

UNIVERSITY DIPLOMA IN CIVIC ENGAGEMENT AND CITIZEN INITIATIVE

Main Language of Instruction:

French ☒ English ☐ Arabic ☐

Campus Where the Program Is Offered: CSH

OBJECTIVES

This UD aims to:

- Develop informed and responsible citizens who understand how society functions, including its laws, political institutions, history, and cultural diversity.
- Strengthen critical thinking and informed analysis of citizenship across its political, social, and cultural dimensions.
- Promote active civic engagement and participation in public debate, enabling students to make meaningful contributions to their communities.
- Promote innovative approaches to public life and collective decision-making.
- Create a platform for high-quality intellectual dialogue and constructive debate.
- Develop innovative solutions that contribute to a renewed and inclusive social contract.

PROGRAM LEARNING OUTCOMES (COMPETENCIES)

- Analyze contemporary issues related to citizenship and civic participation;
- Critically evaluate public policies and democratic institutions;
- Design and implement civic initiatives addressing community needs;
- Collaborate with public institutions, civil society organizations, and local communities;
- Demonstrate leadership, ethical responsibility, and civic engagement in professional and public settings.

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Applicants must:

- Be enrolled at Saint Joseph University of Beirut (USJ).
- Hold a Lebanese Baccalaureate.
- Submit a copy of a valid identification document.
- Submit an up-to-date curriculum vitae (CV).

Application documents should be sent to afc@usj.edu.lb

PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

15 Credits: Required Courses (15 credits)

Citizen Initiative (3 Cr.), Constructive Initiatives and Alternative Scenarios in Lebanon's History (3 Cr.), The Potential of the Lebanese Constitution: Foundations for Change (3 Cr.), Contemporary Approaches to Citizenship (3 Cr.), Civic Engagement Project (3 Cr.).

COURSE DESCRIPTION

558INCIF1	Citizen Initiative	3 Cr.
This course explores major issues related to citizenship and local governance in Lebanon. Students will examine administrative decentralization, the role of municipalities, and initiatives aimed at improving community well-being. The course also covers collective action, environmental citizenship, transparency, access to information, the role of women and political parties in public life, volunteerism, and community service. Students will learn to design and implement a civic initiative from concept to completion. By the end of the course, students will be able to analyze key challenges and opportunities related to citizenship and local governance in Lebanon; assess the mechanisms and stakeholders involved in civic participation; apply principles of transparency, social responsibility, and environmental citizenship to real-world situations; and develop a civic project that addresses a concrete community need.		
558INITF1	Constructive Initiatives and Alternative Scenarios in Lebanon's History	3 Cr.
This course examines significant constructive initiatives that have shaped Lebanon's history and the political, social, and civic dynamics that enabled them. Through foresight exercises and "what-if" scenarios, students will explore alternative paths Lebanon might have taken and draw lessons that can inform the country's future development.		
558POTEF1	The Potential of the Lebanese Constitution: Foundations for Change	3 Cr.
This course helps students analyze constitutional provisions that support active and responsible citizenship in Lebanon. It examines the constitutional framework established by the Taif Agreement and its contribution to the country's democratic and institutional development, identifies limitations within the current constitutional framework, and encourages students to propose reforms that could strengthen civic participation and the rule of law.		
558NACIF1	Contemporary Approaches to Citizenship	3 Cr.
This course introduces emerging theories and models of citizenship developed by European and international thinkers. Students will examine how these approaches have been implemented in different countries, drawing on examples from Scandinavia. They will also assess their relevance within the Lebanese context, and develop innovative civic scenarios tailored to Lebanon's future needs.		
558PROJF1	Civic Engagement Project	3 Cr.
This practical course guides students through every stage of developing a civic initiative, from identifying community needs to evaluating outcomes. Students will learn to define objectives, plan activities, engage stakeholders, and develop monitoring and evaluation tools. The course also equips students with the skills needed to design, present, and implement a civic project that responds to real challenges facing their communities.		