

Guide: How to talk to your academic council about Palestine.

The following is a guide as to how you can help us in our fight to get Aarhus University to meet our demands of an academic boycott. You can read all our demands, including background information on AU's partnerships with Israeli institutions and what an academic boycott entails, in our [handout](#).

The guide focuses on what AU students can do. However, if you are a faculty member or otherwise employed by the university, you can also bring these points up in other meetings or councils that you might have access to (such as Akademisk Råd, faculty meetings, etc.)

Why go to Academic Councils (Fagråd)?

- We have been in dialogue with the Student Council, which has clarified that they only address issues that have been discussed through the Academic Councils (Fagråd). They also plan to approach the Joint Council (Fællesråd – the association of all AU's Fagråd) regarding Palestine after the new Student Council has been appointed. Therefore, it is important that as many Academic Councils as possible discuss our demands internally, either our overall demands or issues specifically related to your faculty.

What can you mention when bringing Palestine up at the Academic Councils or other boards/councils?

- When bringing up Palestine at the Academic Councils, you can reference our six demands. To ensure that our voices are heard, it's important to be as concrete as possible and to link these issues directly to university and education-related agendas. The more councils these issues are raised in, the stronger the possibility of a united response through the Common Council (Fællesrådet). Our demands are as follows:

1. Transparency:

- 1.1. That AU exhibits transparency regarding their partnerships and investments.**
- 1.2. That AU exhibits transparency in the considerations and evaluations made when entering into partnerships**

- This can be achieved through regularly updated systems tracking existing connections and investments between AU and third parties. Transparency should also extend to evaluations made when forming partnerships, such as exchange programs with Israeli universities.

2. Termination and/or Suspension of Existing Connections

2.1. That AU commits to not investing in companies listed in the OHCHR database.

2.2. That AU conducts thorough ethical assessments and, in many cases, terminates existing collaborations with Israeli institutions and complicit third-parties.

- While AU, as far as we are aware, does not currently invest in any companies listed in the OHCHR database, we want a commitment that it will not do so in the future.
- Specifically, we want AU to terminate its collaboration with HUJI (which closely collaborates with the IDF and is partly located on occupied Palestinian territory and Terma (see more details in handout))
- If you are a member of any of the following faculties, you can bring up these specific points:
 - **If at BSS:** you can mention the exchange programs between HUJI and AU more concretely, available for students at law and political science.
 - **If at Faculty of Technical Sciences:** you can mention the ties between Terma and AU more specifically, including project collaborations and internship facilitations (see more details in handout).

3. Ethical Screening

3.1. That the processes for establishing academic collaborations be strengthened and made transparent.

3.2. That AU adopts comprehensive ethical guidelines for non-monetary collaborations.

- The goal is to prevent future collaborations with companies and institutions such as HUJI and Terma by implementing more rigorous screening for problematic ties.

4. Support for Palestinian Academia

4.1. That AU supports Palestinian-led initiatives for the rebuilding of the Palestinian university sector in Gaza—both materially and academically.

4.2. That AU offers scholarships to Palestinian university students who are unable to complete their education due to the destruction in Gaza.

4.3. That AU supports its current students who are affected by the war.

- You can reference previous AU initiatives, such as Scholars at Risk fellowships offered to Ukrainians affected by the war in Ukraine.

5. Open Dialogue

5.1. That AU engages in a constructive dialogue with its students and staff regarding the presented demands.

6. Public Statement

6.1. That AU issues a public statement recognizing the Palestinian civilian population.

6.2. That AU actively calls for a ceasefire and the observance of international law, including human rights

- AU has yet to use the words “Palestine” or “Palestinian” and only began using the word “Gaza” after receiving criticism.
- Calling for a ceasefire aligns with the current Danish government’s policy—something AU has been cautious about following in other areas but has yet to apply regarding its stance on Palestine. Although a ceasefire is in place as of now (January 2025), we urge AU to call for the maintenance of this ceasefire agreement, as Israel has indicated that they will resume military operations in Gaza if they don’t feel that the terms of the first stage of the ceasefire have been met.