

Financial Aid

AUB offers financial aid to qualified students in the form of need-based financial aid grants and loans, merit scholarships, student work-study, and graduate assistantships. In 2005–06 the University awarded over \$8 million in need-based grants and merit awards, and this amount is expected to increase for academic year 2006–07. Last academic year an additional amount of approximately \$5 million was awarded in funds for student work scholarships and graduate assistantships.

Financial need is a necessary condition for a financial aid grant. Need is assessed for each student, yearly, on the basis of factors such as family income, number of siblings enrolled in school/university, assets such as home(s), car(s), and other property, and major changes in financial status. Assessments are made by the Interfaculty Committee for Financial Aid using an application for financial aid completed by a student and his/her family before the required deadline. For new students living in Lebanon, an interview is usually required to help the committee assess need. Further need assessment may be carried out through house visits when deemed necessary. Need is a necessary but not sufficient condition for financial aid.

Need-Based Financial Aid

Grants are outright grants of assistance for undergraduate students based on demonstrated need. The purpose of the program is to help academically qualified full-time students who could not otherwise pursue an AUB education. Amounts vary from a small part of the tuition to full tuition support. Selection is based first on need and then academic performance. Students applying for the first time for financial aid may obtain applications from the Office of Financial Aid, West Hall, American University of Beirut, P.O. Box 11-0236, Riad El-Solh 1107 2020, Beirut, Lebanon, or can download the application from the AUB homepage: www.aub.edu.lb under the link "Admissions" then "Financial Aid." New students applying for academic year 2007–08 must complete and submit the application with all required supporting documents by February 2, 2007. Previous financial aid applicants re-applying for academic year 2007–08 must complete the application on-line and submit a printed copy of the on-line application along with supporting documents by March 31, 2007. The required documents should be delivered in person to the Office of Financial Aid in the West Hall basement. Awards are usually announced by the end of May for students admitted to the fall semester and by mid-January for students admitted to the spring semester.

As part of the need-based financial aid program, AUB started a loan program in September 2003 for medical students enrolled in the Faculty of Medicine. In 2004, undergraduate students in the Faculty of Engineering and Architecture, enrolled as a junior or above, also benefited from this program. The latest extension of the loan program was in 2005 for nursing students enrolled in their third and fourth year. The purpose of the loan program is to allow further financial support to students who find it difficult to complete their studies in these faculties. The students still apply for financial aid as usual; however, if eligible, the students receive financial assistance as a package in the form of a grant from AUB and a loan from HSBC or Byblos Bank. Participating students can take the loan during each year of study. The loan is subsidized by AUB during a student's years of study until graduation. Accordingly, AUB pays the loan's interest, relieving the student from this financial burden until graduation. After graduation the student starts repaying the loan at a low interest rate over a six year period. The amount of loans disbursed was \$0.7 million in 2003 and reached around \$1.6 million in 2005. The University is continuously studying the possibility of extending the loan program to other faculties/schools.

Merit Scholarships

Each year the University awards full-tuition merit scholarships (excluding room, board, and other fees) to ten highly-qualified new students in the freshman and sophomore classes. The awards are based on academic qualifications alone. Awardees are selected from among successful applicants for admission. No application for financial aid is required. Awards are renewable for each undergraduate year provided the student maintains a cumulative grade average of no less than 85.

Student Work-Study

As part of its financial aid program, the University provides all full-time students the opportunity to participate in its student work-study program. The program allows students to contribute toward their educational expenses while also developing job skills. Students work in various campus offices and the Medical Center. Applications are available at the Office of Student Affairs and must be submitted early in the semester. Placement is made on the basis of ability, need, and job availability. Students may work a specified number of hours per week; the hourly rate is based on the type of work performed.

Graduate Assistantships

Assistantships covering partial or full tuition and partial living expenses are available to students at the graduate level in return for a specified number of hours per week of work for an academic department. Recipients are selected on the basis of their academic record and departmental needs. Applications for graduate assistantships for new students are enclosed in the admissions application package. Continuing students may obtain applications from the office of the dean of the faculty in which they are enrolled.