

THE HIGHER EDUCATION SYSTEM IN LEBANON

A BRIEF OVERVIEW

Introduction

More than 160,000 students are enrolled in Lebanese higher education institutions. Half of these students are in the Lebanese University, the sole public university in the country. The other half is distributed over 38 private higher education institutions. Among these private establishments, there are universities, and institutes and colleges of technology or faculties of religious studies.

The Lebanese University has 17 faculties each of which is divided into sections spread over different regions of Lebanon. All universities or institutes are recognized by the Lebanese authorities through decrees issued by the Lebanese Council of Ministers following a specific procedure.

There is no official accreditation system or independent evaluation procedure for the diplomas offered by any of the Lebanese higher education institutions.

Diplomas

There is no unified system of graduation in Lebanon. The types of degrees or diplomas offered by each of the Lebanese universities or institutions depend on the fact that the corresponding establishment has a French education background or an American one. Therefore, one may find a credit system in one university and an annual system in another, or even both as is the case at the Lebanese University.

The majority of the Faculties at the Lebanese University offers a "maîtrise" in a particular subject which is equivalent to Bac + 4 (years). The same degree is offered at the University of Saint Joseph. The American University of Beirut and all other institutions with the same background offer a Bachelor's degree which is equivalent to Bac + 3 (years) or Bac + 4 (years) in some areas of studies.

Efforts to implement the European LMD system together with the associated ECTS are being made at the Lebanese University and in a few other private institutions.

Some Faculties at both the LU and the private sector offer postgraduate studies.

Admission

The Lebanese Baccalaureate in any of its sections (General Sciences, Life Sciences, Human and Literature, Social and Economic Sciences or the Lebanese Technical Baccalaureate) or its equivalent is a prerequisite for admission at any university in Lebanon. Some Faculties at the Lebanese University like the Faculty of Medical Studies, the Faculty of Engineering, or the Faculty of Public Health require an entry examination where a limited number of students are accepted. An entry exam is applied in private universities as well.

Language of instruction

Besides Arabic, French is a main language of instruction at the Lebanese University. English is beginning to be a language of instruction in some Faculties besides French.

French is also the language of instruction at Saint Joseph University, the Holy Spirit University, the Ecole Supérieure des Affaires, and others.

English is the language of teaching in almost all other private higher education establishments.

Fees

Apart from a registration fee of 200 Euros per year, the study at the LU is free. The fees for the study at a private university or institute start from 2500 Euros and could reach 15000 Euros per year. An amount covering the cost of living and the other relevant expenses like books and courses should also be added.

Addresses

The following is a list of available websites of Lebanese higher education institutions:

The Institution

Lebanese University

Saint Joseph University

American University of Beirut

Holy Spirit University

Beirut Arab University

Lebanese American University

Notre Dame University – Louaize

Haigazian University

University of Balamand

Makassed University

Arab Open University

The Islamic University of Lebanon

Antonine University

Jinan University

Almanar University

Al-Kafaat University Institute

American University of Technology

American University of Science and Technology

C&E American University Institute

Tripoli University Institute for Islamic Studies

Maten University Institute of Technology

Sainte Famille Institut de Nursery et Physiothérapie

Middle East University

University of Sagesse

Lebanese International University

Global University

Hariri Canadian University

Lebanese German University

Modern University for Business and Science

Arts, Sciences & Technology University in Lebanon

Lebanese Canadian University

Ecole Supérieure des Affaires

The Website

www.ul.edu.lb

www.usj.edu.lb

www.aub.edu.lb

www.usek.edu.lb

www.bau.edu.lb

www.lau.edu.lb

www.ndu.edu.lb

www.haigazian.edu.lb

www.balamand.edu.lb

www.makassed.org.lb

www.arabou.org

www.iul.edu.lb

www.upa.edu.lb

www.jinan.edu.lb

www.almanar-university.com

www.al-kafaat.org

www.aut.edu.lb

www.aust.edu.lb

www.CandE.edu.lb

www.islamonline.org

www.matenu.edu.lb

www.iusfbat.inco.com.lb

www.meu.edu.lb

www.uls.edu.lb

www.liu.edu.lb

www.gu.edu.lb

www.hcu.edu.lb

www.ispm.edu.lb

www.mubs.edu.lb

www.aul.edu.lb

www.lcu.edu.lb

www.esa.edu.lb

Ouzai University College	www.ouzai.org
Beirut Islamic University	www.biu.edu.lb
Saidon Institute of Dentary Laboratory,	No website
Saidon Institute of Business	
Joyaa Institute of Technology	www.alijammalcharity.org
St. Paul Institute of Philosophy & Theology	institutstpaul@yahoo.fr
Near East Faculty of Theology	nest.adm@inco.com
Daawa University Institute for Islamic Studies	No website

* For more info, please check 'Ministry of Higher Education, Lebanon (www.higher-edu.gov.lb)