



HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

Hamish Falconer MP

Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for the Middle East, North Africa,
Afghanistan and Pakistan
By Email

8th July 2025

Dear Hamish,

I was recently contacted by Alan Mackay, Deputy Vice-Principal International at the University of Edinburgh, regarding concerns about students and fellows who have been accepted to study or research this year and who currently reside in Gaza.

Due to the UK visa centre in Gaza being closed since 2023, their student and fellows are unable to apply for visas and have no safe way to exit.

I am aware the governments of France and Ireland have recently coordinated with the Israeli government to enable the safe passage of scholars from Gaza who hold offers of admission at various universities in their countries.

I am therefore writing to ask what steps the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office is taking to support students in their completion of the required UK immigration process and facilitate the safe passage of students from Gaza. To allow offer holders to leave Gaza safely and begin their studies or fellowships at one of this country's many world-leading universities would be life changing.

I am sure you will agree that it is vital we do what we can to support safe passage of those who wish to study and contribute to our institutions.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Christine Jardine'.

Christine Jardine MP

Edinburgh West