

Good evening Father Rector Salim Daccache, Esteemed Vice-Rectors, Dean, Director, Esteemed Coordinators, Professors and Instructors, our honored guest Mr. Rami Baitiéh, Proud Parents, Fellow Graduates,

It is with immense honor that I stand before you today, representing class 2024 of FGM and IGE. We gather here united to celebrate the reward of years of hard work, late nights, and relentless effort. This marks not the end of a journey, but the beginning of a new chapter.

3 years ago, we arrived as strangers at Saint Joseph University of Beirut with diverse backgrounds and unique dreams. Today, we stand as a community – even a small family – bound together by shared experiences and unforgettable memories. 3 years ago, our paths were undefined and filled with opportunities yet to be seized. Today, we face the future with confidence and determination, armed with the knowledge and skills we now possess.

Beyond the classroom walls, our university experience has been enriched by friendships. These relationships have been more than just study partners—they have become a second family. And let us not forget the class vibes that have been the highlight of our time here. From heated discussions during lectures to competitive group projects, we have sharpened our minds and learned to appreciate different perspectives. To my classmates, your friendship and solidarity have made even the toughest challenges enjoyable.

As we embark on this new chapter, let us remain firm in our commitment to lifelong learning and personal growth. Let us continue to uphold the values of integrity, empathy, ethics, and inclusivity that have been engraved in us during our time here. Today, we stand as the beacon of hope for tomorrow, committed to shaping a brighter future for Lebanon. We stand here today, not just as graduates, but also as warriors.

Lebanon has unfortunately faced its share of challenges, a landscape of instability and conflict that could have easily derailed our dreams. Yet, we persevered. We are testaments to the unwavering support of this university, the dedication of our professors, and the strength that resides within each of us. Together, we navigated the uncertainties, and emerged stronger, more resilient than ever before.

We graduates are particularly appreciative of Rector Salim Daccache for creating an environment that fostered not only academic growth but also personal well-being.

A special thank you to the Dean of FGM Pr. Fouad Zmokhol and the Director of IGE Pr. Céline Boutrous Saab for enriching our academic experience. Your efforts have not only prepared us for graduation but also secured valuable opportunities that will continue to support us beyond graduation.

To our coordinators, who have put up with us through thick and thin, your patience and understanding have been instrumental in navigating the challenges of university life, and we are immensely grateful for everything you have done for us.

Of course, we cannot help but appreciate the invaluable role of our professors and educators. We owe a debt of gratitude for your unwavering support and guidance throughout our academic journey. We may have tested the volume levels with our "enthusiastic discussions" and challenged your patience with our "unique" learning styles. But through it all, you imparted knowledge, ignited curiosity, and shaped us into the graduates we are today. Thank you for being more than just educators; you were our guides and mentors.

I would also like to take a moment to thank our biggest supporters: our parents. Your endless support and encouragement have guided us through every milestone, from graduating kindergarten to graduating university. Today, we not only celebrate our

achievements but also acknowledge the sacrifices you have made to see us succeed. To all the parents here today, thank you for your endless patience, your tireless support, and for always having our backs.

And finally, I want to thank the person that has encouraged me to pursue this major. Thank you, my angel, my uncle. Though you are no longer with us to celebrate this milestone, may you rest in peace knowing your presence and influence will forever remain in our hearts.

Personally, I am incredibly honored to have had the opportunity to pursue my degree at a Jesuit institution while studying in an English-language program. Coming from a purely English background, this opportunity was essential for me. Without it, I would not have been able to achieve my academic goals at this esteemed university, which has upheld high academic standards for over 150 years.

As we look ahead to the future, let us carry with us the lessons learned, the friendships made, and the fond memories of our time here. I extend my heartfelt congratulations to each and every one of my fellow graduates. May we carry forward the values and experiences we have gained at Saint Joseph University. Together, let us celebrate not just our achievements today, but the limitless potential that lies ahead.

Thank you.