



SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE OF BEIRUT (ESAR)

DESCRIPTION

The School of Architecture of Beirut (ESAR) was established in 2019 within the Faculty of Engineering and Architecture of Saint Joseph University of Beirut at the Science and Technology Campus (CST). The Bachelor of Engineering in Architecture was previously offered by the School of Engineering of Beirut (ESIB) from 1945 to 1992.

MISSION

ESAR embraces a global vision of architecture as a transdisciplinary profession that combines intervention in the built environment with a critical understanding of the world. The program reaffirms architecture's role in serving cities, territories, and communities while emphasizing the socio-political, environmental, and economic contexts that shape the discipline. It equips students with the skills to anticipate and adapt to the evolving nature of the profession and address the major challenges of the 21st century, particularly the growing environmental impact of the built environment. The program also emphasizes the integration of cultural, symbolic, functional, and political dimensions into students' design approaches and professional practices.

ADMINISTRATION

Dean: Wassim RAPHAEL

Director: Richard MITRI

Deputy Director for Administrative Affairs: Farah HOMSI

Deputy Director for Academic Affairs: Cynthia BOU AOUN

ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

Administrative Assistant: Rana (EL) KHOURY

Laboratory Assistant: Elias BOU ROUPHAEL

FACULTY

Professor

Fadi GEARA

Associate Professors

Richard MITRI, Joseph RUSTOM

Assistant Professors

Cynthia BOU AOUN, Nisrine (EL) MEZHER, Nadine BEJJANI, Rim DBAISSY

Instructors

Kamel ABBoud, Fares ABI CHACHRA, Maria ABI KHALIL, Claudine ABDEL MASSIH, Charbel ABOU JAOUDE, Divina ABOU JAOUDE, Marie-Joe ABOU JAOUDE, Marie-José AYOUB, Fouad AWAD, Joseph AZAR, Perla AZZI, Michel BARMAKI, Elie BEKHAZI, Sandra (EL) CHACAR, Gilles CHAHWAN, Rev. Sr. Dima CHÉBIB, Said CHÉHAB, Issam (EL) CHEMALY, Nadim CHOUEIRY, Roula DAHER TAOUTEL, Tiffany GEARA, Pierre GHANEM, Nadine GHOLAM, Bassam (EL) HABER, Maria HABIB, Celine HADDAD, Teresa HADDAD, Gabriel (EL) HAGE, Charles HAJJ, Rita KARAM, Rima KHAIRALLAH, Ange KHALIL, Jad (EL) KHOURY, Joseph (EL) KHOURY, Perla (EL) KHOURY, Ziad KHOURY, Louna MAALOUF, Romi MACHAALANI, Sabine MEHANNA, Georges NAWFAL, Shoghag OHANNESSIAN, Elias OSKO, Estelle POISSON, Dina RIZK, Fadi SEROPIAN, Gregory TAOUSSON, Jean-Marie TAOUTEL, Marie-Bernadette TAOUTEL SFEIR, Youssef TOHMÉ, Joy TRABOULSI, Christian ZAHER, Élise ZGHEIB.

Faculty members of another USJ institution

Nancy ALAM, Nadine ABBAS, Toni KAHWAJI, Marguerita MOUAWAD

DEGREES, DIPLOMAS AND CERTIFICATES AWARDED

Bachelor of Engineering in Architecture, equivalent to a master's degree, spanning five years and comprising 342 ECTS credits.



JOB OPPORTUNITIES

Graduates pursue diverse professional careers across Lebanon, the MENA region, Europe, and North America. Recognized for its scientific rigor, international perspective, and strong foundation in architectural culture, the program is currently pursuing institutional accreditation by WSCUC and programmatic accreditation by NAAB. ESAR's interdisciplinary program prepares graduates for diverse professional fields spanning architecture, design, construction, urban development, and the environment, including:

- Independent architectural practice as a sole practitioner or partner
- Architectural practice in private firms in Lebanon, the MENA region, Europe, and North America
- Urban design, urban planning, and territorial development
- Landscape architecture and public realm design
- Heritage conservation, restoration, and rehabilitation
- Interior architecture, spatial design, and scenography
- Furniture design and fabrication
- Exhibition design and museography
- Sustainable design and high-performance (HQE, LEED, BREEAM, and equivalent certifications)
- Building Information Modeling (BIM), digital coordination, and BIM management
- Architectural visualization, 3D modeling, animation, and immersive technologies (VR/AR)
- Smart cities, urban analytics, and digital urbanism
- Client-side project management, owner's representation, and real estate development
- Construction management, site supervision, and project coordination
- Technical consulting and expert advisory services
- Humanitarian architecture, post-disaster reconstruction, and urban resilience
- Entrepreneurship in PropTech, ConTech, and built environment innovation
- Research and doctoral studies in architecture, urbanism, and the built environment
- Higher education, teaching, and academic leadership
- Public administration, municipalities, and territorial governance
- Architectural publishing, criticism, and cultural policy
- International organizations, NGOs, development agencies, and cultural heritage institutions

Combining design excellence with engineering expertise and a critical architectural perspective, ESAR's curriculum prepares graduates for diverse local and international, independent and institutional, and technical and creative professional pathways, contributing to a responsible, sustainable, and meaningful built environment.

TUITION FEES

Bachelor of Engineering in Architecture: 175 Fresh US Dollars and 6,713,000 Lebanese Pounds, equivalent in Fresh US Dollars to 250 (exchange rate = 89,500 LBP)

SPECIFIC PROVISIONS OF THE INTERNAL REGULATIONS OF STUDY

Article 50: Course Validation

For architecture studio courses, a minimum average of 12/20 is required for validation. However, a grade of at least 10/20 is acceptable should the annual average of two studio courses be 11.5/20 or higher.

Article 51: Degree Requirements

To obtain the Bachelor of Engineering in Architecture, students must:

- Validate all the courses of the program
- Meet the language proficiency requirements in both Arabic and English (Article 6 - paragraphs c and d)
- Validate the 342 credits of the architecture program
- Obtain a cumulative average of at least 12/20 for the entire program and a minimum of 12/20 on the End of Studies Project

Article 54: Probation

An architecture student is placed on probation if:

- At the end of the first year, their cumulative average is below 11.5/20
- From the first semester of the second year onwards, their cumulative average is below 12/20