

**Speech by Ambassador Angelina Eichhorst
Head of the Delegation of the European Union to Lebanon**

UNRWA-EU Scholarship Award Ceremony

UNESCO Palace - 5 February 2013

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Distinguished guests,
UNRWA friends,
Dear students,

It is a great pleasure for me to be here today to celebrate the hard work and achievement, and to welcome the new learning prospects for the students who will benefit from the UNRWA-EU Scholarship Fund.

I would like to extend my warmest congratulations to all the new grantees, all 50 of you, for your remarkable efforts, your dedication and ambition, qualities for which you are being rewarded today.

Having been granted this scholarship, you are today joining a group of more than 350 young Palestinians who have already had the opportunity to acquire highly valuable skills in different academic fields through the UNRWA-EU scholarship Fund.

You will soon embark on your tertiary education here in Lebanon. Certainly, the knowledge you will gain during these years at University will be very important and useful to you. Equally important and useful I believe will be the *people* you meet and the *options* that will be given to you in the academic environment. Learning nowadays means life-long learning and this process is a journey without end. This journey will not only take you to pursue a professional career after university. It will also complement your life experience.

You have been given the gift of a scholarship. After this you will have the opportunity to give to others. Not to the European Union, not to UNRWA, but to your own community and to the society as a whole. As graduates, people will look up and turn to you to make a meaningful and positive contribution. Indeed, it is my hope that you will all become role models for the next generations. After finishing your studies, you will be more prepared to inspire others, act with confidence, and lead with lasting impact.

Congratulations again.

Thank you.