

SCHOOL OF MEDITERRANEAN AGRICULTURAL ENGINEERING (ESIAM)

SCHOOL OF FOOD INDUSTRY ENGINEERING (ESIA)

HISTORY

The Saint Joseph University of Beirut established the School of Mediterranean Agricultural Engineering (ESIAM) in October 1979 within its Faculty of Engineering and Architecture. The Lebanese state formally recognized ESIAM on February 3, 1987, through Decree No. 3665, with its first class graduating in July 1984. Initially, ESIAM operated next to the USJ Business School - Zahle and Beqaa Branch buildings. In 1994, the school moved to Taanayel, where it established an experimental field near the Jesuit Fathers' convent

The School of Food Industry Engineering (ESIA), founded by the university in Kfarfalous in southern Lebanon in October 1979, also belongs to the Faculty of Engineering and Architecture. Due to events in the region, ESIA suspended its activities, reopening in Taanayel alongside ESIAM at the start of the 2003 academic year.

MISSION

Mission and Values of the School

ESIAM aims to equip high-level professionals to meet Lebanon's development needs and those of the Near East. It prepares specialists in agricultural, plant, and animal production, as well as in agriculture-related industrial and commercial enterprises. These professionals are experts in the food value chain, dedicated to promoting and supporting growth in the sector, both in Lebanon and globally, in response to pressing challenges. The increasing focus on agricultural, rural, and industrial development in Lebanon has amplified the demand for skilled professionals, especially in sustainable agriculture and food security. This demand will continue to rise in the coming years as Lebanon navigates emerging challenges and builds capacity in these critical areas.

ESIAM's mission is to train not only technically skilled professionals but also sustainable development leaders. It develops innovative and communicative eco-citizens who are resourceful and dedicated to promoting societal and human well-being.

ESIAM actively engages in research and maintains strong connections with the Francophone and Arab agricultural, industrial, and academic communities. It aims to lead in advancing agricultural policy, research, and innovation, fulfilling its mission in education and technological outreach.

ESIAM is proactively addressing the growing influence of artificial intelligence on education. It has developed an "AI" action plan to strengthen its resilience and maintain competitiveness. As part of this initiative, ESIAM has introduced courses on AI ethics and "Smart Agriculture."

Since its founding in 1994 in Taanayel, at the center of the agricultural and food production region of central Bekaa, ESIAM has built a distinct identity. It has undertaken extensive modernization of its technological and academic capabilities. With a range of ongoing research projects, access to essential resources and equipment, and strong partnerships across the sector, ESIAM continues to solidify its mission-driven status.

ADMINISTRATION

Director: Wadih SKAFF

Fundamental Sciences and Biostatistics Department: Wadih SKAFF

Plant Sciences Department: Yolla GHORRA CHAMOUN

ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

Administrative Affairs Assistant: Joanna TABET ABOU EID

Guard: Tanios (EL) HAJJ

Facility Support Worker: Nadia CHÉHAB

FACULTY

Associate Professors

Yolla GHORRA CHAMOUN, Wadih (EL) SKAFF

Faculty members of another USJ institution

Suzanne KHAIRALLAH MOUBARAK, Dominique SALAMEH, Eliane ABOU KHALIL

Instructors

Pauline AAD, Michel ABOU ABOUD, Rania ABOU ANNI CHAMMAS, Miriam ABOU DIB, Ibrahim ABOU SAWAN, Rola AMIL, Fadi ASMAR, Soumaya AYADI (EL) MAASRI, Nadine BEJJANI, Rouba BOU CHALHOUB, Lamis CHALAK SUCCARIEH, Paulette CHELELA ABOU MONCEF, Joseph (EL) CHIBANI, Camil CHIDIAC, Mounia CHIDIAC, Elia CHOUEIRY, Inaam DARWISH ASKAR, Zeinab FAHESS DIAB, Ziad FARHAT, Laila GEAGEA, Hicham GEHA, Elias HADDAD, Antoine (EL) HAGE, Elie HAJJ MOUSSA, Nizar HANI, Emilio HELAL, Christo HILANE, Najah JAROUSH (EL) ABDOUNI, Samar KADDAH, Joseph KAHWAJI, Roukoz KASSOUF, Maya KHARRAT SARKIS, Diala KOUMEIR (EL) KATRIB, Bouchra (EL) MASRY, Maroun MATAR, Elias MECHREF, Chadi MEHANNA, Rafick MERHEJ, Alexandre MONNIER, Charbel MOUAWAD, Peter MOUBARAK, Soumaya MOUHAMAD ALI, Oumar MOURAD, Carine MOUSSAED, Elie MOUSSAED, Georges MOUSSAED, Vana MOUTRAN (EL) KHARRAT, Nina NAJJAR (EL) HANNA, Soha NASSER, Nabil NEMER, Michelle (EL) NMEIR Toufic (EL) RASSY, Carine SAAD JILIKIAN, Walid SAAD, Betty SAIDY, Nada SAKR BOUSTANI, Labibé SALEH, Samar SALLOUM ARAJI, Fadi SARKIS, Sami SLEIMAN, Rola STEPHAN, Roland Abou Khater, Joe-Assaad TOUMA, Charbel OUBA, Milad RIACHY, Georgette ZAATAR, Rola ZANTOUT (EL) YAMAN, Elham ZINATI

Visiting professors

Pierre BLANC, Rana KADRY, Régis KESTELOOT, Babacar THIOYE

DEGREES, DIPLOMAS AND CERTIFICATES AWARDED

Bachelor of Engineering in Agricultural Engineering

Bachelor of Engineering in Agri-Food Engineering

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

Graduates can work in:

1. Agricultural Enterprises
2. Agrofood Enterprises
3. Local Government Agencies related to agricultural and agri-food fields
4. International Governmental Organizations
5. Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs)

TUITION FEES

For the preparatory cycle (ESIA and ESIAM), 1 credit costs 2,640,000 L.L + \$110

For the engineering cycle (ESIA and ESIAM), 1 credit costs 3,294,000 L.L + \$137

SPECIFIC PROVISIONS OF THE INTERNAL REGULATIONS OF STUDY

Article 2 (d): Programs and Cycles

Study programs at the School of Mediterranean Agricultural Engineering (ESIAM) and the School of Food Industry Engineering (ESIA) last a minimum of 10 semesters and correspond to 300 ECTS credits, distributed as follows:

- Preparatory cycle of four semesters.
- Engineering cycle of six semesters, with semester 5 dedicated to specialization, and semester 6 to the end-of-study thesis. The degrees awarded are the Bachelor of Engineering in Agricultural Engineering from ESIAM and the Bachelor of Engineering in Agri-Food Engineering from ESIA. According to the European system, the engineering degrees awarded by ESIAM and ESIA qualify as a “Master’s Grade”.



Article 2 (f): Programs and Cycles

At ESIAM and ESIA, the maximum duration of studies is 8 semesters in the preparatory cycle and 12 semesters in the engineering cycle.

Article 3 (f): Courses and Credits

At ESIAM and ESIA, the maximum duration of studies is 8 semesters for the preparatory cycle and 12 semesters for the engineering cycle.

Article 7 (b): Calendar and Schedules

Internships at ESIAM and ESIA are required courses held during the summer. Students must register for the relevant course, and their assessment occurs in the semester after completing the internship. The regulations regarding duration, attendance, and other details are specified in the internship agreement established between the institution, the student, and the host company.

Article 7 (c): Calendar and Schedules

Specializations in the final year of the engineering cycle (S5) that take place in Lebanon or France, as well as end-of-study internships (S6), may be subject to variations in duration for several factors such as the seasonality of agricultural production and the scheduling of juries at host institutions abroad. Students facing these circumstances may be granted special exemptions for an additional semester, subject to the favorable opinion of the Institution Board.

Article 7 (d): Calendar and Schedules

Considering the location of the campus, classes run for one hour and fifteen minutes at the following times: 8:15, 9:45, 11:15, 13:30, 5:00, 16:30, and 18:00.

Article 12: Application Forms

There are three admission pathways to the School of Mediterranean Agricultural Engineering (ESIAM) and the School of Food Industry Engineering (ESIA)

- First semester of the preparatory cycle (L1): Students undergo the common admission procedure of USJ
- Fourth semester of the preparatory cycle (L4): Students may transfer from the Faculty of Science, specifically from the Bachelor in Chemistry or Bachelor in Life and Earth Sciences – Biochemistry program, after validating 90 ECTS credits from the first three semesters.
- First semester of the engineering cycle (S1): Admission is granted through an entrance exam for holders of a Bachelor of Science (Bachelor in Chemistry or Bachelor in Life and Earth Sciences – Biochemistry), Bachelor in Nutrition and Dietetics, or Bachelor of Engineering in Agricultural Engineering / Bachelor of Engineering in Agri-Food Engineering, or any other diploma deemed equivalent by the USJ Equivalence Commission.


Students notify of their decision to continue their studies in Agricultural Engineering or Agri-Food Engineering at the end of the preparatory cycle (I4). This choice will be validated no later than May 30 of the year preceding their registration in specialization (S3). Once assignments are finalized, no changes to the selected specialty are permitted.


Article 16: Anticipatory Registration

At ESIAM and ESIA, students registered in a maximum of 20 ECTS credits in the preparatory cycle may register in engineering cycle courses (agronomy or agro-food) with the favorable recommendation of the tenured instructor and the approval of the director of ESIAM-ESIA.

Article 25 (c): Validation and Allocation of Credits

The assessment of the students learning outcomes consists of written or oral final exams, occasional written or oral mid-term exams, attendance in-person courses, and continuous personal work (TP). The percentage attributed to each assessment modality for each course is specified by the administration, in consultation with the instructor, at the beginning of the semester. Continuous work can consist of practical exercises, study reports, field trip reports, laboratory work reports, guided projects, posters, oral presentations, and more.





Article 26 (c): Exam Calendar

Students must submit the evaluation elements of the internship reports on the dates set by the administration, otherwise, a cumulative penalty of 2.5 points/100 per day of delay will be applied to the grade of the concerned course.

Article 28 (b): Absence to Assessments

Absence from any evaluation element will result in a grade of zero, regardless of the evaluation type. However, the jury may consider canceling the grade for the missed evaluation, excluding the final exam, if students' absence is due to "force majeure" circumstances: urgent hospitalization, death of spouse, parent, or child within three days preceding the evaluation, or participation in a mission assigned by USJ outside the country.

Article 29 (b): Grading System

At ESIAM and ESIA, a minimum average of 10/20 is required to pass a course. If students fail a required course, they must register in it at the next available offering in subsequent semesters.

Article 37: Academic Integrity and Rigor

The plagiarism threshold for rejection of a student-submitted document is set at 30% for all reports (e.g., continuous work, internship reports) and 25% for the final thesis.

