

University of Manchester Should End Partnership with Tel Aviv University

The Student Body Notes:

Tel Aviv University (TAU) is deeply involved in Israel's crimes of apartheid, occupation, ethnic cleansing and genocide against the Palestinian people. Students have researched and exposed TAU's complicity. Details of their findings can be found in the research report, 'The University of Manchester's Deadly Partnership with Tel Aviv University'¹.

TAU's complicity in ethnic cleansing and genocide includes:

- Destroying and occupying stolen Palestinian homes and graves in Sheikh Mwannis, the Palestinian village ethnically cleansed in 1948 which the University is built on top of.
- Taking part in illegal archaeological digs across the occupied Palestinian East Jerusalem and West Bank
- Directly training Israeli soldiers on campus through programmes such as Erez, Galim, Psagot and Arazim.
- Inviting students to volunteer at an Israeli army logistics centre during the genocide
- Providing research and resources to all of Israel's largest weapon manufacturers
- Investing in and supporting Xtend², a company which makes small drones which are being used to attack Palestinians in Gaza
- Providing intelligence, analysis and research to the Israeli government and security agencies to enact genocidal policies and justify their crimes against Palestinians

This complicity is not limited to just Tel Aviv University but is present, in various forms, across all Israeli universities³. In the words of Desmond Tutu, "Israeli universities are an intimate part of the Israeli regime, by active choice. While Palestinians are not able to access universities and schools, Israeli universities produce the research, technology, arguments and leaders for maintaining the occupation."⁴

Since 2021, the University of Manchester (UoM) has maintained a research Partnership with TAU⁵. This partnership includes up to 8 joint projects every year which each receive up to £5,000 from UoM. Applications were opened in 2021, 2022 and 2023. Over the 3 years, UoM spent £89,248 on this partnership.

¹ https://drive.google.com/file/d/1_3wrvqHW8faupEegQAtLt8UrQS4PVXTM/view?usp=sharing

² <https://www.xtend.me/products-catalog>

³ Wind, M. (2024). Towers of ivory and steel : how Israeli universities deny Palestinian freedom . London ; Verso.

⁴ <https://bdsmovement.net/news/israel%25E2%2580%2599s-universities-pillar-occupation-and-apartheid>

⁵ <https://www.manchester.ac.uk/collaborate/global-influence/collaborations/manchester-tel-aviv-research-fund/>

Since October 2023, in light of Israel's ongoing genocide, many universities across Europe have reassessed and ended their ties with Israeli universities. These include 76 Spanish Universities⁶, Radboud University⁷, Utrecht University⁸, Ghent University⁹, Antwerp University¹⁰, Trinity College Dublin¹¹ and Queens University Belfast¹², University of Helsinki¹³ and more¹⁴. When Radboud University ended its partnership with TAU, its International Partnerships Advisory Committee found that TAU "directly and specifically contributes to these serious and systematic human rights violations and is potentially guilty of violations of academic integrity."

The Student Body Believes:

1. The University of Manchester should end its partnership with Tel Aviv University.
2. The University of Manchester should suspend any relationships it has with all Israeli universities and academic institutions.
3. The University of Manchester should create a policy to guide its international relationships which is grounded in human rights and international law to avoid UoM becoming complicit in crimes against humanity around the world. The university should reassess all of its international relationships against this new policy.
4. The University of Manchester should pursue productive institutional relationships with Palestinian universities.
5. The University should redirect the funding that would be going to Tel Aviv University towards rebuilding Palestinian academic institutions.

Postscript:

The Students' Union is legally entitled to form a corporate conclusion, this outlines what students believe at a given point in time, reached by a democratic process. The Union can communicate the result of the vote to its members and the university. Should this policy pass, it will be treated as a belief of the student body rather than a statement of fact.

As per the democratic procedures of Union Assembly, this policy proposal was referred to the Union Assembly Committee. They are responsible for making sure that union policies are within the legal framework the union must operate within. As such, it is noted that

⁶ <https://bdsmovement.net/news/76-universities-spain-suspend-ties-with-complicit-israeli-universities>

⁷ <https://www.ru.nl/en/about-us/news/radboud-university-is-suspending-institution-wide-partnerships-with-two-israeli-universities>

⁸ <https://students.uu.nl/en/news/utrecht-university-will-not-enter-into-any-new-collaborations-with-israeli-or-ganizations-until>

⁹ <https://www.ugent.be/en/news-events/discontinuing-ongoing-collaborations-israeli-partners-update-2.htm>

¹⁰ <https://www.eunews.it/en/2024/05/29/university-of-antwerp-and-universite-libre-de-bruxelles-suspend-collaborations-with-israeli-institutes/>

¹¹ <https://bdsmovement.net/news/trinity-college-dublin-becomes-first-university-west-comprehensively-cut-ties-i-srael>

¹² <https://www.irishtimes.com/ireland/education/2025/06/06/queens-university-belfast-fully-divests-from-israeli-interests-in-protest-over-gaza-conflict/>

¹³ <https://www.helsinki.fi/en/news/higher-education-policy/university-has-reassessed-its-collaboration-israeli-universities>

¹⁴ <https://academicsforpalestine.dk/academic-boycott/boycott-map/>

some of what is stated in the policy has yet to be proven as true by court, notwithstanding findings of commissions¹⁵ and other international organisations.

¹⁵ [Israel has committed genocide in the Gaza Strip, UN Commission finds | OHCHR](#)