

# **A BRIEF OVERVIEW OF THE HIGHER EDUCATION SYSTEM IN LEBANON**

## **Introduction**

More than 140000 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 41 private higher education institutions. Among these private establishments there are 20 universities and 21 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 through specific procedures.

There is no accreditation system or independent evaluation procedures for the diplomas offered by any of the Lebanese higher education establishments.

## **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 correspondent establishment has a French education background or an American education background. Therefore one can find a credit system in one university and an annual system in another, or even both as in the Lebanese University.

The majority of the faculties in the Lebanese University offers a "maîtrise" in a particular subject which is equivalent to Bac + 4. The same degree is offered in the University of Saint Joseph. The American University of Beirut and all other institutions coming from the same background offers a Bachelor's degree which is equivalent to Bac +3 or Bac + 4 in some cases.

Efforts to implement the European LMD system together with the associated ECTS like credit system are going on in the Lebanese University and in a few other private institutions.

Some faculties in 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 or Social and Economic Sciences) or the Lebanese technical Baccalaureate is a prerequisite to be eligible for the study at the university. Some faculties in 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 study

French is the main language of teaching in the LU. English is beginning to be a language of teaching in some faculties besides the French.

French is also the language of teaching in the University of Saint Joseph, the University of Saint Esprit-Kaslik, ESIG, ALBA, IUL, UPA, ALKAFAAT, CUT and the ESA.

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	The Website
The Lebanese University	<a href="http://www.ul.edu.lb">http://www.ul.edu.lb</a>
The University of Saint Joseph	<a href="http://www.usj.edu.lb">http://www.usj.edu.lb</a>
The American University of Beirut	<a href="http://aub.edu.lb">http://aub.edu.lb</a>
The University of Saint Esprit-Kaslik	<a href="http://usek.edu.lb">http://usek.edu.lb</a>
Beirut Arab University	<a href="http://www.bau.edu.lb">www.bau.edu.lb</a>
The Lebanese American UNiversity	<a href="http://www.lau.edu.lb">http://www.lau.edu.lb</a>
The Haigazian University	<a href="http://www.haigazian.edu.lb">http://www.haigazian.edu.lb</a>
The University of Balamand	<a href="http://www.balamand.edu.lb">http://www.balamand.edu.lb</a>
The Lebanese Academy for Arts	<a href="http://www.alba.edu.lb">http://www.alba.edu.lb</a>
The University of Makassed	<a href="http://www.makassed.org.lb">http://www.makassed.org.lb</a>

The Arab Open University	<a href="http://www.arabou.org">http://www.arabou.org</a>
The Islamic University of Lebanon	<a href="http://www.iul.edu.lb">http://www.iul.edu.lb</a>
The Antonine University	<a href="http://www.upa.edu.lb">http://www.upa.edu.lb</a>
The University of Jinan	<a href="http://www.jinan.edu.lb">www.jinan.edu.lb</a>
The Almanar University	<a href="http://www.almanar-university.com">www.almanar-university.com</a>
The Faculty of Imam Ouzai	<a href="http://www.ouzai.org">http://www.ouzai.org</a>
Kafaat University Institute	<a href="http://www.al-kafaat.org">www.al-kafaat.org</a>
American University College of Technology	<a href="http://www.aut.edu.lb">http://www.aut.edu.lb</a>
The International Institute for Business and Administration	<a href="http://www.esig.edu.lb">http://www.esig.edu.lb</a>
American University College of Sciences and Technology	<a href="http://www.aust.edu.lb">http://www.aust.edu.lb</a>
C&E Institute American University Institute	<a href="http://www.CandE.edu.lb">http://www.CandE.edu.lb</a>
ARCA Institute for Technology	<a href="http://www.arcatech.edu.lb">www.arcatech.edu.lb</a>
Tripoli University Institute of Islamic Studies	<a href="http://www.islahonline.org">http://www.islahonline.org</a>
The Maten Institute of Technology	<a href="http://www.matenu.edu.lb">http://www.matenu.edu.lb</a>
University Center of Technology	<a href="http://www.cut.edu.lb">http://www.cut.edu.lb</a>
The Institute of Sainte Famille for Nursery and Physiotherapy	<a href="http://www.educationlabanon.net">http://www.educationlabanon.net</a>
The University Institute for Administration and Sciences	<a href="http://www.mecat.edu.com">http://www.mecat.edu.com</a>
The higher Institute for Business	<a href="http://www.esa.edu.lb">http://www.esa.edu.lb</a>