

The Program for International Education and Social Change (PIESC)

Bard College Berlin's Scholarship Program for
Students from Regions of Conflict and Crisis

PIESC

In 2015 Bard College Berlin established the Program for International Education and Social Change (PIESC), a scholarship program that is aimed at promising young individuals from regions of crisis or conflict. The extreme circumstances of instability and conflict that characterize social and personal experience across the world today call for the formation of a new and resolute generation of citizens who are committed to the initiation and implementation of change beneficial to all.

PIESC IN PRACTICE

Over the past three academic years, Bard College Berlin has been able to award 32 four-year scholarships to Syrian, Iraqi, Afghan, Palestinian, Greek, Brazilian and Eritrean students. This number makes up over ten percent of the total student body of the college, which currently consists of 270 students.

32 students is a tiny number relative to the cataclysm of displacement that has altered the lives of people from

so many countries. However, it represents a significant achievement when compared with the so far lamentably slow progress made by other institutions of higher education in Germany and Europe in addressing the issue of forced migration.

On our campus, the presence of the PIE-SC students has had an enriching and expansive impact on the structure and content of teaching and learning at Bard College Berlin. The insights of students who have seen firsthand the consequences of catastrophic conflict and who have struggled to ensure the survival of the communities have furthered possibilities of learning, discussion, and curricular development already envisaged by the college.

PIESC GOALS

As an educational institution focused on the public good, we aim to guarantee that the lessons of these students' knowledge will have an effect on the political education, understanding, and future endeavors of students from around the world, whether they come from regions who profit from the unequal distribution of resources, or from countries still grappling with acute challenges of development and security.



Bard College Berlin seeks to provide leadership and example in the education sector's response to the current crisis, and provides its students with the resources they need to enter society as productive and thoughtful contributors. PIE-SC students receive a B.A. accredited in both Germany and the United States. As well as reaching advanced level in their chosen discipline of the humanities or social sciences, students achieve excellent skills in writing, analysis and articulate presentation, gain a thorough knowledge of intellectual and cultural history, and pursue opportunities for practical training and civic engagement.

PIESC FUNDING

The PIE-SC program relies solely on private and institutional philanthropy. Bard College Berlin commits to covering 70% of the tuition balance. The remaining cost of supporting a scholarship is €20,000 per year. A full scholarship covers tuition, room and board, all applicable fees, health care, monthly transport within Berlin, and a fund for books, study materials and pocket money. We ask donors to make a firm pledge for the full duration of a B.A. program, i.e., four years of study.

Award Type	Cost per year	Cost for four years
Tuition @ 30%	€ 5,800	€ 23,200
Books, academic materials, & incidentals as needed	€ 1,800	€ 7,200
Public transportation ticket	€ 400	€ 1,600
Student Health Insurance	€ 1,100	€ 4,400
On-Campus Room & Board	€ 7,900	€ 31,600
Pocket money	€ 3,000	€ 12,000
Total in Euros	€ 20,000	€ 80,000

I hadn't gone to college in six years and was much older than everyone else. First, I felt like a Pokemon! Studying seems like such a luxury compared to what is happening in Syria. But now I am doing well here. I take great courses and I have made really close friends. I am becoming again more like I was in Syria, and I love that: strong and active and nothing can stop me. I am proud of how I overtook the hard years in between.
(Wafa Mustafa)



Wafa's Story

Wafa Mustafa came to Germany in March 2016 from Turkey, with the help of the German government, as an acutely endangered civil rights activist. Her family had worked towards a democratization of Syria since she was very young. In 2013 her father was abducted by the Assad forces; his fate is still unknown. Wafa, her mother and one sister fled to Turkey where she worked for a radio station and for newspapers, reporting on the situation in Syria. As a member of a group campaigning against ISIS at the Turkish-Syrian border, she again had to flee. Germany offered her political asylum, and in September 2016 she was able to enroll at Bard College Berlin, while her sister already had a scholarship at Bard College in Annandale. Since then, Wafa has become one of the most active and dedicated students at Bard College Berlin, and examples of her artistic work and literary writings have been presented in exhibitions and in the German media.

I am deeply honored and proud to have helped establish Bard College Berlin's Program for International Education and Social Change. Following on the heels of the groundbreaking Bard College Prison Initiative, this important program will provide the support to mitigate the loss of educational opportunities for those students of promise whose lives have been compromised by crisis and war in their countries of origin.

(Roland Augustine, gallery owner, Bard College Trustee,
and first-generation PIESC scholarship donor)

Along with my Belgian gallerist Xavier Hufkens, I am very proud to be part of this initiative. I want to help and try to make things better, but in a way in which I know I can. If just one student makes it through that course and does something great with their life, for me it's all been worth it.

(Tracey Emin, artist, PIESC scholarship donor)

Make your donation directly to Bard College Berlin or through Bard College, Annandale, with a mention 'PIESC Scholarship'

Bard College Berlin:

Account Number: 26868670
Sort Code (BLZ): 100 208 90
IBAN: DE27 1002 0890 0026 8686 70
SWIFT (BIC): HYVEDEMM488
HypoVereinsbank Leibnizstr. 100
10625 Berlin, Germany

Bard College, Annandale:

Beneficiary: Bard College
ABA Routing number: 021000021
Beneficiary Account number: 301177039665
International SWIFT code: CHASUS33
Memo: PIE-SC Scholarship
JP Morgan Chase Bank, N.A. New York 4227
Albany Post Road
Hyde Park, NY 12538, USA

Bard College Berlin is a state-recognized, nonprofit, dually-accredited German-American university. On a residential campus in the former embassy quarter of East Berlin, it offers bachelor and one-year undergraduate programs in the arts, humanities, and social sciences. A faculty to student ratio of 1:8 allows the college to provide an education of incomparable quality that is based on small-group teaching and individual advising. Students also have access to a global network of study opportunities through partnership agreements and the Bard network. The college receives no state-funding and provides financial aid for students through the redistribution of tuition fees, grants, and private philanthropy.