



Issam Fares Institute for Public
Policy and International Affairs
معهد عصام فارس للسياسات
العامة والشؤون الدولية

**Issam Fares Institute for Public Policy and International Affairs
American University of Beirut**

Nadim Makdisi Memorial Fund

Application for Grant 2019/2020

Name of Applicant: Waylon Fairbanks

Department: PSPA

Faculty: Arts and Sciences

University: AUB

Subject of Study: Eastern Mediterranean Energy Security and Geopolitics

Essays:

1. Please provide a summary of your project and methodology (500 words):

My project examines the growing energy cooperation between Israel and its two Arab neighbors Egypt and Jordan in recent years, focusing on the implications for regional relations and the ever-changing geopolitics of the region. The main focus is how maintaining energy security is more than a technocratic calculation for these governments, but rather is a matter of regime survival. It looks specifically at the gas deals signed with Jordan (2016) and Egypt (2018) and investigates how popular opposition organized itself against the agreements and the implications for both countries in terms of energy security and financial benefit.

In order to carry this out, both the opposition and the main architects of the agreement have to be profiled, and for this task extensive fieldwork is necessary. Therefore, traveling to Jordan and Egypt to interview officials and opposition leaders would be necessary.

2. Please explain your project's connection to contemporary issues in media or current affairs related to the Arab region (250 words):

This project is central to the ever-evolving geopolitics of the Arab-Israeli conflict, and therefore directly applicable to current affairs in the region. Both the Egyptian and the Jordanian gas agreements were the largest ever economic deals between Arab countries and Israel, so field work on this topic would elucidate the current discourse of anti-normalization and show the role that the United States is playing in order to pressure Middle Eastern governments toward strengthening relations with Israel.

3. Please provide an explanation and justification of your budget (250 words):

The budget would cover three-four trips to Amman and Cairo in order to conduct interviews with government officials, opposition leaders, and the public in order to ascertain their views on the energy cooperation. In addition to travel expenses, a small survey could be conducted in both countries if the allocated budget can cover the costs, which would further explore the public feelings toward the Israel energy deals.

4. How will this grant help you complete your research project or thesis? (250 words):

This grant would add to the extensive energy analysis I have already undertaken for my thesis and enable unprecedented primary research into the public and official views of energy cooperation with Israel. This research would be published by the IFI and make a strong contribution to their energy security and policy program.

Amount Requested (\$2000 maximum): \$2000

Applicant's Signature: _____

Academic Advisor's Name: Tariq Tell

Academic Advisor's Signature: _____

Submit this form electronically, with up-to-date CV, to: sk63@aub.edu.lb