Faculty of Agricultural and Food Sciences (FAFS)
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Coordinator of Undergraduate Studies, Program-AGBU  
Coordinator of Graduate Studies Program

Historical Background

The MS graduate program at FAFS was initiated in 1956. The program aims to offer specialized training in a variety of fields in food and agriculture, and to prepare students for further studies in Europe and North America. The first MS degree in Horticulture was granted in 1958, and the first MS in Food Technology in 1959. Since then, FAFS has kept adapting its graduate programs to meet the needs of an evolving regional demand. An MS in Nutrition was introduced in 1963, and the first degree was granted in 1965. An MS in Ecosystem Management, a major of the interfaculty MS in Environmental Sciences, has been offered since 1997. FAFS currently offers MS specialization in animal science, poultry science, agricultural economics, irrigation, soil science, plant protection, plant science, nutrition, food technology and ecosystem management.

Mission

The mission of FAFS is to foster the sustainable enhancement of the health and well being of people and nature throughout Lebanon and the region. To achieve its goals, the Faculty uses basic and applied research as well as student-centered learning to prepare leaders and agents of change to address issues of local and global relevance at the nexus of human nutrition, food security and the sustainable use of resources.
Vision

FAFS is a reference academic center specialized in issues of relevance to the Middle East related to agriculture, food, nutrition and the environment for the enhancement of livelihoods, human health and well being.

Graduate Programs

The faculty offers the MS degree, with or without thesis, in the following majors: agricultural economics, animal sciences, food technology, irrigation, nutrition, plant protection, plant science, and poultry science. The faculty also participates in the interfaculty graduate programs leading to the degrees of MS in Environmental Sciences (major: Ecosystem Management) and MS in Nutrition.

Students following a thesis program are required to take a minimum of 21 graduate level course credits plus a thesis (equivalent to 9 credits). The thesis program may include a maximum of 3 tutorial course credits. Core regular courses should constitute a minimum of 12 credits excluding seminars and tutorials, with graduate elective courses to be determined with the advisor. A student following a non-thesis program is required to take a minimum of 33 graduate level course credits. The program should include a minimum of 3 credits and a maximum of 6 tutorial credits with at least 12 credits being from core courses in the major.

Rules and regulations for graduate programs are given in this catalogue in the Admissions section and include details about the environmental sciences program. Information is also available in the FAFS Graduate Study Manual. Changes made after the publication of this catalogue will be available through the academic advisers.

The Environment and Sustainable Development Unit (ESDU)

ESDU is an interdisciplinary research and development unit specializing in sustainable rural livelihoods. It was established at the Faculty of Agricultural and Food Sciences to promote collaboration on sustainable development initiatives among departments at AUB and with a wide variety of other institutions and organizations undertaking related activities.

ESDU activities, including research, capacity building, and outreach, aim at

- providing opportunities for faculty and students to work on real-life rural development projects
- fostering partnerships between research, private and public sectors, and local communities in order to develop community-based solutions
- networking with national, regional, and international centers and institutes in the areas of integrated natural resource management and sustainable development

For more information refer to www.esdu-aub.org.