American University of Beirut  
Faculty of Arts and Sciences  
Department of Biology  
BIOL295  
Summer Undergraduate Research Course  
-4 credits-

Catalogue Entry  
BIOL 295: Summer Undergraduate Research Course 4.0; 4 cr.
The course is intended to train and recruit well-prepared students for graduate work (graduate programs) in biology at AUB. Students will conduct a research project during the summer term, and, then, present and defend their scientific findings.

Course description  
The student should seek the support of a faculty member for supervision. With the help of their supervisors, students should decide on a research project and submit a research proposal for departmental approval prior to registration. Each student’s project will be supported by funds recovered from their tuition fees. Funds will be managed by supervisors.  
The student will be working full time on an individual research project and expected to report to their supervisor on regular basis. Students are encouraged also to attend seminars given by guest speakers or faculty members in the biology or other departments during the summer session depending on the availability.  
Students will present their scientific findings at the end of the summer (around mid-September) by giving a seminar presentation and a poster presentation. The students’ presentations will be assessed by faculty members who are supervising summer students registered in the course.

Eligibility  
Biology students who have completed a minimum of 55 credits with a cumulative average of 75% can register for the course.

Duration  
The course will be offered during summer from June 15th until September 15th including a one month extension of the summer session to be able to complete the research project.

Syllabus content  
The content should focus on research and depends on each research project. All research proposals should include a short introduction/background, a clear hypothesis, specific aims and a well defined time-table.

Learning outcomes  
The students will:
1- learn how to work safely, ethically and efficiently while performing specific techniques directly related to their research project (PLOs 1b-1d, 5 and 6).
2- investigate scientific questions as part of a well-organized research project (PLOs 5).
3- generate and analyze scientific data (PLO 5c-5e).
4- present and defend their findings among their peers and the scientific community (PLOs 5e and 7a,b, d).
5- be better prepared for undertaking graduate work in biology at AUB (PLOs 5).

Assessment
The students will be assessed as follows:
- Evaluation by the supervisor: 40%
- Seminar presentation: 30%
- Poster presentation: 30%

- The student must submit a final report to the supervisor at the end of the session. The supervisor will fill an evaluation form and grade the student’s personal effort, his/her laboratory skills and his/her progress and productivity during the session (to meet learning outcomes 1-3).
- A panel of at least three professors will evaluate and grade the students’ seminars and posters in the end of the session (to meet learning outcomes 3 to 5).