

SPECIAL FEATURE: ADNAN KASSAR SCHOOL OF BUSINESS GAINS ACCREDITATION

As part of its mission to join the ranks of globally renowned universities, LAU strives constantly to ensure that its programs meet the highest international standards. It is in this spirit that the university's Adnan Kassar School of Business (AKSOB) set out to attain accreditation by the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB), a goal that was reached this past spring, allowing AKSOB to join the 5 percent of business schools worldwide that have achieved such accreditation.

The latest AACSB Peer Review Team visit took place in mid-March. Shortly thereafter, in April 2016, the AACSB confirmed that LAU AKSOB aligns with all 15 standards put forward by the Association and demonstrates compliance with its three accreditation pillars of "engagement, innovation and impact." Reflecting this excellent performance, AKSOB was granted accreditation for all three of its undergraduate programs (B.Sc. in business studies, B.Sc. in economics, and B.Sc. in hospitality and tourism management) and for both of its graduate programs (M.B.A. and Executive M.B.A.).

This successful bid for accreditation reflects the university's holistic approach to education, as it required demonstrating excellence in a variety of areas, including strategic management and innovation; learning and teaching; academic and professional engagement; and active teamwork.

Indeed, the process took several years, requiring great efforts on the part of faculty, staff and students alike and revealing the hard work and dedication of all of the school's family.

During a ceremony in May that officially marked the accreditation achievement, Lebanese Minister of Education and Higher Education Elias Bou Saab praised the university's commitment to positively transform society and noted that its latest accomplishment should be seen as an accolade for the country as a whole.

With such support AKSOB's success can only grow, as this is far from the end of the road for our business school. We now need to make sure that we become the unchallenged leader in business education worthy of our new status, in Lebanon, the MENA region, and beyond.

