

NURTURING OUR STUDENTS

LAU is renowned throughout Lebanon and the wider region for its student-centered philosophy. As members of the LAU family, our students have access to a continually expanding array of advising and counseling services, together with a plethora of student organizations dedicated to nurturing their members' talents outside the classroom.

Despite the lack of stability in the MENA region and challenging economic conditions, in the 2016 spring semester LAU's enrollment rose by 2 percent, thanks to a collaborative and concerted effort led by the university's Enrollment Management team. Our retention rate is an impressive 90 percent.

APPLICATIONS TO OUR PROGRAMS HAVE BEEN STEADILY RISING

Undergrad. Applications	Applied			Accepted		
	2012 - 2013	2013 - 2014	2014 - 2015	2012 - 2013	2013 - 2014	2014 - 2015
Beirut	2,975	3,411	14%	2,536	2,723	7%
Byblos	1,620	1,860	14%	1,439	1,530	6%
TOTAL	4,595	5,271	14%	3,975	4,253	7%

A. Financial Aid

"Student-centered" means caring about what happens to our alumni after they leave the campus environment. We view it as our responsibility to graduate students with minimal debt, if any, in recognition of the fact that financial solvency at the outset of adult life is the key to later success.

As part and parcel of LAU's efforts to attract the best and brightest students, and as part of its commitment to ensuring that an LAU education be affordable to all accepted applicants, the university offers significant financial aid packages to its undergraduate population. Today, the percentage of our student body who are on financial aid is 43 percent.

In 2015-2016, LAU supported more than 3,000 students with Entrance, Honor, and Merit Scholarships, work-aid, loans, and/or grants. The Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) loan program continues to attract U.S. students, with 36 benefitting from loans as of the spring of 2016. A new

Category of Aid	Students in Spring 2016	Increase from Spring 2015
Scholarships	866	10%
Athletics and Talent Scholarships	149	25%
Work-Aid	2,143	12%
Loans	1,417	39%
Grants	1,878	11%

initiative to institute bank loans for LAU students is underway, to be in effect by spring 2017. We are proud of our flourishing USAID University Scholarship Program (USP), through which we have received in AY 2015-2016 a grant to recruit annually and for the next three years 57 students from Lebanese public high-schools. They will receive full tuition, room and board, books and computers and pocket money, following on the footsteps of the 288 USP scholars currently enrolled.

B. Educating, Caring and Networking

LAU continues its tradition of providing its students with stellar advising and counseling services, with an emphasis on the university's family-style environment. In addition to traditional services provided primarily through the Dean of Students offices — such as orientation, advising, wellness and career counseling, as well as health-awareness campaigns, among others — this year we instituted a new peer tutoring program in Byblos. Our professional counselors provided more than 400 students with tailored, in-depth assistance in dealing with numerous emotional and psychological issues, with an increase of 150 percent in such services.

The university also implemented a new GPA calculator to facilitate students' understanding of their academic progress.

This past academic year, we instituted the LAU Honors Program, the only one of its kind in Lebanon. The special courses, which are separate from the regular ones, have a smaller student-to-instructor ratio, hence promoting active learning and encouraging discussion, critique, debate, research, and critical thinking. Students qualify for the Honors Program if they complete their first year at LAU with a GPA of 3.5 or above. Meanwhile, our mission to “educate the whole person” led us to conduct a needs assessment for students in the Honors Program, resulting in a series of workshops on emotional intelligence and work-life balance.

C. The Whole Person: Outside the Classroom

Our campuses in Beirut and Byblos are abuzz with extracurricular activities, as students exercise their talents across a multitude of fields through student clubs and other avenues. On any given day, students can be found engaged in club-sponsored music events, working with orphans, helping refugees across the country, running awareness campaigns, volunteering with NGOs, organizing lectures, setting out on hiking or biking trips, running festivals, and debating the solutions to the world's challenges, among many other activities.



Student from Byblos visit orphanage in Nepal.



Intersectional Feminist Club hosts discussion on domestic workers' rights.

NURTURING OUR STUDENTS

In 2015-2016, more than 65 percent of LAU students were enrolled in clubs, the highest participation to date.



In April 2016, the Byblos Dean of Students office organized the first of its kind Pay it Forward Pentathlon Rally Paper, in which students from different Lebanese universities teamed up to traverse the country without the use of cars or money, all while doing charitable works along the way.

Student council this year proved to be a homogeneous and dynamic group that worked diligently on over 30 different issues on campus and achieved a good number of them including free parking, increasing printing quota, bus shuttles, and a class offering in business electives, among others.

D. After LAU

The university's Counseling and Career Placement services continued their fine tradition of assisting the graduating class find gainful employment shortly after graduation or even before. As always, both campuses were teeming this past year with workshops preparing students for job interviews and skills sought by today's employers. Between them, Byblos and Beirut showcased more than 120 local and international companies during their respective internship fairs, double the number of companies from last year. Even in the face of economic instability, these efforts are paying off, as increasing numbers of our graduates are finding immediate employment.

As of September 2016, 41 percent of students graduating this past year have already found jobs or internships.

In May 2016, the School of Pharmacy organized its first Career and Open House Pharmacy Day, bringing to LAU representatives from Lebanon's leading pharmaceutical companies and health organizations on the lookout for talented students and graduates.



Career fairs are regularly organized on both campuses.