



Financial Aid

2011-12

Financial Aid at AUB

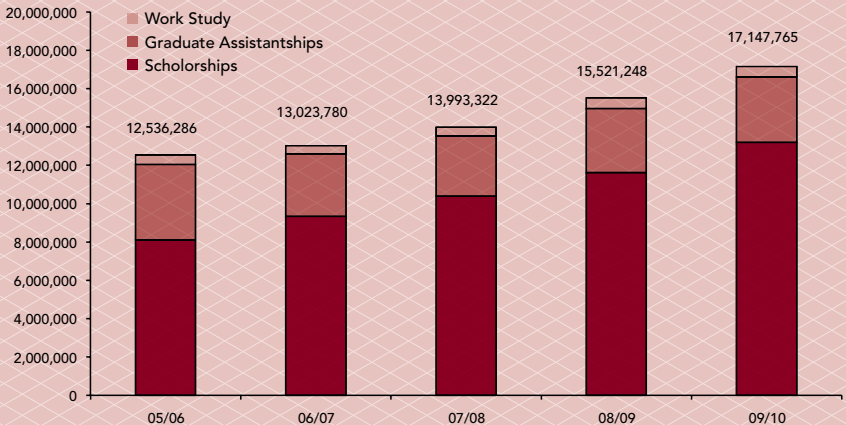
The American University of Beirut (AUB) has a strong financial aid program to assist its many able and qualified students who could not otherwise meet the cost of tuition. The basic view of AUB is that families have an obligation to finance their student's education to the extent that they are able. The University requires that families complete a financial aid application in order to determine whether they can afford to pay the full tuition from their own resources. A financial analysis, assessment, and comprehensive verification process are used to determine a family's ability to pay for education. There is a distinction made between family expenditures that are made by choice and those of an obligatory nature.

AUB's financial aid program was developed and has grown to its present level of around \$17.1 million in awards annually through the generous support



of AUB's alumni and friends, the largest donor being the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), which is the government agency providing US economic and humanitarian assistance worldwide. A list of restricted scholarships and loan funds is provided in the catalogue. In 2009–10 the University awarded \$13.2 million in need-based grants and merit scholarships for undergraduates and an additional \$3.9 million in funds for graduate assistantships and student employment.

**Financial Aid Awarded in US Dollars,
2005–06 to 2009–10**



Types of Financial Aid at AUB

The vast majority of financial aid given by AUB is in the form of **need-based grants**. AUB awards financial aid grants to undergraduate students based upon the financial need of a family. These grants do not need to be repaid and are used to offset tuition costs. The money for these grants comes directly from the University's budget and demonstrates its commitment to having a socio-economically diverse student population.

Additional need-based aid is provided to students enrolled in AUB in the form of low interest local currency **student loans** that are subsidized by the Lebanese government. Students will have the option of accepting these voluntary loans and will be able to select from a group of several local banks who have agreed to lend to AUB students in accordance with the government funded loan program. The interest rate on these loans is 3% and students will have to repay the loan after graduation over a maximum period of ten years.

In addition to need-based financial aid, AUB also offers special scholarships to new undergraduate students based on academic talent. These include full-tuition AUB **merit scholarships** and partial, small **merit awards** that supplement need-based grants.

AUB also offers **graduate assistantships** and a **work-study program**.



Need-Based Financial Aid Grants

Need-based financial aid grants are outright grants of assistance for undergraduate students based on demonstrated need. The purpose of the grant program is to help qualified full-time undergraduates who could not otherwise pursue an AUB education. Application forms are available at the Office of Financial Aid. Grants are awarded on the basis of demonstrated financial need. Additional partial, small merit awards are made to new needy undergraduate students with records of high scholastic achievement. In 2009–10, the University was able to award grants to 83% of the enrolled students who applied for need-based financial aid; the average grant award to an undergraduate student was \$4,430 per year.

Need-Based Student Loans

In September 2003 a loan program for students at the Faculty of Medicine started to support the AUB financial aid program allowing further financial support to those students finding it difficult to complete their medical studies. In 2004 undergraduate students in the Faculty of Engineering and Architecture (second year and on) also benefited from this program, followed by nursing students in 2005. In 2006 the loan program was extended to include undergraduate business students. The program is now available for the six faculties of AUB. Loans will be offered to undergraduate students who have at least a Junior status or equivalent and who have received financial aid. The students would apply for financial aid as usual, however, if eligible, the students would receive financial assistance as a package in the form of a grant from AUB and a loan from one of the participant banks who are supporting the government subsidized loan program.

Students will pay interest only on the loan during their period of study and for a one year grace period after graduation, at which time the students start repaying the full loan principal and interest over a maximum period of ten years. The amount of loans disbursed reached around \$2.8 million in 2009–10.

Merit Scholarships

In 1999 the Board of Trustees of AUB established an AUB Merit Scholarship Program. This program enables the University to award full-tuition merit scholarships each year to ten new undergraduates with outstanding academic qualifications. AUB merit scholarship awardees are selected from among the newly admitted undergraduate students on the basis of academic achievement and promise alone; **no application for financial aid is required.** Awards are renewable for each undergraduate year provided that the student maintains a minimum cumulative 85% average.



In 2006, AUB and the National Council for Scientific Research (NCSR) signed a cooperation agreement whereby the best three students in each of the four sections of the Lebanese Baccalaureate would be granted a full scholarship. The NCSR would provide 10 million Lebanese Pounds for each student while the AUB would cover the remaining amount of the tuition in addition to the living expenses including boarding or transportation based on the student's need.

Graduate Assistantships

Assistantships covering tuition and partial living expenses are available for students at the graduate level in return for work at a specified number of hours each week for an academic department. Assistantships are made on the dual basis of academic record and departmental needs. Application forms for new students are in the admissions application package. Continuing students may obtain

application forms from the office of the dean of the faculty in which they are enrolled. Applications should be submitted early in the semester preceding the semester for which one is applying.

Work-Study

As part of its financial aid program, the University provides full-time undergraduate and graduate students with the opportunity to participate in the Work-Study Program. Priority is given to students with financial need. Students contribute toward their educational expenses while developing job skills in various campus offices and the Medical Center. Applications are available at the Office of Student Affairs and should be made early in the semester. Placement is made on the basis of need, capability, and job availability. Students may work a maximum of twenty hours per week; the hourly rate is based on the type of work performed.



Frequently Asked Questions

Q. Who is eligible for financial aid?

- A. Any student applying for admission may ask to be considered for financial aid, but only those students who have been accepted for admission and those whose families demonstrate financial need can receive awards.

Q. How many students receive grants? And how much grant aid does each student receive?

- A. In 2009-10, 2,980 students (or about 83% of all financial aid applicants) received financial aid in the form of grants, with awards ranging from a few hundred dollars to the full cost of tuition and an average award of \$4,430. Of the total financial aid recipients, 2,651 were undergraduate students representing 41% of all undergraduates at AUB. The chart below shows the number and percentage of students receiving aid over the past five years.

Q. How is financial need determined?

- A. AUB performs a financial analysis of the information collected on the financial aid application completed by a student and his/her family. Supporting documentation is also collected. Several factors, including family income, assets

such as home(s), car(s), and other property, number of school age siblings, and major changes in financial status are used when evaluating a family's financial strength and ability to pay tuition costs. An interview is usually required for new students living in Lebanon. Further need assessment may require a house visit. Evaluations are then made by the Interfaculty Committee for Financial Aid. Every attempt is made to treat all families equitably.

Q. How is high scholastic achievement rewarded?

- A. Financial need is a necessary condition for a financial aid grant. Small merit awards are also granted to new first time needy undergraduate applicants

Q. How and when should I apply for financial aid?

- A. Financial aid applications are available at the Office of Financial Aid or may be downloaded from the AUB website. Applications must be completed by the applicant and his/her parents and submitted along with photocopies of all required supporting documents by February 2, 2011, for first-time applicants and by March 31, 2011, for previous financial aid applicants applying for the fall semester of academic year 2011-12.



for all the years a student is an undergraduate (assuming the student maintains a minimum 85% average).

Q. Can a student pay some of his/her college costs by working on campus?

A. Yes, full-time undergraduate and graduate students are offered the opportunity to work on campus whether or not they hold a grant, scholarship, or assistantship. In 2009–10 about 9% of undergraduates held campus jobs.

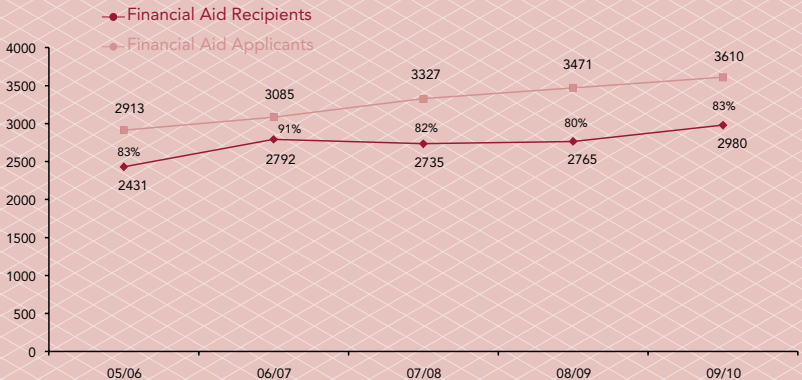
Q. How are AUB merit scholarships different from other financial aid grants?

A. AUB merit scholarships are awarded on the basis of academic achievement alone; need is not a criterion, and no application for financial aid is required. AUB merit scholarships are awarded to the best ten new students each year and they cover full tuition

Q. How can I apply for the Work-Study Program?

A. The program is administered by the Office of Student Affairs (not the Office of Financial Aid). Enrolled students should apply at the Office of Student Affairs early in the semester by completing an application available at that office.

Scholarship Recipients as Percent of Financial Aid Applicants 2005–06 to 2009–10



Designed and produced by the Office of Communications,
photo by Mazen Jannoun, AUB Photography Department.



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