

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

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

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# THE FRIENDS OF BIRZEIT UNIVERSITY

## CONTENTS

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	<b>Page</b>
Trustees' report	1 - 4
Independent examiner's report	5
Statement of financial activities	6
Balance sheet	7
Notes to the financial statements	8 - 20

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# THE FRIENDS OF BIRZEIT UNIVERSITY

## TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

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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.

# THE FRIENDS OF BIRZEIT UNIVERSITY

## TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)(INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

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### 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.

# THE FRIENDS OF BIRZEIT UNIVERSITY

## TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)(INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

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### 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.

# THE FRIENDS OF BIRZEIT UNIVERSITY

## TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)(INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

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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 (Appointed 1 December 2023)  
A Najjar

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

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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).

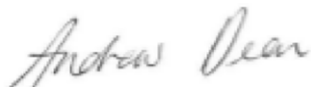
Having satisfied myself that the financial statements of the charity are not required to be audited under Part 16 of the 2006 Act and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of the charity's financial statements carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act 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 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**

		Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total Year ended 31 August 2024	Total Year ended 31 August 2023
	Notes	£	£	£	£
<b><u>Income and endowments from:</u></b>					
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
<b>Total income</b>		<b>80,435</b>	<b>22,566</b>	<b>103,001</b>	<b>64,712</b>
<b><u>Expenditure on:</u></b>					
Raising funds	5	14,682	60	14,742	14,294
Charitable activities	6	68,984	27,388	96,372	101,646
<b>Total expenditure</b>		<b>83,666</b>	<b>27,448</b>	<b>111,114</b>	<b>115,940</b>
Net gains/(losses) on investments	12	335	-	335	(14,053)
<b>Net outgoing before transfers</b>					<b>(65,281)</b>
Gross transfers between funds	18	119	(119)	-	-
<b>Net outgoing resources</b>					<b>(65,281)</b>
<b>Other recognised gains and losses</b>					
Other gains or losses	13	225	-	225	196
<b>Net expenditure &amp; net movement in funds</b>		<b>(2,552)</b>	<b>(5,001)</b>	<b>(7,553)</b>	<b>(65,085)</b>
Fund balances at 1 September 2023		97,953	119,531	217,484	282,569
<b>Fund balances at 31 August 2024</b>		<b>95,401</b>	<b>114,530</b>	<b>209,931</b>	<b>217,484</b>

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 £	£
<b>Fixed assets</b>					
Tangible fixed assets	14		-		-
Investments	15		143,918		143,583
<b>Current assets</b>					
Debtors	16	5,151		5,454	
Cash at bank and in hand		70,141		77,835	
		75,292		83,289	
<b>Creditors: amounts falling due within one year</b>	17	(9,279)		(9,388)	
Net current assets			66,013		73,901
<b>Total assets less current liabilities</b>			209,931		217,484
<b>Net assets</b>			209,931		217,484
<b>Income funds</b>					
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

# THE FRIENDS OF BIRZEIT UNIVERSITY

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

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#### 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.
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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.

# THE FRIENDS OF BIRZEIT UNIVERSITY

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

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### 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
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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.

# THE FRIENDS OF BIRZEIT UNIVERSITY

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

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### 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.

# THE FRIENDS OF BIRZEIT UNIVERSITY

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

### 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
<b>For the year ended 31 August 2023</b>	<u>77,745</u>	<u>6,836</u>	<u>100,287</u>	<u>57,038</u>

### 3 Investment income

	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Unrestricted funds 2023 £
Income from bank deposits	<u>2,715</u>	<u>4,930</u>

### 4 Other income

	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Unrestricted funds 2023 £
Other income	<u>-</u>	<u>2,744</u>

### 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	-
<b>For the year ended 31 August 2024</b>	<u>14,682</u>	<u>60</u>	<u>14,742</u>	<u>13,772</u>

# THE FRIENDS OF BIRZEIT UNIVERSITY

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

### 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
	<u>40,636</u>	<u>25,802</u>	<u>29,934</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>96,372</u>	<u>101,646</u>
<b>Analysis by fund</b>						
Unrestricted funds	18,098	23,559	27,327	-	68,984	81,766
Restricted funds	<u>22,538</u>	<u>2,244</u>	<u>2,606</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>27,388</u>	<u>19,880</u>
	<u>40,636</u>	<u>25,803</u>	<u>29,933</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>96,372</u>	<u>101,646</u>

# THE FRIENDS OF BIRZEIT UNIVERSITY

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

### 6 Charitable activities

(Continued)

For the year ended 31 August 2023

	Scholarship	Advocacy and Awareness	Academic and 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
	<u>3,906</u>	<u>2,013</u>	<u>5,813</u>	<u>18,668</u>	<u>30,400</u>
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)	<u>4,320</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>4,320</u>
	<u>55,154</u>	<u>12,736</u>	<u>6,441</u>	<u>27,315</u>	<u>101,646</u>
<b>Analysis by fund</b>					
Unrestricted funds	35,274	12,736	6,441	27,315	81,766
Restricted funds	<u>19,880</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>19,880</u>
	<u>55,154</u>	<u>12,736</u>	<u>6,441</u>	<u>27,315</u>	<u>101,646</u>



# THE FRIENDS OF BIRZEIT UNIVERSITY

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

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### 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.

# THE FRIENDS OF BIRZEIT UNIVERSITY

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

### 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
	<u>385</u>	<u>6,057</u>	<u>6,442</u>	<u>60,471</u>
Analysed between				
Fundraising	385	6,057	6,442	25,182
Charitable activities	-	-	-	35,289
	<u>385</u>	<u>6,057</u>	<u>6,442</u>	<u>60,471</u>

### 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	<u>2</u>	<u>2</u>

#### Employment costs

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

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

# THE FRIENDS OF BIRZEIT UNIVERSITY

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

### 12 Net gains/(losses) on investments

	Unrestricted funds	Unrestricted funds
	2024	2023
	£	£
Revaluation of investments	335	(14,053)
	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>

### 13 Other gains and losses

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

### 14 Tangible fixed assets

	Fixtures, fittings & equipment
	£
<b>Cost</b>	
At 1 September 2023	200
At 31 August 2024	<u>200</u>
<b>Depreciation</b>	
At 1 September 2023	200
At 31 August 2024	<u>200</u>
<b>Carrying amount</b>	
At 31 August 2024	<u>-</u>
At 31 August 2023	<u>-</u>

# THE FRIENDS OF BIRZEIT UNIVERSITY

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

### 15 Fixed asset investments

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

### 16 Debtors

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

### 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
	<u>9,279</u>	<u>9,388</u>

# THE FRIENDS OF BIRZEIT UNIVERSITY

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

### 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
	<b>119,531</b>	<b>22,566</b>	<b>(27,448)</b>	<b>(119)</b>	<b>114,530</b>

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.

# THE FRIENDS OF BIRZEIT UNIVERSITY

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

### 18 Restricted funds

(Continued)

#### Comparative year

	Balance at 1 September 2022 £	Income £	Movement in funds 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
	<u>133,672</u>	<u>7,139</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(19,880)</u>	<u>(1,400)</u>	<u>119,531</u>

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
	<u>95,401</u>	<u>113,411</u>	<u>209,931</u>	<u>97,953</u>	<u>119,531</u>	<u>217,484</u>

### 20 Control

The Trustees have overall control of the activity.

# THE FRIENDS OF BIRZEIT UNIVERSITY

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

***FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024***

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### **21 Related party transactions**

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