

# The University

The American University of Beirut (AUB) is a private, independent, non-sectarian institution of higher learning, founded in 1866. It functions under a charter from the State of New York and is governed by a private, autonomous Board of Trustees.

The University has six faculties: Arts and Sciences, Medicine (including the School of Nursing), Engineering and Architecture, Agricultural and Food Sciences, Health Sciences, and the Olayan School of Business. At present, AUB offers programs leading to bachelor, masters, and doctoral degrees.

The University is co-educational. The language of instruction is English.

## Statement of Accreditation Status (SAS)

Degrees awarded by the American University of Beirut are officially registered with the Ministry of Higher Education in Lebanon and with the Board of Education in the State of New York. AUB was granted institutional accreditation in June 2004 by the Commission on Higher Education of the Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools. In September 2006, the Council on Education for Public Health (CEPH) acted to accredit the university's Graduate Public Health Program in the Faculty of Health Sciences (FHS). The AUB Graduate Public Health Program is the first CEPH accredited public health program outside the North American continent. The Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE) accredited AUB's School of Nursing for five years beginning October 13, 2007. The AUB Medical Center has been accredited by the Joint Commission International (JCI) as of October 2007. Previously, the Medical Center was accredited by the US-based Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations (JCAHO) from 1965 until 1983, when the civil war in Lebanon prevented review teams from continuing with their periodic site visits. The JCI is the international arm of the JCAHO. The Suliman S. Olayan School of Business has received initial accreditation from the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business, the US accrediting body for schools that attain the highest standards of excellence in business education. The Faculty of Engineering and Architecture is preparing for accreditation from the Accreditation Board of Engineering and Technology (ABET).

The University is also a member of the Association of American Colleges and Universities (AACU), the Council of Graduate Schools (CGS), the Association of American International Colleges and Universities (AAICU), the American Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers (AACRAO), the Arab Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers (Arab ACRAO), the College Board, the Council on International Educational Exchange (CIEE), the National Association for Foreign Student Advisers (NAFSA), the National Association of Student Personnel Administrators (NASPA), the National Association for College Admission Counseling (NACAC), the Overseas Association for College Admission Counseling (OACAC), and the European Council of International Schools (ECIS).

## Mission Statement

The American University of Beirut (AUB) is an institution of higher learning founded to provide excellence in education, to participate in the advancement of knowledge through research, and to serve the peoples of the Middle East and beyond. Chartered in New York State in 1863, the University bases its educational philosophy, standards, and practices on the American liberal arts

model of higher education. The University believes deeply in and encourages freedom of thought and expression and seeks to foster tolerance and respect for diversity and dialogue. Graduates will be individuals committed to creative and critical thinking, life-long learning, personal integrity and civic responsibility, and leadership.

## History

In 1862 American missionaries in Lebanon and Syria, under the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions, asked Dr. Daniel Bliss to withdraw from the evangelical work of the mission in Lebanon to found a college of higher learning that would include medical training. It was felt that this college should have an American educational character, should be administered independently from the mission, and should be maintained by its own funds. Dr. Bliss traveled to the United States in the summer of 1862 to solicit funds for this new enterprise. By August 1864 he had raised \$100,000 but, because of inflation during the Civil War, it was decided that he should raise a sterling fund in England to start the operations of the college, leaving the dollar fund to appreciate. After collecting £4,000 in England, Dr. Bliss traveled to Beirut in March 1866.

On April 24, 1863, while Dr. Bliss was raising money for the new school, the State of New York granted a charter under the name of the Syrian Protestant College. The college opened with its first class of 16 students on December 3, 1866.

The cornerstone of College Hall, the first building on the present campus in Ras Beirut, was laid December 7, 1871, by the Honorable William E. Dodge, Sr., then Treasurer of the Board of Trustees. At this ceremony, President Daniel Bliss expressed the guiding principle of the college in these words:

“This college is for all conditions and classes of men without regard to color, nationality, race or religion. A man, white, black, or yellow, Christian, Jew, Mohammedan or heathen, may enter and enjoy all the advantages of this institution for three, four or eight years; and go out believing in one God, in many gods, or in no God. But it will be impossible for anyone to continue with us long without knowing what we believe to be the truth and our reasons for that belief.”

College Hall and the first medical building were completed and put to use in 1873, and the bell in the tower of College Hall pealed for the first time in March 1874. However, College Hall was extensively damaged by a savage explosion in the early morning of November 8, 1991, and the building had to be demolished. It was later rebuilt, and the new College Hall was inaugurated in June 1999.

Since the earliest years, the University has continually expanded and developed new faculties and programs. In 1867 the University started the School of Medicine. Four years later, in 1871, both a school of pharmacy and a preparatory school were added. The latter became independent in 1960 and is currently known as International College. In 1900 the University established a school of commerce which was later incorporated into the Faculty of Arts and Sciences. When the hospital (currently the American University Hospital) opened in 1905, a school of nursing was also established. In 1910 the University opened a school of dentistry, which operated for thirty years. In the early years of the 1950s several program expansions took place. The Faculty of Engineering and Architecture was established in 1951; the Faculty of Agriculture—now the Faculty of Agricultural and Food Sciences—opened its doors in 1952; and finally, the School of Public Health—now the Faculty of Health Sciences—was started in 1954.

On November 18, 1920, the Board of Regents of the State University of New York changed the name of the institution from the Syrian Protestant College to the American University of Beirut; other charter amendments expanded the functions of the University.

At the end of June 2007, the number of degrees and diplomas awarded since June 1870 totaled 75,833.

President	Dr. Daniel Bliss	1866–02
President	Dr. Howard S. Bliss	1902–20
Acting President	Dean Edward F. Nickoley	1920–23
President	Dr. Bayard Dodge	1923–48
President	Dr. Stephen B.L. Penrose, Jr.	1948–54
Acting President	Dr. Costantine K. Zurayk	1954–57
President	Dr. J. Paul Leonard	1957–61
President	Mr. Norman Burns	1961–65
President	Dr. Samuel B. Kirkwood	1965–76
Interim President	Dr. James Cowan	1976–77
President	Dr. Harold E. Hoelscher	1977–81
Acting President	Mr. David S. Dodge	1981–82
President	Dr. Malcolm H. Kerr	1982–84
Acting President	Dr. Samir K. Thabet	1984
President	Dr. Calvin Plimpton	1984–87
President	Dr. Frederic P. Herter	1987–93
President	Dr. Robert M. Haddad	1993–96
President	Mr. David S. Dodge	1996–97
President	Dr. John Waterbury	1998–08
President	Dr. Peter F. Dorman	2008–

Marquand House, completed in 1879, is the campus residence of the President of the University. All presidents have lived there during their presidencies, except for Dr. Calvin Plimpton, Dr. Frederic Herter, Dr. Robert Haddad, and Mr. David Dodge.

Three presidents died while in office: Dr. Howard Bliss, Dr. Stephen Penrose, and Dr. Malcolm Kerr. Dr. Kerr, the ninth president, was assassinated outside his College Hall office on January 18, 1984.

## Location and Climate

The University is situated in Beirut, Lebanon, at the crossroads of the Middle East. The campus on the Ras Beirut peninsula runs along the Mediterranean shore and overlooks St. George's Bay toward northern Lebanon and the snow-capped mountains to the east. The campus of just over 28 hectares (70 acres) has over 50 buildings, including the academic buildings, two halls for student activities, two men's and five women's dormitories, faculty apartments, and the Medical Center.

Lebanon enjoys a Mediterranean climate and for eight months of the year is pleasant and sunny. The winter rainy season from November to March, however, is at times damp and cold. Although most Beirut buildings are centrally heated, warm clothing is recommended for the winter months. The average annual rainfall of 86 cm (34 inches) comes chiefly in the winter when the temperature may drop below 7°C (50°F). Except for this rainy season, the weather in Beirut is delightful. The campus abounds in luxuriant flowers and trees, making it one of the most beautiful campuses in the world.

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## Academic Services

### Academic Computing Center

The mission of the Academic Computing Center (ACC) is to promote the use of technology in teaching and learning at AUB, and to provide training and assistance to faculty members in integrating technology into their teaching. To this end ACC provides resources, training, workshops, one-to-one or group consultations, access to software and hardware, and troubleshooting support to all AUB faculty members. ACC's activities and resources reflect AUB's commitment to a state-of-the-art education for all its students, an education that prepares them to be lifelong learners and successful professionals in the contemporary information age.

### Center for Teaching and Learning

The mission of the Center for Teaching and Learning (CTL) is to promote and support high quality teaching and learning at the American University of Beirut in keeping with the mission of the University, particularly the University's commitment to excellence in teaching and the enablement of students to think independently and become life-long learners. The CTL is an independent, multipurpose, interdisciplinary unit that serves all the Faculties at the University. It is administratively under the Office of the Provost. The CTL works in collaboration with the academic supporting services at the university, especially the University Libraries, the Academic Computing Center, and the Office of Institutional Research and Assessment.

### Computing and Networking Services

The Computing and Networking Services (CNS) department is the central institutional information and communication technology support unit at the American University of Beirut, and is a regional leader in university technological initiatives. CNS deploys and maintains infrastructure services aimed at enhancing users' productivity by deploying seamless access to services and resources, focusing on functionality, flexibility, manageability, standardization, security, and data safety.

### Networking and Communication (AUBnet)

AUBnet provides a state-of-the-art wired and wireless network infrastructure ensuring high-speed, secure, reliable, and widespread access for AUB users across the entire campus and hospital, including all dorms and faculty apartments. AUB students can connect to AUBnet using the networked public PCs available in computer labs, or may use their personal laptops or PDAs (Personal Digital Assistant) to connect to the campus-wide wireless network, AUBwlan.

### Internet Services

With an AUBnet account, all students, faculty, and staff have full access to the internet, e-mail, and personal websites that are subject to quotas in order to guarantee an optimum level of access to the community. CNS offers quota free access after business hours and during holidays, and maintains the AUB official website and web server, and the Digital Documentation Center's website.

## Computing Services

AUBnet users have access to more than 100 on-line e-learning courses, mostly computer-related but also office management courses, accessible via any web browser. Students, faculty, and staff may have access to application servers hosting applications such as Microsoft Office, special statistical and graphical software, programming languages, and more. CNS provides regular hardware and software consulting to the university and medical center.

## Computer Labs

In addition to providing internet access, computer labs also offer a variety of other resources to students, such as printers, USB ports, CD burners, and secure network storage accessible from any public lab where they can store their data.

## University Core Applications

Most of AUB's academic and administrative functions are carried out through networked and web-based applications. CNS manages the hardware and software of all university core applications such as the Student Information System (AUBsis) operated by the registrar's office, the Library Information System operated by the University Libraries, and the Financial Information System (AUBfis) operated by the comptroller's office. CNS also handles the Storage Area Network (SAN) that provides the university's enterprise storage and back-up system. The smooth and efficient functioning of those systems is ensured by a team of experienced system and database administrators.

## Medical Center Information Systems

The Medical Center Information Systems entity works in conjunction with the clinical departments, hospital administration, and nursing services to cater to the overall IT needs of the hospital and the medical school. The medical center is presently going through a fast-paced computerization process focused on improving the provision of medical care and streamlining operations in accordance with the JCI accreditation standards. Information technology plays an essential role toward achieving this goal.

A web portal and web services bridge together the various medical, clinical, and financial applications running on disparate platforms to form an integrated Hospital Information System. This architecture allows us to transition gradually to new technologies without the need to compromise or re-develop solutions for well-functioning legacy systems, while at the same time affording us the ability and flexibility needed to develop the system in the highly dynamic fields of medical science and information technology.

## Help Desk

Friendly and knowledgeable CNS help desk specialists are always ready to support students, faculty, and staff. For computing support contact the CNS help desk at

<http://cns.aub.edu.lb/cns/> or e-mail [cns.helpdesk@aub.edu.lb](mailto:cns.helpdesk@aub.edu.lb) or dial ext. 2260.

For more information on CNS and computing at AUB, visit our website:

<http://www.aub.edu.lb/cns/>

## Medical Center

The American University of Beirut Medical Center (AUBMC) is a private, not-for-profit, in-patient and out-patient teaching facility of the Faculty of Medicine. It is a state-of-the-art tertiary/quaternary medical center that operates 334 beds out of a capacity of 420, serving 21,175 in-patients per year, and an out-patient facility receiving 236,242 visits (163,949 private; 30,090 general outpatient department; and 42,203 emergencies) per year. It provides a wide spectrum of medical, nursing, and paramedical training programs at the undergraduate and post-graduate levels in different specialties and subspecialties with 283 residents (37 Fellows, 1PGY VII, 5 PGY VI, 17 PGY V, 30 PGY IV, 46 PGY III, 56 PGY II, 91 PGY I). It is served by 231 predominantly US-trained highly-credentialed physicians. AUBMC is considered the primary and tertiary/quaternary referral medical center in Lebanon and neighboring countries. It is fully equipped and hosts a number of centers of excellence.

AUBMC is accredited by the Joint Commission International (JCIA) and the Lebanese Ministry of Public Health.

## The Archaeological Museum

Founded in 1868, the University Archaeological Museum is the third oldest museum in the Near East. It was established with a donation from General Cesnola, the American Consul in Cyprus, and the collection has since grown steadily. In 2006, the Museum was completely renovated with the construction of an additional mezzanine and an extensive reorganization and thematic treatment of its collections. Today the museum exhibits a wide range of artifacts (15,000 objects; 10,000 coins) from Lebanon and neighboring countries. It traces man's progress in the Near East from the Early Stone Age to the Islamic period. The collections on display provide educational benefits to students and scholars in Near Eastern archaeology.

The museum runs a research program including field excavations and publications of museum collections. Several types of educational activities (e.g., lectures, exhibitions, children's programs, trips) are also organized in collaboration with the Society of the Friends of the Museum, which also runs the Museum Shop. The museum may be enjoyed free of charge to the public.

Opening Hours are Monday through Friday, 9 am to 5 pm. The museum is closed during official and AUB holidays.

## Office of Institutional Research and Assessment (OIRA)

The Office of Institutional Research and Assessment (OIRA) coordinates institutional assessment and research activities. It is responsible for the collection, analysis, and dissemination of accurate and timely information about the University's environment and performance. In addition, the office develops and conducts assessments for various purposes at institutional, regional, and international levels.

More specifically, the functions of OIRA are to

- formulate and implement data-gathering activities such as surveys, interviews, and focus groups for a wide variety of internal (e.g., accreditation) and external (e.g., comparison with peer institutions) uses

- coordinate assessment and evaluation of university programs and processes (e.g., registration, admission, advising) to support planning, decision-making, and improvement
- act as a resource and repository for official institutional statistics, information, and policies
- develop, administer, and report assessments required by the University for admission, placement, and other educational purposes
- serve as a testing center for various international administrations and organizations (e.g., ACT, CFA, MELAB, and the Open University)
- administer instructor and course evaluations, and provide feedback to faculty members for improvement of teaching

## Office of Communications

Responsible for developing and executing the University's overall marketing strategy, the Office of Communications works to define and extend AUB's brand and reputation locally, regionally and worldwide. The Office establishes relationships with the external media and serves as a liaison between the internal AUB community and relevant external audiences. Public relations activities include issuing press releases, maintaining a faculty expertise database, monitoring AUB in the media, and communicating information to both internal and external audiences using a range of print, electronic and web-based media.

In addition, the Office assists with planning and managing university events to ensure relevant exposure in the media, developing promotional material, and organising professional photography. Campus tours are arranged for visitors, prospective students, high school pupils, and other guests.

The Office of Communications is also responsible for managing the design and production of over 300 official university publications. Our creative team also provides design-related services for internal clients – including concept development, institutional advertising, web-based communications and animation, and other forms of creative content.

## Libraries

The AUB library system consists of two main libraries: the **University Libraries** and the **Saab Memorial Medical Library**.

The **University Libraries** include the Jafet Memorial Library as the central library with two branches: the Engineering/Architecture Library and the Science/Agriculture Library with its annex AREC (Farm) Library.

The Libraries have a long history in Lebanon and in the region which is reflected in the rich collections that they own.

The collections consist of 594,522 volumes, and 2,037 periodical titles, of which 175 are in Arabic. Access is provided to about 39,954 electronic journals in 120 databases. There are about 1,132,897 audiovisual items of all formats, the majority of which are microforms of a substantial number of local and regional journals and newspapers going back to the early 20th century. The Archives and

Special Collections contain 1,398 manuscripts some of which have been appraised as museum pieces, 10,227 volumes of theses, projects and dissertations going back to 1907, 3,280 posters and 1,863 maps, as well as 43,330 photographs, of a unique and historical nature.

These print and electronic collections are developed and enriched on a regular basis to support the academic and research program of the university.

The Libraries are fully automated and many of their resources, databases, electronic books and references are remotely accessible, providing a modern and virtual environment that is conducive to research. They are equipped with a state-of-the-art electronic classroom and computer labs. Secure and reliable wireless connections are available in all the libraries.

The Libraries provide customized reference and instruction services through e-mails, walk-ins and in classes, in an active program of user education which promotes a culture of information literacy at all levels.

Researchers from Lebanon, the region and beyond continuously seek the University Libraries for their unique, rich and historical collections, particularly on Lebanon and the Middle East.

The University Libraries open a total of 90 hours per week. They can be accessed at:  
<http://www.aub.edu.lb/~webjafet>

The Saab Memorial Medical Library (SML), (<http://staff.aub.edu.lb/~websml>) is dedicated to the memory of Dr. Nicholas Saab (AUB School of Medicine graduate, 1959). The library has been functioning in its present quarters as part of the Medical Center since 1975, and qualifies as one of the best medical libraries in the Middle East. Its collection consists of 667 printed periodical titles, over 100,000 backfile periodical volumes, nearly 48,000 books, over 2,000 of which are of historical value (such as Avicenna's Canon of Medicine, 1593), and nearly 2200 audio-visual items. SML now acts as a hybrid library that is constantly increasing its e-resources while maintaining its traditional services. It has a large number of the most important bibliographic medical and allied health databases, more than 4,500 e-journals, and more than 400 e-textbooks. In 1978 SML was designated by WHO as the National Focal Point for Lebanon. The library has a special collection called the Lebanese Corner, which includes publications about Lebanon, or by Lebanese authors, in the fields of medicine and other health related topics. SML services are provided mainly to AUB clientele, but also to all other medical and allied health users throughout Lebanon. The library is open 84 hours a week. With its rich, up-to-date medical collection, SML aims to promote research in the medical and allied health fields. SML is a member of three consortia in Lebanon and the Arab countries, and it provides training to medical librarians and healthcare professionals in Lebanon and the region. The academic year 2007–2008 marked the 140th anniversary of SML foundation in 1867 with the School of Medicine.