

SCHOOL OF MEDITERRANEAN AGRICULTURAL ENGINEERING (ESIAM)

SCHOOL OF FOOD INDUSTRY ENGINEERING (ESIA)

HISTORY

The Saint Joseph University of Beirut established the School of Mediterranean Agricultural Engineering (ESIAM) in October 1979 within its Faculty of Engineering and Architecture. The Lebanese state formally recognized ESIAM on February 3, 1987, through Decree No. 3665, with its first class graduating in July 1984. Initially, ESIAM operated next to the USJ Business School - Zahle and Beqaa branches. In 1994, the School moved to Taanayel, where it established an experimental field near the Jesuit Fathers' convent.

The School of Food Industry Engineering (ESIA), founded by USJ in Kfarfalous in southern Lebanon in October 1979, also belongs to the Faculty of Engineering and Architecture. Due to events in the region, ESIA suspended its activities, and reopened in Taanayel alongside ESIAM at the start of the 2003 academic year.

MISSION

ESIAM and ESIA are dedicated to training high-level engineers specializing in the agricultural and agri-food sectors. ESIA-M graduates are trained to stimulate and support the development of these sectors, both in Lebanon and around the world. Indeed, with the intensification of agricultural, rural, and industrial development initiatives in Lebanon and the emergence of new challenges, the need for highly qualified professionals with specific skills continues to grow.

With this in mind, ESIA-M closely follows the major changes we are currently experiencing, particularly the emergence of artificial intelligence. The newly designed programs emphasize: the integration of cutting-edge technologies, artificial intelligence, research and development, management, and marketing. This training will enable our engineers to optimize production processes, improve product traceability, and develop innovative solutions for a more efficient and sustainable agriculture and industry.

Beyond technical excellence, ESIAM is committed to training agents of sustainable development. Its students become innovators, communicators, engaged citizens, and valuable resources for the improvement of societal and human well-being.

Furthermore, through its openness to the Francophone and Arab agricultural, industrial, and academic worlds and its active engagement in research, ESIA-M aims to be at the forefront of reflection on agricultural policies, research, and innovation in this field, striving to fulfill its mission of training and technological outreach.

Its establishment in 1994 in the heart of the agricultural and food production area of the central Bekaa, in Taanayel, confirms its unique identity. Since then, it has embarked on a vast process of modernizing its technological and academic potential. The various research projects and studies being implemented, the availability of necessary means and equipment, and the relationships with several stakeholders in the sector assure ESIA-M a status as an institution with a mission of outreach for all producers in the region.

ADMINISTRATION

Director: Wadih SKAFF

Fundamental Sciences Department: Wadih SKAFF

Food Industry Engineering Department: Charbel MOUAWAD

ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

Administrative Affairs Assistant: Joanna TABET ABOU EID

Academic Affairs Assistant: Céline MACHAALANY ABI BOUTROS

Guard: Tanios (EL) HAJJ

Facility Support Worker: Nadia CHÉHAB

FACULTY

Associate Professor

Wadih (EL) SKAFF

Assistant Professor

Charbel MOUAWAD

Faculty members of another USJ institution:

Suzanne KHAIRALLAH MOUBARAK, Dominique SALAMEH, Eliane ABOU KHALIL, Alexandre MONNIER

Instructors:

Pauline AAD, Mona ABOUD, Michel ABOU ABOUD, Rouba ABOU CHALHOUB, Fady ABOU FAYAD, Eliane ABOU KHALIL, Lara ABOU KHALIL, Rasha ABOU KHATER, Roland ABOU KHATER, Bassel ABOU RJEILY, Ibrahim ABOU SAWAN, Rola AMIL, Fady ASMAR, Soumaya AYADI MAASRI, Fady BAKHACHE, Pierre BLANC, Hamid BOU SAAB, Joëlle BREIDY, Aziz CHAMMA, Rania CHAMMAS, Maria CHAMOUN, Paulette CHELELA ABOU MONCEF, Joseph CHIBANI, Mounia CHIDIAC, Elia CHOUEIRY, Zeinab FAHS, Ziad FARHAT, Roy FEGHALI, Tamara GEBARA, Said GEDEON, Hicham GEHA, Romy GHORAYEB, Ghassan HACHEM, Antoine (EL) HAGE, Nadim HAJJAR, Nizar (EL) HANI, Jules HATEM, Emilio HELAL, Christo HILAN, Jihad HOKAYEM, Najah JAROUSH, Samar KADDAH, Rana KADRY, Joseph KAHWAJI, Liza KAREH, Marilynne KASSIS, Suzanne KHAIRALLAH MOUBARAK, Wadiaa KHOURY, Elias MAATOUK, Cynthia MALLO, Maroun MATAR, Elias MECHREF, Rafick MERHEJ, Soumaya MHAMAD ALI, Chady MOHANNA, Alexandre MONNIER, Betty MORADIDES SAYDE, Charbel MOUAWAD, Eliane MOUAWAD, Peter MOUBARAK, Fady MOUJAES, Vana MOUTRAN, Nahed MSAYLEB, Nina NAJJAR, Michella NEHMÉ, Nabil NEMER, Michelle NMEIR, Charbel OUBA, Rabih(EL) RAMMOUZ, Toufic (EL) RASSI, RIACHY Milad, Walid SAAD, Aline SABBAGH, Maria SAKER, Nada SAKR BOUSTANI, Dominique SALAMEH, Stefany SALAMEH, Lucille SALHA, Samar SALLOUM ARAJI, Fadi SARKIS, Fadi SKAFF, Wadih SKAFF, Hasnaa SLEIMAN, Sami SLEIMAN, Rola STEPHAN, Nadine TENN, Joe TOUMA, Georgette ZAATAR, Rola ZANTOUT YAMAN, Elham ZINATI

Visiting Professors:

Pierre BLANC, Rana KADRY

DEGREES, DIPLOMAS AND CERTIFICATES AWARDED

Bachelor of Engineering in Agri-Food Engineering

Bachelor of Engineering in Agricultural Engineering

University Diploma in Global Supply Chain Management in Southern Mediterranean (GLOB-SM)

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

ESIA

Production and Quality (Production Manager, Quality Manager, R&D Engineer), Marketing and Sales (Product Manager, Technical Sales Engineer, Strategy Consultant), Logistics and Supply Chain (Logistics Manager, Purchasing Manager), Audit and Certification, Distribution, Public Sector and Research.

ESIAM

Agricultural Production and Consulting (Farm Manager, Agricultural Advisor, Agricultural Supply Manager), Agri-food Industry (R&D Engineer, Quality Manager, Production Manager), Public Sector, Research and Education (Researcher, Research and Teaching Fellow), Spatial Planning and Environment (Environmental Project Manager, Sustainable Development Consultant, Landscape Engineer).

TUITION FEES

Preparatory Cycle (ESIA and ESIAM): 128 Fresh US Dollars and 4,922,000 Lebanese Pounds (for semester 1), equivalent in Fresh US Dollars to 183 (exchange rate = 89,500 LBP)

Bachelor of Engineering in Agri-Food Engineering, Bachelor of Engineering in Agricultural Engineering: 160 Fresh US Dollars and 6,141,000 Lebanese Pounds (for semester 1), equivalent in Fresh US Dollars to 229 (exchange rate = 89,500LBP)

SPECIFIC PROVISIONS OF THE INTERNAL REGULATIONS OF STUDY

Article 2 (d): Programs and Cycles

Study programs at the School of Mediterranean Agricultural Engineering (ESIAM) and the School of Food Industry Engineering (ESIA) last a minimum of 10 semesters and correspond to 300 ECTS credits, distributed as follows:

- A preparatory cycle of four semesters.
- An engineering cycle of six semesters, with semester 5 dedicated to specialization, and semester 6 to the end-of-study thesis. The degrees awarded are the Bachelor of Engineering in Agricultural Engineering from ESIAM and the Bachelor of Engineering in Agri-Food Engineering from ESIA. According to the European system, the engineering degrees awarded by ESIAM and ESIA qualify as a “Master’s Degree.”

Article 2 (f): Programs and Cycles

At ESIAM and ESIA, the normal duration of studies is 4 semesters in the preparatory cycle and 6 semesters in the engineering cycle. As for the maximum duration of studies, it is 8 semesters in the preparatory cycle and 12 semesters in the engineering cycle. In this case, students must sign a letter of commitment stating that once this maximum duration is exceeded, they will no longer be entitled to continue their studies at ESIA-M.

Article 3 (f): Courses and Credits

At ESIAM and ESIA, the preparatory cycle corresponds to 120 ECTS credits and the engineering cycle to 180 ECTS credits.

Article 7 (b): Calendar and Schedules

Internships at ESIAM and ESIA are mandatory and last at least one month, taking place during the summer. Registration for the corresponding course unit, as well as its evaluation, occurs in the semester following the completion of the internship. The regulations governing them (duration, attendance, etc.) are detailed in the internship agreement established between the institution, the student, and the host company.

Article 7 (c): Calendar and Schedules

The specializations in the final year of the engineering cycle (S5), which take place in Lebanon or France, as well as the end-of-studies internships (S6), may be subject to variations in duration for several reasons: seasonality of agricultural production, jury dates of host institutions abroad, etc.

Special exceptions for an extension of one additional semester may be granted in the case of students facing these particular situations, subject to the favorable opinion of the Institution’s Board.

Article 7 (d): Calendar and Schedules

Considering the location of the campus, classes run for one hour and fifteen minutes at the following times: 8:15, 9:45, 11:15, 13:30, 15:00, 16:30, and 18:00.

Article 12: Application Forms

There are three admission routes to the School of Mediterranean Agricultural Engineering (ESIAM) and the School of Food Industry Engineering (ESIA):

- First semester of the preparatory cycle (I1): Via the common admission procedure of the USJ.
- Fourth semester of the preparatory cycle (I4): By transfer of academic records from the USJ Faculty of Science, specifically from the Bachelor’s degree programs in Chemistry or Biochemistry – Life and Earth Sciences, after validation of 90 ECTS credits corresponding to the first three semesters.
- First semester of the engineering cycle (S1): Admission based on academic records (sur dossier), taking into account the preliminary decision granted by the Ministry, for holders of a Bachelor of Science degree (Chemistry or Biochemistry), Nutrition, or Agronomy/Agri-Food, or any other diploma deemed equivalent by the USJ Equivalence Commission.

Students express their choice to pursue studies in Agronomy or Agri-Food at the end of the preparatory cycle (I4). This choice will be validated no later than May 30 of the year preceding their enrollment in the specialization (in S3). Once the assignments are finalized, no change of specialization is authorized.

Article 25 (c): Validation and Allocation of Credits

The evaluation system generally includes a final written or oral exam, and, depending on the courses, a midterm written or oral exam, an assessment of attendance in face-to-face classes, and continuous assessment/coursework (TC).

The percentage attributed to each assessment method for every course is specified by the administration, in consultation with the relevant instructor, at the beginning of the year.

The continuous assessment (TC) may consist of application exercises, study reports, field trip reports, laboratory work reports, guided projects, posters, oral presentations, etc.

Article 26 (c): Exam Calendar

Students must submit the internship report evaluation components by the deadlines set by the administration. Otherwise, a cumulative penalty will be applied to the grade of the relevant course, based on the number of days the submission is late (2.5 points/100 per day of delay).

Article 29 (b): Grading System

At ESIAM and ESIA, a minimum grade of 10/20 is required to pass a course.

If a student fails a required course, they must re-register for it at the first occurrence of its offering in the subsequent semesters.

Article 37: Academic Integrity and Rigor

The plagiarism percentage that will result in the refusal of the document presented by the student is 30% for all types of reports (Continuous Assessment (TC), internship reports, etc.) and 25% for the end-of-studies thesis/dissertation.