

Mission of the Centre for Arabic Research and Language Studies (CREA)

The mission of the Centre for Arabic Research and Language Studies (CREA), which is affiliated with the Faculty of Languages and Translation at Saint Joseph University of Beirut (USJ), is to teach the Arabic language and culture to Arabic and non-Arabic speakers, whether they are university or non-university students. With its long-standing experience dating from 1945, its role has 4 key aspects:

- 1- Creating certification tests of different levels (A1, A2, B1, B2, C1, C2) in Arabic as a foreign language, in line with the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR).
- 2- Creating pedagogical material for Arabic language teaching, to Arabic and non-Arabic speakers.
- 3- Teaching the Arabic language and culture to all USJ Arabic speaking students, in order to develop their interest in this language through a modern approach.
- 4- Teaching the Arabic language and the Lebanese dialect to non-Arabic speakers coming from all over the world, since it receives every year about 300 persons of different backgrounds,

Courses given to non-Arabic speakers

Courses system

CREA provides courses of **Modern Standard Arabic (MSA)** and **Colloquial Lebanese Arabic (CLA)** to non-Arabic speakers, whether they are university students or from the general public, through **sessions of 70 hours each** provided in the form of two main schemes : extensive courses during the academic year and intensive courses during the summer.

These courses follow the norms of the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR) and cover 6 levels where each level is equivalent to 6 ECTS (European Course Credit Transfer System) credits :

- **A1** (breakthrough level) ;
- **A2** (waystage level) ;
- **B1** (threshold level) ;
- **B2** (vantage level) ;
- **C1** (proficiency level) ;
- **C2** (mastery level).

Courses calendar

The courses are provided at CREA throughout the year in the following way :

1- Extensive courses during the 1st and 2nd semesters (2-3 days/week – around 2-3 hours/day) :

- 1st session of 70 hours in the 1st semester, between September and December ;
- 2nd session of 70 hours in the 2nd semester, between January and May.

2- Intensive courses :

- One intensive session of 70 hours in July.

4- Possibility of providing an additional extensive/intensive session, at any time, if there is a minimum of 7 candidates registered in one level.

Pre-registration process

In the pre-registration process, applicants are asked to fill in a Pre-registration Form and send it to the following Email : crea@usj.edu.lb. Their answers help make a general assessment of their linguistic background. It is advisable that they arrive to the Center few days before the beginning of the courses, in case they need to take a placement test that decides their precise level.

Once settled in Beirut, the applicants can finalize the registration and the payment procedures with the Secretary, Ms. Aziza Youssef, at the following address :

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Faculty of Languages and Translation
Saint Joseph University of Beirut
Campus of Human Sciences, Bldg. A, 5th floor
Damascus Street, PO Box 17-5208, Mar Mikhael
Achrafieh, Beirut 1104 2020, LEBANON*

Telephone : +961 (1) 421 000 (# 5505 or # 5510)

Fax : +961 (1) 421 509

Email : crea@usj.edu.lb

Tuition fees and payment method

The cost of a 70-hour session (6 ECTS credits), whether it is extensive or intensive, is 600 American dollars. This amount is a basic price to which can be added an additional cost for optional extra-curricular activities. This extra cost is usually decided at a later stage and advertised with the trips and outings schedule. The tuition fees are paid at the bank, in one installment.

Students who are registered at CREA commit to complete the courses. In case of withdrawal, no refund will be made.

Accommodation

The Directory of residences and dormitories gives an idea about accommodations available near Saint Joseph University of Beirut.

In this context, the University offers its students the opportunity to live in its *Résidence USJ* which is across the street from CREA, Damascus Street, near the Rectorate. For more details, please contact the residence:

Telephone : +961 (1) 421650 (#6509)
Cell phone : +961 (3) 469620
Email : *residence.etudiants@usj.edu.lb*
samir.bechara@usj.edu.lb

Visa issuance

Concerning the visa issuance, students should check the visa requirements with the Lebanese embassy in their home country prior to their departure. Many foreigners can get a visa, valid for one month and renewable twice, upon their arrival at Beirut International Airport in Lebanon. For more information about this matter, please check the following links :

<http://www.general-security.gov.lb>

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Visa_policy_of_Lebanon

CREA activities

The CREA organizes extra-curricular activities to highlight cultural entertainment and offer the students a beautiful image of Lebanon and the Arab world. In this context, many events take place throughout the year, such as :

- The welcome brunch at the beginning of each session.
- The languages brunch in December.
- The cultural trips and outings in different Lebanese areas.

To get a feeling of these activities, students can visit the CREA Facebook page :

<https://www.facebook.com/Centre.recherches.etudes.arabes.usj/>