



Carla Denyer MP
Member of Parliament for Bristol Central
House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA

Rt Hon Shabana Mahmood MP
Home Secretary

18th December 2025

BY EMAIL

Dear Shabana,

Future of the Gaza scholarship scheme

I am writing to request urgent assurances on the future of the Gaza scholarship scheme.

The current scheme covers students whose courses start before 31st December 2025. A slow start to evacuations means some students are still awaiting dates for travel to the UK. Three students with dependents, including one with a place at the University of Bristol, have been told that to ensure they are included in the current scheme, they need to leave Gaza now, without their children. There would be no guarantee their families will later be evacuated to the UK. No-one should be asked to choose between their studies or their children, particularly given the devastation in Gaza they would be leaving their families to endure. There are at least four more students with scholarships for January entry who at present are also excluded from the scheme.

It was reassuring to hear the Prime Minister state at PMQs on 17th December that he wants the students from Gaza to be able to take up their university places and that he is considering solutions for those yet to arrive in the UK.

Given this, I am asking you to swiftly confirm if and how the Gaza scholarship scheme will be extended beyond the current end of year deadline. Without this extension, many scholars may not be able to take up their places at UK universities.

I hope to hear from you as soon as possible on this issue.

Yours sincerely,

Carla Denyer MP
Member of Parliament for Bristol Central

Carla Denyer MP
Bristol Central
Parliamentary Issues: carla.denyer.mp@parliament.uk
Local issues & Casework: bristolcentraloffice@parliament.uk
Constituency Office Phone: 0117 440 3977