

## USJ GENERAL EDUCATION PROGRAM

The mission of the Saint Joseph University of Beirut, as defined by its Charter, encompasses three dimensions:

- Mastery of technical expertise,
- Cultural exigence that positions the University in service to humanity, and
- Delving into profound existential questions that arise in every individual's consciousness about the ultimate meaning of life.

Thus, the Charter emphasizes significant values such as **moral rigor, social justice, freedom, diversity** and **non-discrimination**, as well as **mutual understanding** and **respect**.

On the academic level, the Charter promotes **interdisciplinary approaches** serving **human unity, intercultural dialogue, multilingualism, and lifelong learning**.

To uphold the principles of its Charter, the University has always been committed to providing each of its students, regardless of their field of study, with the tools and skills necessary for excellent education and successful professional integration. Furthermore, through both academic and extracurricular activities, it strives to promote among its students shared values inspired by the Charter.

In order to formalize this common identity, the University Board approved in 2013 a training program required for all students, titled “USJ General Education Program (**USJ electives**).” This program consists of four main axes:

- Citizenship education
- Ethics
- Scientific culture
- Interreligious dialogue

Building on a decade of experience, the common “USJ General Education Program” was enriched in 2023 to broaden the scope of linguistic, cultural, social, scientific, and technical competencies expected from future graduates. This program simultaneously fosters creativity, innovation, appreciation of diversity, ethical and civic responsibility, commitment to fundamental rights through civic engagement, and collaborative abilities.

It also aims to develop an essential number of skills for academic success, preparing students for professional integration and lifelong learning.

While respecting the four axes of the previously mentioned “USJ General Education Program”, the new proposed program for general education ensures that undergraduate studies foster the following transversal skills:

1. Effective oral communication
2. Effective written communication
3. Critical thinking
4. Information literacy
5. Quantitative reasoning
6. Efficient teamwork

The adopted approach advocates for the integration of the new skills, as much as possible, within the requirements already established by the Internal Regulations of Study of our University. The six aforementioned transversal skills are thus covered by the various courses provided in the new General Education Program.

The new USJ General Education Program consists of **32** credits and meets the following requirements:

- **English: 4 credits**

The level A in English language (4 credits) is required to obtain the undergraduate degree and thus constitutes a minimum. It is possible to offer other courses in English that meet the mentioned competencies, as language learning supports the development of transversal skills.

**English Language Level A: 4 credits**

- **Arabic: 4 credits**

The Internal Regulations of Study require the validation of 4 credits in Arabic during the undergraduate studies, which therefore constitutes a minimum. It is possible to offer other courses in Arabic that meet the mentioned competencies, as language learning supports the development of transversal skills.

- **Arabic Language and Culture: 2 credits**

Other courses taught in Arabic: 2 credits

- **Humanities: 8 credits**

- Ethics: 2 credits

- **Religious Studies: 2 credits**

- Civic Engagement and Citizenship: 2 credits

- Other courses: 2 credits

- **Social Sciences: 6 credits**

Professional Integration and Entrepreneurship: 2 credits

Other courses: 4 credits

- **Quantitative Techniques: 6 credits**

This requirement aligns with the 4th axis in the USJ General Education Program (scientific culture) and addresses the transversal skill of *Quantitative Reasoning*. Courses such as Mathematics, Computer Science, and Statistics will particularly fulfill this requirement.

- **Communication Techniques: 4 credits**

One or more courses in the program covering *oral communication and/or written communication*.