

# SCHOOL OF MIDWIFERY (ESF)

## HISTORY

---

The School of Midwifery, affiliated with the Faculty of Medicine, was established on November 3, 1922, as a two-year program. At the time, applicants needed a primary school certificate or had to pass an entrance exam. In 1929, the School of Midwifery expanded its program and became the “School of Midwifery and Nursing.” A document from that time stated: “Midwives do not have the opportunity to practice their skills daily; they can contribute by providing care for patients at home as directed by the doctors, offering emergency aid, and administering necessary treatments. Therefore, it is in their interest to attend specialized courses and earn a nursing diploma.”

Midwifery thus became the foundation of the nursing profession in Lebanon. The School awarded both midwifery and nursing diplomas until January 3, 1943, when a separate school for visiting nurses was established.

In 1922, the School of Midwifery was first housed in a small building next to a maternity ward near the Daughters of Charity Hospital in Lazarieh.

In 1939, it was relocated to the newly opened French Maternity Hospital on Damascus Road, across from the Faculty of Medicine. When the Maternity Hospital closed in 1979 due to the events in Lebanon, the School had to move to the Central House of the Daughters of Charity in Achrafieh. It later returned to the Medical Sciences Campus in 1991 after its restoration.

Between 1929 and 1967, the midwifery program was spread over two years. Admission requirements gradually increased from a primary school certificate to the Brevet in 1943, then to the first part of the Baccalaureate (Grade 11) in 1960. Starting 1967, applicants were required to hold a nursing diploma. By 1971, applicants needed to have completed the second part of the Baccalaureate (Grade 12). The program lasted 12 months and was extended to 14 months in 1984.

In 2004, a new curriculum based on the European Credit Transfer System was introduced, allowing students with a Lebanese Baccalaureate to apply. This marked the separation of midwifery training from the Bachelor in Nursing Science, extending the program to four years. Additionally, a master's program and lifelong learning courses were introduced.

In 2014, a training manual based on professional competencies was developed to update the program, teaching methods, and assessment processes.

## MISSION

---

The School aims to train skilled midwives by emphasizing the development of core competencies. It offers postgraduate and lifelong learning programs to support independent perinatal practice and promote research advancement.

## ADMINISTRATION

---

**Dean:** Elie NEMR

**Director:** Salimé SALAMEH SAAD

**Honorary Directors:** Nayla ABOU MALHAM DOUGHANE, Yolla (EL) KHOURY ATALLAH

## ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

---

**Academic Support Officer:** Marie-Rose HADDAD ZIADE

## FACULTY

---

### Professors

Tony ABDELMASSIH, Georges ABI TAYEH, Assaad KESROUANI, Freda RICHA, Rita SLIM KARAM

### Associate Professors

Karine ABOU KHALED, Hicham ABOU ZEID, Zaki GHORAYEB, Viviane MATTAR

### Assistant Professors

Charline HACHEM, Paul Henri TORBEY

## Lecturers

Nayla ABOU MALHAM DOUGHANE, Hanane AWADA, Pia DOUMANIAN ISSA, Joelle GHATTAS, Yolla KHOURY ATALLAH, Salimé SALAMEH SAAD, Vanessa ZEIDAN

## Instructors

Zeinab ABDALLAH, Ghada ABI KARAM, Walid ABOU HAMAD, Norma AOUAD ASSAF, Ray AOUN MEHANNA, Sandrine ATALLAH, Naim BEJJANI, Sylvia BEUDJEKIAN, Aida CHAIB GHOSN, Alain DAHER, Linda DAOU ABOU JAOUDE, Roland EID, May FAKHOURY, Serge FINIANOS, Kamal (EL) KALLAB, Charbel KHACHAN, Bassem HABR, Georges (EL)HAJJ, Charbel HARB, Inaam HATOUM, Marie-Rose KARAM OFEICHE, Elie KASSABIAN, Nadine (EL) KASSIS, Seta KERECHEKIAN, Maya KHATER FAKHOURY, Jihad MAALOUF, Rita Sylva MALHAME HARB, Linda MAHFOUZ, Nabil MAKHLOUF, Raymonda (EL) MENDELEK, Elie MOACDIEH, Jean MOUAWAD, Issam MOUBARAK, Marie NACOUIZI (EL) MURR, Naji SOUEIBY, Dani TOUMA RASSY, Chadi WAKED

## Faculty members of another USJ institution

Nancy CHOUCAIR ALAM, Tatiana WAHANIAN PAPAZIAN

## **DEGREES, DIPLOMAS AND CERTIFICATES AWARDED**

Bachelor in Midwifery

Master in Maieutic Science (Currently frozen)

University Diploma in Human Lactation and Breastfeeding

University Diploma in Obstetric and Gynecological Ultrasound

University Diploma in Obstetrical Mechanics and Techniques University Diploma in Perineal Rehabilitation

## **JOB OPPORTUNITIES**

- Midwife in a hospital maternity ward, providing care in various departments including the delivery room, nursery, and postnatal unit.
- Midwife in a private clinic, providing prenatal consultations and managing normal and uncomplicated pregnancies and deliveries.
- Midwife working with NGOs.
- Midwife in primary healthcare centers, delivering maternal and reproductive health services.

## **TUITION FEES**

Bachelor in Midwifery: the cost of the credit is 124 Fresh US Dollars and 4,770,000 Lebanese Pounds (for semester 1), equivalent in Fresh US Dollars to 178 (exchange rate = 89,500 LBP)

## **SPECIFIC PROVISIONS OF THE INTERNAL REGULATIONS OF STUDY**

### **TITLE ONE: STUDYING AT THE SAINT JOSEPH UNIVERSITY OF BEIRUT**

#### **Article 2: Programs and Cycles**

- a. A study program is a set of courses whose objective is to achieve the learning outcomes required for the granting of a specific qualification. At the end of a study program, students usually receive a diploma; some programs aim at granting certificates of participation.
- b. An institution may offer several study programs. Some are common to several institutions.
- c. Study programs are generally divided into **two** cycles: Bachelor (1<sup>st</sup> cycle), Master (2<sup>nd</sup> cycle).
- d. According to the ECTS<sup>1</sup>, the minimum duration of a cycle is of **8** semesters for the **Bachelor in Midwifery** and **4** semesters for the Master's degree.
- e. Students may, if they wish and if it does not contradict the provisions of paragraph (d) of the present article, register in a maximum of **36** credits per semester. The Head of the institution must, however, pay close attention to these cases to avoid overloading students. An exemption from the Rector is also possible; for this, students must submit a detailed written request to the Rector. This request must first be validated by the Head of the institution who will then forward it to the Rector.

1- European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System

f. Students may, if they wish, spread out their studies over a maximum period of time that does not exceed twice the minimum duration set by the institution in which they are registered, in accordance with the provisions of paragraph (d) of the present article<sup>2</sup>.

	Minimum Duration	Maximum Duration
<b>Bachelor in Midwifery</b>	<b>8 semesters</b>	<b>16 semesters</b>
<b>Master in Maieutic Science</b>	<b>4 semesters</b>	<b>8 semesters</b>
<b>University Diploma</b>	<b>2 semesters</b>	<b>4 semesters</b>

g. The School of Midwifery offers two cycles, at the end of which student receives the following diplomas:

Name of the Diploma	Credits
<b>Bachelor in Midwifery</b>	<b>240</b>
<b>Master in Maieutic Science</b>	<b>120 (of which 58 are by equivalence)</b>

### Article 3: Courses and Credits

- a. A course (UE) is a learning activity to which a number of credits is assigned.
- b. The credits represent, in numerical form, the amount of work that students are expected to carry out to achieve the learning outcomes of a course.
- c. A credit for a **theoretical course** at USJ is equivalent to 25 hours of in-person and/or personal work. A whole number of credits between 1 and 8 is assigned to every course. A greater number of credits may be assigned to internships and dissertations.
- A clinical credit represents between 25 and 30 hours of work depending on the internship and the curriculum to which it is assigned.**
- d. Credits are accumulated to obtain a diploma, after validation and capitalization, according to the procedures set by the institution.
- e. Credits may be transferred within the same cycle according to the procedures specified in Article 17 of the present document.
- f. Every cycle has a specific number of credits to be validated to obtain the degree: **240 credits for the first cycle (Bachelor in Midwifery); 120 credits for the second cycle (Master).**
- g. Every institution sets a minimum and a maximum number of hours of in-person work for the first cycle.
- h. To obtain the first diploma of a program, students must validate a certain number of required courses, electives required by the institution in which they are registered (**closed electives**), general education courses required by the University, known as “USJ General Education Program,” and **open elective** courses, according to the following distribution:

Course Type	Number of credits suggested by the institution	Number of credits students should validate
Required Courses	At least 168	220
Closed Electives (Institution)	At least 18	At least 12
Open Electives	List suggested by the University	At least 8

### Article 6: Languages

- a. Languages of instruction  
French and Arabic are the two main languages of instruction. Some courses or study programs **may be taught in English**.
- b. French proficiency requirements  
Prior to any registration in the first cycle program, the candidate must have been placed in category “A” at the French Placement Test (TALF).  
However, a candidate placed in category “B” on this test is allowed to provisionally register. As soon as they register and during the first year of their studies, they take compulsory remedial French language courses which replace a 3-credit open elective course. These courses are offered by the USJ Faculty of Languages and Translation in three successive sessions during the first and second semesters, and during the summer term.

2- The Ministry of Education and Higher Education allows a maximum of 16 semesters for students registered in a part-time PhD program.

An "A" level test is administered at the end of every session. Students who pass the test validate the three credits; their registration becomes final and they can pursue their studies. Students who do not pass the first session may register for the second session; if they fail the second session, they may register for the summer session. Students who do not pass the test after the three sessions will not be able to renew their registration.

#### **Article 7: Calendar and Schedules**

- a. The academic year starts on September 1 and ends on August 31. It consists of two academic semesters of 14 weeks each. Every year, the University Board sets the calendar (vacations, holidays, final exams).
- b. **For the first cycle, a summer term is offered for clinical internships** and for students who wish to retake courses they have failed (half the initial number of hours), or to take additional courses offered intensively (the same number of hours as the initial course) to allow them to progress in the program. In both cases, the workload per course must be respected.
- c. A course must not exceed one semester, **except** for an internship, an end-of-study project or a dissertation which, **according to the supervisors, cannot be** completed in one semester. In such cases, it must be spread over two semesters as part of two courses, the first of which is a prerequisite, in accordance with the provisions of Article 4, for students to be able to register in the second course, which is offered in the following semester.
- d. Classes run for one hour and fifteen minutes at the following times: 8:00 a.m., 9:30 a.m., 11:00 a.m., 1:30 p.m., 3:00 p.m., 4:30 p.m., 6:00 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.
- e. Flexibility in the schedules mentioned in the previous paragraph may be granted for practical work and Master programs.

#### **Article 8: Mandatory Attendance**

- a. Course **and internship** attendance is mandatory and monitored. However, for elective courses, absences during the first two weeks of the semester are not taken into account.
- b. Students' attendance and motivation have a direct impact on their assessment throughout the semester (ref. Article 25 of the present document) according to the procedures defined by the institution.
- c. To take the final exam of a course, in both, the first and second sessions, students must have attended at least 70% of the in-person sessions. The list of students who will not be able to take the final exam is validated by the Head of the institution and by at least one member of the Institution Board on the eve of the exams.
- d. For an absence of more than two consecutive weeks, students must request an authorization. Depending on the length and period of the student's absence, the School Board may either authorize them to resume their semester or ask them to repeat it. In the latter case, the maximum duration of the program is extended by one semester.  
An absence of more than two consecutive weeks without authorization is considered as a withdrawal of the student for the current semester; the concerned student cannot claim any right to re-register.
- e. **All absences from internships must be justified by a medical report or a written excuse deemed valid by the administration. Absences from internships must be reported on the same day to the heads of departments and the supervising instructor.**  
**Given their importance, internships must be completed in full. Even justified absences from internships must be compensated as soon as possible and in the same clinical course, according to the schedule set by the Heads of the School.**

### **TITLE THREE - VALIDATION OF THE PROGRAM LEARNING OUTCOMES**

#### **Article 25: Evaluation of the Learning Outcomes**

- a. The credits for which students are registered are validated following the assessment of the course's learning outcomes<sup>3</sup>.
- b. The assessment consists of an ongoing assessment of the students' learning outcomes throughout the semester (written and oral exams, mid-term exams, presentations, projects, personal work, attendance, motivation, etc.) and an end-of-semester assessment (final exam, project, dissertation, etc.).
- c. Assessment methods are as follows:  
Depending on the nature and learning outcomes of the course, students' assessment may be based on:
  - Work carried out as part of the CPW (group work, tutorials, practical work, presentations, reading notes, internship reports, clinical processes, portfolios, etc.)

3- C.f. University pedagogical manual

- A midterm exam
- End of internship evaluations
- Clinical assessments, a final exam
- The defense of a dissertation or the presentation of a professional project

The evaluated elements and their weighting in the final grade are indicated in writing in the course syllabus provided to the students at the beginning of each course. This information cannot be modified throughout the academic year.

#### **Article 27: Exam Sessions**

- Students are entitled to two final exam sessions per course and per semester for **theoretical exams and one session for clinical exams**. The procedures for the final exams, mid-term exams, projects and dissertations **are determined above (Article 25)**, so that the corresponding course is completed at the end of the corresponding semester, in accordance with the provisions of Article 7.
- For the theoretical final exam, students have the choice of taking either or both sessions.
- Students may, if they wish, re-take the exam they took in the first session, if necessary, to improve their exam grade. In all cases, the grade of the second session replaces the grade of the first session.
- Any re-registration of a student who fails a course twice is subject to the prior agreement of the jury, following a meeting between the student and the Head of the institution. The same applies to any subsequent failure.

#### **Article 28: Absences from Assessments**

- Any student who is absent for an assessment, other than the final exam, must justify their absence by presenting a valid written excuse within three working days. Similarly, any absence from a **course or internship, on the eve of a midterm exam**, must be justified by submitting a written explanation with a valid reason within three working days. Students who justify their absence benefit from:
  - A postponed exam, should they fail to take the midterm exam or the **clinical exam**.
  - A new deadline, should they fail to take, within the allotted time, a graded assignment, an end-of-study project, a professional project or a research dissertation. This deadline cannot, in any way, be extended beyond the current semester.
- Absence from both final exam sessions shall result in a grade of zero for that exam.

#### **Article 31: Checking the Exam Paper and Verifying the Grade**

- Students may request, in writing, to view their **final exam** paper within five working days of the posting of grades. **The corrected midterm exam papers may be shown and discussed with students.**
- In the sole case of a clerical error of omission, addition, or deferral, the grade will be corrected upon the decision of the Head of the institution.

### **TITLE SIX – STUDENT LIFE**

#### **Article 46: Election of Class Representatives**

- The election is held by year of study in every program. The representatives and their substitutes are elected at the beginning of every academic year. **One representative and one substitute are elected for each year of study.**
- The election takes place under the supervision of an electoral board composed of three members: a representative of the institution, who chairs the board, and two students (the oldest and the youngest of the non-candidate students).
- The procedures for the election are established by a special text adopted by the University Board.