

# SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK (ESTS)

## HISTORY

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The School of Social Work (ESTS) is a higher education institution for social work, affiliated with the Faculty of Humanities at the Saint Joseph University of Beirut (USJ).

Founded in 1948 under the name of Lebanese School of Social Training and recognized as a “public utility” by the Lebanese State, the School obtained a change of name to School of Social Work on September 1, 2025, by Decree No. 1025.

It trains social workers to be agents of change and development by forging professional identities based on specific competency-based reference frameworks.

ESTS adheres to the USJ Charter and to the values of democracy, solidarity, and equity.

Moreover, it affirms the right to be different and the freedom of expression, while combating all forms of discrimination and exclusion.

It is a platform for expertise and know-how exchange, offering annual permanent training courses that are either diploma-awarding or qualifying.

At ESTS, all educational programs are grounded in a process that emphasizes support, partnership, alternation, and transversality. Students are given a central role and responsibility in shaping their own training pathways, with a focus on interactive teaching methods and tailored pedagogical support for both individuals and groups. ESTS maintains national-level collaborations with both the public and associative sectors, and conducts research on a range of social issues to develop innovative professional practices and contribute to the shaping of national social policies.

ESTS initiates pilot projects rooted in the Lebanese context, in collaboration with various social actors.

It also develops international partnerships in the areas of training, research, and action-oriented projects. As a member of several regional and international networks – encompassing schools of social work, university pedagogy platforms, and professional associations – ESTS actively contributes to academic and professional exchange.

## MISSION

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- **Professional development of agents of change and development in social work:** social work is at the heart of the job and is defined as “a multifaceted profession encompassing a wide range of curative or preventive professional activities conducted by qualified individuals within public or private structures, targeting individuals, families, groups, or communities in order to help them solve their problems or enhance their capacities.”
- **Research in social work:** enabling the reflective analysis of social problems and social work intervention models to follow up on changes emerging from societal crises and transformations in the local, regional, and international contexts. In all its forms, research generates knowledge that supports the development of social policies and the creation of innovative practices.
- **Action in social work:** encouraging innovation by promoting pilot projects and pioneering interventions across various fields of practice. It favors partnerships with actors from the public, private, and/or associative sectors.

## ADMINISTRATION

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**Director:** Rima MAWAD

**Honorary Directors:** Hyam SAMAHA KAHI, May HAZAZ, Maryse TANNOUS JOMAA

**Coordinator of the Bachelor in Social Work Program:** Lina ABI RIZK (EL) KHOURY

**Coordinator of the Master in Social Work Program:** Rima MAWAD

**Coordinator of the PhD in Social Work Program:** Houwayda MATTA BOU RAMIA

**Coordinator of the Professional Development Unit:** Maryse TANNOUS JOMAA

## ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

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**Grants Manager and Academic Coordinator:** Tania KHANATI  
**Academic Support Officer:** Julie (EL) HELOU

## FACULTY

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### Professor Emeritus

Jamile KHOURY

### Professors

Houwayda MATTABOUE RAMIA, Maryse TANNOUS JOMAA

### Associate Professors

Rita CHOUCHANI HATEM, Rima MAWAD

### Assistant Professor

Lina ABI RIZK (EL) KHOURY

### Lecturers

Karam ABI YAZBECK, Elie ABOU AOUN, Nadia BADRAN, Rita CHAHWANE, Marie-Thérèse (Nora) DACCACHE, Valérie DAOU, Amal FARHAT, Anita YOUSSEF (EL) HAJJ, Claudine GHAZIRI NASR, Nayla IBRAHIM AHMAD, Tania KHANATY, Sandy (EL) KHOURY, Danièle MATTAR KARAM, Tala KHLAT, Zeina MEHANNA MARTELLONI, Amal MOUKARZEL DAMIEN, Hana HALABI NASSIF, Carole Émile NEHMÉ, Carla RICHA DAGHER, Sabah SALIBA, Maria SFEIR, Dani TOUMA (EL) RASSY, Nabil WEHAIBÉ

### Instructors

Sima ANTABLI, Marianne AOUAD BAZ, Maguy SALAMEH

### Practical Trainers

Maria ABI HACHEM SELWAN, Ramona BAAYNO (EL) DIB, Zeinab MORTADA, Lara (EL) SALIBI.

### Faculty members of another USJ institution

Gloria ABDO, Rock (EL) ACHY, Elise AYOUB, Eliane BOU KHALIL MANSOUR, Nathalie CHEMALY, Ursula (EL) HAGE, Mohamad Tarek (EL) HALABI, Johanna HAWARI BOURJELY.

## DEGREES, DIPLOMAS AND CERTIFICATES AWARDED

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Bachelor in Social Work

Master in Social Work, concentrations:

- Family and Socio-educational Counseling
- Engineering of Social Development

PhD in Social Work

University Diploma in Social Entrepreneurship

University Diploma in Marital and Family Mediation

University Diploma in Humanitarian Crises, Solidarity and International Cooperation

University Diploma in Migration and Forced Displacement

## JOB OPPORTUNITIES

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Social worker, Family intervention and services giver, Case manager, Community social worker, Social animator, Special educator and individual psychoeducational social worker.

### For master's degree graduates:

**FSEC:** Psychosocial counselor, Family and couple counselor, Family mediator, Career counselor.

**ESD:** Project/program manager, Community services manager, Social entrepreneur or SE coach, Consultant in FSEC or ESD fields of work (evaluation, monitoring, project design, capacity building, etc.), NGO manager.

### Targeted competencies for a Social Worker holding a PhD in Social Work

Research and development of knowledge and practices in social work / Innovation in the professional field / Contribution to the design and analysis of social policies / Higher education teaching in specialization

## **TUITION FEES**

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Bachelor in Social Work, Master in Social Work, concentrations: Family and Socio-educational Counseling, Engineering of Social Development: 125 Fresh US Dollars and 4,780,000 Lebanese Pounds (for semester 1), equivalent in Fresh US Dollars to 178 (exchange rate = 89,500 LBP).

PhD in Social Work: 76 Fresh US Dollars and 2,865,000 Lebanese Pounds (for semester 1), equivalent in Fresh US Dollars to 108 (exchange rate = 89,500 LBP).

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

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### *Article 29-c: Grading System*

At ESTS, grade readjustment does not apply to internships: any grade below 10/20 requires the internship to be repeated. The student must re-register for all the credits associated with the course in question. Each internship course may be retaken only once. In the event of a second failure, continuation of studies at ESTS will no longer be permitted.

### *Article 30-e: Jury*

Questions relating to a student's unsuitability for the profession are addressed by the ESTS Board. The Board may, in a confidential meeting, determine whether a student is unfit to continue their professional training. Grounds for such a decision may include violations of social work ethics or behavioral issues that represent a serious obstacle to professional practice and/or may place potential beneficiaries at risk.

The student is invited to attend the meeting and may be accompanied by a reference expert. The Board may consult relevant referees and take appropriate action in accordance with its statutes. Any decision by the ESTS Board to suspend a student's studies is final and not subject to appeal.