

For Immediate Release



AUB and CNRS sign agreement in support of AUB PhD program

Beirut, Lebanon- 23/08/2012 -The American University of Beirut signed an agreement on August 23, 2012 with the Lebanese National Council for Scientific Research (CNRS) to help fund PhD students at AUB.

By virtue of the agreement, the CNRS will support a total of eight doctoral students at AUB per year with an annual individual stipend of \$6000. Each student has the opportunity to renew his or her stipend for up to three years, such that by 2015-16, it is expected that CNRS would be supporting 24 students per year. Priority will be given to candidates doing scientific research.

The signing took place between CNRS Secretary-General Mouin Hamze and AUB Provost Ahmad Dallal in College Hall, in the presence of AUB Graduate Council Chairperson Rabih Talhouk and Abdel-Hamid Hallab, the special advisor to the AUB President on regional external programs. Also attending the signing were Faculty of Arts and Sciences Dean Patrick McGreevy and Agricultural and Food Sciences Dean Nahla Hwalla as well as Associate Provost Nesreen Ghaddar and Trustee Farouk Jabre.

“This agreement is yet another manifestation of the productive partnership between AUB and CNRS, and it provides support for graduate students and for research at AUB,” said Provost Dallal. “It is also an expression of AUB's commitment to support graduate education and research.”

“CNRS has been supporting PhD education since its creation in 1962, but 99 percent of those pursuing doctoral degrees were pursuing them abroad,” noted Hamze. “Yet, it is known that 75 percent of those who pursue doctoral degrees abroad never come back to the country while 75 percent of those who do their PhD here, stay in Lebanon, and end up contributing to strengthening scientific research here. This is why the CNRS decided a few years ago to increase its support of doctoral students in Lebanon, as it found that most doctoral research done here also contributes positively to development, the environment, public health and technological advancement.”

Hamze added that among the few universities that offer PhD programs, the AUB program stood out for its outstanding quality and standing.

“The welcome support that the CNRS is providing will allow AUB’s doctoral programs to grow further, thus permitting AUB to recruit more qualified students into its doctoral programs,” said Professor Talhouk, council chair. “This will better position AUB amongst the leading graduate and research institutes in the region and beyond, which is in perfect alignment with the aspirations of the Graduate Council.”

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Note to Editors

About AUB

Founded in 1866, the American University of Beirut bases its educational philosophy, standards, and practices on the American liberal arts model of higher education. A teaching-centered research university, AUB has more than 600 full-time faculty members and a student body of about 8,000 students. AUB currently offers more than 100 programs leading to the bachelor’s, master’s, MD, and PhD degrees. It provides medical education and training to students from throughout the region at its Medical Center that includes a full service 420-bed hospital.

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