



## Commitment on Engagement

### **Human Rights Principles:**

Beirut Arab University (BAU) is an establishment that is committed to achieving excellence and securing an environment, which supports this objective. Likewise, it is committed to the treatment of every individual in the community with respect and integrity.

The University is keen on realizing the principle of equality and the repulsion of extremism and discrimination among members of the human community, and offering them equal opportunities regardless of color, race, religion, origin, family status, gender, age, physical disability, social status, or social class.

The University has the right to take all legal procedures that its lists of rules and regulations enable to take towards the person(s) who may be in violation of the principle of equality.

Furthermore, BAU's basic values are academic distinction, honesty and integrity in teaching and scientific research, autonomy, freedom in conducting research, respect for individuality and safety, social justice, equality amongst individuals, scientific integrity, good conduct, setting good role models, and honorable representation of the University.

It is the responsibility of the person(s) active within the context of the University to uphold these values through:

- Committing to integrity of behavior which is translatable into professional excellence and ethical behavior;
- Adhering to responsible and decisive attitudes in their actions;
- Adhering to the practice of tolerance in their human relations;
- Openness towards new ideas that intrinsically bear elevated objectives;
- Enhancing benevolent and parental relations between staff members and the students.

According to the code of ethics, academic staff at Beirut Arab University (BAU) should observe intellectual objectivity, as well as openness towards and acceptance of new ideas while avoiding extremity.

Then, academic staff, researchers, non-academic staff and students should show tolerance and acceptance of the other.



Academic freedom is an inherent right of the academic staff as well as students. They have an obligation to preserve it and ensure its continuity. This freedom is practiced through teaching as well as research and creative activities, and within the boundaries of publically acceptable moral values and in accordance with the University standards in particular. Academic freedom guarantees academic independence for students who are committed to meeting its objectives through undertaking informed studies in the light of full respect for personal initiative, while adhering to the generally acceptable rules of behavior and ethical standards.

Scientific research at BAU rests on academic freedom and freedom of research as well as personal integrity credibility and transparency in research. Credibility and transparency in scientific research are implemented through the legally guaranteed respect of copyrights, quoting research achievements of other scientists appropriately, consistency in using proper research methods, proper and professional interpretation of results, honest reporting of data, and the objective study of research hypotheses.

Beirut Arab University (BAU) is also offering to students Women Studies programmes and courses.

The Women Studies programmes create new opportunities for students to understand the experiences of women and to connect these experiences to those of other groups both locally and globally. It seeks to raise awareness of the role played by women in society, alleviating gender inequity, and raising awareness of women's rights and contributions. It is an important step in the way of women's empowerment in our society.

On successful completion of these courses (modules) of Women Studies, students should be able to:

- Outline key findings in selected works on gender and political representation.
- Debate conflicting feminist arguments on contemporary issues such as violence against women.
- Differentiate between women's history and gender theories.
- Discuss selected issues in women's history in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries and understand their influence on the development of feminist movements.
- Apply their theoretical and empirical knowledge to women's complex social problems, as well as write and speak clearly about social issues related to gender.



- Give clear written and oral analyses of the basic psychological processes that give rise to complex women's behaviors.
- To bring about change in the society for accepting women as equal partners in development.

On the other hand, the Human Rights Center at Beirut Arab University (HRC-BAU) was established in 2009 as a specialized center independent of all the faculties and departments at the university. The HRC-BAU is the University initiative that assists students and accordingly their communities to a better understanding of their rights through raising awareness in the course of formal and non-formal methods thus complementing their education all through University years and years after.

- The Human Rights Center at Beirut Arab University in cooperation with the Academic Human Rights Network and Raoul Wallenberg Institute inaugurated the Fourth Regional Summer Course on "The Implementation of Human Rights Conventions in the National Systems" with the participation of 34 students from 8 Arab countries from 4 -14 August 2014 (Image 1).



**Image 1**



- The Human Rights Center at Beirut Arab University in cooperation with the Lebanese Association for Democratic Elections LADE, held a training workshop on 15 and 16 November 2014 on "Democracy in the Lebanese system and the importance of civil involvement in the political life" with the participation of 25 students.
- On the occasion of the International Human Rights Day, the Delegation of the European Union and the Human Rights Center at Beirut Arab University organized a panel debate on 9 December 2014 on the topic of "Human Rights in Challenging Security Contexts". An estimated 300 students attended the debate.

Panelists were H.E. MP Michel Moussa, Chair of the Human Rights Parliamentary Committee, H.E. Tom Fletcher, British Ambassador to Lebanon and Mr. Nadim Houry, Director of the Beirut Office and Deputy Director of its Middle East and North Africa Division, Human Rights Watch. The debate was moderated by Dr. Omar Houry, Director, Human Rights Centre, Beirut Arab University (Image 2); (Image 3).



**Image 2**



**Image 3**

- The Director of the Human Rights Center Dr. Omar Hourri participated in a workshop from 31 October - 10 November 2014 on social justice in Doha, Qatar, which was organized by the Faculty of Middle East Studies and Southeast Asia in Cologne, Germany and Qatar Faculty of Islamic Studies at Hamad bin Khalifa University.
- On 11 December 2014, the Human Rights Center re- launched Adyan club for dialogue and citizenship in cooperation with Adyan foundation where there will be joint activities and exchange between the universities clubs. This day also included a panel discussion titled "Does religion has a solution for religious extremism" with lecturers Sheikh Mohammed Abu Zaid and Pere Nicolas Samira (Image 4).





Image 4

- The Human Rights Center participated in the regional moot court competition in Jordan organized by Raoul Wallenberg Institute on 16 and 17 January 2015. The University team has won first place (Image 5).



Image 5



- The Human Rights Center participated from 5 - 8 April 2015 in the regional moot court competition in Qatar organized by Faculty of Law, Qatar University. The University team has won best memorandum.
- On 28 August 2015, the Human Rights center in cooperation with GIZ implemented the second project for this year “Let’s Talk” on conflict transformation (Image 6).



**Image 6**

- The Human Rights Center at Beirut Arab University in Corporation with Department of Middle Eastern & Southeast Asian Studies at University of Cologne & Qatar Faculty of Islamic Studies at Hamad bin Khalifa University organized the Summer School in Beirut (Lebanon) for 36 students on “Global Justice & Migration: Middle Eastern & European Perspectives” Funded by the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) within the “Higher Education Dialogue with the Muslim World” program from September 25 - October 5, 2015 (Images 7 & 8); (Image 9).



Images 7 & 8





**Image 9**

- The Human Rights Center at Beirut Arab University has also launched its recycling campaign.  
The recycling campaign is based upon the collection and recycling of solid waste generated daily from the university, so it can be donated to provide financial aids to students.

<http://www.aliwaa.com/Article.aspx?ArticleId=203944>

<http://www.lebanonfiles.com/news/709162>



### **Environmental Principles**

In the context of Beirut Arab University (BAU) efforts to build a sensible society, promote environmental equilibrium, and conserve natural resources, the Research Center for Environment and Development (RCED) established in 2011 in Bekaa. RCED stands as a platform to address aspects, tackle environment problems, and contribute to the appropriate management of natural resources and sustainable development of the country. RCED covers a breadth of research areas and interests clustered in four themes:

- Water Resources Governance;
- Medicinal and Aromatic Plants;
- Flora Biodiversity;
- Bioremediation.

Since its establishment, RCED has managed to launch several research activities focusing on the assessment of aquatic macrophytes in two of the most important water bodies in Lebanon, Litani River and Qaraoun Lake, aiming to understand the ecological status of Lebanese aquatic environments and assess the capacity of some of macrophyte species in the bioremediation of these important water bodies. As being the national facilitator, RCED is currently participating with the International Water Management Institute (IWMI), in studying groundwater governance in the Arab World. The project is intended to address the challenges posed by the unsustainable use of groundwater in the MENA region (Jordan, Tunisia, Lebanon, UAE, Oman and Yemen) in a systematic way. It emphasizes the necessity to take stock of experiences in groundwater governance at the world, regional, and local level, reviewing the laws, regulations, community-based actions, and institutional structures, as well as their efficacy in controlling access, abstraction and allocation of the resource under varying circumstances. Moreover, RCED has also been engaged in studying the flora of the Lebanese side of Hermon Mountain which is globally recognized as a key biodiversity area and one of the Important Plant Areas in Lebanon. RCED has also been involved in mapping the economically important plants of Jabal Moussa Bioserve and in documenting local traditional knowledge on the use of Lebanese flora.

Though well suited to the ago-climatic conditions of Bekaa, medicinal and aromatic plants (MAP) cultivation hasn't been yet well appreciated as a source of revenue and economic development of agricultural and rural community of the region. Lack of adequate knowledge of cultivation and processing methods, unavailability of quality plant material and sound marketing plans present the main limiting factors impeding the development of these sectors. Through its demonstration project of cultivating some important MAPs, RCED seeks to introduce important MAPs (mainly oregano and lavender) cultivation, production of dried herbal material and extracts to Bekaa region. The project presents an efficient approach to improve agricultural production



and pharmaceutical industry as a resource-base for local livelihood and national development. It will play a vital role in the development of business opportunities and sustainable management of ecosystems.

Parallel to its scientific research activities RCED has hosted and organized some educational and environmental awareness focusing mainly on the importance of the protection and conservation of water and flora biodiversity.

Moreover, Beirut Arab University (BAU), Debbieh site aims to become environment-friendly.

The goals are along the following:

1. Signing agreements with ministries, municipalities, environmental companies and NGO's.
2. Installing solar panels on campus buildings.
3. Increasing awareness and training of faculty, staff, students and employees on various environmental issues.
4. Implementing a fully flagged recycling program.
5. Conducting research on environmental risks in Lebanon.

BAU took the following concrete actions to implement environmental policies, reduce environmental risks and respond to environmental incidents.

1. A memorandum of understanding was signed with the Ministry of Environment, Republic of Lebanon.
2. A series of lectures and seminars were conducted to raise awareness on environmental issues including environmental risks.
3. BAU is working with environmental companies and NGO's and conducting workshops on environmental issues.
4. Several research projects have been conducted through Masters and PhD postgraduate students on environmental issues.
5. Undergraduate students have joined the program for cleaning Lebanese beaches coast.
6. BAU has planned to install solar panels in buildings and the recycling bins in work places and offices.
7. BAU has planned to replace light fixtures by an eco-friendly LEDs.



To make the campus greener, BAU monitors the following by:

1. Calculating the expanses of paper usage in offices comparing to previous year.
2. Increasing the number of articles, awareness sessions, projects, campaigns, etc.
3. Updating and upgrading some undergraduate courses to fulfill with current environmental standards and issues.

Moreover, Beirut Arab University (BAU) has been planning to make complete environmental protection requirements on several ways:

1. Collection of wastewater from all buildings throughout the sewerage system to two locations, in the southeast and northwest of BAU site in Debbieh.
2. Collection of storm water from all buildings and paved areas throughout the storm drainage system to three locations to be reused later for irrigation, in the south, middle and north of BAU site in Debbieh.
3. Supplying two wastewater treatment plants (WWTP) in two locations (southeast and northwest of BAU site in Debbieh). The first (WWTP) is 50 m<sup>3</sup>/ day and the second is 75 m<sup>3</sup>/day. Both two plants are containerized working 24 hours to guarantee the wastewater treatment before disposing on the bottom of valley or reusing in irrigation.
4. Treating the wastewater in Debbieh saved the ground water from pollution.
5. Irrigation treated wastewater network was designed and executed to reuse this fertilized water for irrigation.
6. Reusing the treated wastewater as (fertilized water for irrigation) reduces the rate of water consumption of clear water from wells.
7. BAU also planned to collect storm water in the natural dry pond located at the middle location behind the building of the Faculty of Architectural Engineering and the building of the Faculty of Engineering and at the middle area at BAU site in Debbieh.
8. Solar Energy will be used as a source of energy for aeration pumps for water pond of storm water during summer.





Furthermore, Beirut Arab University has also participated in GR.ENE.CO project. GR.ENE.CO Green Energy for Green Companies aims to contribute to the reduction of the use of non-renewable energy sources – especially for the farm industry – in favor of renewable energy sources in the Mediterranean Sea basin. GR.ENE.CO is addressed mainly to public administrations, farms and small and medium sized enterprises operating in the energy sector in order to spread the RES plants use and to ensure the energy self-sufficiency to local farms.

Thanks to the Network of Green Tools, SMEs will strengthen innovation capacities, management and networking skills. Overall, by using energy sources, the emission of toxic gases will decrease in the areas involved in the project (Italy, Lebanon and Egypt). The environment will benefit from it, becoming much healthier. GR.ENE.CO will allow identifying, disseminating and promoting best practices and financial instruments, to support agricultural enterprises in adopting green energy systems, as well as implementing new green systems for energy self-sufficiency.

[http://www.bau.edu.lb/ENE\\_GRENECO](http://www.bau.edu.lb/ENE_GRENECO)



### **Anti-Corruption Principles**

The Faculty of Law and Political Science held on 9 December 2014 a scientific symposium entitled "Legal and practical frameworks for the fight against corruption". The faculty's Dean Prof. Dr. Mohamed Hassan Kassem addressed in detail many corruption cases and verdicts. The financial prosecutor in Lebanon Judge Ali Ibrahim highlighted some corruption issues in Lebanon and how to address them legislatively. Prof. Dr Mosbah El Kadi intervention covered the elements of the corruption crime. Dr. Abdullah Abdullah addressed regional and international anti-corruption conventions.