for a female Palestinian student in financial need.
- Distance Education Capacity Project - targeted intervention supporting staff development in online and blended learning to Palestinian faculty at four universities in the occupied Palestinian territories.

1 Accounting policies **(Continued)**

Endowment funds are subject to specific conditions by donors that the capital must be maintained by the charity.

1.4 Income

Income is recognised when the charity is legally entitled to it after any performance conditions have been met, the amounts can be measured reliably, and it is probable that income will be received.

Cash donations are recognised on receipt. Other donations are recognised once the charity has been notified of the donation, unless performance conditions require deferral of the amount. Income tax recoverable in relation to donations received under Gift Aid or deeds of covenant is recognised at the time of the donation.

Legacies are recognised on receipt or otherwise if the charity has been notified of an impending distribution, the amount is known, and receipt is expected. If the amount is not known, the legacy is treated as a contingent asset.

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to make a payment to a third party, it is probable that settlement will be required and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is classified under the following activity headings on a time spent basis:

- Costs of raising funds comprise the costs of fundraising activities and their associated support costs.
- Expenditure on charitable activities includes the costs of scholarship, advocacy, awareness and academic activities undertaken to further the purposes of the charity and their associated support costs.

Support costs are those functions that assist the work of the charity but do not directly undertake charitable activities. Support costs include payroll and governance costs which support the programmes. These costs have been allocated between cost of raising funds and expenditure on charitable activities.

1.5 Tangible fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets are initially measured at cost and subsequently measured at cost or valuation, net of depreciation and any impairment losses.

Depreciation is recognised so as to write off the cost or valuation of assets less their residual values over their useful lives on the following bases:

Fixtures, fittings & equipment	5 years straight line

The gain or loss arising on the disposal of an asset is determined as the difference between the sale proceeds and the carrying value of the asset, and is recognised in net income/(expenditure) for the year.

1.6 Fixed asset investments

Fixed asset investments are initially measured at transaction price excluding transaction costs, and are subsequently measured at fair value at each reporting date. Changes in fair value are recognised in net income/(expenditure) for the year. Transaction costs are expensed as incurred.

1.7 Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include cash in hand, deposits held at call with banks, other short-term liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less, and bank overdrafts. Bank overdrafts are shown within borrowings in current liabilities.

1 Accounting policies **(Continued)**

1.8 Financial instruments

The charity has elected to apply the provisions of Section 11 ‘Basic Financial Instruments’ and Section 12 ‘Other Financial Instruments Issues’ of FRS 102 to all of its financial instruments.

Financial instruments are recognised in the charity's balance sheet when the charity becomes party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

Financial assets and liabilities are offset, with the net amounts presented in the financial statements, when there is a legally enforceable right to set off the recognised amounts and there is an intention to settle on a net basis or to realise the asset and settle the liability simultaneously.

Basic financial assets

Basic financial assets, which include debtors and cash and bank balances, are initially measured at transaction price including transaction costs and are subsequently carried at amortised cost using the effective interest method unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the transaction is measured at the present value of the future receipts discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial assets classified as receivable within one year are not amortised.

Basic financial liabilities

Basic financial liabilities, including creditors and bank loans are initially recognised at transaction price unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the debt instrument is measured at the present value of the future payments discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial liabilities classified as payable within one year are not amortised.

Debt instruments are subsequently carried at amortised cost, using the effective interest rate method.

Trade creditors are obligations to pay for goods or services that have been acquired in the ordinary course of operations from suppliers. Amounts payable are classified as current liabilities if payment is due within one year or less. If not, they are presented as non-current liabilities. Trade creditors are recognised initially at transaction price and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

Derecognition of financial liabilities

Financial liabilities are derecognised when the charity’s contractual obligations expire or are discharged or cancelled.

1.9 Employee benefits

The cost of any unused holiday entitlement is recognised in the period in which the employee’s services are received.

Termination benefits are recognised immediately as an expense when the charity is demonstrably committed to terminate the employment of an employee or to provide termination benefits.

1.10 Retirement benefits

Payments to defined contribution retirement benefit schemes are charged as an expense as they fall due.

1.11 Reporting period

The comparative period was shortened to eight months in order to align with the academic year and therefore the two periods are not comparable.

2 Subscriptions and Donations

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2021 £	Total 2020 £
Donations and gifts	105,859	38,716	144,575	18,968
For the year ended 31 August 2020	14,270	4,698		18,968

3 Investment income

	Unrestricted funds £	Total 2020 £
Income from listed investments	493	2,279

4 Raising funds

	Unrestricted funds 2021 £	Restricted funds 2021 £	Total 2021 £	Total 2020 £
Consultancy/contracted services	817	-	817	406
Office Costs	789	-	789	324
Bank charges	40	-	40	68
Website costs	845	-	845	471
Support costs	14,957	-	14,957	13,963
Rent and utilities costs	265	-	265	310
Travel costs	-	-	-	118
	17,713	-	17,713	15,660
For the year ended 31 August 2020				
Cost of Raising Funds	15,660	-		15,660

5 Charitable activities

	Scholarship 2021 £	Advocacy 2021 £	Awareness 2021 £	Academic 2021 £	Total 2021 £	Total 2020 £
Awareness programme	-	-	-	3,000	3,000	200
Consultancy/contracted services	304	203	197	264	968	282
Office costs	281	188	182	244	895	225
Bank charges	15	10	10	13	48	48
Website costs	315	211	204	273	1,003	327
Rent & utilities	99	66	64	86	315	216
Travel	-	-	-	-	-	82
	1,014	678	657	3,880	6,229	1,380
Grant funding of activities (see note 7)	42,235	-	-	-	42,235	11,830
Share of support costs (see note 8)	5,573	3,727	3,607	4,835	17,742	9,685
Share of governance costs (see note 8)	3,360	-	-	-	3,360	1,800
	52,182	4,405	4,264	8,715	69,566	24,695
Analysis by fund						
Unrestricted funds	24,482	4,405	4,264	5,715	38,866	21,987
Restricted funds	27,700	-	-	3,000	30,700	2,708
	52,182	4,405	4,264	8,715	69,566	24,695

5 Charitable activities **(Continued)**

For the year ended 31 August 2020

	Scholarship	Advocacy	Awareness	Academic	Total 2020
	£	£	£	£	£
Awareness programme	-	-	200	-	200
Consultancy/contracted services	90	164	10	18	282
Office costs	72	131	8	14	225
Bank charges	15	28	2	3	48
Website costs	104	190	12	21	327
Rent & utilities	69	125	8	14	216
Travel	26	47	3	6	82
	376	685	243	76	1,380
Grant funding of activities (see note 7)	11,830	-	-	-	11,830
Share of support costs (see note 8)	3,085	5,634	351	615	9,685
Share of governance costs (see note 8)	1,800	-	-	-	1,800
	17,091	6,319	594	691	24,695
Analysis by fund					
Unrestricted funds	14,583	6,319	394	691	21,987
Restricted funds	2,508	-	200	-	2,708
	17,091	6,319	594	691	24,695

6 Description of charitable activities

Scholarship
Working with UNRWA and Birzeit University, the Fobzu scholarship programme supports Palestinian students in financial need at universities in the West Bank and Gaza.

Advocacy
Fobzu's work in Parliament and civil society, independently and in coalition with other UK charities and NGOs to promote Palestinian access to education.

Awareness
The Education, Occupation & Liberation events programme and other activities to raise awareness within the UK education sector and general public about the experience of Palestinian students and educators, the barriers they face to education and how they seek to overcome them.

Academic
Support for Palestinian academics and institutions of higher education through the Fobzu-Oxford Writing Residency for Palestinian Scholars and other work to promote Palestinian scholarship and educational exchange.

7 Grants payable

Scholarship
Grants totalling £42,235 (2020: £11,830) were awarded to 20 (2019: 20) individuals.

8 Support costs

	Support costs	Governance costs	2021	2020
	£	£	£	£
Staff costs	32,699	-	32,699	23,648
Audit fees	-	3,360	3,360	1,800
	32,699	3,360	36,059	25,448
Analysed between				
Fundraising	14,957	-	14,957	13,963
Charitable activities	17,742	3,360	21,102	11,485
	32,699	3,360	36,059	25,448

9 Trustees

None of the Trustees (or any persons connected with them) received any remuneration or benefits from the charity during the year.

No trustee was reimbursed during the year (2020: None).

10 Employees

Number of employees
The average monthly number employees during the year was:

	2021 Number	2020 Number
Employees	1	1

Employment costs	2021	2020
	£	£
Wages and salaries	31,439	22,765
Other pension costs	1,260	883
	32,699	23,648

There were no employees whose annual remuneration was £60,000 or more.

11 Net gains/(losses) on investments

	Unrestricted funds	Unrestricted funds
	2021	2020
	£	£
Revaluation of investments	(3,806)	(586)

12 Tangible fixed assets

	Fixtures, fittings & equipment
	£
Cost	
At 1 September 2020	200
At 31 August 2021	200
Depreciation	
At 1 September 2020	200
At 31 August 2021	200
Carrying amount	
At 31 August 2021	-
At 31 August 2020	-

13 Fixed asset investments

	Listed investments	**Cash in portfolio**	**Total**
	£		**£**
Cost or valuation			
At 1 September 2020	138,878	858	139,736
Valuation changes	(3,806)	493	(3,313)
At 31 August 2021	135,072	1,351	136,423
Carrying amount			
At 31 August 2021	135,072	1,351	136,423
At 31 August 2020	138,878	858	139,736

14 Financial instruments

	2021	2020
	£	£
Carrying amount of financial assets		
Instruments measured at fair value through profit or loss	135,072	138,878

15 Debtors

	2021	2020
Amounts falling due within one year:	£	£
Other debtors	15,439	11,914

16 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2021	2020
	£	£
Other taxation and social security	-	2,276
Other creditors	2,290	2,349
Accruals and deferred income	3,360	5,160
	5,650	9,785

17 Restricted funds

The income funds of the charity include restricted funds comprising the following unexpended balances of donations and grants held on trust for specific purposes:

Current year

			Movement in funds			
	Balance at 1 September 2020	**Income**	**Other expenditure**	**Scholarships**	**Transfers**	**Balance at 31 August 2021**
	£	**£**	**£**	**£**	**£**	**£**
Adela Every Scholarship	34,318	-	-	-	-	34,318
Doreen & Leila Ingrams Scholarship	10,854	2,840	-	(1,892)	-	11,802
Peter Holliday Scholarship	34,423	-	-	-	-	34,423
Hardship Fund	9,821	1,730		(4,352)	-	7,199
Dr Salem H. Khamis Scholarship	144	1,950	-	(4,866)	2,772	-
Sarah Hayward Scholarship	24,164	-	-	(6,271)	-	17,893
El-Gomati Scholarship	11,074	12,500	-	(1,404)	-	22,170
Boulos and Margaret Kaibni	19,918	-	-	(3,623)	-	16,295
Al-Shehabi Family Scholarship	2,782	1,880	-	(1,647)	-	3,015
Leri Scholarship	2,000	2,000	-	(2,065)	-	1,935
Awareness programme	(200)	-	-	-	200	-
Distance Education Capacity Building	-	2,150	(3,000)	-	850	-
Dominic Simpson Memorial Scholarship	-	15,000	-	-	-	15,000
W Barnaby	-	1,784	-	(1,580)	-	204
	149,298	41,834	(3,000)	(27,700)	3,822	164,254

In the year, £3,822 was transferred from unrestricted to restricted funds. This relates to excess costs for restricted projects reimbursed from unrestricted reserves.

17 Restricted funds (Continued)

Comparative year

	Balance at 1 January 2020	Movement in funds: Income	Other expenditure	Scholarships	Transfers	Balance at 31 August 2020
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Adela Every Scholarship	34,318	-	-	-	-	34,318
Doreen & Leila Ingrams Scholarship	10,054	800	-	-	-	10,854
Peter Holliday Scholarship	34,423	-	-	-	-	34,423
Hardship Fund	8,741	1,080	-	-	-	9,821
Dr Salem H. Khamis Scholarship	2,580	72	-	(2,508)	-	144
Sarah Hayward Scholarship	24,164	-	-	-	-	24,164
El-Gomati Scholarship	11,074	-	-	-	-	11,074
Boulos and Margaret Kaibni	19,172	746	-	-	-	19,918
Al-Shehabi Family Scholarship	2,782	-	-	-	-	2,782
Leri Scholarship	-	2,000	-	-	-	2,000
Awareness programme	-	-	(200)	-	-	200
	147,308	4,698	(200)	(2,508)	-	149,298

18 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted 2021	**Restricted 2021**	**Total 2021**	Unrestricted 2020	Restricted 2020	Total 2020
	£	**£**	**£**	£	£	£
Fund balances at 31 August 2021 are represented by:						
Investments	81,690	54,733	136,423	81,690	58,046	139,736
Current assets/ (liabilities)	47,737	109,521	157,258	-	91,252	91,252
	129,427	164,254	293,681	81,690	149,298	230,988

19 Control

The Trustees have overall control of the activity.

20 Related party transactions

Unrestricted donations totalling £5,550 (2020: £nil) were received from trustees in the year. There were no other related party transactions.