

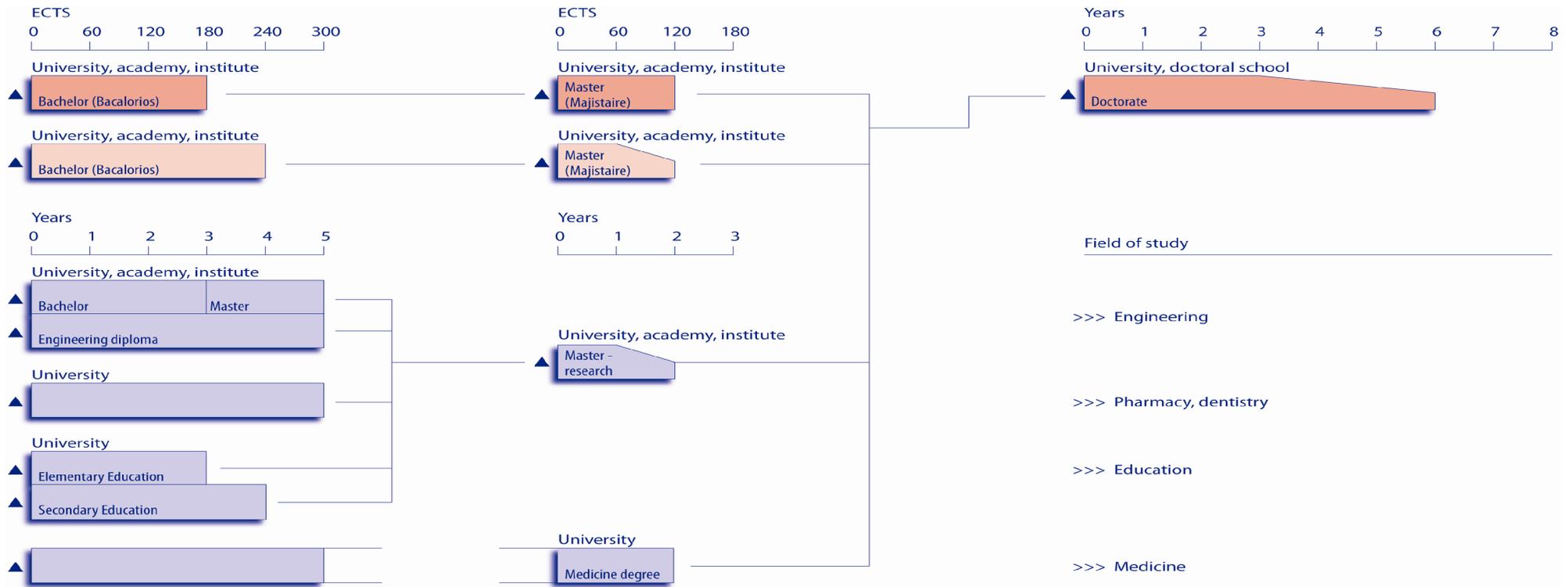


HIGHER EDUCATION IN LEBANON



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The higher education system in Lebanon



Some Lebanese institutions use the American credit system which is different from the European ECTS system

■ Most common length of a Bologna cycle	ECTS Credits according to the European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System			
■ Other length of a Bologna cycle		regulated at national level	decided at institutional level	
■ Programme outside the typical Bologna model		ALL programmes have admission requirements	▼	▲
■ Professional programme		SOME	▽	△

I. Overall description

1. Major characteristics of tertiary education in the country

Lebanon's higher education is the oldest in the region and dates back to 1866, when the American University of Beirut (AUB) was founded under the name of the Syrian Evangelical College, followed by the University of Saint Joseph (USJ) in 1875, then by the Lebanese American University (LAU) in 1947, as a Beirut College for Women. The Lebanese University (LU) which is the only public university in the country was founded in 1951. Haigazian University was founded in 1955, followed by the Beirut Arab University (BAU) in 1960, in collaboration with the Egyptian university of Alexandria. Most of the 42 higher education institutions currently in operation in Lebanon were legalised in the late nineties when the private sector flourished in a sudden and rapid expansion following the 15-year civil war in Lebanon between 1975 and 1990 and which had a very damaging impact on the country's higher education sector.

The freedom and independence of Lebanese higher education are protected under the constitution. Tertiary education in Lebanon is divided into two categories; vocational tertiary education and general or non-vocational higher education.

Legislation covering the field of tertiary education

Non-vocational higher education, referred to simply as 'higher education' is governed by the Ministry of Education and Higher Education (MEHE). The main law regulating the private higher education sector was passed in 1961, whereby a Council for Higher Education was established with the means for licensing new higher education institutions. The Lebanese University is self-governing and has its own autonomous structure.

Many decrees regulating the sector were subsequently passed. The most important decrees of 1996 modernised the 1961 law and set out the conditions and criteria for a higher education institution to be legalised, given permission to operate and be audited by special technical committees. One of these decrees set out the criteria for establishing a sort of 'university institute of technology'. Another decree set up a committee for the recognition and equivalence of diplomas; an exercise which had been in place since 1957 through a joint committee in charge of the equivalence of all qualifications in both pre-

university and higher education. Other laws governing the practice of some professions, such as medicine and engineering, have existed since 1957.

In 2002, a Directorate General for Higher Education (DGHE) was established to regulate the private higher education sector and supervise and coordinate all actions related to it. The DGHE is in charge of the 41 private higher education institutions currently in operation in the country, while the only state Lebanese University (LU) enjoys clear autonomy with its own system of governance.

The student population in higher education is around 195 000 according to figures for the academic year 2010/2011. 39 % of the students are enrolled in the Lebanese University and 53 % of the student university population is female.

In 2003, the DGHE carried out the first audit of private universities. In 2010, the DGHE carried out a second audit and evaluation of new branches opened by different higher education institutions (33 branches).

A recently drafted law, submitted to the government for approval, calls for the implementation of quality assurance procedures in the institutions, leading to a sort of accreditation. Another law for the creation of a Quality Assurance Agency has been drafted and submitted to the government.

Types of tertiary education institutions

There are two types of higher education institutions:

- A university must start with at least three faculties, one of which should be for human sciences and another should be for sciences. These can grant all degrees, from Bachelor degrees to doctoral studies.
- A university institute of technology or a university college has at least one faculty. Most of these grant BSc degrees. A few can deliver higher degrees.

Among the 42 higher education institutions in operation in Lebanon, there are 32 full universities, including the state Lebanese University, seven university institutes or colleges and three university institutes for religious studies.

Tertiary vocational education

Tertiary vocational post-secondary education is managed entirely by the Directorate General for Vocational and Technical Education (DGVTE). As it is not considered to be part of the higher education sector, it will not be dealt with at great length in this report. In short, tertiary vocational education is delivered by public and private technical schools. Students that have successfully finished their general secondary school or their Professional Baccalaureate (*Baccalaureat Fanniah*) are entitled to proceed further to get one of the following diplomas: the TS (Technique Supérieur (*Fanniah Aaliah*) (after three years and 31 fields of study), LT (License Technique) (*Ijaza Fanniah*), IT or LET (License d'enseignement Technique) (*Ijaza Taalimiah Fanniah*) (two further years with nine fields of study). 11% of university students are enrolled for the TS. Transfer from vocational education to non-vocational education is not well organised and only a few higher education institutions accept students holding a degree from a vocational school. There has always been a debate about the relationship between general education and VTE, as to whether VTE graduates should be allowed to join universities. There is no clear vision or mechanism to organise this process. VTE students and trainees will be encouraged through an 'open door' policy for higher education, thus paving the way for VTE graduates to study in higher education. Students in tertiary vocational education account for around 14 500 of students in the public sector and around 11 600 of students in the private sector, which is a decrease compared to previous years. This phenomenon reflects the growing number of university institutes of technology that are attracting a number of students, avoiding national exams.

Types of tertiary education programmes and qualifications

The private sector offers 160 programmes leading to a number of qualifications. The first degree offered in higher education is a Bachelor degree (*Bacalorios*) (BSc or BA) obtained after three years of study following the secondary school baccalaureate. Students then need at least two more years of study to obtain a Master degree (MSc or MA) (*Majistaire*). A teaching diploma (TD) can be obtained after four years of study following the baccalaureate. A Master graduate gets a PhD degree after a study period of at least three years. The periods of study required in order to obtain a qualification in medical sciences and engineering after the baccalaureate vary: five years for a degree in engineering, seven for an MD (Medicine Diploma) in medicine, five years for a degree in dentistry or pharmacy, four years to get a BSc in Physiotherapy.

The Lebanese University has 17 faculties and

consists of 50 branches located in all regions of the country. It offers 105 programmes with qualifications ranging from Bachelor to PhDs.

Figures for the academic year 2010/2011 show that 175 000 students are enrolled in Bachelor degree courses, 17 500 in Master degree courses and 2 500 in doctoral studies, leading to a PhD degree.

The overall enrolment rate for tertiary education (ISCED levels 5 and 6) is: 51.6 % (World Bank Database).

The ratio of enrolment for ages 20-24 is 30 %.

Number of students in HEI (academic year 2010/2011)	
195 000	
Male	Female
47%	53%

2. Distribution of responsibilities

The Ministry of Education and Higher Education (MEHE) is in charge of managing all tertiary education in the country. The highly centralised Lebanese University enjoys an autonomous status. Despite the fact that the Faculties of the Lebanese University have many branches spread all over the country, the responsibility of managing these faculties is in the hands of the Deans and the management of the University is in the hands of the University Council.

The private sector which includes 41 higher education institutions is governed by the law of 1960. It operates under the supervision of the Directorate General for Higher Education. Apart from the licensing and the validation of the degrees and disciplines offered by the institution which must be validated by the DGHE, all other responsibilities are in the hands of each institution's governing body.

More details can be found in the next section.

3. Governing bodies of the higher education institutions

The Lebanese University is a large centralised institution headed by a President and governed by a University Council in which each faculty is represented by its Dean and one academic elected by the teaching staff. Students should also have two representatives in this Council; the government is also represented by two persons. The Council also includes three independent qualified experts chosen by the government. The President, with the Council of the University and through the Deans of the faculties, has an influential authority over the management of the university. Each Dean manages the branches of his/her faculty through a Director of the branch. Therefore,

governance is very much centralised through a strict hierarchy.

For a long time, the political situation prevailing in the country has undermined the re-election of the Students' Union of the Lebanese university – something that deprived students from being duly represented in the University Council.

The picture in the private sector is not much different. All universities started out with a main campus in the capital Beirut or in Mount Lebanon. A few started up outside Beirut, such as the Balamand University in Tripoli or the Hariri Canadian University in Mechref. Recently, due to an increasing demand for higher education, universities have started opening branches in other Lebanese regions, managed by academic staff, reporting directly to the central administration of the university.

In the private sector, each university is legally required to have a board of trustees and two thirds of its members must be from outside the owners' circle. A university college or institute should have a board of directors. A university also has a university council in charge of the entire management of the institution. All of these councils have students' representatives, and each faculty has a faculty council and each department has a department council. The importance of implementing this hierarchy efficiently varies from one institution to another. The absence of other stakeholders in the governing bodies is clear in most Lebanese higher education institutions. Some institutions which have a religious background and are normally founded by the Church or by other denominational authorities are subject to a special type of governance system, related to the system applied by the clergy of that denomination.

4. Financing

Reliable and accurate financial information about the universities is unavailable, even to the public authorities because of the peculiarities of the Lebanese system. However, it is a fact that spending on higher education can, broadly speaking, be divided into government spending, household spending and external or private grants. Direct government spending on higher education does not exceed 0.5 % of the GDP, which is below the average levels of OECD countries and lower middle income countries, which both amount to 1 % of GDP. The main direct government spending is channelled to the Lebanese University, the Ministry of Education and Higher Education, the CNRS (Conseil National pour la Recherche Scientifique) and to cover participation in financing some bilateral programme, such as CEDRE with France. Indirect spending includes, mainly, the Government's educational allowances and transfers allocated to government employees, at specific levels in the

government, for the tuition of their children in private establishments. Around 75 % of civil servants are paid by the government to enrol their children at private universities that are considered to be of better quality. These education allowances make up a large portion of government spending on education. Also included in this spending is the amount of university scholarships the government provides to students. Due to the strong presence and spread of private education, household spending on education in Lebanon far exceeds that of government spending at all levels of education.

In addition to government and household expenditure, a third source of funding comes from external or private grants. This is not insignificant, especially at higher education level.

Some universities that follow the American model (mainly AUB and Balamand) benefit from endowments and gifts that finance buildings, equipment, programmes and scholarships. For the AUB, whose accounts are available, the amount in 2010 reached 3 % of the total revenues.

Foreign governments provide support to some universities and schools through the provision of professors or teaching material or the support of joint programmes. This is particularly the case with France. Amounts are not regularly published.

Many charitable and/or political foundations and some foreign governments grant scholarships to students. Many Lebanese students opt to study abroad, especially in countries where higher education is free. The survey carried out by the University of Saint-Joseph in 2002 estimates this number to be 12 500, with 37 % opting for Western Europe, 30 % for Northern America and 20 % for Eastern Europe.

Finally, many schools and universities belong to religious communities that provide not only the land but also the labour cost of the members of the religious order, working as teachers or administrative staff (priests and nuns).

It is not easy to assess the value of this supplementary financing but Euro 60 million seems a reasonable estimate.

When the three sources of financing of education are combined (calculated for the year 2004/2005 because of the availability and representativeness of data), the breakdown is as follows: About Euro 718 million is set aside every year for higher education (vocational and non-vocational) in Lebanon. Public expenditure covers only just 16 % of the total for higher education. Supplementary assistance accounts for 9 % of the financing of higher education.

Concerning the age structure and the levels of enrolment, the average yearly cost per student is LBP 6 800 million (Euro 3 500 or 84 % of the GDP per capita) in higher education.

5. Students' contributions and financial support

Education at the Lebanese University is almost free and fees cover only 6.5 % of its total budget. The enrolment fee amounts to an average of Euro 200 per year.

Fees are the main source of funding for private universities.

Fee exemptions are based on the number of students and social considerations. Some exemptions can be offered to students carrying out some work inside the university.

Financial assistance to parents of students in tertiary education is paid to state employees and employees in the private sector (see section four).

6. Licensing, quality assurance and accreditation of institutions and/or programmes

No proper quality assurance and accreditation mechanisms are in place at national level. Some higher education institutions have started to implement internal quality control within their structure; some are receiving accreditation from external international bodies in the USA and from Europe. The Ministry of Education and Higher Education (MEHE) has introduced some quality assurance procedures in their traditional licensing mechanisms intended for establishing a higher education institution. The licensing mechanism is applied at the MEHE through the Council of Higher Education and the associated technical committees. The process starts with the receipt of a file that ought to be analysed by a special technical committee which produces a report and carries out some follow-up of the dossier. Based on the report from the technical committee, the Council of Higher Education issues a recommendation for licensing. The final decision on licensing a higher education institution is left to the Council of Ministers. A start-up process, followed by an audit visit or an on-site visit to verify the institution's compliance with the licensing criteria, leads to the recognition of the programmes and the diplomas awarded to students.

7. Admission

In general, the secondary school diploma (the Baccalaureate) or an equivalent, such as the BT (Baccalaureat technique), is a minimum requirement for enrolment at a higher education institution.

Admission at the LU is open to any student holding a secondary school diploma. The faculties of engineering, medical sciences, business administration, arts and public health, require an entry exam based on a *numerus clausus* principle.

Most private universities do not have an admission exam. Some have different admission criteria based on mastering the language of the study programme. For a student to gain admission to an American-style institution, they are required to pass special exams, such as TOEFEL or SAT1 and SAT2, in addition to the secondary school diploma.

Only the CNAM (Conservatoire National des Arts et Métiers), jointly managed by the Lebanese University and the CNAM of Paris, provides special engineering programmes at evening classes for those who work during the day. Formerly, admission was on an entry exam basis but recently, more flexible admission criteria have been applied.

8. Organisation of the academic year

There is no standard approach to determining the organisation of the academic year. It differs from one university to another. At the Lebanese University, it is the responsibility of the University Council to determine the start and the end of the academic year and its organisation in terms of semesters, examination periods and academic breaks. A degree of flexibility is given to the faculties which have special characteristics such as engineering and medicine.

In the private sector, each university has its own way of determining how to organise the academic year.

September to July is the most common structure for the academic year. The higher education institutions that follow the American style of education also have an additional summer semester. A two-semester scheme is common, separated by an examination period around February.

9. Curriculum content

The curriculum content is defined at institutional level and approved by the Equivalence Committee at the Ministry. A general framework for curriculum content is defined where core courses must cover at least 40 % of the programme, plus 25 % of general requirement and the rest should cover faculty requirement and elective courses (general and field courses) There is no national framework for the definition of the subjects. Only in the faculties of law are there around 12 compulsory courses that must be included in the curriculum of all higher education

institutions, whether they are private or public. The assessment of these courses is carried out nationally by academics from the Lebanese University.

10. Assessment, progression, certification and degree

The most common form of assessment of students is the standard examinations that take place at the end of each course. There is no mechanism that allows for the recognition or accreditation of prior experimental learning. There is no state exam in the higher education sector except the colloquium exam that takes place twice a year, for obtaining permission to practice medical professions.

An entry to a Master programme requires the completion of a Bachelor degree and a Master degree is a prerequisite to proceed to doctoral studies.

11. Academic staff

There are five categories of academic staff in higher education.

- A full professor with a PhD degree, 10 years of experience and more than 10 publications.
- An associate professor with a PhD degree, five years of experience and more than eight publications.
- An assistant professor with a PhD degree, three years of experience and at least three publications.
- A lecturer with a PhD degree.

An assistant's post may be occupied by a graduate student preparing a PhD degree.

There is no national standard for selecting academic staff. It is a purely market-oriented exercise.

In the Lebanese University, teaching staff can be hired on a contractual basis with a fixed number of teaching hours or on a full-time contractual basis, with a more stable contract that is renewed automatically every year or within the 'cadre' of the university.

In the private sector, academic staff can be hired only on a contractual basis or within the 'cadre' of the institution.

12. Research activities

It is difficult to know how much funding is allocated to research in higher education. In general, research is weak in the country and needs to be restructured on a national and strategic basis. The CNRS (Conseil National de la Recherche Scientifique) is the only state-funded source for funding research at national level. All other research activities are undertaken by the private institutions

themselves. Apart from the three doctoral schools established within the Lebanese University in 2008, there are no research institutes in the country and only five universities provide doctoral studies. Research is undertaken within the doctoral programmes that exist in the higher education institutions (HEIs) or with a special exchange scheme or bilateral agreements established between Lebanese institutions and international partners. Individual researchers also benefit from funds provided by the CNRS, CEDRE or the AUF (Agence Universitaire de la Francophonie).

13. University-enterprise cooperation

There is no structured cooperation between the university and the non-academic world. New efforts are starting to conclude some starting-activities in this direction. Some of these activities have been reinforced by European initiatives and some Tempus projects.

14. International cooperation

Travel abroad, whether it be for study or a business venture, is very common among the Lebanese.

Lebanese higher education is characterised by a historical openness to the outside world. It is hard to find one institution that does not have a convention or an agreement with one or more institutions in the region, in Europe, in Canada or in the United States. However, there are no national policies or measures to promote the foreign mobility of students during their higher education studies. Only initiatives taken by individual institutions for training purposes exist.

For students coming from other countries, Lebanese higher education institutions used to be attractive, particularly before the civil war; in its aftermath the system lost much of its credibility. Now, Lebanese universities are regaining their reputation and the number of foreign students, mostly from neighbouring countries, is increasing. But internationalisation of higher education is another matter; it is more than a simple international relations office within each university. It needs to be conceptualised and materialised into strategies and actions.

Inter-university cooperation is strong with international institutions but weak within the country. Competition among private institutions is high and makes universities reluctant to cooperate with each other. If proper investment were made, international programmes like Tempus and Erasmus Mundus could play a certain role in enhancing cooperation between universities. There is an increasing understanding that global and

common challenges, together with costly research and limited resources, can be faced

only with more cooperation between universities.

II. Current challenges and needs

1. Trends and challenges

The national strategy for education (higher education being part of it) was drafted in 2007, approved by the government and never ratified by the Parliament. Action plans designed by the subsequent Ministries have since been trying to follow the general orientations of this strategy. It calls for the reinforcement of accessibility, the creation of a modern system of accreditation, the setting up of a national reference for evaluation and quality assurance, the implementation of a national policy for the recognition of diplomas, the enhancement of the quality of teaching at the Lebanese University, the reform of tertiary vocational education, the diversification of programmes, the promotion of university-enterprise cooperation, the support of research and the reinforcement of the institutional capacities of the public sector.

This strategy could be revised and a new one addressing specifically higher education needs and complemented by a series of well-scheduled action plans could be worked out.

The second strategic document concerns the reorganisation of the private higher education sector. It is approved by the government but still under discussion in the Parliament.

The law for the restructuring of the public Lebanese University has been blocked by the Parliament and seems not to have any chance of being approved. This public Lebanese University is always subject to political interactions and differences.

An important step forward can be registered by the drafting of a law for the creation of the Lebanese Agency of Quality Assurance for Higher Education. The discussions that are taking place currently indicate that this law could have a better chance to get through.

The main challenges that the Lebanese higher education sector is facing today can be summarised as follows:

- the rapid expansion that the higher

education sector witnessed during the nineties has had many repercussions on the development of this sector;

- The absence of updated regulatory measures raises the issues of the programmes' relevance, quality control and accreditation.
- More pressure has been put on a sector that is facing fierce national, regional and international competition. The lack of cooperation between local universities has had a negative effect on research activities which need a more structured coordination and ought to respond to the country's general strategy.
- If employability is one of every university's concerns, in Lebanon it is even more problematic due to the absence of a national framework for qualifications.

Many workshops, organised recently, have raised awareness of issues, such as quality assurance and accreditation in higher education and the need to define a National Qualifications Framework, which fulfils the requirements of mobility and employability.

The EU modernisation agenda in the sector of higher education is an inspiring reference for all these initiatives taking place in the country. Almost all Lebanese higher education institutions have switched to the three-cycle credit based system. Although the definition of 'credit' is not yet well-established and has varying interpretations according to each institution's background, efforts to translate the credit system into ECTS is being made in some well-known institutions. The major challenge facing the implementation of the LMD system is in the Lebanese University, the largest university in the country, where this implementation has been carried out somewhat chaotically and without expertise in the field. This experience has to be re-evaluated, coordinated among the different faculties and corrected immediately.

2. The Bologna Process¹

General Information

Level of integration in the Bologna Process		Bologna-Signatory Country
	X	Non Bologna-Signatory Country
		Bologna Process officially embedded in the education system
		Bologna Process being implemented by ad hoc groups under the supervision of the Ministry of Education
	X	No particular mechanism supporting the implementation of the Bologna Process

Bologna cycle structure

Level of implementation of a three-cycle structure compliant with the Bologna Process	Extensive but gradual introduction of Bologna structure/ongoing adaptations or enlargement
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Student workload/duration for the most common Bologna programmes			
Bachelor programmes	180 ECTS (3 academic years)	Master programmes	120 ECTS (2 academic years)

Bachelor/Master cycle structure models most commonly implemented	180+120 ECTS (3+2 academic years)
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European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System (ECTS)

Definition of the Learning Outcomes Concept	No definition of learning outcomes at national level
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Level of implementation of ECTS	75% or less institutions and/or 75% or less programmes are using ECTS for both transfer and accumulation purposes. Various references are used to define the credits.
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Indicative number of hours of student workload corresponding to one ECTS	Another credit system or student workload not in use to define ECTS.
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Bologna Diploma Supplement (DS)

Level of implementation of the Bologna Diploma Supplement	Partial and gradual introduction of the Bologna DS (25%-75% of institutions)
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Diploma Supplement issued	Bologna DS issued on request and free of charge	Bologna DS issued in the language of instruction and/or more official languages
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¹ Source: Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency. 'State of Play of the Bologna Process in the Tempus Partner Countries (2012)', A Tempus Study, No 9, April 2012, EACEA, Brussels.

National Qualifications Framework (NQF)

Stage towards establishing a National Qualification Framework		Not yet started formally/not foreseen.
		<u>Step 1</u> : Decision taken. Process just started.
	X	<u>Step 2</u> : The purpose of the NQF has been agreed and the process is under way including discussions and consultations. Various committees have been established.
		<u>Step 3</u> : The NQF has been adopted formally and the implementation has started.
		<u>Step 4</u> : Redesigning the study programmes is ongoing and the process is close to completion.
	<u>Step 5</u> : Overall process fully completed including self-certified compatibility with the Framework for qualifications of the European Higher Education Area.	

Quality Assurance Practices

National Quality Assurance body				
Name	Ministry of Education and Higher Education (MEHE)			
Status	A Government-dependent body or Ministry has responsibility for quality control.			
Year of establishment				
Involvement in external quality assurance process		Decision-making role	Participation	No participation
	Academic staff	X		
	Students	X		
	International Experts	X		
Cross Border Evaluation: Institutions are allowed to choose a foreign quality assurance agency.				

Recognition of foreign qualifications

Ratification of the Lisbon Recognition Convention	NO	
Recognition of Foreign Qualifications for academic study	Recognition for academic study by central or regional governmental authorities	
Recognition of Foreign Qualifications for professional employment	Recognition for professional employment by central or regional governmental authorities	

Joint Degrees

Establishment of joint degrees and programmes in higher education legislation	Joint programmes and joint degrees are mentioned in the higher education legislation but provisions need to be defined.
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III. Participation in EU Programmes

1. Tempus

Lebanon has participated in the Tempus Programme since 2002.

1. Statistics

Number of projects in which one or several institutions in the country have been involved (as coordinator, contractor or partner)

	TEMPUS I and II	TEMPUS III	TEMPUS IV				
	1990-1999	2000-2006	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Joint Projects	-	17	4	2	5	1	4
Structural & Complementary Measures (Tempus III) Structural Measures (Tempus IV)	-	6	0	1	2	1	3
Total	-	23	4	3	7	2	7

Higher education institutions with highest TEMPUS participation during TEMPUS IV (2008-2012)

Institutions	Total	Number of projects	
		JP	SM
LEBANESE UNIVERSITY	10	6	4
MODERN UNIVERSITY OF BUSINESS AND SCIENCE	9	6	3
UNIVERSITY SAINT JOSEPH	8	5	3
BEIRUT ARAB UNIVERSITY	7	4	3
UNIVERSITY OF BALAMAND	5	3	2
UNIVERSITY SAINT-ESPRIT- KASLIK - USEK	3	3	0

Higher education institutions coordinating TEMPUS IV projects (2008-2012)

Institutions	Total	Number of projects	
		JP	SM
THE AMERICAN UNIVERSITY IN BEIRUT	2	1	1
UNIVERSITY OF BALAMAND	2	1	1

2. Impact of the Tempus Programme

Since its implementation in Lebanon in 2002, Tempus has played an important role in the modernisation agenda of the Lebanese higher education sector.

With the 39 projects it has funded to date, in addition to the some 90 Individual Mobility Grants, Tempus has contributed to the development of new curricula, the creation of new structures for research and the general modernisation agenda of the system as a whole.

With projects like *Master Biodiversité Végétale et Biotechnologies au Liban 2003*, *Collaborative IT Program for Education and Research 2003*, and *Innovative Curriculum On Sustainable Energy, 2005*, Tempus has contributed to the

development of new Master degrees in modern subjects in order to respond to a real national and regional demand.

Tempus has also encouraged cooperation between the university, the non academia and the labour market, through projects like *ICOSE, 2005*, *CITPER, 2003* and the *Professional Master Program in Food Science and Technology 2005*, in which a partnership with the Association of Industrialists was established.

Despite the fact that Tempus is not targeting research specifically, it has supported the establishment of a research structure, with the creation of three doctoral schools at the state Lebanese University. Two of these doctoral schools, one in Science and Technology and one in Law, were prepared through the

Tempus projects: *Organisation des Enseignements de Sciences, Technologies et Santé au niveau Master à l'Université Libanaise et Création d'une Ecole Doctorale à l'Université Libanaise, 2004.*

Tempus has also contributed to the ongoing reform and modernisation which is currently taking place in the country. Since quality has become an issue of great interest following the rapid expansion of the sector during the nineties, Tempus has gone beyond raising awareness on the subject to proposing a quality assurance mechanism that can be established for the country: *Quality Assurance for Higher Education in Lebanon* (2005) and through the project *Lebanese Engineering Programs Accreditation Committee* (2006). Tempus gathered EU expertise in accreditation to design a LABE, a Lebanese Accreditation Board for Engineering. Some 17 faculties of Engineering worked together to put forward a proposal on how to establish the LABE.

The Lebanese higher education sector has a longstanding cooperation programme with the outside world. It has traditional relationships with some countries in Europe, but Tempus has opened the way for the establishment of new partnerships with new EU countries, diversifying the types of cooperation and the dimension of expertise and enhancing a richer and wider cultural exchange.

With Tempus IV, regional cooperation has a new tempo, paving the way for more structured cooperation that can, in the future, lead to a regional process of modernisation and quality control, and to a regional higher education area.

Tempus has enhanced the authorities' ownership of the modernisation agenda by involving the Ministry of Higher education in defining their own priorities, in line with their own strategies for higher education.

The great impact that Tempus could make on the Lebanese higher education sector is through the team of Higher Education Reform Experts (HERE) which was established in 2008. The team has made a considerable effort in disseminating the principles of the Bologna Process and is working on combining all efforts to launch a Lebanese process of modernisation. Given the political situation of the country and the many changes of the Minister, the team has been slowly and gradually installed within the Ministry's planning circles. It is now beginning to be recognised by the education authorities as an important and efficient tool to help bring about changes in the sector of higher education. Recently, the team has played a significant role in two initiatives put forward by the Ministry. One related to the drafting of a law for the creation of a national agency for Quality Assurance in higher education. The other one

aims at to the definition of a Lebanese National Qualifications Framework in collaboration with the European Training Foundation.

Lebanon is not a signatory of the Bologna Process but since the beginning of the process, higher education institutions have shown a great interest in it and almost all of them have taken measures to adapt their programmes to the three-cycle system and to credit-based courses. The multidimensional diversity of the Lebanese system has used the Bologna Process as an inspiring tool for harmonisation and for the adoption of necessary measures that mobility and recognition issues require.

Nevertheless, there is still room for discussion:

1. Aligning proposals to predefined priorities is, in some cases, backfiring. Lebanon has no natural resources and its economy is not based on a strong streamline of production or industry but, rather, on a diversity of service activities initiated by the power of its human resources. Therefore, prioritising proposals could deprive the country from some creative and innovative ideas with a strong impact on one institution or on the system. The Ministry's dilemma in defining the national priorities is reflected clearly by the fact that it has to choose between:
 - actively prioritising dynamic and flourishing sectors like tourism and banking to attract project designers, or
 - supporting underdeveloped weak sectors which are not attractive to project designers.
2. When the proposals are initiated by EU partners and not by local academics, the result is a lower number of projects targeting vital issues facing the higher education sector.
3. Something needs to be done at the commitment and conception level of the proposals, in order to strengthen and guarantee project ownership by the institutions involved.
4. The projects are confined to a circle of big universities, while emerging institutions are still under-represented in the programme. Tempus should look at forming an alliance of Tempus project promoters or associations working at regional or international levels
5. The Tempus inter-university cooperation principle is yet to be fulfilled. The programme should overcome the tendency of the universities (most of them are private) to work alone or to run away towards regional cooperation which itself, still to be proved, whether it is a real cooperation resulting in regional outcomes or just budget-sharing practices in a relatively highly-funded projects.

6. Sustainability of the projects, in terms of the general and specific objectives defined in the original proposals beyond Tempus

funding, is something which deserves to be looked at carefully.

2. Erasmus Mundus

The Erasmus Mundus programme's objective is to promote European higher education, to help improve and enhance the career prospects of students and to promote intercultural understanding through cooperation with third countries, in accordance with EU external policy objectives in order to contribute to the sustainable development of third countries in the field of higher education. It does this through three Actions:

Action 1 – Erasmus Mundus Joint Programmes (Masters Courses and Joint Doctorates) - with scholarships

Erasmus Mundus Joint Programmes are operated by consortia of higher education institutions (HEIs) from the EU and (since 2009) elsewhere in the world. They provide an integrated course and joint or multiple diplomas following study or research at two or more HEIs. Masters Courses and Joint Doctorates are selected each year following a Call for Proposals. There are currently 131 Masters and 34 Doctorates offering offer EU-funded scholarships or fellowships to students and scholars.

Action 2 – Erasmus Mundus Partnerships (former External Cooperation Window) – with scholarships

Under Action 2, Erasmus Mundus Partnerships bring together HEIs from Europe on the one hand and those from a particular region, or geographical "lot" on the other. Together the partnerships manage mobility flows between the two regions for a range of academic levels – Bachelors, Masters, Doctorate, post-Doctorate – and for academic staff.

Action 3 – Erasmus Mundus Attractiveness projects

This Action of the Programme funds projects to enhance the attractiveness, profile, image and visibility of European higher education worldwide. Action 3 provides support to activities related to the international dimension of all aspects of higher education, such as promotion, accessibility, quality assurance, credit recognition, mutual recognition of qualifications, curriculum development and mobility.

More information:

http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/erasmus_mundus/results_compendia/selected_projects_en.php

Number of students/staff participating in the programme

Erasmus Mundus – Joint Programmes (Action 1)

Person type	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	Grand Total
Masters Student	0	3	3	8	9	3	2	3	5	31
Masters Scholar*	0	0	0	0	1	2	NA	NA	NA	3
Doctoral candidate**	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	0	0	0	0
Total	0	3	3	8	10	5	2	3	5	34

* Since 2010, EMMC consortia have selected scholars over the course of the academic year, rather than at the beginning, so nationalities of selected scholars will only be known when final reports are submitted.

** First selection of doctoral candidates made for 2010-2011 academic year.

Erasmus Mundus– Partnerships (External Cooperation Window, Action 2)

The following numbers of Lebanese students and staff took part – or will take part - in mobility under these partnerships (*figures for 2010 and 2011 represent the partnership's planned mobility).

	Undergraduate	Masters	Doctorate	Post-Doctorate	Staff	TOTAL
2007	3	13	1		2	19
2008	5	5	6	1	5	22
2009	9	10	3		5	27
2010*	14	10	8	2	4	38
2011*	53	62	30	17	46	208
TOTAL	84	100	48	20	62	314

Institutions participating in the programme up to and until 2011

Institutions	Action 1 Joint Programmes	Action 2 Partnerships	Action 3 Attractiveness projects
American University of Beirut		X	
Beirut Arab University		X	
Faculty of Sciences, Saint Joseph University			X
Lebanese American University		X	
Lebanese university		X	
Modern University for Business and Science		X	
Notre Dame University		X	
Saint Joseph University	X	X	

IV. Bibliographical references and websites

- Directorate General for Higher Education, <http://www.higher-edu.gov.lb/>
- Center for Educational Research and Development, Lebanon <http://www.crdp.org>
- Financing Higher Education in Lebanon, by Charbel Nahas, www.charbenahas.com, April, 2009, Economic Research Forum
- National Tempus Office – Lebanon <http://www.tempus-lebanon.org/>
- Higher Education Reform Experts team <http://www.tempus-lebanon.org/?q=node/9>
- Lebanon's national report to the Arab Regional Conference on Higher Education, Cairo, May-June 2009

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This document reflects the views of the Tempus Office and the Authorities of the country concerned. The European Commission cannot be held responsible for any use which may be made of the information contained therein.

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