

FACULTY OF MEDICINE (FM)

HISTORY

The Jesuits envisioned a Faculty of Medicine in Beirut as early as 1872. In September 1876, Fr. Remi Normand, became Rector of the Saint Joseph University (USJ) and turned this vision into reality. On May 7, 1883, the Society of Jesus and the French government reached an agreement that allowed the School of Medicine to open later that year, on November 30. The School started in a USJ annex with 11 students, under the leadership of Chancellor Fr. Hippolyte Marcellier.

Instruction was given in French. The French consul appointed and chaired a commission that required candidates to pass written and oral exams for admission to the School of Medicine. The Medical Diploma program began with a first-year curriculum covering physics, inorganic and organic chemistry, medical natural history, osteology, articulations, myology, and elements of physiology. In the second year, students studied anatomy, physiology, and pathology. The third year included clinical practice, surgery, obstetrics, therapeutics, and hygiene. In the School's second year, many candidates applied for admission, but only 25 were accepted after a strict selection process. Classes began in 1883. In June 1887, Profs. Villejean and Landouzy came to Beirut to administer the final exams. Four candidates passed and became the first medical graduates of the Faculty: Joseph Gebara, Skandar Habib Ghorayeb, Dimitri Sopovitch, and John Perpignani. In 1890, young Lebanese medical students traveled to Constantinople for exams, which were offered in Turkish or French, and received free accommodation. Their knowledge of French gave them an advantage over students from the Syrian Protestant College, whose courses were taught exclusively in Arabic.

On October 6, 1888, following reports from the presidents of the exam juries, the French Minister of Public Instruction informed the Minister of Foreign Affairs that students of the Beirut School of Medicine deemed worthy would receive a Medical Doctor Diploma issued and signed by his department. The school then officially adopted the title of the French Faculty of Medicine of Beirut, and the duration of studies was extended to four years. Two years later, Egypt recognized this degree, though graduates continued traveling to Constantinople to take exams to be authorized to practice in the Ottoman Empire. In 1895, Fr. Cattin, appointed Chancellor, arranged for two official juries, one French and one Ottoman, to come to Beirut annually on the same date to conduct the exams. Successful candidates received a French State Diploma from the Minister of Public Instruction in France and an Ottoman State Diploma from the Imperial Faculty of Constantinople. Ten years after France, the Ottoman government officially recognized the Faculty's titles and privileges, allowing it to award two state diplomas simultaneously.

In 1910, the Faculty reamined near the University, at the site of today's Faculty of Law and Political Science, but the premises could no longer accommodate the 210 students of medicine and pharmacy. A large plot of land had been acquired on Damascus Road, where Fr. Boulo moy had spent about ten years creating a remarkable botanical garden. On this land, Fr. Mattern designed the plans for the new Faculty. On November 21, 1911, the foundation stone of the future buildings was laid during a solemn ceremony. On November 19, 1912, classes began in the new Faculty, welcoming over 300 students, with Fr. Gerard de Martimprey succeeding Fr. Cattin as Chancellor.

In October 1914, the Faculty counted 12 professors, 10 clinic heads, 305 medical students, and 50 pharmacy students. Fr. de Martimprey was mobilized, and Fr. Cattin temporarily resumed the position of Chancellor. Despite the Franco-German war declared on August 2, 1914, Fr. de Martimprey opened the Faculty for the October term. Less than 20 days later, France severed relations with Turkey, forcing the Faculty to close immediately that same afternoon. On November 23, the Jesuits were expelled, and on December 4, 1914, after prolonged and difficult delays, the professors were authorized to leave the country. Students had to interrupt their studies; some, thanks to Fr. Cattin, went to France, where they were admitted to French faculties. During the Great War, the Faculty of Beirut experienced many challenges. Its buildings were converted into a telegraph school, a police station, and were later assigned to the Medical School of Damascus.

On October 7, 1918, a French flotilla dropped anchor in the port of Beirut. As soon as Fr. de Martimprey disembarked, he visited the Faculty and began to reorganize, classify and assess the damage. It was a monumental task, but by January 17, 1919, the Faculty was largely restored. Entrance exams were held on February 4, and on March 18, George Picot, the first French High Commissioner in Lebanon, opened the doctoral session before an all-French jury. From then on, the duration of studies was set at five years, increasing to six years in 1927 and seven years in 1935.

Smooth Sailing

Professors from French faculties continued to serve at the Faculty of Beirut until December 1976, working alongside local professors to form the exams juries for medicine and pharmacy. Between 1887 to 1976, a total of 299 professors from the faculties of Paris, Lyon, Montpellier, Bordeaux, Toulouse, Algiers, Nancy, Marseille, Lille, Rennes, Strasbourg, and Clermont-Ferrand participated in these delegations.

By 1920, the Faculty had grown to 250 students, and its diplomas allowed graduates to practice medicine in Syria, Palestine, Egypt, Iraq, Transjordan and Persia. That year, the Institute of Chemistry, the Institute of Bacteriology, and a Dental School were established. In October 1922, a School of Midwifery opened within the Maternity Department. The increasing engagement of USJ in Lebanese society was evident in its student recruitment efforts. Both the total number and the proportion of Lebanese students increased, while the number of foreign students declined significantly. Between 1883 and 1924, 534 Lebanese students enrolled in their first year of medicine; this number doubled between 1924 and 1963. Students from outside Lebanon, primarily from other regions of the Ottoman Empire and Egypt, formed the majority of first-year medical students between 1904 and 1923, comprising about 64% of the student body. However, their proportion began to decrease gradually from 1924 to 1953, reaching around 50%, and then dropped sharply thereafter.

The process of Lebanization among the teaching staff began gradually between 1920 and 1940. At the Faculty of Medicine and Pharmacy, the first clinical chiefs were from the region as early as the late 19th century. However, it was only in 1932 that Lebanese faculty members began to hold chairs, which remained uncommon at the time. Dr. Balthasar Melconian became the first Lebanese professor to hold such a position, after serving as assistant to Prof. Negre, and later as substitute professor of anatomy, before taking the Chair of Anatomy and Operative Medicine. Dr. Philippe Thomas followed as the second Lebanese to hold a chair, that of Ophthalmology and Oto-Rhino-Laryngology.

The feminization of the teaching staff progressed slowly, gaining traction only in the 1950s. In 1925, three female students enrolled in the Faculty of Medicine, followed by five more in 1931. Lebanese women remained a minority, and the number of female students stayed very limited until 1943.

Reestablishment

The Second World War did not interrupt the activities of the Faculty. However, the Lebanese Civil War (1975-1990) nearly led to its destruction: the campus was bombed, destroyed, plundered, and abandoned. As conflicts shifted across the capital, courses were relocated to different areas of the capital. The war increasingly complicated the secondment of French professors to USJ, leading to the discontinuation of the French State Diploma of Doctor of Medicine. This change was also directly linked to the promulgation of the statute of Saint Joseph University on June 10, 1975, the statute of the Faculty of Medicine on October 19, 1976, and the election of a Lebanese professor as dean on November 15, 1976. With the graduation of students admitted in November 1976 and those who graduated in the sessions of 1983 and 1984, the issuance of French State Diplomas of Doctor of Medicine at the Faculty of Beirut ended. In total, these diplomas had been awarded to 2,891 doctors. The French Faculty of Medicine became the Faculty of Medicine of USJ, a Francophone university under Lebanese law. Consequently, the French State Diploma of Doctor of Medicine was replaced after a few years by the Medical Doctor (MD) degree.

At the same time, the administration of the Faculty, previously led by a “Chancellor” who was a religious member of the Society of Jesus, was transferred to a lay “Dean,” who is a member of the Faculty elected by their peers. The Rector of USJ often played a significant role in this election process, sometimes holding a decisive voice. The deans who have since served are Professors Nagib Taleb, Josette Naffah, Antoine Ghossain, Pierre Farah, Fernand Dagher, Roland Tomb, and Elie Nemer.

The Faculty Board, once composed of both French and Lebanese members and previously convened in France, became exclusively Lebanese, meeting regularly at the Faculty. Its role has gradually evolved to support the Dean more directly. Another crucial task was the modernization of the Faculty’s programs, which required substantial updates.

The Postdoctoral Education Committee, founded by Dean Antoine Ghossain, sought to create specialization programs in medical and surgical disciplines to prevent young graduates from spending long years abroad. Although this goal took several years to achieve, it eventually allowed residents to complete their training in Lebanon, primarily within the geographically-oriented departments of Hôtel-Dieu de France (HDF), as well as in other approved hospitals. Ultimately, the Faculty issued a Specialist Diploma recognized by the Lebanese

authorities. Trainings abroad thus became much shorter and focused on the acquisition of specialized skills. Between 1981 and 1982, intermittent bombings made access to the Faculty's premises increasingly difficult. Yet, maintaining academic continuity remained essential. Under Dean Taleb's leadership, alternative premises were arranged in secondary schools in Hazmieh and at the Lazarist Fathers' premises in Achrafieh. Instructors and showed remarkable courage, attending classes despite constant danger. During Professor Ghossain's tenure, the Faculty faced even greater instability, moving continuously and becoming nearly inaccessible to students, instructors, and administrative staff. In response, HDF, being less exposed, served as a substitute campus, with classes also held at la Sagesse University, and sometimes at The Sisters' Congregation of the Holy Hearts in Sioufi. All logistical difficulties were overcome through the unwavering determination of Fr. Jean Ducruet, Rector of USJ, and the University Board, ensuring the continuity of education across all sectors, especially in medicine. As a result, no academic year was lost.

During the 16 years of war, the Faculty endured the outbursts of violence that shook Lebanon. While awaiting peace, it faced numerous challenges, accepting all risks to adapt, innovate, and persevere. Through this determination, a period of waiting became one of renewal and creation. The Faculty successfully recovered and restored its premises, allowing students to return to campus for the start of the academic year in October 1991.

As soon as activities resumed, the Faculty had to recover lost time and adapt its structures and programs to meet the current demands of medical education. Innovative initiatives were launched, including new teaching methods, the promotion of research, the creation of research laboratories. The Faculty continued to develop existing specialties, created the Family Medicine Center in collaboration with the Université de Montréal in 1995, and advanced community medicine. It also introduced several university diplomas, and placed great emphasis on humanities such as ethics and sociology, lifelong learning, and international outreach.

The Faculty Today

In 2025, the Faculty of Medicine includes 249 instructors and 938 students (excluding students from affiliated institutions), among them 163 interns and 256 residents. In addition to HDF, the University Medical Center, the Faculty is affiliated by convention with Saint-Joseph University Hospital, and several hospitals (Saint-Charles, Monseigneur Cortbawi, the French Hospital of the Levant, the Eye and Ear Hospital International, the Beirut Eye and ENT Specialist Hospital, the Central Military Hospital, the Psychiatric Hospital of the Cross, Notre-Dame of Bsharri Hospital (CHB), and Serhal Hospital) as well as Saint-Antoine Health Center.

Furthermore, six institutions are affiliated with the Faculty of Medicine: The School of Midwifery, the Institute of Physiotherapy, the Institute of Psychomotor Therapy, the Higher Institute of Speech and Language Therapy, and, since 2017, the Higher Institute of Public Health, and the Institute of Occupational Therapy.

From its first foundation in 1883, the Faculty of Medicine has expanded and transformed through a series of visionary foundations, each reinforcing its commitment to excellence and innovation. In 1912, Father Cattin, constrained by the initial premises, decided to build a new Faculty of Medicine on the Damascus Road in 1912, marking the second foundation. Fr. Cattin completed his vision by building HDF, which remains the largest hospital in Lebanon today. Despite the challenges of the First World War, and the devastation of the Lebanese Civil War, the French Faculty of Medicine demonstrated resilience. Through the tireless efforts of Fr. Ducruet, it underwent a process of Lebanization, firmly establishing itself within the new Saint Joseph University and being rebuilt with the same stones, symbolizing, in many ways, the third foundation. In the early 21st century, part of the Faculty of Medicine was relocated to the Innovation and Sports Campus, which now houses a center for genetics, numerous research laboratories and three affiliated institutes.

As early as 2016, plans for a fourth foundation were set in motion. By the start of the 2020 academic year, the Simulation Center gradually opened its doors. Overlooking a multi-story parking garage, it transformed the historic campus by eliminating vehicle access and dedicating the space solely to pedestrians, students, and instructors. Starting September 2024, the Center evolved into a high-tech hub, featuring a virtual hospital that further enhanced the Faculty's innovative educational offerings. At the southwest end of the campus, a new Faculty of Medicine has emerged on the Damascus Road, continuing Fr. Cattin's legacy. The modern, two-part structure integrates seamlessly into its surroundings, emphasizing transparency and harmony with the botanical garden. Its futuristic design unites all previously scattered departments into a cohesive space, featuring various work areas, new lecture halls, adaptable classrooms, a high-tech library, and upgraded IT platforms. These construction projects accompany numerous academic initiatives, the establishment of new research laboratories, expanded partnerships with leading universities in France and the Francophone world, and international accreditations for research and simulation centers. Ultimately, these efforts embody a culture of excellence that would have made the pioneers of the previous two centuries proud.

MISSION

The Faculty of Medicine at USJ, guided by the ethical and spiritual values of its founders, is committed to training the next generation of healthcare leaders. Its programs combine excellence in medical education with innovation, equipping students with a strong foundation in fundamental sciences, clinical skills, bioethics, and medical research. Students will also gain insights into the healthcare system and its economics, preparing them to address the health needs of populations in Lebanon, the Middle East, and beyond.

The Faculty fosters lifelong learning, scientific curiosity, creativity, and critical thinking, ensuring graduates are prepared to enter specialization programs and meet the major challenges of their careers. Collaborative partnerships and exchanges with regional and international universities, particularly within the Francophone community, further enhance student training and professional development.

The Faculty serves as a center of excellence for medical education and research. It promotes holistic, multidisciplinary care and integrates long-term objectives across initial medical training, post-doctoral specialization, clinical supervision, hospital practice, research, and continuing medical education. Research activities strengthen both student learning and instructor development, while training in medical ethics and bioethics addresses fundamental questions raised by scientific and technological advancements.

The Faculty is dedicated to social responsibility and public health. It promotes health for all, prevents national and international health challenges, and addresses mental and physical well-being within social contexts. It serves diverse communities, combats discrimination, and ensures inclusivity for students, instructors, and staff, including those with specific needs. Lifelong medical training programs extend to all Lebanese doctors, particularly in underserved areas, with a consistent focus on excellence and innovation.

Faithful to its history as the French Faculty of Medicine of Beirut, FM promotes the Arabic and French languages while encouraging the study and use of other languages, particularly English, in teaching and research. The Faculty aims to train doctors who are competent, culturally aware, and trilingual.

Finally, it embraces continuous improvement to meet stakeholder needs, maintain high-quality standards, and enhance overall performance. Its mission combines academic excellence, ethical responsibility, and societal engagement to advance healthcare education, research, and practice.

ADMINISTRATION

Dean: Elie NEMER

Vice-Dean: Eliane NASSER AYOUB

Faculty Board Members

Ayman ASSI, Soha HADDAD ZEBOUNI, Carla IRANI NASR, Marwan NASR, Dania NEHME NASR, Nayla MATAR, Viviane TRAK SMAYRA, Nagi WAKED

Committee Presidents

Initial Medical Training Committee – CFMI: Prof. Gaby KREICHTA

Specialized Medical Training Committee – CFMS: Prof. Hicham JABBOUR

Medical Lifelong Learning Committee – CFMC: Prof. Moussa RIACHY

Evaluation and Docimology Committee – CEDOC: Prof. Simon RASSI

Academic Career Management Committee – CGCS: Prof. Dania NEHME CHELALA

Student and Postdoctoral Affairs Committee: Associate Prof. Eliane NASSER AYOUB

Academic Development Committee (Medical Pedagogy): Prof. Simon ABOU JAOUDE

Quality Assurance Committee: Dr. Elie HELOU

Social Responsibility Committee: Prof. Michele ASMAR, Associate Prof. Zaki GHORAYEB

Clinical Research: Prof. Joseph KATTAN

Fundamental Research: Prof. Nassim FARES

Translational Research: Dr. Hampig KOURIE

Delegate of the Dean for Research: Prof. David ATALLAH

Thesis Group: Prof. Marie-Helene GANNAG YARED

Library: Prof. George ABI TAYEH

Cycle Directors

FCMS: Nassim FARES

SCMS: Remy DAOU

TCMS: Remy DAOU by interim

Internship Coordinator

1st and 2nd Cycles: Lynn ABDO

3rd Cycles and Residents: Khalil JABBOUR

Program Development

Cesar YAGHI, Amer SEBAALY, Elie HELOU

Heads of Academic Departments

Pathological Anatomy: Viviane TRAK SMAYRA

Anesthesia and Resuscitation: Samia MADI JEBARA

Cardiology: Simon ABOU JAOUDE

Thoracic and Cardiovascular Surgery: Georges TABET

General Surgery: Roger NOUN

Pediatric Surgery: Zaki GHORAYEB

Plastic Surgery: Marwan NASR

Dermatology: Roland TOMB

Endocrinology: Marie-Helene GANNAGE YARED

Gastroenterology: Rita SLIM KARAM

Obstetrics and Gynecology: Assaad KESROUANI

Imaging: Tarek SMAYRA

Infectious Diseases: Jacques CHOUCAIR

Internal Medicine: Aline TOHME

Nephrology: Dania NEHME CHELALA

Neurosurgery: Tony RIZK

Neurology: Halim ABBOUD

Oncology Hematology: Joseph KATTAN

Ophthalmology: Naji WAKED

Otolaryngology: Simon RASSI

Orthopedics: Gaby KREICHTA

Pediatrics: Claudia DJAMBAS KHAYAT

Pulmonology: Moussa RIACHY

Psychiatry: Sami RICHA

Radiology Oncology: Elie NASR

Rheumatology: Nelly ZIADE ZOGHBI

Urology: Pierre SARKIS

Directors of Specialty Programs

Pathological Anatomy: Viviane TRAK SMAYRA

Anesthesiology and Resuscitation: Samia MADI JEBARA

Cardiology: Simon ABOU JAOUDE

Cardiac Surgery: Victor JEBARA

Vascular Surgery: Georges TABET

General Surgery: Roger NOUN:

Pediatric Surgery: Zaki GHORAYEB

Plastic Surgery: Marwan NASR

Dermatology: Roland TOMB

Endocrinology: Marie-Helene GANNAGE YARED

Gastroenterology: Cesar YAGHI

Obstetrics and Gynecology: Assaad KESROUANI

Radiology: Tarek SMAYRA

Infectious Diseases: Elie HADDAD
Internal Medicine: George MAALOULY
Family Medicine: Remy DAOU
Emergency medicine: Joelle KHADRA
Nephrology: Dania NEHME CHELALA
Neurosurgery: Ronald MOUSSA
Neurology: Halim ABOUD
Oncology: Joseph KATTAN
Ophthalmology: Elias CHELALA
Otolaryngology: Simon RASSI
Orthopedics: Gaby KREICHTI
Pediatrics: Claudia DJAMABS KHAYAT
Pulmonology: Moussa RIACHY
Psychiatry: Rami BOU KHALIL
Radiation-Oncology: Elie NASR
Rheumatology: Nelly ZIADE ZOGHBI
Urology: Elie NEMER

Laboratories Directors

Laboratory of Research in Physiology and Pathophysiology: Nassim FARES
Laboratory of Research in Surgical Science: Aline KHAZZAKA
Laboratory of Neuroscience Research: Sandra KOBAITER MAARRAWI
Laboratory of Biomechanics and Medical Imaging: Ayman ASSI
Laboratory of Cancer and Carcinogenic Agents: Jad CHEMALY
Center Jacques Loiselet for Medical Genetics and Genomics: Nassim FARES
Ralph Audi Medical Simulation Center: Samia MADI JEBARA

ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

Assistant to the Dean: Feriale HALAWJI YAZBECK

Administrative Coordinator: Sophia JABRI BACHACHA

Administrative Support Officers: Myrna ABOU CHAHINE HAJ OBEID, Camelia BOUALEG, Rania CHAAYA-ARAMOUNI, Therese CHALHOUB ABI AAD, Diana HADDAD KHAWAND

Academic Support Officers: Mireille ABI RACHED KASSIS HARB, Elizabeth CHARBACHI, Madonna CHREIM KMEID, Nancy HOBEIKA, Mona KARAM, Christina MAALOUF, Nancy RIZK NOUAYDER

Communication Officer: Carine BOU ABDO

Receptionists: Mariana BOU SLEIMAN ABOU KHALIL, Nancy LAHAD ABI NADER

FACULTY

Professors

Halim ABOUD, Tony ABDEL MASSIH, Georges ABI TAYEH, Simon ABOU JAOUDE, Hicham ABOU ZEID, Ayman ASSI, David ATALLAH, Rabih AZAR, Viviane CHALHOUB, Claudia DJAMBAS KHAYAT, Nassim FARES, Marie-Hélène GANNAGE YARED, Ismat GHANEM, Soha HADDAD ZEBOUNI, Josiane HELOU MALLAT, Roland HENAINE, Hicham JABBOUR, Joseph KATTAN, Assaad KESROUANI, Aline KHAZZAKA, Joseph MAARRAWI, Samia MADI JEBARA, Ronald MOUSSA, Elie NASR, Marwan NASR, Dania NEHME CHELALA, Elie NEMER, Roger NOUN, Simon (EL) RASSI, Moussa RIACHY, Fréda RICHA, Sami RICHA, Toni RIZK, Zakhia SALIBA, Pierre SARKIS, Riad SARKIS, Samy SLABA, Rita SLIM KARAM, Tarek SMAYRA, Viviane TRAK SMAYRA, Aline TOHME, Nagi WAKED, César YAGHI

Associate Professors

Grace ABI RIZK, Mabel AOUN, Zeina AOUN BACHA, Karine ABOU KHALED, Rami BOU KHALIL, Elias CHELALA, Jacques CHOUCAIR, Georges DABAR, Christine DAGHER MAALOUF, Nabil DIAB, Zaki GHORAYEB (ISSP), Samer GHOSN, Kamal HACHEM, Jeanine (EL) HELOU, Carla IRANI, Khalil JABBOUR, Zeina KADRI, Fadi (EL) KARAK, Georges KHALIL, Georges KHAYAT, Sandra KOBAITER MAARRAWI, Georges MAALOULY, Nayla MATAR, Rita MEDLEJ, Antoine MELKANE, Lina MENASSA MOUSSA, Nicole NACCACHE, Eliane NASSER AYOUB, Georges NOHRA, Rami RACHKIDI, Youakim SALIBA, Fadi (Hanna) SLEILATY, Boutros SOUTOU, Georges TABET, Nelly ZIADE ZOGHBI

Visiting Associate Professor

Laurent HEKAYEM

Assistant Professors

Rami (EL) ABIAD, Walid ABOU HAMAD, Pauline ABOU JAOUDE, Joseph AMARA, Joelle ANTOUN, Fouad AOUN, Hiba AZAR, Riad BEJJANI, Ibrahim BOU ORM, Ghassan CHAKHTOURA, Charbel CHALOUHI, Rabih (EL) CHAMMAY, Alain CHEBLY, Remy DAOU, Bassam EID, Bassem HABR, Elie HADDAD, Maya HALABI, Carine HARMOUCHE, Rita (EL) HAYECK, Elie HELOU, Lamisse KARAM, Nadine (EL) KASSIS, Carole KESROUANI, Ziad KHABBAZ, Nadim KHOUeir, Hampig KOURIE, Firas (EL) MASRI, Abir MASSAAD, Michael OSSEIS, Sandra SABBAGH, Mayssa SAFIEDDINE, Hussein SALAME NASSEREDDINE, Gebrail SALIBA, Amer SEBAALY, Paul Henri TORBEY

Lecturers

Lynn ABDO, Chadi ABI AZAR, Ghada ABI KARAM, Naji ABOU JALAD, Samer ABOU ZEID, Marianne ALAM, Amale AOUN CHERFANE, Edgard ASMAR, Ralph ASSILY, Nakhlé AYOUB, Fares AZOURY, Ziad BASSIL, Kassem BDEIRI, Naïm BEJJANI, Chadi BRAIDY, Alexandre CHAKKAL, Nabil CHEHATA, Jad CHEMALY, Marwan CHEMALY, Antoine CHOUCAIR, Elie CHOUERY, Magda CHOUERY, Ronald DAHER, Iskandar DAOU, Linda DAOU, Roland EID, Elie ETER, Amine FIKANI, Serge FINIANOS, Antoine GERMANOS, Antoine GHANEM, Joseph GHARIOS, Nada GHORAYEB, Carla EI HABER, Charline HACHEM, Christine HAGE (EL), Gilles HAGE (EL), Georges HAJJ, Gilbert HELOU, Elham HOBEIKA, Hadi JALKH, Souheil KARA'A, Rita KARAM SAAB, Anthony KASSAB, Abir KHADDAJ, Joëlle KHADRA, Toufic KIKANO, Jocelyne KYRIAKOS, Dina MADDAH, Linda MAHFOUZ, Toni MANSOUR, Elie MASSOUD, Christian MATTIA, Raymond MIKHAEL, Jean MOUAWAD, Pierre MOUAWAD, Toni (EL) MURR, Joseph NAKAD, Malek NASSAR, Charbel NASSER, Georges NAWFAL, Mario NOUJAIM, Lara RAFFOUL, Jihane ROHAYEM, Ghina SAADE, Rindala SALIBA, Souha SALIBA, Philippe SANIOUR, Anthony SAROUFIM, Fadi (Tanios) SLEILATY, Maroun SOKHN, Farid STEPHAN, Adel TABCHY, Carla TOHME, Joanna TOHME, Chadi WAKED, Jad WAKIM, Saria WAKIM, Tonine YOUNAN FAZAH, Myriam ZARZOUR, Emile ZEIN, Samer ZOGHAIB, Antoine ZOGHBI

Instructors

Gloria ABDO, Guy ACHKOUTY, Joumana ALI ZEINEDDINE, Ghassan AWAR, Georges E. AZAR, Walid BOU RACHED, Charbel BOU YAZBEK, Aïda CHAÏB GHOSN, Nadine CHALLITA, Carole CHERFAN, Daniel CHERFAN, Paméla CHKAIBAN, Alain DAHER, Patrick (EL) HAYEK, Gaby HAYKAL, Patricia FADEL, Joyce HABER, Jad HABIB, Michelle HADDAD, Georges HADDAD, Ramzi HADDAD, Ihab HAJ HASSAN, Joseph HATEM, Sani HLAIS, Robert HOBEIKA, Elias JARADE, Antoine KAHWAJI, Hala KAI, Zeina KANSO, Elie KASSABIAN, Anwar KHABBAZ, Carla KHATER, Ziad KHOUEIR, Alexandra KHOURY, Maroun KHREICH, Vanessa LATTOUF, Alexandre MONNIER, Nada NAJEM NEMR, Hala (EL) RAMI, Carole SAADE RIACHI, Nicole SAYEGH, Nagi SOUAIBY, Samah (EL) TAWIL, Marie-Bernadette TAOUTEL, Marie TOMB, Nelly Rita YAZBECK, Joumana ZACCA FARKOUH, Marouan ZOGHBI

DEGREES, DIPLOMAS AND CERTIFICATES AWARDED

- Medical Doctor (MD)
- Master in Biological and Medical Sciences, concentrations: Biomechanics and Medical Imaging; Genetics and Molecular Biology; Neuroscience; Physiology and Physiopathology; Cancerology and Carcinogenic Agents
- PhD in Biological and Medical Sciences
- University Diploma in Medicine, concentrations: Addictology; Health Sciences Education; Laparoscopy; Mental and Sensory Disability; Microsurgery; Pediatric Emergency

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

General doctor

Specialized physician

Researcher

TUITION FEES

Medical Doctor (MD) (PCEM – DCEM – TCEM 6th year): 302 Fresh US Dollars and 10,935,000 Lebanese Pounds (for semester 1), equivalent in Fresh US Dollars to 424 (exchange rate = 89,500 LBP).

Medical Doctor (MD) (TCEM 7th year): 148 Fresh US Dollars and 5,728,000 Lebanese Pounds (for semester 1), equivalent in Fresh US Dollars to 212 (exchange rate = 89,500 LBP).

Master in Biological and Medical Sciences, concentrations: Biomechanics and Medical Imaging; Genetics and Molecular Biology; Neuroscience; Physiology and Physiopathology; Cancerology and Carcinogenic Agents: 91 Fresh US Dollars and 3,490,000 Lebanese Pounds (for semester 1), equivalent in Fresh US Dollars to 130 (exchange rate = 89,500 LBP).

PhD in Biological and Medical Sciences: 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

SPECIFIC PROVISIONS FOR EACH CYCLE

GENERAL INFORMATION ON MEDICAL PROGRAMS

Initial Program (Pre-Doctoral Medical Studies)

They are divided into three cycles leading to the Medical Doctor (MD) Diploma.

- The First Cycle of Medical Studies (FCMS: Bachelor): six semesters, 15 to 30 credits per semester.
- The Second Cycle of Medical Studies (SCMS: Master): four semesters, 30 credits per semester.
- The Third Cycle of Medical Studies (TCMS: PhD) consists of two years of internship in hospital departments (three semesters per year, including summer semesters), combined with theoretical teaching and the preparation of a research thesis.

Specialized Program (Postdoctoral Studies)

The postdoctoral program offers comprehensive training in a range of medical specialties, aligned with Lebanese provisions, and culminates in the awarding of a specialty diploma conferred by the Faculty. This program is administered by the CEPD (Postdoctoral Teaching Committee).

Students gain access to this training based on their ranking in a competitive exam conducted annually around June, which considers a percentage of their pre-doctoral medical study grades.

The regulations for the First Cycle of Medical Studies (FCMS) comply with the common provisions of the internal regulations of study at USJ. The specific provisions for the FCMS are presented below.

Article 1 - Admission Requirements for the FCMS

Admission to the FCMS is conducted through a competitive exam. The Faculty organizes two exams annually: the first in February and the second in July. Detailed admission requirements can be found in the “Application Files” brochure, which is updated annually for this purpose.

Article 2 - Content of the FCMS Program

The FCMS program provides university-level education in fundamental sciences relevant to medical studies, as well as foundational courses that cover normal human function and introduce the pathophysiology of diseases.

Article 3 - Courses

Each course is an independent unit, whether required or elective, that students must successfully complete during the semester. A system of prerequisite courses is in place to ensure the coherence of the programs. At the Faculty of Medicine, students cannot register in certain courses without successfully completing the necessary prerequisite courses.

Article 4 - FCMS Program and Semester Organization

Studies are organized into independent semesters, each lasting 14 effective teaching weeks.

The standard duration of the FCMS program is 6 regular semesters. However, students may adjust this study pace, with a maximum duration of 8 semesters (four academic years).

The cycle requires a total of 180 credits, which includes 136 credits for required disciplinary courses, 9 credits for required general culture courses, and 35 credits for optional courses. Optional courses must be chosen from the list provided by the Faculty of Medicine (23 credits of institutions' elective courses) and by other USJ faculties and institutes (12 credits of open elective courses).

The credits required by the University for elective courses are distributed between required courses and

institution's elective courses.

Article 5- Registration and Grace Period

Students normally register for 30 credits per semester. However, with the institutional approval and provided they are not experiencing academic difficulties, they may exceed this limit to a maximum of 36 credits per semester and a maximum of 75 credits per academic year (including the summer semester, if exceptionally offered). Any registration exceeding 36 credits requires prior approval from the Dean and subsequently, an exemption from the Rector [See Article 2, p.5]. Registration in courses occurs during the two weeks leading up to the start of the semester. Students may modify their course selections by withdrawing from a maximum of two courses during a grace period, normally of one week. After this period, all registrations become final.

Article 6 – Validation of The Courses' Learning Outcomes

Studies are organized into independent semesters, each lasting 14 effective teaching weeks, followed by two weeks of exams.

Students assessment is primarily conducted through final exams. In certain cases, formative or summative midterms may precede the final exams. Additionally, a part of the assessment may include graded assignments (TPC). An exam will be scheduled at the end of each half-semester or semester to evaluate the learning outcomes. Students must achieve a score higher than 60/100 on the average of all exams for a course to validate it.

Each course carries a weighting coefficient that corresponds to the number of credits assigned to it. There is no compensation system between courses.

There are no make-up exams in case of failure in a course.

Students who fail a course with a score of 50/100 or higher are entitled to a free re-registration for that course when it is next offered. Upon re-registration, they must successfully pass the course. Should they fail a second time (with a grade below 60), re-registration for that course is mandatory.

Students who fail a course with a score below 50 must re-register for that course when it is next offered.

It should be noted that all grades received for a course (from one or multiple registrations) will appear on the student's grade transcript.

Only the most recent grade for a course will appear on the student's report card.

Article 7 - Grading System and Grade Adjustments Table 1 - Grading System (Passing Grade = 60/100)

If the failure rate for a specific course exceeds 15%, a re-evaluation of both the exam and the teaching will be conducted. This process may result in changes to the passing requirements for that course.

Article 8 – Validation of Learning Outcomes and Students' Progress Evaluation

To recall, the standard duration of the FCMS program is six regular semesters. However, students may adjust this study pace, with a maximum duration of 8 semesters (four academic years).

The validation of learning outcomes and the progress of students are conducted by a jury comprising the Dean or their delegate, the President of the Initial Medical Training Committee (CFMI), the Director of the FCMS, and the Director of the Evaluation and Docimology Group (GEDOC). Any decisions made by the jury through the Competency Verification Process (CVP*) require approval from the Dean.

Each course carries a weighting coefficient that corresponds to the number of credits assigned to it.

There are no make-up exams in case of failure of a course.

*Evaluation of students' academic journey and their socio-medical situation.

Article 8.1 – Validation of Learning Outcomes and Students' Progress Evaluation at the End of Each of the First Five Semesters

At the end of each of the first 5 semesters of the FCMS, the jury assesses which courses each student has successfully completed. They determine whether the student qualifies for a free re-registration (for scores between 50 and 60) or must re-register regularly (for scores below 50).

The jury calculates the student's program average (MP), defined as the weighted average of all course grades accumulated since the beginning of the cycle. If a course has been retaken multiple times, only the most recent grade is considered in calculating the MP. The jury then deliberates as follows:

8.1.1 - If students have passed all courses with an average of 70/100 or higher, they will continue their studies in the FCMS without restrictions.

8.1.2 - If students have passed all courses but have an average below 70/100, or if they have not passed one

or more courses (with a grade below 60), they will undergo a competency verification process (CVP). Following this, they may continue their FCMS studies on probation or without probation.

8.1.3 - If students are on academic probation with an average below 60/100, or if they have not accumulated at least 60 credits in four semesters or 75 credits in five semesters, they will also undergo the CVP. Based on this evaluation, they may or may not be authorized to continue in the FCMS.

Article 8.2: Validation of Learning Outcomes and Students' Progress Evaluation at the End of the Sixth Semester
At the end of the 6th semester of the FCMS, the jury evaluates each student's performance, determining the courses passed and calculating their "MP". The jury then deliberates:

8.2.1 - If students have validated 180 credits with an average of 70/100 or higher, they complete the FCMS and are authorized to transition to the SCMS.

8.2.2 - If students have validated 180 credits but have an average below 70/100, they complete the FCMS and receive a certificate of completion. This certificate allows them to enroll in programs outside the medical program at the Faculty of Medicine, but they will not be authorized to transition to the SCMS. The jury will subject them to a competency verification process (CVP), after which they may, or may not be permitted to re-register in specific courses they previously passed with low scores during one or two additional semesters (provided they do not exceed a total of eight semesters in the FCMS), in an effort to improve their average. During these additional semesters, only the latest grade obtained in each retaken course will be considered for the calculation of the new average.

8.2.3 - If students have not validated the 180 credits, they will not complete the FCMS and will not be authorized to transition to the SCMS.

8.2.3.1 - If students need a maximum of 5 credits to complete the FCMS, they will retake the failed courses in an extraordinary session. After this session, they will undergo a competency verification process (CVP), after which:

8.2.3.1.1 - If students validate the 180 credits with an average of 70/100 or higher, they may or may not be authorized to continue their medical studies and transition to the SCMS.

8.2.3.1.2 - If students validate the 180 credits with an average below 70/100, or if they fail to validate the 180 credits (regardless of their average), they may or may not be permitted to retake the failed courses and some previously passed courses with low grades in one or two additional semesters, with the aim of passing the failed courses and/or improve their average. During these additional semesters, only the most recent grade from each retaken course will be used to calculate the new average. If they validate the 180 credits but are not authorized to transition to the SCMS, they will receive a certificate of completion for the FCMS, allowing them to register in programs outside the medical program at the Faculty of Medicine if desired.

8.2.3.2 - If students need a maximum of 5 credits to complete the FCMS, the jury will subject them to the CVP. Following this, they may or may not be authorized to retake the failed courses and some previously passed courses with low grades in one or two additional semesters, with the aim of validating the failed credits and/or improve their average. During this additional year, the most recent grade from each retaken course will be included in the calculation of the new average.

N.B.: The final list of courses (failed or previously passed) that students choose to retake during a potential fourth additional year (7th and/or 8th semester) must be approved by the cycle director before the start of this additional year. No changes can be made once the year commences.

Article 8.3: Validation of Learning Outcomes and Students' Progress Evaluation at the End of a Possible Fourth Additional Year of the FCMS

During or at the end of the fourth year of the FCMS, following the results of any extraordinary session, the jury will subject students to a competency verification process (CVP), after which:

8.3.1. If students validate 180 credits with an average of 70/100 or higher, they complete the FCMS and are authorized to transition to the SCMS.

8.3.2. If students validate 180 credits with an average below 70/100, they complete the FCMS but are not authorized to transition to the SCMS. They will receive a certificate of completion for the FCMS and may register in programs outside the medical program at the Faculty of Medicine.

8.3.3. If students fail to validate 180 credits, regardless of their average, they will not receive a certificate of completion for the FCMS and will not be authorized to continue their studies at the Faculty of Medicine. Early registration for admission to the SCMS is not permitted. However, this measure does not apply to the course "English for Specific Purposes: Health Studies (HE01)."

Article 9 - Organization of a Summer Trimester

A summer trimester is not routinely scheduled. However, certain courses may be offered during the summer semester if the Deliberation Jury makes an exceptional decision. This is intended to support students in their third year of the FCMS who have not validated 180 credits or who have failed courses with a failure rate exceeding 30%.

Article 10 - Attendance at Educational Activities

Attendance is mandatory for all active learning activities (such as ED, APP, ARC) and practical application sessions (including practical work and clinical internships). Any unjustified absence will result in penalties.

Article 11 - Student Ranking

Students are ranked at the end of the FCMS based on the “ranking average” (weighted) of the grades earned for the 180 credits of the FCMS courses. In courses where students have registered multiple times, the grade from the first registration will be used in the calculation of the ranking average.

Article 12 - Admission to the SCMS

12.1. To transition to the SCMS, students must score an average of at least 70/100 across the 180 credits of the FCMS, which must be completed within a maximum of eight semesters (four academic years).

12.2. Students are required to undergo the Competency Verification Process to qualify for the SCMS under the following circumstances:

*If they have been on academic probation (average < 70/100) or have failed to validate certain credits during one or more semesters of the FCMS.

*If they have completed the FCMS in more than 6 regular semesters.

Article 13 - Procedures for Withdrawing from the FCMS

The selection process for admission to the Faculty of Medicine, conducted through a competitive exam, creates a moral obligation for admitted students to remain committed to the Faculty throughout their studies.

Any intention to withdraw during the course of study before obtaining the diploma is therefore subject to the following regulations:

During the first cycle of medical studies, students wishing to withdraw must send a resignation letter to the Dean, by copying the program director, before the end of May (three months prior to the start of the following academic year). The transfer of the student's file to the host university will be carried out solely by the Faculty Secretariat, and the student must cover the costs of this transfer.

After this date, the request will be rejected for administrative reasons, as the student's departure may hinder the planning of programs, the organization of clinical internships, and the renewal of contracts for supervisors and instructors.

Any withdrawal from studies after this date will result in a written reprimand on the student's transcript and the obligation to pay all tuition fees for the following academic year, as well as the costs associated with transferring the student's file.

Regulations for the Second Cycle of Medical Studies (SCMS) comply with the common provisions of the internal regulations of study at USJ. The specific provisions for the SCMS are presented below.

Article 1 - Content of The SCMS Program

The SCMS program provides university-level education in clinical sciences addressing all medical and surgical pathologies, as well as foundational courses that cover normal human function and introduce the pathophysiology of diseases.

Article 2 - Admission Requirements for the SCMS

Achieving a program average of $\geq 70/100$ for the 180 credits of the FCMS within a maximum of eight semesters (four academic years) enables admission to the SCMS.

Regardless of nationality or faculty of origin, students are eligible for admission to the SCMS if they meet the requirements for transitioning from the FCMS (validation by equivalence of all courses and the entire program), provided they are ranked within the eligible list from the FM - USJ entrance exam.

Article 3 - SCMS Program: Course and Credits

The SCMS program spans two years: SCMS1 and SCMS2. Studies are organized into four independent semesters: S1, S2, S3, and S4. Each semester includes 30 required credits and lasts approximately 14 weeks. Each semester comprises several courses (or certificates); and each course is assigned a number of credits based on the required workload.

Students have the option to complete their cycle in 6 semesters if necessary for the validation of the SCMS.

Article 4 - Validation of the Courses' Learning Outcomes

Each course is followed by a final exam. Midterms may be administered during certain courses. Each course is validated independently and contributes to the “program average” (MP) of the student, with each course weighted according to the number of credits assigned to it. The MP is defined as the average of the weighted grades for all courses completed since the beginning of the cycle (if a course has been retaken during an additional year, the most recent grade is used in the calculation of the MP).

To validate a course, students must achieve a grade of $\geq 60/100$. Students who fail a course may take a second session within two weeks following the conclusion of semester classes. If the student achieves a score of $\geq 60/100$ in the second session, the course is validated; the effective grade recorded will be 60/100, which will be included in the calculation of the program average (MP) and reflected on the grade transcript. If the student achieves a score of $< 60/100$ in the second session, the course is deemed failed, and this grade will also contribute to the MP.

Validation of the externship is conducted in the same manner as any other course in the SCMS, requiring an internship grade of $\geq 60/100$. This grade is the average of the assessments assigned to the various components of the externship. If students fail, they must complete an additional month of externship during July of the SCMS1 year, under the supervision of an instructor designated by the SCMS administration. This remedial month will replace the vacation period normally scheduled for that academic year.

In case of failure during this make-up month, the student will be subject to a competency verification process (CVP*) to determine the appropriate measures (see other failures, average, etc.). In case of cancellation of an internship for disciplinary reasons (unjustified absences, disciplinary sanctions, etc.), students will also be summoned before a Disciplinary Committee chaired by the Dean.

* Evaluation of students' academic journey and their socio-medical situation.

Article 5 - Grading System and Grade Adjustment Table 1 - Grading system (passing grade = 60/100)

After each exam, the Evaluation and Docimology Group (GEDOC) initiates a validation procedure. GEDOC conducts a thorough analysis of the exam results and collects feedback from students. This process allows for discussions with the instructors responsible for the course to address any exam questions deemed unfair or incorrect. If necessary, instructors may adjust the grading scale or exclude certain questions.

Article 6 - Validation of Learning Outcomes and Students' Progress Evaluation in SCMS

The validation of learning outcomes and the progress of students are conducted by a jury comprising the Dean or their delegate, the President of the Initial Medical Training Committee (CFMI), the Director of the FCMS, and the director of the Evaluation and Docimology Group (GEDOC). Any decisions made by the jury through the Competency Verification Process (CVP*) require approval from the Dean.

Each course carries a weighting coefficient that corresponds to the number of credits assigned to it.

There is no compensation system between the courses.

* Evaluation of students' academic journey and their socio-medical situation

Article 6.1: Validation of Learning Outcomes and Students' Progress Evaluation at the End of the First Three Semesters (S1, S2 and S3) of the SCMS.

At the end of each of the first three semesters of the SCMS, and following the results of the make-up exams for each of the three semesters, the jury assesses which courses each student has successfully completed, as well as their average (if students present a second session, the grade of 60/100 will be considered in calculating the MP). The jury then deliberates as follows:

- 1- If students have passed all courses with an MP of 70/100 or higher, they will continue their studies in the SCMS.
- 2- If students have passed all courses but have an MP below 70/100, or if they have not passed one or more courses (with a grade below 60), regardless of their MP, they will continue their studies in the SCMS on academic probation. Students may undergo a Competency Verification Process (CVP), as determined by the jury (see CVP guidelines, Article 9 of the SCMS regulations).

Article 6.2 – Validation of Learning Outcomes and Students’ Progress Evaluation at the End of the 4th Semester (S4) of the SCMS Program

At the end of the 4th semester of the SCMS, and following the results of the make-up exams for each of the three semesters, the jury assesses which courses each student has successfully completed, as well as their average (if students present a second session, the grade of 60/100 will be considered in calculating the MP). The jury then deliberates as follows:

- 1- If students have validated all 120 credits of the cycle with an average of 70/100 or higher, they complete the SCMS and are authorized to transition to the TCMS.
- 2- If students have validated all 120 credits of the cycle with an average below 70/100, they complete the SCMS and receive a certificate of completion. This certificate allows them to register in programs outside the medical program at the Faculty of Medicine, but they will not be authorized to transition to the TCMS.
The jury subjects students to a Competency Verification Process (CVP), after which they may or may not be permitted to re-enroll in specific courses they have previously passed with low scores during a 3rd year of the SCMS, in an attempt to increase their average >70 and, if possible, transition to the TCMS (during this additional year, the most recent grade from each retaken course will be included in the calculation of the new average).
- 3- If students have not validated all 120 credits and have failed ≤ 4 certificates, they do not complete the SCMS and are not authorized to transition to the TCMS. However, they must retake the failed certificates during the extraordinary session.

Following the extraordinary session, students undergo CVP, after which:

- a. If students have validated the 120 credits of the cycle with a weighted average (MP) $\geq 70/100$, they may or may not be authorized to continue their medical studies and transition to the TCMS.
- b. If students have validated the 120 credits of the cycle with an average $< 70/100$, or if they have not validated all 120 credits regardless of their MP, they may or may not be authorized to register in the failed certificates and/or certain previously passed certificates with the lowest scores during a 3rd year of the SCMS. This allows students to attempt to validate the failed credits and/or increase their MP. During this additional year, the most recent grade obtained in each retaken course will be counted for the calculation of the new MP.
If the CVP does not authorize students to register in the third year but they have validated the 120 credits, they will receive a certificate of completion for the SCMS (which allows them to register “outside the medical program” at the Faculty of Medicine, if desired).
If the CVP does not authorize students to register in the third year and they have not validated the 120 credits, they will not receive a certificate of completion and will be excluded from the Faculty of Medicine.
- 4- If students have not validated the 120 credits with more than 4 failed certificates, they will not validate the SCMS, will not be authorized to transition to the TCMS, and will not be allowed present for an extraordinary session.

The jury will subject students to the CVP. Following this, they may or may not be authorized to retake the failed courses and some previously passed courses with low grades during a 3rd year of the SCMS, aiming to validate the failed credits and/or improve their average. During this additional year, the most recent grade from each retaken course will be included in the calculation of the new average.

N.B: The final list of courses (failed or previously passed) that students choose to retake during an additional third year (5th and/or 6th semester) must be approved by the cycle director before the start of this additional year. No changes can be made once the year commences.

Article 6.3 – Validation of Learning Outcomes During and at the End of a Possible Third Year of the SCMS

During or at the end of the 3rd year of the SCMS, and after the results of a possible make-up exam session, the jury subjects students to the CVP following which:

1. If students have validated 120 credits of the cycle with an MP $\geq 70/100$, they complete the SCMS and are authorized to transition to the TCMS.
2. If students have validated the 120 credits of the cycle with an average $< 70/100$, they complete the SCMS but are not authorized to transition to the TCMS. They will receive a certificate of completion of the SCMS, allowing them to register in non-medical studies at the Faculty of Medicine.
3. If students have not validated the 120 credits, regardless of their average they will not receive a certificate of completion for the SCMS and will not be authorized to continue their studies at the Faculty of Medicine.

Article 7 - Attendance at Educational Activities

Attendance is mandatory for all active learning activities (ED, APP, ARC, etc.) and practical application sessions (Practical work, clinical internships, etc.). Any unjustified absence will result in penalties.

Penalty for absence from an ED: A 1% deduction from the final grade will be applied for the first unjustified absence, and a 3% deduction for the subsequent absence within the same program. Upon a third absence from an ED, the certificate will be invalidated, and access to the final exam will be prohibited. Students will receive a score of 0 for this final session and will only obtain 60/100 for any make-up session.

Penalty for absence from clinical internships: An unjustified absence from a clinical internship will result in the internship being invalidated, with the student receiving a score of 0, which will be included in the calculation of the overall average for externships.

Repeated absences from multiple clinical internships will incur further consequences as outlined in Article 4.

Article 8 - Student Ranking

Students are ranked at the end of the SCMS based on the average of the grades obtained in the first session for the 120 credits of SCMS courses.

Article 9 - Admission to the TCMS

Article 9.1 - To transition to the TCMS, students must score an MP $\geq 70/100$ across the 120 credits of the SCMS.

Article 9.2 – Students are required to undergo the Competency Verification Process to qualify for the TCMS under the following circumstances:

- * If they have been on probation one or more times during the SCMS.
- * If they have validated the SCMS in more than 4 regular semesters.
- * If they have validated three or more courses during the 2nd session of one of the four semesters of the SCMS.
- * If they have validated five or more courses during the 2nd session of one of the four semesters of the SCMS.
- * In the case of a non-validated internship after the make-up month, without any other failure in the SCMS.

Early registration is not authorized for admission to the TCMS.

Article 10 - Impact of a Disciplinary Sanction

If, during the SCMS, students receive a reprimand or any higher sanction following a Disciplinary Board, they will no longer be authorized to sit for the CEPD exam.

Article 11 - Procedures for Withdrawing from the SCMS

The selection process for admission to the Faculty of Medicine, conducted through a competitive examination, creates a moral obligation for admitted students to remain committed to the Faculty throughout their studies. Any intention to withdraw during the course of study before obtaining the diploma is therefore subject to the following regulations:

During the first year of the SCMS, students wishing to withdraw must send a resignation letter to the Dean, by copying the program director, before the end of May (three months prior to the start of the following academic year).

During the 2nd or 3rd year of the SCMS, students wishing to withdraw must send a resignation letter to the Dean, by copying the program director, before the end of May (three months prior to the date of choosing internships for the TCMS1).

The transfer of the student's file to the host university will be carried out solely by the Faculty Secretariat, and the student must cover the costs of this transfer.

After these different dates, their application will be rejected for administrative reasons as the student's departure may hinder the planning of programs, the organization of clinical internships, and the renewal of contracts for supervisors and instructors.

Any withdrawal from studies after these dates will result in a written reprimand on the student's grade transcript and the obligation to pay all tuition fees for the following academic year as well as the file transfer fees.

Any withdrawal from studies during the academic year will result in a written reprimand on the student's grade transcript and the obligation to pay all tuition fees for the current academic year as well as the file transfer fees.

AIDE-MÉMOIRE:

- 1- The grade from the first session of the initial registration (pass or fail) in a course will be considered for calculating the student's "ranking average."
- 2- The passing grade for a course in the first session will be counted towards the calculation of the student's "program average."

2' The score of 60/100 will be retained in the event of passing a make-up session or extraordinary session and will be included in the calculation of the "program average."

3- In the case of re-registration for a subject (additional year), the most recent grade will be used to calculate the new "program average."

4- It should be noted that in the case of two registrations, all grades obtained in a course will appear on the student's grade transcript.

5- Only the most recent passing grade for a course, in the event of re-registration, will appear on the student's report card.

The regulations for the Third Cycle of Medical Studies (TCMS) comply with the common provisions of the internal regulations of study at USJ. The specific provisions for the TCMS are presented below.

TCMS Objectives

This cycle aims to provide future doctors with comprehensive theoretical and clinical training, enabling them to diagnose prevalent, urgent, serious, exemplary, preventable, or treatable illnesses based on common reasons for consultation. Students will learn to treat conditions outside their specialty and effectively manage referrals to specialists. Future doctors will also be trained to join community medicine teams, suggest effective preventive actions, educate the public, intervene from a health and economic perspective, and collaborate closely with other health professionals, managing their practice effectively and contributing positively to the smooth running of the health structure in which they work. Medical graduates will also be encouraged to pursue lifelong learning and research. During this cycle, students will learn to write scientific medical texts and deliver oral presentations in French, English, and Arabic.

TCMS Admission Requirements

Achieving a "program average" of $\geq 70/100$ for the 120 credits of the SCMS within a maximum of six semesters (three academic years) enables admission to the TCMS.

Regardless of nationality or faculty of origin, students are eligible for admission to the TCMS if they meet the requirements for transitioning from the SCMS (validation by equivalence of all courses and the entire program), provided they are ranked within the eligible list from the FM - USJ entrance exam.

FIRST YEAR OF TCMS (TCMS1)

Article 1 – Content of the Program

During this year, students complete clinical internships exclusively at *Hôtel-Dieu de France*. Attendance is mandatory for these internships (any unjustified absence is subject to penalties), and students must:

- 1- Participate in service activities:
 - Conduct patient examinations and follow-ups
 - Write observations and follow-up notes (ensuring they are dated and signed)
 - Achieve the stated objectives of the internship as outlined in the student handbook
- 2- Participate in the CRL sessions (Clinical Reasoning Learning).
- 3- Attend conferences (attendance $> 70\%$ is required, with penalties for non-compliance).
- 4- Attend the Clinical and Therapeutic Synthesis Certificate (CSCT) course.

It should be noted that each CSCT exam session will include a 60-minute evaluation on the content covered in the lecture series.

Article 2 – Assessments and Exams in TCMS 1

- 1- Assessment of internships by service doctors. This assessment is primarily based on:
 - The student's attendance in the service
 - Participation in service activities
 - Achievement of objectives: knowledge, skills, attitude
 - Documentation of observations and follow-up notes.

An internship is validated if the score is $\geq 10/20$. Overall success in all internships requires an average $\geq 12/20$. Cancellation of an internship (due to repeated absences, disciplinary action, etc.) will result in a score of 0/20, which will be recorded as the final grade for the internship in question.

The internship grade contributes 30% of the final score.

If the internship is cancelled or unvalidated, students must restart during the vacation period of the TCMS1 year or after the end of the TCMS2 year if the first-year vacation month has already been used, which may delay the acquisition of the Medical Doctor (MD) diploma.

If students accumulate two unvalidated internships within a given year, they will be required to repeat the academic year.

If students have received a reprimand or any higher sanction, they will no longer be authorized to sit for the CEPD exam and their internship will not be validated.

2-An ECOS (Objective and Structured Clinical Exam) is conducted in June. This exam accounts for 30% of the end-of-year grade. The passing grade is 12/20.

3-A written exam for the Clinical and Therapeutic Synthesis Certificate (CTSC) is conducted each semester: the final score contributes 40% of the end-of-year grade. The passing grade is 12/20. At the end of the academic year, the results are submitted to a jury appointed by the Dean.

Article 3- Conditions for the Validation of TCEM1

* Students must pass the ECOS, the CSCT examination, and the evaluation of internships, achieving a score of 60/100 or higher in each. Failure in the clinical internships will result in the need to repeat the academic year.

* If students achieve an overall score of 60/100 or higher across all assessments but fail the CSCT exam and/or the OSCE (with a score below 60/100), they are required to take a structured make-up exam (oral, with or without written components). If both components are included in the make-up exam, the written exam will be weighted at 25% and the oral exam at 75%.

* Students who obtain an overall score between 50 and 60/100 will appear before a deliberation jury appointed by the Dean. The jury will decide on the possibility of a make-up exam or the need to repeat the year.

* Students who receive an overall score below 50/100 will be required to repeat the academic year.

N.B:

1- The grade from the first session will be considered for ranking purposes.

2- In case of success in the 2nd session, students will score 60.00 and this grade will appear on their grade transcript.

No authorization for a third attempt at TCMS1 will be granted.

SECOND YEAR OF TCMS (TCMS2)

Article 1 – Content of the Program

During this year, students complete clinical internships at *Hôtel-Dieu de France* and other hospitals approved by the Faculty. Attendance is mandatory for these internships (any unjustified absence is subject to penalties) and students must:

1- Participate in service activities:

- Conduct patient examinations and follow-ups
- Write observations and follow-up notes (ensuring they are dated and signed)
- Achieve the stated objectives of the internship as outlined in the student handbook

2- Participate in the CRL sessions (Clinical Reasoning Learning).

3-Attend conferences (attendance > 70% is required, with penalties for non-compliance).

4-Write and validate a thesis.

Article 2 – Assessments and Exams in TCMS2

1- Assessment of internships by service doctors. This assessment is primarily based on:

- The student's attendance in the service
- Participation in service activities
- Achievement of objectives: knowledge, skills, attitude
- Documentation of observations and follow-up notes.

An internship is validated if the score is $\geq 10/20$. Overall success in all internships requires an average $\geq 12/20$.

Cancellation of an internship (due to repeated absences, disciplinary action, etc.) will result in a score of 0/20, which will be recorded as the final grade for the internship in question.

The internship grade contributes 30% of the final score.

If the internship is cancelled or unvalidated, students must restart after the end of the TCMS2 year, which may delay the acquisition of the Medical Doctor (MD) diploma.

If students accumulate two unvalidated internships within a given year, they will be required to repeat the

academic year.

If students have received a reprimand or any higher sanction, they will no longer be authorized to sit for the CEPD exam and their internship will not be validated.

2- An ECOS (Objective and Structured Clinical Exam) is conducted each semester. The two OSCE exams account for 25% of the end-of-year grade. The passing grade is 12/20.

3- A final written exam. It forms 30% of the end-of-year grade. The passing grade is 12/20.

4- The final thesis is prepared during the 2 years of the TCMS program. It is submitted to a jury appointed by the thesis supervisor. The passing grade is 12/20. It accounts for 15% of the final grade.

The awarding of the final diploma is contingent upon the validation of the thesis. At the end of the academic year, the results are submitted to a committee appointed by the Dean.

Article 3 - Conditions for the Validation of TCMS2

- Students must pass the ECOS, the CSCT examination, and the evaluation of internships, achieving a score of 60/100 or higher in each.
- Students must validate the clinical internships and successfully defend the thesis.
- If students achieve an overall score of 60/100 or higher across all assessments but fail the CSCT exam and/or the OSCE (with a score below 60/100), they are required to take a structured make-up exam (oral, with or without written components). If both components are included in the make-up exam, the written exam will be weighted at 25% and the oral exam at 75%. Students who have not successfully defended their thesis must complete it and resubmit it to the jury to obtain their diploma.
- Students who obtain an overall score between 50 and 60/100 will appear before a deliberation jury appointed by the Dean. The jury will decide on the possibility of a make-up exam or the need to repeat the year.
- Students who receive an overall score below 50/100 will be required to repeat the academic year.

N.B:

1- The grade from the first session will be considered for ranking purposes.

2- In case of success in the 2nd session, students will score 60.00 and this grade will appear on their grade transcript.

No authorization for a third attempt in TCMS2 will be granted.

Article 4 - Procedures for Withdrawing from TCMS

The selection process for admission to the Faculty of Medicine, conducted through a competitive examination, creates a moral obligation for admitted students to remain committed to the Faculty throughout their studies. Any intention to withdraw during the course of study before obtaining the diploma is therefore subject to the following regulations:

1- During the first year of the TCMS, students wishing to withdraw must send a resignation letter to the Dean, by copying the program director, before the end of May (that is, three months before assuming the role of a 7th-year intern). Students must continue to fulfill their responsibilities until the end of the current academic year. The transfer of the student's file to the host university will be carried out solely by the Faculty Secretariat, and the student must cover the costs of this transfer.

- After this date, their application will be rejected for administrative reasons as the student's departure may hinder the planning of programs, the organization of clinical internships, and the renewal of contracts for supervisors and instructors.

- In case of failure to comply with the deadlines and abandonment of the position after this date, students will be subject to legal proceedings and will be sanctioned by a written reprimand on their grade transcript, and by the obligation to pay all tuition fees for the following academic year as well as the file transfer fees.

2- Any withdrawal from studies during the 7th year of the academic program will result in legal action and will be sanctioned by the issuance of a written reprimand on the student's transcript, and the obligation to pay all tuition fees for the current academic year, as well as the file transfer fees.

Choosing a residency position after successfully passing the CFMS examination constitutes a commitment for the student to continue their training in the first year of residency (Common trunk, pediatrics, anesthesiology-resuscitation). Any withdrawal after this commitment will result in a reprimand on the student's transcript.

Please note that written reprimands on grade transcripts will be communicated to the relevant host institutions (ARES, ULB, UCL, ECFMG, AP-HP or others).

ANNEX 1

Management of a Medical Student's Absence

1. In the event of hospitalization, a medical student is required to notify the Student Affairs Office (SAE) no later than the third working day following the date of hospitalization. The notification must include a detailed medical report issued by the attending physician, which may be submitted by the student or a family member. Upon recovery, the student must personally present a summary of the hospitalization to the SAE, either during the period of medical leave or, at the latest, on the first day of resuming academic activities.
2. Any other absence due to a medical condition that does not warrant hospitalization must be reviewed by the USJ Community Health Center (Medical Sciences Campus) or a physician from HDF. If deemed necessary, the physician may issue a medical leave certificate.

N.B: Any issues regarding the implementation of this procedure must be reported to the SAE.

1-2a. In cases where the student's absence does not coincide with an exam, two scenarios are possible:

- If the absence period does not exceed one week, the SAE may suggest, though not require, a meeting between the student and one of its advisors. This optional meeting aims to provide the necessary academic support to help the student address any gaps incurred during the absence.
- If the medical leave exceeds one week, a meeting between the student and/or a family member and an SAE advisor becomes mandatory. The advisor will determine the frequency of these meetings. After reviewing the case and assessing any potential impact on the student's academic performance for the current semester, the SAE will send a letter to the Director of the predoctoral program to take appropriate measures.
- It is important to note that, under the applicable regulations, absences are permitted up to 30% of the total teaching periods of a given course.

1-2b. In cases where the student's absence coincides with a midterm or final exam, the matter will be reviewed by an ad hoc committee composed of the SAE Head, the program Director, and the Director of the predoctoral program. The following measures will be taken:

For midterm exams:

- In the event of a justified absence, the final score for the course will be adjusted to a total of 100, with the weighting of the remaining assessments being recalculated accordingly.

For final exams of the given period (semester or half-semester):

- In the event of a justified absence, the final exam will be rescheduled for the next regular session in the bachelor's program or the make-up session in the master's program. The grades obtained will be considered final.
- If the justified absence coincides with the make-up exam, the situation will be examined by the ad hoc committee.
- In the SCMS program, if a justified absence overlaps both the final exam and the make-up exam, the student will be permitted to take the exam during an extraordinary session. The grades obtained will be considered final.
- In the FCMS program, if a justified absence prevents the student from earning the required credits to transition to the next program, the case will be referred to the ad hoc committee. Early transition to the SCMS program will not be permitted.

It is important to note that any unjustified absence or one resulting from a disciplinary sanction (individual or collective) during an exam will result in a zero for that exam. This zero will count towards the student's ranking average. Upon retaking the exam, the passing grade will depend on the semester of registration for the course (regular years of the cycle versus an additional year), and the integration of this grade into the different averages will be subject to the approval of the CVP.

Management of Exam Absence Outside of Medical Leave

Definition: Includes the death of a close relative (nuclear family, grandparents), a university-mandated mission, or an internship exchange with prior agreement.

Such cases will be reviewed on an individual basis by the relevant faculty authorities (Dean, Vice Dean, Director of the predoctoral program and the concerned program, Student Affairs Office, Evaluation Committee, etc.).

ANNEX 2

Merit Scholarship Regulations as of the 2016-2017 Academic Year

The Saint Joseph University offers merit scholarships to Lebanese residents, covering full or partial tuition for the credits required in their first academic program (three years).

1. Holders of the Lebanese Baccalaureate

- Full scholarships are available to those ranked 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, or 5th at the national level in any of the four Bac series during the first session, as well as those ranked 1st, 2nd, or 3rd in each of the 4 Bac series within the six administrative regions of Lebanon (Mohafazats).
- Half scholarships are available to those ranked 6th, 7th, or 8th at the national level in any of the four Bac series during the first session, as well as those ranked 4th or 5th in each of the 4 Bac series within the six administrative regions of Lebanon (Mohafazats).

2. Holders of the French Baccalaureate

To qualify for a merit scholarship, the candidate must have obtained at least a “Très Bien” (Very Good) mention.

- Full scholarships are available to holders of the French Bac who, in the first session, achieved an average of 17/20 or higher in the “Littéraire” (Literary) series across Lebanon. Those who achieved an average between 16.5/20 and 17/20 are eligible for a half scholarship.
- Full scholarships are available to holders of the French Bac who, in the first session, achieved an average of 17/20 or higher in the “Économique et Sociale” (Social and Economic) series across Lebanon. Those who achieved an average between 16.5/20 and 17/20 are eligible for a half scholarship.
- Full scholarships are available to holders of the French Bac who, in the first session, achieved an average of 18.5/20 or higher in the “Scientifique” (Scientific) series across Lebanon. Those who achieved an average between 18/20 and 18.5/20 are eligible for a half scholarship, and those with an average between 17.5/20 and 18/20 are eligible for a quarter scholarship.

These regulations apply from the 2016-2017 academic year onwards and are not retroactive.

Important Note:

Eligible candidates must apply for the scholarship within 30 days of the publication of the Lebanese or French Baccalaureate results.

Scholarship Renewal:

To renew the merit scholarship (full, half, or quarter), recipients must rank within the top 15% of their class by the end of the academic year. The Head of the relevant institution must submit the renewal request to the Academic Affairs Vice-Rector, prior to the start of the next academic year, using the merit scholarship renewal form, along with the required documents.