

# Admissions

The American University of Beirut seeks students of sound character and demonstrated academic achievement and promise. In accordance with the policies of its founders and with its equal opportunity policy, the University admits students regardless of race, color, religion, gender, disability, or national origin. While it attracts students from more than sixty countries from around the world, AUB primarily serves applicants from Lebanon, the Arab world, and other countries of the Middle East, and also seeks to maintain geographic distribution within the region. The University values its strong ties with its alumni and considers the attendance of alumni children important to the maintenance of these ties and to the continuation of its traditions.

## Application Procedures

Applications are available at the Office of Admissions at either of the addresses below, and are mailed to applicants upon request. Applications can also be downloaded from the AUB website: [www.aub.edu.lb/~webadmit/](http://www.aub.edu.lb/~webadmit/)

### Applicants Outside North America

Office of Admissions  
American University of Beirut  
PO Box 11-0236  
Riad El-Solh 1107 2020  
Beirut, Lebanon

E-mail: [admissions@aub.edu.lb](mailto:admissions@aub.edu.lb)  
Telephone: 961-1-374374/374444  
Ext: 2590/2585/2596  
Fax: 961-1-750775

### Applicants in North America

American University of Beirut  
3 Dag Hammarskjold Plaza, 8th Floor  
New York, NY 10017-2303

E-mail: [mills@aub.edu.lb](mailto:mills@aub.edu.lb)  
Telephone: 1-212-583-7600  
Fax: 1-212-583-7650

# Admission to Undergraduate Study

Students may apply for admission to AUB's four-year undergraduate program as freshmen in the Faculty of Arts and Sciences, as sophomores/first year professional students in all the faculties, as transfer students from other universities, as visiting students, or as special students not working for a degree, or as second degree applicants. They may apply for entrance in the first (fall) semester or in the second (spring) semester. All students except freshmen may apply to one, two, or three of AUB's six faculties. Freshmen and sophomore/first year professional students may apply for the fall semester under a special early admission plan. All applications should be submitted to the Office of Admissions by the deadlines specified below.

Admission decisions are made on completed applications based primarily on the student's academic record (school grades) and SAT I results. Factors such as geographic distribution, alumni relationships, and character may also be considered. The selections are made by the Unified Admissions Committee (except for transfer students to junior standing or those applying for a second degree whose applications are considered by the respective faculties).

All admission decisions are conditional upon evidence of the student having received the certificate or degree (recognized by the Ministry of Education of the originating country) on the basis of which admission is sought, and based on evidence of having met the English Language Proficiency Requirement (ELPR). A student is not eligible to register until all conditions of his/her admission are met. Conditions are stated in the letter of admission.

Students applying for entrance in the fall semester are notified of conditional admission by the end of April. Applicants for the spring semester are notified by mid-January, and applicants for the summer session are notified by early June. Upon notification of conditional admission, a student can hold a place for the fall semester by making a non-refundable enrollment deposit of \$300 by June 30. This deposit is credited to the student's account upon registration.

## Deadlines for Undergraduate Applications

For admission to	Deadline
spring semester of academic year 2008–09	November 28, 2008
fall semester of academic year 2009–10	January 15, 2009
spring semester of academic year 2009–10	November 28, 2009

For early admission to	Deadline
fall semester of academic year 2009–10	November 28, 2008

Students applying as undergraduates should submit the items listed below by the appropriate deadline. Note that recommendations, official transcripts of records, and all other documents presented to complete an application for admission are the property of AUB and are not returned to applicants.

- Application Forms
- School Record: official report of grades for the two years of schooling prior to the year in which the student is filing the application, including average and rank in class. Schools that do not provide complete information, particularly average and rank in class, may jeopardize the admission of their students. Applicants should ask the officials of the school they have attended for the last two years to send their school grades directly to the AUB Office of Admissions.
- SAT I: The SAT I is required of all undergraduate applicants except junior and senior transfer students and special and visiting students. Each student is responsible for registering and taking the SAT I. Applicants planning to enroll during the spring semester must take the test by the November testing session of the previous year. Students applying for the fall semester must take the SAT I by the December testing session of the year before their planned enrollment. For students who take the test more than once, the University considers the highest score achieved in each of the critical reading and mathematical sections.
- For details on the dates and locations of the SAT I, contact the nearest testing center. In Lebanon, contact AMIDEAST. When registering for the SAT I, applicants should enter AUB's code, 0902, and ask the Educational Testing Service (ETS) to send the scores directly to the Office of Admissions.
- Note: Lebanese applicants to the freshman class are required by the Equivalence Committee of the Lebanese Ministry of Education to take both the SAT I and the SAT II (it is advised that the SAT II is taken prior to registration for the freshman class). Students admitted to the freshman class at AUB are not classified as freshman sciences or freshman arts; however, the Equivalence Committee of the Lebanese Ministry of Education specifies that the SAT II tests must be taken by Lebanese applicants to the freshman class according to one of two tracks: a sciences track or an arts track. Students who choose the sciences track should take the SAT II subjects as follows: Mathematics II C (obligatory); plus two tests from biology, chemistry, or physics, and score a total of 2850 in both SAT I and SAT II. Students choosing the arts track should take the SAT II subjects as follows: Mathematics IC (obligatory), two subject tests of the applicant's choice, and score a total of 2750 in both SAT I and SAT II (please refer to pp.40, 41 for details).
- Note: Non-Lebanese applicants to the freshman class are also required by the Equivalence Committee of the Lebanese Ministry of Education to take both the SAT I and the SAT II (if they wish to get the equivalence of their freshman year to the Lebanese Bacc. at a later date: (It is advised to take the SAT II prior to registration for the freshman class).
- Photocopy of applicant's identity card or passport and one recent passport-size color photo.
- A non-refundable application fee of \$50 (LL75,000).

## English Language Proficiency Requirement (ELPR)

Prior to registration at the University, undergraduate students admitted to AUB must demonstrate a level of English proficiency consistent with the demands of a program carried out almost exclusively in the English language. This should be done as early as possible (but no later than the end of August) and may be done in any one of the following ways:

- By achieving on the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) a minimum score of 573. Institutional TOEFL scores are not accepted for admission to AUB. Applicants who have taken the computer-based TOEFL should have a score of not less than 230 and those who have taken the Internet-based TOEFL (IBT) should score not less than 88.

- By achieving a minimum score of 380 on the writing section of the Scholastic Assessment Test (SAT I) for applicants seeking admission at the undergraduate level.
- By passing the AUB English Entrance Examination (EEE) with a minimum score of 500. The EEE is given at AUB on published dates (check website) at a cost of LL50,000 (\$33.33).
- By achieving on the International English Language Testing System (IELTS) a minimum score (overall band) of 7.0.

## Summary

Test	Score
TOEFL (computer-based)	230
TOEFL (paper and pencil)	573
TOEFL (internet-based)	88
EEE	500
SAT I (writing section)	380
IELTS	7.0

Upon registering for these tests applicants must specify that results be sent to the AUB Office of Admissions.

- Information and application forms for the TOEFL can be requested from  
 Educational Testing Service      AMIDEAST  
 Rosedale Road, P.O. Box 6155      Riad El Solh, Bazerkan Building  
 Princeton, NJ 08541-6155      Beirut, LEBANON  
 USA      E-mail: Lebanon@AMIDEAST.org

Applicants who take the TOEFL must use the institutional code number for AUB: 0902, when registering for the test.

- For information pertaining to IELTS applicants should contact the British Council in their respective countries.

## Intensive English Course

The Intensive English Course (IEC), ENGL 100, is intended for undergraduate applicants to AUB who have been selected for admission but have not met the English Language Proficiency Requirement (ELPR). The minimum score for admission to IEC is 375 on the AUB EEE or 490 on the paper-based TOEFL (equivalent to 163 on the computer-based TOEFL [CBT] or 57 on the Internet-based TOEFL (IBT) or 350 on the Writing section of the SAT I.

Students are placed in one of two levels, ENGL 100A (15 hours) or ENGL 100B (10 hours), based on EEE, TOEFL, and SAT I writing scores. Students with scores of 375–449 on the EEE or 490–500 on the TOEFL (163–173 on the CBT or 57–61 on the IBT) or 350 on SAT I writing go into 100A. Those with

scores of 450–499 on the EEE or 503–567 on the TOEFL (177–227 on the CBT or 62–87 on the IBT) or 360–370 on the SAT I writing go into 100B.

Students enrolled in IEC may register for one or two regular university courses (a minimum of six credits), based on placement in ENGL 100A or ENGL 100B, respectively, thus earning credits toward a degree while working toward achieving the level of English needed for carrying a full course load in the regular program. Such courses are restricted to Arabic and mathematics/statistics/computer literacy courses (maximum six credits) in the Faculty of Arts and Sciences, and equivalent courses in statistics in the Faculty of Agricultural and Food Sciences, the School of Business, and the Faculty of Health Sciences.

The length of time required to complete the IEC varies with the linguistic background and performance of the student; it usually ranges between one to two semesters, depending on the level of proficiency at the time of entry. However, a student who fails to pass the IEC by the end of the second semester loses his/her admission to the University.

Regular IEC attendance is expected due to the intensive nature of the course. Continued class absence may result in a recommendation that the student discontinue IEC.

IEC is designed to develop students' linguistic and communicative competence with special emphasis on developing areas of weakness identified by diagnostic tests. The four skills (reading, writing, listening, and speaking) are integrated. Students are exposed to a wide variety of readings and communicative tasks, which help develop critical thinking. The different stages of the writing process are introduced through a variety of academic and non-academic writing tasks. Lab sessions reinforce grammar, reading speed, vocabulary building, and study skills.

## University Preparatory Program

The University Preparatory Program (UPP) is intended for students who have completed high school with strong academic records but who have had little formal training in English, have not taken SAT I, and have achieved less than 490 on the paper-based TOEFL (equivalent to 163 on the computer-based TOEFL or 57 on IBT) or 340 on the SAT I writing or less than 375 on the EEE.

UPP is a demanding, two-semester program. Students can begin the program in the fall semester (late September 2008) or the spring semester (late January 2009). Students are allowed to spend up to two semesters in UPP before admission to AUB.

UPP is a 20-hour per week program. Its curriculum follows an integrated approach to the teaching of language skills (listening, reading, writing, and speaking). Furthermore, the curriculum incorporates study skills, pronunciation training, and conversational English, depending on individual needs. The development of computer literacy and preparation for the SAT I critical reading and writing tests is emphasized as well. Five additional hours of electives are available as needed.

All UPP students, regardless of their citizenship or place of residence, are required to live on campus in one of AUB's all-men or all-women residence halls, and to participate in a full or partial on-campus meal plan. There is one residential counselor/adviser for every ten students. Residence is required as a means to foster an immersion approach to language learning, giving students the opportunity to practice their English skills outside the classroom, in the dormitories, at meal times, and in extracurricular activities shared with enrolled AUB students.

Applicants should have completed at least twelve years of schooling, or equivalent, before beginning the program, and must submit a transcript from the two most recent years of school, a school recommendation, a UPP application form, and an application fee of \$50.

Completed applications are reviewed on a rolling basis. Students are notified of acceptance or non-acceptance to UPP within four weeks of submitting the application.

## Early Admission

A special early admission plan for fall admission has been designed for students who fulfill the following requirements:

- submission of application form by November 30
- class rank in the top 40 percent in each of the last two years prior to application
- SAT I scores, Mathematical reasoning and Critical Reading, (last session of that November) as follows:
  - 1,050 for freshman or nursing I
  - 1,100 for sophomore arts or nursing II
  - 1,200 for sophomore sciences or business, first year in the Faculties of Agricultural and Food Sciences and Health Sciences, and first year graphic design
  - 1,250 for first year engineering and architecture

Admission decisions are issued by January 30 and admission is granted to the first choice of major in each of the faculties applied for. Admission is conditional upon the student receiving the certificate or diploma (recognized by the Ministry of Education of the originating country) on the basis of which admission was sought and on evidence of having met the English Language Proficiency Requirement (ELPR). Students may not register until these conditions are met. Applicants who apply early but are not granted early admission are automatically placed in the pool of all other applicants to the same level and same faculty/school and are given equal consideration. Decisions are issued by the end of April.

## Transfer from Other Universities

Students enrolled at a recognized institution of higher learning may apply for transfer to the sophomore/first year professional level of any of the faculties if they have completed a class equivalent to that of the freshman class of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences at AUB.

Admission in the above mentioned cases is based on the SAT I scores, and school and university grades.

Transfer applicants to the junior or senior classes in the Faculty of Arts and Sciences, or to the second or third years within any of the other faculties, need not submit SAT I results. All transfer applicants should consult the appropriate faculty sections of the catalogue, taking particular note of the residence requirement and any particular admission requirements of that faculty. All admitted transfer applicants must submit the most recent transcript of their grades and must meet the English Language Proficiency Requirement (see pp. 34, 35) before registration.

All transfer applicants need to submit the syllabi of the courses for which they expect to receive credit at AUB together with the application form to the Office of Admissions before April 30 if applying for the fall semester. The deadline for receipt of additional/missing syllabi is May 30, after which no equivalence will be given for courses. Transfer applicants for the spring semester are required to submit the syllabi of the courses by November 30.

Courses comparable to AUB courses that have been satisfactorily completed at other institutions are given transfer credits only (not grades) pending review by the relevant departments and faculties at AUB. Credits alone may be transferred; grades are not transferable.

## Credit for University Work Done at the Secondary Level

With approval of the academic departments concerned, freshman credits may be given for high grades on higher level (HL) examinations of the International Baccalaureate, on advanced placement (AP) examinations of the College Board, or on advanced level (A-level) examinations of the General Certificate of Education (GCE).

## Admission of Special Students Not Working for a Degree

Persons enrolled at recognized universities other than AUB (or who have completed some course work at other universities) and who have a recognized secondary school diploma, or the equivalent from a recognized university, may apply to take up to sixteen credits per semester at the undergraduate level, or nine credits at the graduate level, in any faculty for the fall semester (by June 30) or for the spring semester (by November 1/rolling till one month prior to the beginning of classes), using an application available from the Office of Admissions. Courses successfully completed at AUB by a special student not working for a degree may be considered for credit toward an AUB degree if the student subsequently applies for, and is admitted to, degree candidacy through the regular admission process. Students whose native language is English, or who have completed two years of higher education in a university in which English is the primary language of instruction, are exempted from the English Language Proficiency Requirement (see pp. 34, 35) for registration.

## Admission of University Employees

Employees of the University who meet at least minimum undergraduate admission requirements are given admission by the director of Admissions as part-time students. Such applicants must take the SAT I within the set deadlines and must meet the English Language Proficiency Requirement (see pp. 34, 35) prior to registration. Employees who leave the service of AUB and wish to continue their education at the University must apply for admission in competition with other applicants.

## Admission to the Summer Session

Candidates who are not registered at AUB but who wish to join only the summer session must submit their applications before June 1, must hold a recognized secondary school certificate, must be enrolled at a recognized university and must meet the English Language Proficiency Requirement (see pp. 34, 35). The director of admissions evaluates such applications and decides on the admission or non-admission of these applicants. Currently registered students need not complete an application for admission to the summer session.

## Admission to Non-Degree and Other Programs

Some faculties and schools offer non-degree and special programs for which admission requirements differ from those of the degree programs. For information about the admission requirements of these programs, refer to the appropriate faculty or school section and to the Extension Programs section in this catalogue.

## Readmission

The following factors govern students seeking readmission:

- Students in good standing who withdrew voluntarily shall be granted readmission to their former faculty if the period between the end of the semester or session of withdrawal, and the beginning of the semester for which readmission is sought, is not more than four regular semesters. The readmission request (reactivation form), available on the Registrar's Office web page at <http://staff.aub.edu.lb/~webregist/pdfdoc/reactivation-form.pdf>, must be submitted to the same office at least one month prior to the beginning of the semester or summer session to which readmission is sought. Readmission is then automatic.
- Students who have left the University for more than two years must submit the readmission request (readmission form) available on the Registrar's Office web page at <http://staff.aub.edu.lb/~webregist/pdfdoc/readmission-form.pdf>, to the same office, and must receive readmission approval from the admissions committee of their faculty/school.
- Students who have left the Faculty of Arts and Sciences while on probation remain on probation for one semester and are required to take 12 or 13 credits. If students do not remove probation at the end of that semester, they are dropped from the faculty.

## Deferred Registration of Admitted Students

Undergraduate applicants who are offered admission for the fall semester and who do not register for that semester may be eligible for admission to the spring semester of the same academic year, pending availability of places. A petition should be submitted to the Office of Admissions by December 15 of the same academic year.

Applicants who have been admitted to the fall semester or to the spring semester in two different faculties, and who actually register in one of these, must petition the Office of Admissions by July 31 for fall, and December 15 for spring, if they intend to use their second admission to register for the following semester. Admission to the second faculty depends on availability of places.

## Requirements of Admitted Students for Registration

Students admitted to AUB are required to meet several requirements prior to registering with the University. These include a medical examination, the English Language Proficiency Requirement (ELPR), and evidence of having received the diploma, certificate, degree, or level of university education on the basis of which the student applied and admission was granted. The ELPR may be met in a variety of ways, as outlined under the ELPR section. The diploma/certificate requirement may also be met in a variety of ways, which in turn determines the faculty and level to which a student applies, is admitted, and may register at the University.

## Secondary School Certificate/Diploma Requirements for Registration and the Classes to Which They Admit

All applicants to the freshman class must hold a secondary school certificate awarded either by a public school or a private school. The certificate must be recognized by the Lebanese Ministry of Education and by AUB. The University does not recognize secondary diplomas or certificates that are based on fewer than 12 years of schooling, starting with grade one. For example, the GCE ordinary level, and one year of the College d'Enseignement Général et Professionnel (CEGEP) do not qualify for admission to AUB.

Lebanese applicants to the freshman class may have followed a high school diploma program that fulfills the above criteria. In such cases a student must obtain permission from the Equivalence Committee of the Lebanese Ministry of Education allowing them to pursue their higher education on the basis of a foreign (non-Lebanese) program. Applicants are advised to begin the process of securing this permission at least two months prior to the time set for registration at AUB.

This permission can be obtained by applying to the Equivalence Committee of the Ministry of Education.

- Applicants must provide evidence of having lived and studied outside Lebanon for at least two years. Evidence normally consists of proof of legal residence in a foreign country and the official records of grades from two years of secondary education in that country.
- If the years of study abroad took place at the elementary level, then proof of legal residence and school grades should cover three years.
- Applicants must provide a photocopy of their passport or Lebanese ID.
- Applicants must also provide official score reports for the required SAT I and SAT II.

**The Equivalence Committee of the Lebanese Ministry of Education** requires Lebanese applicants to the freshman class, who have received permission to pursue higher education on the basis of a foreign program, to take **the SAT I and three SAT II subject tests** (it is advised to take SAT II prior to registration in the Freshman Class). The SAT I is composed of three parts: mathematical reasoning, critical reading, and writing. The Equivalence Committee requires all Lebanese applicants to take the new SAT I (all three parts) and specifies that the SAT II tests be taken in three subjects as follows:

For admission to freshman year (science track)

- Mathematics IIC
- Two tests from biology, chemistry, or physics

For admission to freshman year (arts track)

- Mathematics IC
- Two tests from subjects of the applicant's choice

At the time of registration for the freshman class, Lebanese students should check with their advisers to ensure that the number of credits and the types of subjects taken during their freshman year are in compliance with the specifications of the Equivalence Committee of the Lebanese Ministry of Education.

The total score of the combined SAT I mathematical reasoning, critical reading, and writing, together with the scores on the three SAT II subject tests, must be at least 2850 for the science track and at least 2750 for the arts track.

Upon completion of the freshman class at AUB, Lebanese students who have secured this permission are entitled to have their freshman class equated to the Lebanese Baccaalaureate by the Equivalence Committee of the Ministry of Education.\* Students must provide evidence of having received the Lebanese Baccaalaureate, or its equivalent, for promotion to the sophomore class or equivalent classes in other faculties/schools.

All applicants for admission to the sophomore class, or to the equivalent classes in other faculties, should hold the Lebanese Baccaalaureate, or its equivalent, as recognized by the Lebanese Ministry of Education and by the University.

Applicants who hold certificates that are equivalent to the Lebanese Baccaalaureate are entitled to consideration for admission to the University, but the class to which such equivalent certificates may permit admittance depends on the certificate itself.

Candidates admitted to the University as non-Lebanese are not permitted to change their nationality to Lebanese in the records of the University, unless the requirements for admission of Lebanese students were fulfilled at the time of admission to the University.

## Admitting Certificates and the Classes to Which They Admit

### Lebanese Baccaalaureates

There are four types of Lebanese baccaalaureates: literature and humanities, sociology and economics, general sciences, and life sciences. There is also a Technical Baccaalaureate. For the classes and majors to which the four Lebanese baccaalaureates permit admittance, see pp. 43, 44. The Technical Baccaalaureate permits admittance to programs that are similar in nature to the area of concentration of the particular technical baccaalaureate.

## **Certificates Issued by Governments**

Other government secondary certificates entitle their holders to apply to the freshman class in the Faculty of Arts and Sciences, or to the sophomore or equivalent classes in the other faculties.

Some government certificates are divided into categories of literary and scientific certificates. A literary certificate generally qualifies for consideration of admission to arts or business. However, students with a literary certificate may apply to a science major. Those students are given additional prerequisite courses required for the science major. A scientific certificate qualifies for consideration of admission to all majors.

Some systems of education do not distinguish in their secondary certificates among literary, scientific, or other types of certificates, but indicate the subjects passed. The applications of holders of such certificates are evaluated on a case by case basis by the Unified Admissions Committee. The University requires certain certificates to show passes with credit standard. Certificates that do not meet this standard are not considered.

## **Commercial, Agricultural, and Vocational Secondary Certificates**

These certificates are generally not considered for admission to AUB. If, however, the issuing government recognizes the certificate to be equivalent to the official (governmental) secondary school certificate, a student will be eligible for admission consideration. The class and programs to which such certificates admit depends on the area of concentration of the certificate.

## **Informal Education Preparation**

Requirements of formal education for admission to the freshman class may be waived for applicants who have passed their 25th birthday. Such applicants must, however, meet the specific requirements established by the university committee on admissions.