



PUBLIC CALL No. 96/2025

HUMANITARIAN PROGRAM – PALESTINIAN REFUGEES

The UFSM Human Rights Observatory, in partnership with the Sérgio Vieira de Mello Chair, hereby announces the HUMANITARIAN PROGRAM – PALESTINIAN REFUGEES, which aims to create internal public policies for the reception and integration of Palestinian refugees at the Federal University of Santa Maria (UFSM), as undergraduate students or visiting professors.

1. About the Humanitarian Program – Palestinian Refugees

1.1 According to data from the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA), the Gaza Strip has a population of approximately 2.4 million people, including around 1.6 million Palestinian refugees. In the past two years of attacks against Palestine, the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) reported that at least 65,062 Palestinians have been killed in Gaza, and another 165,697 have been injured. Between July and August 2025 alone, 28,000 cases of acute malnutrition among children under five were reported, surpassing the total number of cases recorded during the first six months of the year in the territory. Approximately 660,000 children and adolescents have been deprived of formal education since the beginning of the conflicts, with 91.8% of Gaza's schools directly hit or significantly damaged, requiring complete reconstruction or major repairs. The escalation of violence in the territory has had collateral effects impacting hospitals, schools, shelters, access to water, food, healthcare, and all fundamental principles of human rights and citizenship, which are universal and inalienable.

Through its Human Rights Observatory and the Sérgio Vieira de Mello Chair, the Federal University of Santa Maria (UFSM) launches the Humanitarian Program – Palestinian Refugees with the goal of strengthening academic relations with refugees, both through a call for admission to undergraduate programs (see item 3) and a call for visiting professors (see item 2 of this notice). UFSM upholds education and solidarity as instruments of social transformation, valuing the knowledge and experiences arising from such contexts and enabling these voices to be strengthened in other spaces and settings.

2. Call for Visiting Professors

2.1 The Visiting Professor Call will be published by the Provost Office for Personnel Management (PROGEP), in partnership with the Provost Office for Graduate Studies and Research (PRPGP), offering three positions for visiting professors, with the possibility of expansion depending on demand. The contract duration will be six months, renewable once for an equal period.



Detailed information on the Visiting Professor Call and the legal prerequisites for the positions can be found in Call No. 259, dated October 13, 2025, available on UFSM's website at <https://www.ufsm.br/trabalhe-na-ufsm>.

3. Call for Access to Higher Education at UFSM for Palestinian Refugees

3.1 In accordance with Article 3, Section IX of UFSM Resolution No. 125/2023, supplementary vacancies will be established in a specific call for admission to undergraduate programs with available places, as approved by their respective Program Committees, up to a maximum limit of 5% of the total original vacancies.

Consultation with Program Committees and the publication of the call will be carried out by the Office of Undergraduate Studies (PROGRAD), which will publish a special call for the admission of Palestinian refugees. Detailed information on requirements and selection are outlined in Call No. 087/2025–PROGRAD/UFSM, which will be available after its publication at <https://www.ufsm.br/pro-reitorias/prograd/editais/087-2025>.

4. Available Student and Academic Assistance

4.1 UFSM will assist with the acquisition of airline tickets for the arrival of students and visiting professors selected and approved through the calls referred to in items 2 and 3 of this call.

4.2 Students admitted through Call No. 087/2025–PROGRAD/UFSM (Access to Higher Education at UFSM for Refugees and Immigrants in Situations of Vulnerability – Palestinian Refugees) may apply for the Socioeconomic Benefit Program (PBSE) after their admission to the University. The PBSE provides selected students with:

- Free meals (breakfast, lunch, and dinner) at UFSM University Restaurants;
- Eligibility to participate in the selection processes for the Student Housing Program;
- Eligibility to apply for Transportation Aid and Educational Materials Aid;
- Access to dental care for students on the Santa Maria campus;
- Access to primary healthcare services for residents of Student Housing;
- Participation in other assistance programs offered through the National Student Assistance Policy.

4.2.1 Newly admitted students will immediately receive free meals and temporary housing while awaiting the analysis of their PBSE applications. Guidance on registration will be provided during the orientation and welcome sessions.

4.3 The Office of International Affairs (DRI), responsible for UFSM's internationalization policies, will coordinate the reception of admitted students.



4.4 If necessary, the MIGRAIDH Group (Human Rights and International Human Mobility) / Sérgio Vieira de Mello Chair may provide legal and documentation support, as well as educational and training initiatives and other advocacy actions related to migration and human rights. Contact can be made via email at migraidh@gmail.com.

4.5 Students admitted through Call No. 087/2025–PROGRAD/UFSM (Access to Higher Education at UFSM for Refugees and Immigrants in Situations of Vulnerability – Palestinian Refugees) will receive a 12-month Extension Incentive Scholarship (pursuant to UFSM Normative Instruction No. 001/IN-PRE) to engage in activities at the UFSM Human Rights Observatory.

5. Eligibility Requirements

5.1 Be a person of Palestinian origin (including stateless persons from the Palestinian Territories) and be under international protection in Brazil or in the process of obtaining it, proven by one or more of the following documents:

- a) Document issued by UNRWA confirming Palestinian refugee status;
- b) Document issued by the National Committee for Refugees (CONARE) recognizing refugee status in Brazil;
- c) Digital protocol of a pending asylum request with CONARE;
- d) Document issued by the Federal Police (CRNM/Protocol) indicating refugee or humanitarian reception status;
- e) Palestinian passport or equivalent travel document;
- f) Residence permit or temporary visa granted for humanitarian reception, issued by competent Brazilian federal authorities (Ministry of Justice and Public Security – Federal Police, and Ministry of Foreign Affairs).

5.2 Declare the ability to cover expenses not covered under Item 4 – Available Student and Academic Assistance (such as visa processing, document issuance, and other personal maintenance expenses).

5.3 Present proof of habitual residence in Palestine/the Palestinian Territories, or valid documentation demonstrating Palestinian origin or forced displacement. Self-declarations or alternative forms of documentation are admissible.

5.3.1 Indirect proof of residence may include: detailed self-declaration, school records, humanitarian assistance records, employment records, or official correspondence.

5.3.2 UFSM will prioritize candidates whose refugee or humanitarian reception status was established within the last two years. The absence of this condition does not imply ineligibility. Verifications will be conducted, with the candidate's consent, exclusively through official sources and in compliance with Law No. 13.709/2018 (Brazilian General Data Protection Law – LGPD), and no contact will be made with authorities from the country of origin.

5.4 Meet any additional academic and administrative requirements outlined in the specific calls (minimum education level, language proficiency, professional experience, etc.).



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GABINETE DO REITOR
OBSERVATÓRIO DE DIREITOS HUMANOS**

5.5 In observance of the principle of international refugee protection, if a candidate is unable to provide certain documents due to their refugee condition, the program's organizing team will evaluate each case individually and may accept substitute or alternative declarations.

6. GENERAL PROVISIONS

6.1 Matters not specified in this call will be decided by the UFSM Human Rights Observatory team.

6.2 This call may be revoked or annulled, in whole or in part, at any time, either unilaterally by UFSM or for reasons of public interest or legal requirements, by means of a substantiated decision, without generating any right to compensation or claims of any nature.

6.3 Further information may be obtained via email at observatoriodh@ufsm.br.

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Homologação de edital 010 - Organização e Funcionamento		
COMPONENTE		
Ordem	Descrição	Nome do arquivo
2	Minuta de edital (010)	PUBLIC CALL No. 962025 HUMANITARIAN PROGRAM PALESTINIAN REFUGEES.pdf
Assinaturas		
10/10/2025 14:20:19 VICTOR DE CARLI LOPES (Coordenador(a)) 01.07.08.00.0.0 - COORDENADORIA DE CIDADANIA - COCID - PRE		
10/10/2025 15:33:03 FLAVI FERREIRA LISBOA FILHO (Pró-Reitor(a)) 01.07.00.00.0.0 - PRÓ-REITORIA DE EXTENSÃO - PRE		
10/10/2025 16:25:29 LUCIANO SCHUCH (Reitor(a) da UFSM) 00.00.00.00.0.0 - UNIVERSIDADE FEDERAL DE SANTA MARIA - UFSM		
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