

# FACULTY OF LAW AND POLITICAL SCIENCE (FDSP)

## HISTORY

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The Faculty of Law and Political Science at the Saint Joseph University of Beirut combines the Faculty of Law and the Institute of Political Science.

### The Faculty of Law

Founded in 1913 as the Law School through a partnership between Saint Joseph University and the Lyon Association for the Development of Higher Education (representing *Université de Lyon*), the Faculty of Law is deeply committed to an educational mission grounded in the intellectual and human values of the University.

Lebanon's unique legal system shapes the Faculty's approach: rooted in Greco-Roman traditions and influenced by the teachings of the "Ecumenical Masters" at Beirut's ancient Law School, Lebanese law often reflects French legal principles. Consequently, French law became a vital part of the program. However, as Lebanon's legal institutions grew independently along with the country's history, teaching Lebanese law as a distinct entity also became essential. Certain Islamic law concepts are best taught in Arabic, while French remains ideal for Roman law foundations. This bilingual approach means that French is indispensable for legal research, while Arabic is crucial for practical legal expression. Reflecting global changes in law, English has also been incorporated into the program to reflect the evolving nature of the field, both in Lebanon worldwide.

Bilingual education has been a defining aspect of the Faculty, demonstrating its national importance and close ties with French universities. With support from Lyon, the Faculty was authorized in 1920 to grant a French Bachelor of Law, followed by postgraduate degrees in 1924, and the PhD in Law from 1942. Simultaneously, the Faculty developed a national program in Arabic under Lebanese authorities, launching Arabic courses in Islamic and administrative law in the 1920s, and officially establishing the Lebanese Bachelor of Law in 1940. The Faculty balanced its Lebanese and French law degrees with a unified exam system introduced in 1965, awarding both degrees until 1979, when the Faculty ceased offering the restructured French degree and instead focused solely on the bilingual Lebanese law degrees.

The dual nature of the law degrees – the Lebanese state degree and the French state degree – initially improved the quality of legal education but also risked creating division in the programs. To address this, an exam system was introduced in 1965 and strengthened in 1973 to unify the two degrees. A single jury awarded both degrees, with Arabic exams for the French law degree and French exams for the Lebanese law degree. This system continued until the October 1979 session. After that, due to changes in the structure of the French law degree, the Faculty stopped offering the French law degree in its new form and began awarding only bilingual Lebanese law degrees. The teaching of law in Lebanon has had significant professional, cultural, and political impacts. Despite the crisis that affected the growth of higher education in the country, the status of the Faculty, particularly its Law Department, remained unchanged. The Faculty of Law at the Saint Joseph University held a *de facto* monopoly on legal education in Lebanon until 1953. In that year, this monopoly faced challenges, particularly due to the demand for legal education exclusively in Arabic for candidates who did not speak French and sought positions in the public sector or at the bar.

This period also saw the founding of the legal section of the Lebanese Academy of Fine Arts, the Faculty of Law at the Arab University, and the Faculty of Law at the Lebanese University. Two decrees, each with different implications, changed the status of the Law Department at the Faculty. The 1958 decree integrated the Faculty of Law in Beirut into the Lebanese University: "The Faculty of Law in Beirut is responsible for teaching law. It is an integral part of the Lebanese University and falls under the Ministry of National Education for all matters related to Lebanese law. The Higher Management Council is under the patronage of the President of the Republic, Honorary President. Its meetings are presided over alternately by the Rector of the Lebanese University and the Rector of the Saint Joseph University."

This status faced challenges during the 1958 events. The Lebanese University split the Faculty of Law into two sections to allow access to legal studies for students with only an Arabic-speaking background. The November 14, 1959 decree, confirmed by the law of December 23, 1961, entrusted the Faculty of Law at Saint Joseph University with the second section of the Lebanese University Faculty of Law. This section operated autonomously with a focus on bilingualism.



## The Institute of Political Science

The Institute of Political Science has a simpler history, beginning in 1920 as a “preparatory course for administrative careers,” intended to strengthen civil service training. In 1944, it became the “Public Service Preparation Center,” and eventually evolved into the “Institute of Political Science,” offering a diploma. By 1959, this diploma was formalized into a Bachelor in Political Science from the Saint Joseph University.

The Department of Administrative and Political Science was initially created to replace the Institute of Political Science within the Faculty of Law and Political Science. It consolidated programs that prepared students for the Bachelor in Administrative and Political Sciences, the Master in Political Science, the Graduate Diploma in Political Science, and the PhD in Political Science.

In October 2002, the Department was reestablished as the Institute of Political Science. Now integrated into the Faculty of Law and Political Science, the Institute operates with its own administrative, scientific, and financial autonomy, under the oversight of the Saint Joseph University’s central administration and in coordination with the Faculty’s leadership. The Institute currently offers a Bachelor in Administrative and Political Science, a Master in Political Science, and a PhD in Political Science.

## MISSION

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Aligned with the Charter, values, social responsibility, and cultural heritage of the Saint Joseph University of Beirut, the Faculty of Law and Political Science is dedicated to delivering exceptional education that encourages students to reach beyond their limits. It also plays a pivotal role in advancing legal scholarship through rigorous, innovative research.

At the Faculty, teaching is designed not to drill students in rote legal rules for exams or courtroom recitals but to immerse them in the law as both a potent technical language and a fundamental social, political, and economic framework. Students learn to research, interpret, debate, question, critique, and propose—acquiring not only the technical skills indispensable for legal practice but also a discerning analytical and social perspective that defines exceptional legal minds.

Cultivating critical thinking and a keen sense of legal reasoning is core to this mission, ensuring that graduates are well-prepared to navigate the complex legal issues of our changing world. Similarly, the Institute of Political Science is committed to excellence, striving to shape a proactive, dynamic elite for impactful roles in both public and private sectors and civil society. Its program and teaching practices are continuously adapted to reflect the evolving needs of society and professional expectations.

## ADMINISTRATION

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**Dean:** Marie-Claude NAJM KOBEH

**Vice Dean:** Samia NASSAR ASMAR

## ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

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**Academic Affairs Administrative Coordinator:** Salma Khoury NOUJAIM

**Administrative Support Officer, Dean’s Office:** Angela JAMATI

**Communication Officer:** Rana ABOU GHANTOUS MALEK

**Campus Secretary:** Renée HAKIM GHOSN

## FACULTY

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### Professors

Aida AZAR, Antoine EID, Nagib HAGE-CHAHINE\*, Paul Gérard HAGE-CHAHINE, Vincent HEUZÉ\*, Lara KARAM BOUSTANY, Walid KASSIR, Marie-Claude NAJM KOBEH\*, Nada NASSAR CHAOUL, Frédéric ROLIN\*, \* Holder of the French *agrégation* in law

### Associate Professors

Nadi ABI RACHED, Samer GHAMROUN, Patrick SOUMRANI, Youmna ZEIN HAYEK, Rizk ZGHEIB

### Assistant Professors

Diane KHAIR CHAMI, Youmna MAKHLOUF, Myriam MEHANNA, Georgette SALAMÉ



## Lecturers

Fady BECHARA, Samia NASSAR ASMAR, Alexandre SAKR

## Instructors

Cheikh Mohamad ABOU ZEID, Nicole ARAYGI, Rana AZOURY, Amine BARSA, Mélynda BOU AOUN ARAB, Karim DAHER, Rania EL KHOURY, Yehya GHABBOURA, Khalil GHOSN, Marie-Antoinette GHOSTINE AIRUT, Mgr Elias HADDAD, Georges HADDAD, Krystel HAJJ, Jihad HARFOUCHE, Roula El HUSSEINI BEGDACHE, Adrian KALAANI, Wassim KALLAB, Melhem KHALAF, Ziad MEKANNA, Michelle MEZHER MANSOUR, Carole MOUDABER HADDAD, Alexa MOUKARZEL HECHAIMÉ, Mireille NAJM CHECRALLAH, Jacques NOUN, Jihad RIZKALLAH, Hadi SALIBA, Joseph SAMAHA, Murielle SARROUF, Souraya SOLH, Aline TANIELIAN FADEL, Liwaa TARABAY, Karim TORBEY, Ray YAZBEK

## Non-tenured Professor

Nathalie NAJJAR

## DEGREES, DIPLOMAS AND CERTIFICATES AWARDED

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Lebanese Bachelor of Law

Master of Laws, concentrations: Master in Public Law; Master in Private Law; Master in Business Law (LLM)

PhD in Law

## JOB OPPORTUNITIES

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- Legal careers: lawyer, judge, notary, legal advisor, corporate lawyer
- Diplomatic careers: diplomat, international organization official
- Academic careers: professor, researcher
- Administrative careers: civil service

## TUITION FEES

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For the 2024/2025 academic year:

### Lebanese Bachelor of Law

Price/credit: \$110 and 2,640,000 LBP

### Master in Private Law

Price/credit: \$110 and 2,640,000 LBP

### Master in Public Law

Price/credit: \$110 and 2,640,000 LBP

### Master in Business Law (LLM)

Price/credit: \$132 and 3,168,000 LBP

### PhD in Law

Price/credit: \$65 and 1,550,000 LBP

## SPECIFIC PROVISIONS OF THE INTERNAL REGULATIONS OF STUDY

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The study program at the Faculty of Law is governed by Decree No. 14729 of June 20, 2005.

### I. Courses and Credits

Each program offered at the Faculty (Bachelor's, Master's, PhD) is assigned a specific number of credits. For example, the Lebanese Bachelor of Law, which spans four years, is awarded upon the successful validation of 240 credits.

The credits awarded for each course are determined based on the expected workload and learning outcomes for students. One credit is approximately equivalent to 25 hours of academic work.

Each academic year, students are required to validate 60 credits.

### II. Semester System

The academic year consists of two semesters, each lasting fourteen weeks.

The duration of each course may not exceed the length of one semester.



### III. Modules

The courses in the Bachelor's program are **grouped into modules**.

Each academic year consists of three modules: Module A, Module B, and Module C (A1, B1, C1 for the first year; A2, B2, C2 for the second year; A3, B3, C3 for the third year; and A4, B4, C4 for the fourth year).

In addition to these three modules, there is a Module D that includes elective courses, which may be distributed across the four years of study.

### IV-Mandatory Attendance

Attendance at courses and supervised work sessions is mandatory. Students who are absent for more than 30% of the scheduled courses or supervised work sessions in a semester, without a valid and approved reason, will not be allowed to take the final exam for that course. This rule applies to final exams held in January for the first semester and in June for the second semester. Additionally, students exceeding the permitted absence threshold will not be authorized to take the second session of the exam for the same course.

Students re-registered in a course from the previous academic year, after failing to validate the required credits, are exempt from this attendance obligation, provided they have previously attended the sessions for that course. However, attendance at supervised work sessions remains strictly mandatory, including for students repeating the course.

### V- Validation of the Program Learning Outcomes


- a. The assessment of the students learning outcomes consists of written and oral exams.
- b. For courses including supervised work (primarily, but not exclusively, those in Module A), the final grade is composed equally of the ongoing assessment score, based on supervised work, and the score of the final exam.
- c. Exams are graded on a 20-point scale. The weighting coefficient for each course is determined based on the number of credits allocated to it.

### VI- Exam Sessions

- a. An exam session is held at the end of each semester (January for the first semester; June for the second semester).
- b. A second session is held in August-September. Students may re-take exams for failed courses in previous sessions of the same academic year.
- c. For all courses with supervised work in Modules A, B, and C, the ongoing assessment grade will be excluded during the second session to enhance students' chances of passing, in accordance with the Faculty Board decision of October 27, 2022.
- d. Any absence from an exam results in the failure to validate the corresponding course, regardless of the reason for the absence. No rescheduled exams will be provided to compensate for such absences.

### VII- Validation and Allocation of Credits

Students validate courses by one of the following methods:

- a. By obtaining a grade of 10/20 or higher in the course.
  - b. Through compensation, when the overall average for the module, which includes the course, is 10/20 or higher, subject to the following conditions:
    - Compensation applies across all courses within the module. The overall average of 10/20 is calculated by considering the grades for all courses within the module. Compensation is only applicable after the June exam session and, where relevant, the second session.
    - A grade of 5/20 or below in any course is disqualifying and cannot be compensated, even if the overall module average is 10/20 or higher. Students must retake the exam for any invalidated course.
    - Students forfeit the right to compensation within a module if they fail to attend any of the exams for courses within that module.
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### VIII- Student Progression/Prerequisites

Students may only register for module A of the subsequent year if they have successfully validated module A of the previous year, with an overall average of 10/20 or higher in that module. For example, module A1 serves as a **prerequisite for validation** in module A2.

- a- In accordance with Article 12(2) of Decree No. 14729 of June 20, 2005, and Article 27(d) of the USJ Internal Regulations of Study, students who fail a course must validate it in the following academic year. Failure to do so will result in the inability to re-register, unless granted special authorization by the academic jury. For example, if students fail to pass “Constitutional Law I” in 2022-2023 and do not pass it in 2023-2024, they will not be allowed to re-register in 2024-2025.
- b- Registration for modules B2 and C2 requires students to have validated the courses in modules B1 and C1. Thus, modules B1 and C1 are **prerequisites for attendance** in modules B2 and C2.
- c- Registration for modules B3 and C3 requires students to have validated the courses of modules B2 and C2, and passed the courses of modules B1 and C1. Similarly, registration in modules B4 and C4 requires successful validation of the courses of modules B3 and C3, as well as modules B2 and C2.
- d- Some courses are divided into two parts (I and II). For these courses, students may only register for part II if they have validated the courses in part I.
- e- Registration for the courses listed below requires, in addition to the prerequisites outlined in paragraphs a and b of this section, the fulfillment of additional prerequisites (for either validation or attendance, as applicable):

Course	Prerequisite
(Administrative Law (module C3	(General Administrative Law (module A2
(Criminology and Penitentiary Sciences (module C3	(General Criminal Law (module C2
(Special Criminal Law (module B4	(General Criminal Law (module C2
(Enforcement Procedures (module B3	(Private Judicial Law (module B2

### IX- Fraud and Attempted Fraud

Any verified fraud or an attempt thereof during an exam, will result in the immediate cancellation of the exam by the Dean and a score of zero, and no make-up session will be permitted to rectify the grade. It may even lead to referral to the Institution’s Disciplinary Board in accordance with university regulations.