

Institute of Financial Economics (IFE)

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Effective October 2001 the Institute of Money and Banking, founded in 1984, at the initiative of Samir Makdisi, was restructured as the Institute of Financial Economics, to be engaged in research work, seminars, and workshops primarily in the areas of financial, monetary, international and political economics¹.

Research Program

In tandem with the ongoing process of globalization, there has been a growing emphasis on the fields of financial, monetary, and international economics. A major objective of the Institute is to promote research and other academic activities in these fields and thereby to build it up into a major research center particularly as concerns Arab and other developing economies. In recent years the Institute's research scope has been widened to include questions of political economy of relevance to developing countries. The Institute encourages collaborative work with appropriate national, regional, and international organizations, and research centers.

The principal goals of the Institute may be briefly outlined as follows:

- To conduct, organize, and sponsor high-level research work related in particular (but not exclusively) to financial, monetary, and international economics as well as political economy. Emphasis will be placed on policy-oriented empirical work pertaining to the Arab and other developing areas and collaborative team work will be promoted. Such research will prove beneficial to governments and organizations concerned with the design of economic and financial policies, especially in the Arab region.
- To hold seminars, workshops, and lectures on various topics related to the above areas. The first two types of activities will, among other things, bring together academicians, financial managers and experts, and policy makers to analyze issues of relevance at the policy level.
- To accommodate visiting scholars and experts, for various intervals of time, to conduct research at the Institute and to sponsor public lectures in financial, monetary, and related fields.

Lecture and Working Paper Series: The Institute publishes this series as part of its role in making available ongoing research, within and outside the University, related to economics issues of special concern to developing countries, with a focus on financial, monetary, international, and political economy issues. The lectures are normally by invited scholars and experts and, except for minor editorial changes, are circulated as presented. The working papers incorporate preliminary findings of ongoing research work being undertaken at the Institute and elsewhere.²

¹ The Master of Money and Banking previously offered by the IMB was restructured as Master of Arts in Financial Economics to be offered by the Department of Economics

² The papers are available on the Institute website: www.staff.edu.lb/~webifeco

Administration and Faculty

The Institute is an independent academic entity within the Faculty of Arts and Sciences with its own endowment fund. It is managed by a director and staffed with fellows who normally are faculty members in the Department of Economics, visiting scholars, research associates, graduate research assistants, and an assistant to the director. Fellows may be relieved of teaching loads to carry out research work reserved for projects at the Institute. Visiting scholars may be appointed for a limited period of time without being regular full-time members of the faculty at the University. Research associates may be appointed for a period of up to two years. Graduate research assistants are normally appointed from candidates in the master's program in financial economics.