

FONDATION  
USJ



Université Saint-Joseph de Beyrouth  
Saint Joseph University of Beirut  
جامعة القديس يوسف في بيروت



# IMPACT REPORT 2023-2024



## SOLIDARITY

THE IMPACT OF  
YOUR GENEROSITY IN  
NUMBERS

HIGHLIGHTS AND  
ACHIEVEMENTS  
OF THE 2023-2024  
ACADEMIC YEAR

YOUR SUPPORT, THEIR  
GRATITUDE...

Together on the road to excellence

July 2023 – June 2024

For those who would like to see our previous impact reports, 2018-2019, 2019-2020, 2020-2022 and 2022-2023, click on the links below:

- ➔ Impact Report 2018-2019
- ➔ Impact Report 2019-2020
- ➔ Impact Report 2020-2022
- ➔ Impact Report 2022-2023

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With our gratitude to:

- Fadi Geara, Vice-Rector for Administration
- Richard Maroun, Vice-Rector for Research
- Carla Eddé, Vice-Rector for International Relations
- Nassib Nasr, Director-General of Hôtel-Dieu de France

And the heads of all USJ and HDF entities for their help and collaboration in the collection of data, numbers and projects.

Data referred to in this Report has been audited by Ernst & Young P.C.C and issued their unmodified opinion on January 31, 2025.

# FONDATION USJ: “A Vision for the Future, A Mission for Today”

Dear friends and alumni,

In times of uncertainty, one thing continues to shine through: your unwavering generosity!

In recent years, Lebanon has faced unprecedented challenges, the Beirut port explosion, economic collapse, and a global pandemic. Through it all, Fondation USJ has remained faithful to its mission: supporting students, sustaining excellence at USJ, and helping Hôtel-Dieu de France care for those most in need.

And all this, thanks to you!

With your support, we’ve responded with resilience and commitment, keeping education and healthcare within reach, and upholding the values that define the spirit of USJ.

As the University approaches its 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary, this 2023–2024 Impact Report is more than a summary, it’s a tribute to the strength of our community.

Every donation, every act of kindness, every message of support has made a real difference. Challenges remain, but with you by our side, we continue with hope, courage, and determination.

Thank you for believing in our mission, and in the future of Lebanon.

With our sincere gratitude,

Cynthia Ghobril Andrea  
Director, Fondation USJ

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## MESSAGE FROM PROF. SALIM DACCACHE, SJ Rector and Chairman of the HDF Board of Directors



Dear members of the university community, dear partners and friends of USJ,

The year 2024 brought its share of challenges – but also remarkable achievements, thanks to the unwavering commitment of *Fondation USJ-HDF* and the invaluable support of its donors. In the face of ongoing economic and social uncertainty, your trust and generosity have enabled our University to stay true to its mission: advancing academic excellence, fostering innovation, and serving society. Most importantly, your support has allowed students to continue their education.

Thanks to *Fondation USJ-HDF*, hundreds of students received scholarships, giving them the opportunity to pursue their studies despite difficult circumstances. Today, more than 60% of USJ students benefit from financial aid – and it is in large part thanks to your continued generosity that we've been able to meet this

need. However, the challenges remain significant: USJ must continue to support not only its students, but also its instructors and the administrative and support staff who keep the institution running.

**I hope to see even more of our Alumni and Friends stand with us – to support our students and to help USJ grow stronger.**

This year also saw the advancement of ambitious research projects, reinforcing our contribution to global knowledge. New social and medical initiatives have taken root as well, reflecting our deep engagement with the realities of Lebanon and the region. At HDF, our Social Solidarity Fund has already helped – and continues to help – hundreds of patients who would otherwise face a lack of access to healthcare.

**Our shared sense of social responsibility must remain ever vigilant.**

To all those who support us – whether through financial contributions or personal involvement – thank you. Your commitment is vital to advancing our educational and human mission, rooted in Jesuit values.

I am confident that *Fondation USJ-HDF*, under the leadership of its Board of Directors presided by Mr. Samir Assaf (Economics alumnus, Class of 1972), is well positioned to lead a dynamic campaign to raise \$150 million in celebration of USJ's 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary. At a time that is both demanding and full of promise, **let us continue working together to build a future grounded in knowledge, justice, and solidarity.**

With heartfelt gratitude,

Prof. Salim Daccache, SJ



# USJ KEY FIGURES

## THE IMPACT OF YOUR SUPPORT IN 2023-2024

The total amount collected by *Fondation USJ* in 2023-2024 is **\$7,391,098** thanks to emergency funds, campaigns, and programs.

Donor Categories	Amounts	Percentages
Individuals	\$2,863,033.99	39%
Private Sector	\$2,320,198.26	31%
International Organizations, International NGOs, Local NGOs, Foundations	\$2,207,866.00	30%
Total raised in 2023-2024	\$7,391,098	

Thanks to the generosity of our donors, in-kind donations received during the **2023-2024 academic year** – estimated at **\$294,630** – have strengthened the University's resources, improved learning conditions, and supported key initiatives that serve our academic community.

Donor Types	Amounts	Percentages
Friends	\$6,010,667.87	81%
USJ Alumni	\$1,249,198.56	17%
Employees/Instructors	\$131,231.20	2%
Total raised in 2023-2024	\$7,391,098	



The data reveals that the majority of donations this year – **594 contributions** in total – originated from Lebanon. However, we also received generous contributions from across the globe, including Europe, the United States, Canada, and Gulf countries. These international partnerships highlight the strength of our global support network and our growing capacity to mobilize resources worldwide.

During the 2023-2024 academic year, **\$13,056,954** in social scholarships was awarded. More than **55%** of USJ students benefited from financial aid. Thanks to the generosity of our donors, **1,512** students received financial support this year.



# FONDATION USJ GOVERNANCE

As a testament to good management and transparency, Fondation USJ, presided by the Rector and overseen by a Director, has been, since January 2024, governed by a Board of Directors. The Board will serve as the primary decision-making authority, defining the strategic direction of Fondation USJ based on the needs of the University, HDF, and the HDF hospital network. It will also organize and oversee fundraising activities and manage the raised funds through the Investment Committee.

## Message from Mr. Samir Assaf President of the Board of Directors of Fondation USJ

Dear Donors,  
Dear USJ Friends and Alumni,

Fondation USJ is more than just an administrative entity within the Saint Joseph University of Beirut. It plays a vital role at the heart of our institution, reflecting our deep commitment to transparency, accountability, and the rigorous stewardship of every donation entrusted to us.

The year 2024 marks a key milestone for Fondation USJ. The establishment of our Board of Directors in January sends a clear message: our pledge to uphold full transparency and exemplary governance in support of USJ, HDF, and its hospital network.

This Board is not a mere supervisory body – it is a team of dedicated individuals driven by a shared commitment to advance USJ's mission and ambitious projects. Our role is to guide, advise, and ensure that every donation is used in the best possible way to further our mission.

We are responsible for defining a strategic vision, approving projects, ensuring sound financial management, supporting fundraising campaigns, and above all, safeguarding the integrity and reputation of USJ.

This 2023-2024 Impact Report is more than a collection of data – it is a testament to our collective commitment to building a strong future for USJ. Through this new governance, we reaffirm our promise to act with transparency, responsibility, and resolve to make USJ shine.

The Board of Directors closely oversees and guides all of Fondation USJ's activities. Backed by specialized committees – Nomination, Investment, Audit and Compliance, and Fundraising – it ensures that we meet the highest standards of governance in response to the expectations of our partners and benefactors.

Why strengthen our governance? Because we recognize that every gift reflects a profound trust – one we have a duty to honor. These funds provide current and future generations with the means to build their future, to advance research, and to support our hospital mission at Hôtel-Dieu de France and across the USJ-HDF hospital network.

In a context where economic hardship heavily weighs on our students and their families, our mission is more pressing than ever. For many, financial aid is essential to access a quality education. By strengthening our governance and management, we strive to preserve and expand this vital opportunity for all those in need. I extend my heartfelt gratitude to all those who support our mission – alumni, members of the university community, friends and external partners. Your generosity and commitment embody the spirit of USJ: one of solidarity, perseverance, and excellence.

Through Fondation USJ, your contributions become powerful tools for change – in education, research, and healthcare. Together, we are shaping not only the future of our University, but that of our broader society.

Thank you for your trust and unwavering support.

## PORTRAITS OF THE MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF FONDATION USJ



**Salim DACCACHE, SJ**

Rector of USJ  
Chairman of the HDF Board of Directors

Salim Daccache, SJ has served as Rector of USJ since 2012. He holds a PhD in Educational Sciences from the University of Strasbourg (2010) and a PhD in Philosophy and Literature from *Université Paris I Panthéon-Sorbonne* (1988).

Throughout his career, he has held several academic and administrative positions, including Dean of the Faculty of Religious Studies (2008-2012), Director of the Institute of Oriental Studies (2010-2012), and Rector of *Collège Notre-Dame de Jamhour* (1991-2008). He also served as a member of the Board of Directors of the *Agence Universitaire de la Francophonie* (AUF) and as Vice-Chairman of its Board (2017-2021).

He currently chairs the Regional Conference of Rectors (C2R) of the Middle East, the Universities Association of Lebanon, and the Board of Directors of HDF. Additionally, he is a member of the Board of Directors of the International Association of Universities (IAU) and serves as Editor-in-Chief of *Al-Machreq*.

A prolific author, he has published over 200 articles and books on education, philosophy, and interreligious dialogue. His contributions have earned him numerous honors, including the rank of Officer of the Order of Academic Palms (2007), the Order of Merit of the French Republic (2015), the rank of Knight of the National Order of the Legion of Honor (2022), and the Peter Canisius Medal from the International Association of Jesuit Universities (IAJU) (2022), in recognition of his exceptional dedication to education and its advancement on intellectual, cultural, social, and spiritual levels.



**Samir ASSAF (FSE, 1982)**

President of the Board of Directors, *Fondation USJ*  
Chairman of the Board, HSBC Middle East Holdings and Senior Advisor to HSBC's Group Chairman  
President, Middle East & North Africa Region and Senior Advisor, General Atlantic

Samir Assaf is a Lebanese banker and businessman. He studied at *Collège de La Sagesse* in Achrafieh, run by the Maronite Fathers, before earning a degree from USJ's Faculty of Economics. He then moved to France, where he completed an MBA in Economics and International Finance at the *Université Panthéon-Sorbonne* in Paris, followed by studies at Sciences Po.

At HSBC, Mr. Assaf served as Chief Executive of Global Banking and Markets for ten years, until 2020, while also holding the position of Chairman of the Board of HSBC Continental Europe. He currently chairs the Board of Directors of HSBC Middle East Holdings and serves as Chairman of the Middle East and North Africa region at General Atlantic. He is also involved in several financial boards.

In May 2024, French President Emmanuel Macron awarded him the insignia of Knight of the Legion of Honor in recognition of his contributions to France's international influence. He also serves as an ambassador for the Department of Byzantine and Eastern Christian Art at the Louvre Museum in Paris.



### Joe SADDI

President of the Board of Trustees at the Saint Joseph University of Beirut (USJ)  
Former Global Chairman, Booz & Co

Joe Saddi is a seasoned management consultant with a career spanning over 38 years. He is a globally recognized expert in strategy, governance, and economic development.

A business management graduate, Saddi began as a Manager at Bain & Company in Paris (1986-1993) before serving as a Senior Partner in the Middle East and a board member at Booz Allen Hamilton (1993-2008). He went on to become the Global Chairman of the Board at Booz & Company (2008-2014) and its Managing Director in the Middle East. Subsequently, he was Chairman of Strategy&'s Middle East business (2014-2018) and has since been the company's Senior Executive Advisor.

An alumnus of *Collège Notre-Dame de Jamhour*, Saddi is actively involved in academia. Since 2022, he has served as President of the USJ Board of Trustees, ensuring that the institution upholds its Jesuit values, with service to others at the heart of its mission, beyond academic and financial considerations.



### Cynthia-Maria GHOBRIIL Andrea (FLSH, 1992)

Director, *Fondation USJ*

With over 30 years of experience in communication, event management, and fundraising, Cynthia-Maria Ghobril Andrea has been leading *Fondation USJ* since July 2020, driving campaigns to support education and healthcare. She founded and directed the USJ Publications and Communication Office (1995-2020), strengthening the University's brand and visibility. She played a key role in establishing the Board of Directors of *Fondation USJ* and forged strategic partnerships in North America and Europe to expand donor support. She also serves on the board of Saint Joseph University Foundation, Beirut, Inc., a recognized 501(c)(3) organization in the United States.

A strong advocate for university philanthropy, she is an active member of international organizations such as the *Association Française des Fundraisers* (AFF) and the CASE Institute, regularly contributing to fundraising conferences.

She holds an MBA from USJ and Université Paris Dauphine, a Master in Sociology and Public Relations from USJ, a Professional Diploma in Communication from CELSA-Paris IV, and a diploma in Mediation from USJ. In 2010, the French Republic awarded her the insignia of Knight in the Order of Academic Palms in recognition of her contributions to education and philanthropy.



### Prof. Christian MAKARY (FMD, 1993)

President of the Federation of USJ Alumni Associations

Dr. Christian Makary, DDS, earned his Doctor of Dental Surgery in 1993 and a PhD in Oral Biology, specializing in oral surgery, both from USJ. He has held leadership roles, including Head of Department and Associate Professor, and currently serves as the Program Director of the Master in Oral Surgery at USJ. Since May 2019, Dr. Makary has served as President of the Federation of USJ Alumni Associations, strengthening the connection between alumni and their *alma mater* while promoting the University's impact.



### Maroun CHAMMAS

Chairman and CEO, Berytech

Maroun N. Chammas is a Lebanese entrepreneur dedicated to driving innovation and fostering entrepreneurship. Since 2003, he has led Berytech, empowering startups and strengthening Lebanon's entrepreneurial ecosystem. His impact spans multiple industries: in 1995, he co-founded Data Management (now IDM), Lebanon's first Internet service provider, and later reinvested in Cablevision, enhancing television access. As Vice President of MEDCO Holdings, he has contributed to the growth of the country's energy sector. Chammas has also played a pivotal role in launching and managing several venture capital funds.



### Yves CHOUEIFATY

President and CIO of TOBAM

Yves Choueifaty, a graduate of ENSAE and a trained mathematician, founded TOBAM and developed the Maximum Diversification® approach in 2005. Prior to this, he was the CEO of Crédit Lyonnais Asset Management (CLAM) after holding various leadership roles, including CIO, Head of Financial Engineering, and Head of Quantitative Investment Management.

A committed entrepreneur on human rights, Choueifaty is a member of the Paris Committee and the Finance Committee of Human Rights Watch. He is also the President of the Advisory Board of WeNow, a "climate neutral now" initiative endorsed by the United Nations. Additionally, he sits on the Board of Directors of RDCL (Lebanese Business Leaders Association).

Recognized with several prestigious awards, he was named "Chief Investment Officer of the Year" in 2015 by Funds Europe and "Asset Management Leader of the Year" in France in 2016 by AGEFI. As a pioneer of the smart beta movement, Choueifaty frequently speaks at conferences and is part of the "300 Club," an exclusive group of 19 global leaders focused on redefining the foundations of investment and asset management.



### Walid DAOUK, Esq. (FDSP, 1981)

Former Minister, Board Member of Fransabank SAL (Lebanon), Fransabank (France) SA, and BLC Lebanon

H.E. Walid Daouk, Esq. holds a degree in Lebanese and French law from USJ and has undertaken studies in business management at Beirut University College. As a lawyer specializing in commercial, civil, corporate, and property law, in 2005, he was appointed Vice Chairman of the International Affairs Commission and a member of the Arbitration Commission at the Beirut Bar Association. In 2011, he served as Minister of Information and Acting Minister of Justice.

With extensive legal expertise, Daouk advises multinational and Lebanese companies across various fields. He also serves on the boards of multiple companies in Lebanon and abroad. From 2001 to 2004, he was a member of the Board of Directors of the Council for Development and Reconstruction of Lebanon (CDR), and since 1994, he has served as the Commissioner of the Lebanese Government at the Beirut Stock Exchange.

His dedication to social causes is reflected in his involvement with several nonprofit organizations. He has served on the boards of the Lebanese and International Federation for University Sport (1981 – 1991); Lebanese Red Cross (1994 – 1997), AJIALOUNA (since 1995), La Sagesse (2005 – 2006), *Collège Louise Wegman* (2005 – 2023), Dar Al Aytam Al Islamiyah (since 2005), International College (since 2009), and USJ (since 2012).



### Raymond DEBBANE

President and CEO, Invus

Ray Debbane is the CEO of Invus ([www.invus.com](http://www.invus.com)), a New-York based global investment firm with offices in Europe and Asia, which he co-founded in 1985. Before launching Invus, he was a manager at the Boston Consulting Group in Paris. He holds an MBA from Stanford University, an MS in Food Science and Technology from the University of California, Davis, and a BS in Agricultural Science and Agricultural Engineering from the American University of Beirut.

For nearly four decades, Invus has backed companies that have reshaped their industries, with notable investments including Keebler Foods, Weight Watchers, Blue Buffalo, and Cava Group. The firm is also a major player in biotechnology investments across the US and Europe and manages its liquid assets through an in-house hedge fund. Beyond his business ventures, Debbane is deeply committed to philanthropy, particularly through the Raymond Debbane Family Foundation.



### Salim EDDE

CEO, Murex  
President, MIM Museum

Salim Eddé is the co-founder of the software company Murex and a member of the USJ Board of Trustees. After completing his studies at *Collège Notre-Dame de Jamhour*, he attended *École Polytechnique* in France, graduating in 1980. He then pursued chemical engineering at MIT and earned an MBA with a specialization in finance from the University of Chicago.

Eddé began his career as a chemical engineer at the Elf refinery in Saint-Nazaire before working as a consultant at Booz Allen Hamilton in Saudi Arabia. In 1986, he co-founded Murex, which has since become a global leader in risk management software for financial markets.

A passionate mineral collector, Eddé established the MIM Museum in Beirut in 2013, located at USJ's Innovation and Sports Campus (CIS). The museum houses one of the world's most significant private mineral collections, featuring over 2,000 crystals, and since 2017, a selection of Lebanon's finest fossils.

Deeply committed to his country, he actively supports various associations and contributes to Lebanese educational institutions, including USJ, where he serves on its Board of Trustees. In recognition of his contributions, he was awarded the prestigious Doctor Honoris Causa from USJ by Prof. Salim Daccache, SJ, in October 2023.



### Joseph EL FADL (FGM, 1979)

Former Managing Partner, Deloitte

Joseph El Fadl graduated in Business Administration from the Saint Joseph University of Beirut in 1979 and earned an MBA in Banking and Finance in 1981. With over 40 years of experience in auditing and consulting, he held senior roles at Deloitte Middle East, including Managing Partner, Board Member, and Chief Financial Officer. He is a certified public accountant in Lebanon and was a member of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants (AICPA) from 1991 to 2023. He currently serves on the Board of *Hôtel-Dieu de France* and several companies in Lebanon and abroad, contributing his financial and strategic expertise.





### **Gilbert GHOSTINE (FGM, 1982)**

Chairman of the Board, Sandoz

President, *Fondation pour l'attractivité de Genève* since 2022

Gilbert Ghostine is a seasoned and visionary business executive with nearly four decades of global experience across both B2C and B2B industries. Renowned for driving sustainable and profitable growth in public and private companies, he has successfully led complex mergers and acquisitions.

From 2014 to 2023, he served as CEO of Firmenich, steering the company through a transformative period that culminated in its merger with DSM – creating a global leader in beauty, nutrition, and well-being. Earlier in his career, he spent 20 years at Diageo, holding senior leadership roles across four continents and building deep expertise in consumer goods and international markets.

Today, Ghostine is Chairman of the Board at Sandoz and sits on the Board of Directors at Danone, where he serves on the Audit and CSR Committees. He is also a board member of Four Seasons Hotels and Resorts, where he chairs the Remuneration and Nomination Committee.

Ghostine holds a Master in Business Administration and Management from USJ and has completed the Advanced Management Program at Harvard Business School. Based in Geneva since 2014, he remains a dedicated supporter of USJ through his foundation.



### **Dr. Anne-Marie HABIB (FM, 1986)**

MD (Leb), ABIM (NY), PhD, CCT in Nephrology and FRCP (UK)

Nephrologist in the Public Health Sector

Born in Lebanon, Anne-Marie Habib earned an MD from USJ before specializing in internal medicine in New York. She then completed a dual training in nephrology in both New York and London, along with a PhD in Molecular Biology from Imperial College London.

Since 2020, she has been practicing as a nephrologist in the Adult Nephrology and Dialysis Department at Simone Veil Hospital in Cannes. With a career primarily in the UK's NHS public hospitals, she specializes in the diagnosis and treatment of kidney diseases – including general nephrology, hypertension, diabetic nephropathy, and genetic kidney disorders such as polycystic kidney disease. She also manages patients requiring renal replacement therapies, including hemodialysis and peritoneal dialysis.

Committed to advancing education and research, Dr. Habib plays an active role in supporting the work of *Fondation USJ*.



### **Zahia (Zaza) Riachi Jabre**

Director, *Fondation Jabre*

Zaza Jabre holds a degree in Clinical Psychology from Sorbonne University Paris V René Descartes. Married to financier and philanthropist Philippe Jabre, she is a founding member of the Philippe Jabre Association (APJ), which provides support to educational and cultural institutions, socio-medical initiatives, schools, and university scholarship programs.

On behalf of APJ, Jabre leads efforts to support a wide range of cultural institutions both in Lebanon and internationally. In 2018, the Association was honored with the *Montblanc de la Culture Arts Patronage Award*, recognizing its outstanding contribution to the development of the arts in the region.

Jabre also sits on the Board of Directors of I&C (Investment & Capital Bank), a private bank based in Lebanon. A dedicated patron of the arts and active philanthropist, she is a board member of “Ashkal Alwan” (The Lebanese Association for Plastic Arts).

Jabre remains a committed supporter of *Fondation USJ*.



### **Roger NASNAS (FSE, 1972)**

Chairman and CEO, AXA Middle East

Chairman of the Board of Directors, GlobeMed Lebanon

Vice Chairman, GlobeMed Ltd

Former President of the Economic and Social Council of Lebanon

Roger Nasnas has led a remarkable career in business and economic development. A graduate in management and the author of several works on Lebanon's socio-economic development, he currently serves as Chairman and CEO of AXA Middle East SAL and GlobeMed Lebanon, and as Vice Chairman of GlobeMed Ltd.

He was President of Lebanon's Economic and Social Council from 2000 to 2017, and of the Arab Economic and Social Councils from 2015 to 2017. He also chaired the Lebanese Business Leaders Association (RDCL) for nine years (1989–1993 / 1995–2000).

His published works include *Emerging Lebanon – Towards Economic and Social Development* (2016) and *Emerging Lebanon – Towards an Economic and Social Vision* (2007).

Since 1991, he has presided over the Greek Catholic Benevolent Society of Beirut and its suburbs, which founded Life Oasis (Continuum of Healthcare Center). Over the years, he has been honored with several distinctions, including the French Legion of Honor, the National Order of Merit (France), and the Insignia of the Order of Saint Sylvester.

A strong advocate for humanitarian causes, Nasnas is also a dedicated member of *Fondation USJ*'s Board of Directors, where he actively supports its mission and initiatives.





### Varouj NERGUIZIAN (FSE, 1976)

Senior Advisor of the Board, Bank of Sharjah

Varouj Nerguizian began his career with Paribas and was assigned to the Bank of Sharjah in the United Arab Emirates, where he was appointed General Manager in 1992 and later served as CEO from 2018 to 2023. Since 2008, he has also been the CEO of Emirates Lebanon Bank in Lebanon and is a founding member of Dana Gas. From 1991 to 2002, he served on the Management Board of *Lycée Français de Sharjah*, becoming its President in 1998. In 2003, he established and began chairing the Lebanese Education Fund SA (LEFSA). He is also a co-founder and President of *Lycée Libanais Francophone de Dubai*.

Nerguizian serves on the Board of Directors of Growthgate and has been a member of both the Board of Trustees of the American University of Sharjah and the Strategic Board of USJ.

His achievements have earned him numerous distinctions: he was named Knight (1996) and later Officer (2016) of the National Order of Merit of the French Republic; Knight of the Great House of the Armenian Apostolic Church of Cilicia (1999); Knight of the Order of Mekhitar Heratsi by the Republic of Armenia (2004); and Knight of the Order of Saint Gregory the Great by the Vatican (2013). In 2023, he received the Order of the Lebanese Emigrant.

In October 2023, Nerguizian was awarded the prestigious Doctorate Honoris Causa from the Saint Joseph University of Beirut (USJ).



### Berge SETRAKIAN, Esq. (FDSP, 1972)

Partner, DLA Piper Law Firm

Member of the Board of Directors, Saint Joseph University Foundation USA

President, Armenian General Benevolent Union (AGBU)

A New York-based attorney since 1976 and a member of the Beirut Bar Association, Berge Setrakian is a partner at DLA Piper LLP, one of the world's largest international law firms. Throughout his career, he has demonstrated a steadfast commitment to social, volunteer, humanitarian, and national causes, actively contributing to organizations serving both Lebanon and the Armenian community. He served for 22 years as President of the Armenian General Benevolent Union (AGBU), the world's largest philanthropic organization dedicated to the Armenian diaspora.



### Robert TARAZI (ESIB, 1974)

Managing Director of Qatar's leading ready-mix concrete company Beton WLL

Robert Tarazi, a Lebanese-Greek civil engineer and entrepreneur, holds a Bachelor of Engineering in Civil Engineering from the USJ School of Engineering of Beirut (ESIB) in 1974 and Master of Science in Industrial Engineering and Management from Columbia University (1975). Over the course of his accomplished career, Tarazi has led several companies as president, including BETON WLL in Qatar and its subsidiaries in Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates. Deeply committed to education and community service, he chairs the Advisory Board of Amideast Lebanon (ALAB) and serves as president of the USJ Alumni Association in Qatar. A member of the Order of Engineers and Architects in Lebanon since 1974 and of the Young Presidents' Organization (YPO) since 1999, Tarazi is recognized for his visionary leadership and dedication to professional excellence.

# FONDATION USJ: A PILLAR FOR USJ AND HDF

Amid the ongoing political, economic, and social crises in Lebanon, *Fondation USJ* continues to rise to the challenge, striving to meet the increasing needs of both the academic and medical communities. Rather than slowing us down, these hardships have fueled our determination to support our students and provide vital healthcare at *Hôtel-Dieu de France*.

Each initiative we lead is a testament to the power of solidarity. Thanks to the generosity of our donors, we were able to grant scholarships and financial aid to over 1,512 students in 2023–2024, helping them pursue their education despite growing financial constraints.

At the same time, we remain deeply committed to ensuring access to healthcare at *Hôtel-Dieu de France*, especially for patients who lack coverage from the NSSF or private insurance.

*Fondation USJ* continues to innovate in seeking new sources of support. We are expanding our fundraising campaigns, strengthening our international partnerships, and receiving unwavering support from USJ alumni and friends around the world who remain deeply connected to their alma mater.

In these difficult times, our determination is stronger than ever. We are mobilizing all available resources to meet the growing needs of our community.





# FUNDRAISING CAMPAIGN 150 YEARS OF USJ



For the past 150 years, USJ has stood as a pillar of academic excellence, intellectual creativity, and social responsibility. As a beacon of knowledge and influence, it has shaped generations of leaders and played a vital role in advancing science, the arts, and the humanist values that define our society. Throughout the decades, USJ has remained steadfast in its roots while boldly evolving to meet the challenges of each era.

To mark this historic milestone, Fondation USJ is launching an ambitious and forward-looking initiative: raising \$150 million – an amount that symbolizes as many years of impact. Launched on October 13, 2023, and set to span the next 5 to 10 years, the campaign reflects our unwavering commitment to strengthening USJ's foundations for the generations to come.

Our vision is to equip the University with the resources it needs to carry out its core missions:

- Making education accessible to all
- Fueling research and innovation
- Supporting the well-being of its community
- Championing culture and the French language, which remain at the heart of its identity

The journey ahead is long, and the challenges are numerous. However, the strength of our commitment and the collective drive behind this campaign reflect our ability to overcome any obstacles.

With the support of our partners and all those who believe in this unique institution, we are confident that USJ will continue to inspire and lead, both now and for many years to come.

Our fundraising campaign is focused on supporting **8 core pillars** that will shape the future of USJ and its communities:

- 1. More Perennity:** Ensuring USJ's long term perennity
- 2. More Education:** Improving accessibility, quality of education, and equal opportunities
- 3. More Research:** Promoting excellence in research and innovation
- 4. More Healthcare:** Improving healthcare services provided by HDF, the University Medical Center
- 5. More Modernity:** Strengthening modern infrastructure and equipment
- 6. More Entrepreneurial Leadership:** Promoting entrepreneurial skills and leadership among students
- 7. More Social Responsibility:** Committing to projects that enhance social well-being
- 8. More Heritage Conservation:** Preserving and promoting cultural and artistic heritage

Pillars	Targets	Funds raised in 2023-2024
More Perennity	\$70,000,000	\$186,308.00
More Education	\$15,000,000	\$3,893,928.00
More Research	\$20,000,000	\$1,301,952.86
More Healthcare	\$24,000,000	\$3,563,292.00
More Modernity	\$15,000,000	\$2,383,855.87
More Entrepreneurial Leadership	\$3,000,000	\$25,786.00
More Social Responsibility	\$2,000,000	\$67,561.00
More Heritage Conservation	\$1,000,000	\$147,492.50
Total	\$150,000,000	\$11,570,176.23





## MESSAGE FROM NASSIB NASR Director General of *Hôtel-Dieu de France*

Despite the ongoing crises and following its centenary, *Hôtel-Dieu de France* has successfully continued its forward momentum. Excellence in healthcare, renovation, modernization, innovation, and expansion are at the core of our mission and commitment.

The HDF-USJ hospital network now manages and oversees five hospitals: Saint Charles Hospital in Fiyadieh-Baabda, Monseigneur Cortbawi Hospital in Adma, Tel Chiha Hospital in Zahle, *Notre-Dame de la Paix* Hospital in Akkar, and the Family Medical Center (FMC) in Zgharta. Today, this network is the largest in Lebanon, covering a large portion of the country. It includes more than 900 beds, 27 operating rooms, and over 550 doctors. With over 2,000 employees, the network serves more than 31,000 patients and conducts over 12,000 surgeries annually.

The network also offers a variety of medical services and associated

entities such as ClinDoctor, a telemedicine platform; *HDF à domicile*; HDF Health, an exclusive insurance product for the network; a mobile clinic; and an ambulance service linking all these entities. Social responsibility remains a central pillar of this healthcare ecosystem. HDF plays a crucial role in providing healthcare access to the most vulnerable. To this end, the network includes the Family Medicine Center, the Social Pediatric Clinic, and the Primary Care Clinic, offering vital assistance to the underserved. To meet the growing demand for financial support, HDF established a Social Solidarity Fund to help patients who are not covered by private insurance.

These efforts would not have been possible without the invaluable support of our donors, whose generosity continues to grow. These contributions directly support the Social Solidarity Fund

and also include donations of equipment and medication, which allow the hospital to continue advancing towards excellence and modernity. Furthermore, initiatives such as events designed to mobilize partners and sponsors help drive these efforts.

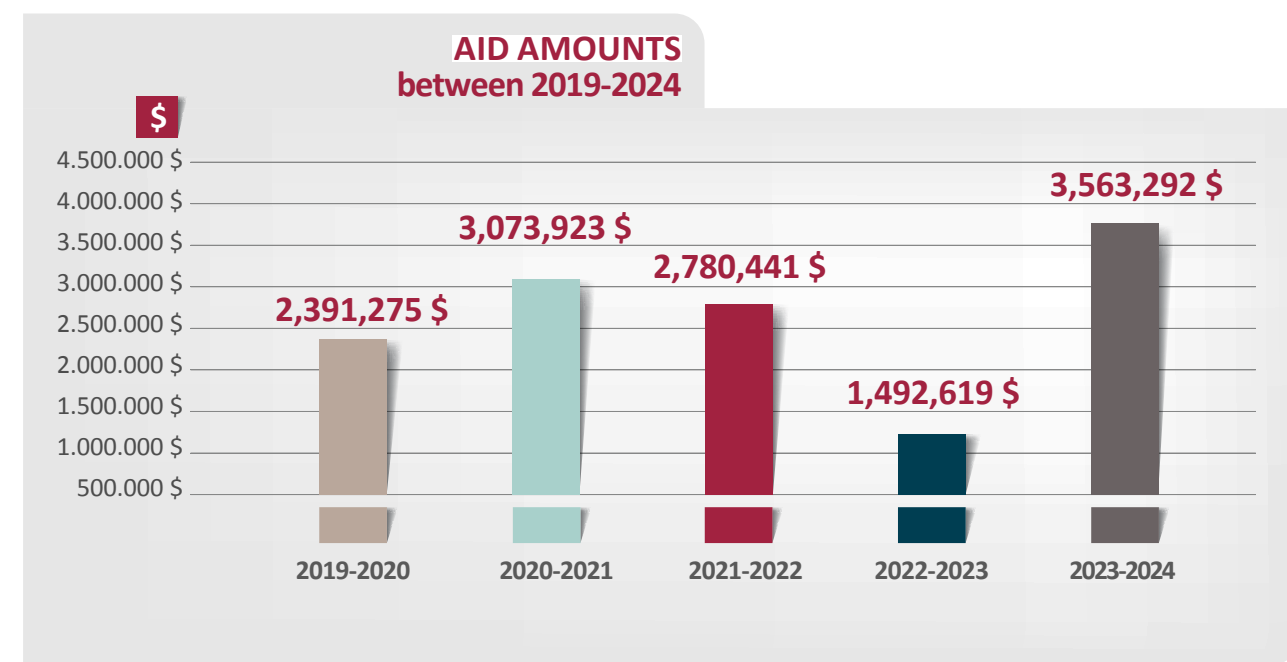
I invite you to read this chapter dedicated to HDF and the donations raised thanks to the support of all. This remarkable solidarity reflects the deep bond of the Lebanese and friends of Lebanon to this century-old hospital, a key pillar in Lebanon's history, which has stood by our country through every moment, both joyous and tragic.

With heartfelt gratitude, I thank you all. I also extend my thanks to the institutions, associations, and international organizations that, alongside us, are contributing to advancing our humanitarian health mission.

# DONATIONS AND FINANCES

## GRAPHS AND FIGURES

Date	Number of patients	Aid amounts
July 22 – June 23	10,576	1,492,619 \$
July 23 – June 24	15,881	3,563,292 \$



In 2023-2024, the HDF Social Solidarity Fund provided support to

**15,581 patients**

Thanks to the generosity of 31 friends of HDF,

we raised a total of **\$1,407,410**

including **\$275,458** in in-kind donations.



# HDF SOCIAL SOLIDARITY FUND

The prolonged economic crisis in Lebanon – which has been ongoing for more than three years – has left many patients unable to cover the cost of their hospital care. In response to the growing number of requests for financial assistance, *Hôtel-Dieu de France* University Medical Center (HDF), with the support of *Fondation USJ*, created the “HDF Social Solidarity Fund” in 2021. This fund aims to provide financial relief to the most vulnerable patients, especially those without social security coverage or private insurance. Its establishment and continued operation are central to HDF’s social and public mission.

In this context, in-kind donations are vital to HDF. Contributions such as medical equipment, medications, and other health supplies help improve patient care, support emergency needs, and promote community solidarity. These forms of support also diversify the hospital’s resources, strengthening its resilience. By championing these philanthropic initiatives, we help uphold the right to fast, effective, and fair healthcare for everyone.

## ► May 20, 2024 Call for Support: Patients of the HDF Psychiatry Department

In collaboration with *Fondation USJ*, the Psychiatry Department at *Hôtel-Dieu de France* has launched a Social Support Fund aimed at providing financial aid to individuals facing economic hardship – even those who are covered by Social Security or private insurance. This fund is a vital part of HDF’s broader mission to ensure accessible and inclusive mental health care. To continue meeting the needs of our most vulnerable patients and to uphold the delivery of high-quality

mental health services, we call on generous donors who believe in the value of this humanitarian cause. Your contribution helps sustain a highly professional Psychiatry Department that continues to rise to the complex challenges Lebanon is facing.

🌐 [https://www.hdf.usj.edu.lb/sites/default/files/sites/default/files/don/Dossier%20psychiatrie%20FR%20%281%29\\_0.pdf](https://www.hdf.usj.edu.lb/sites/default/files/sites/default/files/don/Dossier%20psychiatrie%20FR%20%281%29_0.pdf)



## ► October 6, 2023 Ceremony for the Reception of Medical Equipment Donated by the Malte Liban Association

*Hôtel-Dieu de France* held a ceremony to mark the reception of two state-of-the-art medical devices: an MRI machine and a neurosurgical microscope. Generously donated by the France-based *Malte Liban* Association, this equipment will serve vulnerable

patients receiving care at the primary health centers of the Order of Malta in Lebanon.

🌐 [https://usj.edu.lb/photos/design\\_photos/new4/index.php?id\\_cat=3934&fr=f&an=f&ar=f](https://usj.edu.lb/photos/design_photos/new4/index.php?id_cat=3934&fr=f&an=f&ar=f)



## ► November 23, 2023 Fundraising Auction in Paris to Support *Hôtel-Dieu de France* Patients, Organized by the French Association *Malte Liban*

Spearheaded by Mr. Albert Kfoury, President of the French Association *Malte Liban*, a fundraising auction evening took place on Thursday, November 23, 2023, at the *Cercle de l'Union Interalliée* in Paris. Held in support of vulnerable patients receiving care at *Hôtel-Dieu de France*, the event brought together Lebanese and French figures, including representatives of the health ministers from both countries - Dr. Pierre Anhoury and Dr. Jérôme Weinbach.

Thanks to this outpouring of solidarity, a total of €280,000 was raised to assist HDF patients.

🌐 <https://www.usj.edu.lb/news.php?id=14082>



## ► June 21, 2024 HDF Fundraising Dinner: “Harmonies of Solidarity” at the Pine Residence

*Hôtel-Dieu de France* hosted a fundraising dinner at the prestigious Pine Residence in support of its Social Solidarity Fund, bringing together influential figures and members of the community to stand by patients in financial difficulty.

Among the evening’s guests of honor were the French Ambassador to Lebanon and esteemed member of

the HDF Board of Directors, H.E. Hervé Magro; USJ Rector, Prof. Salim Daccache, SJ; and Mr. Nassib Nasr, Director General of the USJ-HDF hospital network. Nearly 480 participants – including department directors, heads of medical units, and hospital staff – joined forces to make the event a resounding success.





*Regardless of the distance that separates us, every contribution is a testament to your genuine attachment and steadfast support for your fellow citizens and your homeland.*

## HIGHLIGHTS OF THE 2023-2024 YEAR

Fondation USJ is forging ahead, extending its reach beyond Lebanon to meet today's challenges head-on. This momentum goes beyond geographic expansion – it embodies a spirit of solidarity and unity with friends and Alumni who are part of the community!

### 1 Rector Visits USJ and HDF Alumni and Friends Abroad

A delegation led by the Rector, together with Mrs. Cynthia-Maria Ghobril Andrea, Director of *Fondation USJ*, Prof. Christian Makary, President of the Federation of USJ Alumni Associations, and other USJ and HDF officials, has extended its international outreach efforts. The aim was to further raise funds for USJ students and HDF patients, and to foster new partnerships with the Lebanese diaspora and among friends and partners around the world.

#### LONDON

##### • “Life Global Benefit Dinner” at the Science Museum in London



Invited by Mr. Philippe Jabre – businessman, generous philanthropist, and valued friend of USJ – Prof. Salim Daccache, SJ, and Mrs. Cynthia-Maria Ghobril Andrea attended the annual LIFE Global Benefit Dinner on Friday, November 10, 2023, at the Science Museum in London. A steadfast partner of USJ since 2018, LIFE has awarded scholarships to numerous students.

<https://www.usj.edu.lb/news.php?id=14073>

##### • Gathering Initiated by Mr. Samir Assaf and Mr. Elie El Hayek

At the initiative of Mr. Samir Assaf, President of the *Fondation USJ* Board of Directors, and Mr. Elie El Hayek, newly appointed President of the USJ Alumni Association in the United Kingdom, a dinner was held on November 11, 2023, bringing together prominent figures and longstanding friends of USJ. Held in honor of Prof. Salim Daccache, SJ, Rector of USJ, the evening was marked by the presence of H.E. Rami Mourtada, Ambassador of Lebanon to the United Kingdom, Mr. Samer Melki, Consul of France in the UK, along with several notable figures.

<https://www.usj.edu.lb/news.php?id=14078>



#### UNITED STATES

##### • Dinner Hosted by Berge Setrakian, Esq. in Honor of Prof. Salim Daccache, SJ in New York

Berge Setrakian, Esq., a great patron, an FDSP alumnus, and a loyal friend of USJ, organized on November 16, 2023, a dinner at the Benoit restaurant in New York in the presence of Prof. Salim Daccache, SJ, Rector of USJ. The event was attended by Prof. Christian Makary, President of the Federation of USJ Alumni Associations, and Cynthia-Maria Ghobril Andrea, Director of *Fondation USJ*.

<https://www.usj.edu.lb/news.php?id=14080>



##### • USJ Second Annual Gala Dinner - Houston Chapter USA



Dr. Pierre Khoury and Mr. Pierre Moubarak, President and Vice-President of the Houston Alumni Chapter respectively, welcomed Prof. Salim Daccache, SJ, Rector of USJ, Prof. Christian Makary, President of the Federation of USJ Alumni Associations, Dr. Elie Nemr, Dean of the Faculty of Medicine, and Mrs. Cynthia-Maria Ghobril Andrea, Director of *Fondation USJ*, on Saturday, March 23, 2024, at the Hyatt Regency Houston Galleria. The gala dinner, organized by Dr. Philip Salem and his wife in honor of the Rector's visit and the accompanying delegation, gathered more than 260 USJ alumni and friends. Thanks to the generosity of the attendees, over \$140,000 were raised in support of student scholarships.

<https://www.usj.edu.lb/news.php?id=14762>

##### • Saint Joseph's Feast Day Celebrated in Washington, D.C. with USJ Alumni and Friends

On Saturday, March 24, the patronal feast of the Saint Joseph University of Beirut was celebrated at the Army Navy Country Club in Washington, D.C. The event brought together Prof. Salim Daccache, SJ, Mr. Wael Hachem, Acting *Chargé d'Affaires* at the Embassy of Lebanon in Washington, D.C., Prof. Christian Makary, Mrs. Cynthia-Maria Ghobril Andrea, Dr. Victor Yazbek, Treasurer of the Washington, D.C. Alumni Chapter, along with many USJ alumni and friends.

<https://www.usj.edu.lb/news.php?id=14602>





## CANADA – MONTREAL

### • Welcome Dinner Hosted by Dr. Patrick Arcache

On March 17, 2023, Dr. Patrick Arcache, an alumnus of the Faculty of Dental Medicine and former President of the USJ Alumni Chapter in Canada, hosted a warm dinner at his home. The event brought together Bishop Paul-Marwan Tabet, Bishop of the Maronite Eparchy of Saint Maron in Montreal, Prof. Salim Daccache, SJ, Mr. Jean Ghannoum, President of the USJ Alumni Chapter in Canada, Prof. Christian Makary, and Mrs. Cynthia-Maria Ghobril Andrea.

<https://www.usj.edu.lb/news.php?id=14087>



### • Inauguration Ceremony of the Lebanese Fair by LCF Foundation

On the morning of November 18, 2023, Mrs. Nicole Abdul-Massih, President of LCF Foundation and an alumna of USJ, hosted the inauguration ceremony of the fair. The event was attended by Monsignor Paul-Marwan Tabet, Bishop of the Maronite Eparchy of Saint Maron in Montreal, Prof. Salim Daccache, SJ, Prof. Christian Makary, and Mrs. Cynthia-Maria Ghobril Andrea.

<https://www.usj.edu.lb/news.php?id=14086>



### • USJ Alumni Chapter Dinner in Montreal



On November 18, 2023, the USJ Alumni Association in Montreal held a dinner to welcome Prof. Salim Daccache, SJ, during his visit to North America, accompanied by Prof. Christian Makary and Mrs. Cynthia-Maria Ghobril Andrea. The event, centered around solidarity with USJ, its students, and its university medical center, brought together more than 150 alumni and friends of the University.

<https://www.usj.edu.lb/news.php?id=14150>

Thanks to the initiative of Bishop Paul-Marwan Tabet and the support of the alumni and the Canadian community, a digital radiology machine was purchased and sent to *Hôtel-Dieu de France* (HDF). We are deeply grateful for their generosity.

### • Solemn Mass at the Saint Maron Cathedral in Montreal and Croix d'Honneur Awarded to Prof. Salim Daccache, SJ, by Bishop Paul-Marwan Tabet

On Sunday, November 19, 2023, the USJ Alumni Chapter in Montreal invited the USJ delegation to attend a mass at Saint Maron Cathedral, dedicated to prayer for Lebanon. The mass was co-celebrated by Bishop Paul-Marwan Tabet, Bishop of the Eparchy of Saint Maron in Montreal, and Prof. Salim Daccache, SJ, Rector of USJ, in the presence of numerous alumni and friends from Canada. Following the mass, Bishop Tabet presented the *Croix d'Honneur* to Prof. Salim Daccache, SJ, as a token of recognition for his relentless commitment and dedication during these challenging times.

<https://www.usj.edu.lb/news.php?id=14089>



## FRANCE

### • Support Dinner for USJ Organized by the USJ Alumni Chapter in France

On April 5, 2024, the USJ Alumni Chapter in France hosted a support dinner at the *Cercle de l'Union Interalliée* in Paris, under the high patronage of Mr. Ziad Taan, *Chargé d'Affaires* at the Lebanese Embassy in France. Over 200 alumni and friends of the University gathered to welcome Prof. Salim Daccache, SJ, Rector of USJ, accompanied by Mrs. Cynthia-Maria Ghobril Andrea, Director of *Fondation USJ-HDF*, and Mr. Nassib Nasr, Director General of *Hôtel-Dieu de France*.

Mr. Philippe Jabre was the guest of honor for this memorable evening. Founder and CEO of Jabre Capital Partners SA and President of the Philippe Jabre Association, Jabre is a businessman whose career exemplifies the essence of success. In addition to receiving an Honorary Doctorate in Economic Sciences from USJ, he has been awarded several prestigious honors. Known for his philanthropic efforts, Jabre is deeply committed to supporting young people in need and dedicates a significant portion of his resources to education and healthcare.

<https://www.usj.edu.lb/news.php?id=14606>



## 2 Events and Activities

July 1-4, 2023

Visit of an Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes Region Delegation to USJ



From July 1 to 4, 2023, a delegation from the Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes Region, led by Mr. Philippe Meunier, Vice-President for International Relations, visited Lebanon.

Mr. Richard Maroun, Dean of the Faculty of Science, welcomed the delegation at the Faculty, located on the Sciences and Technology Campus (CST). The visit included the unveiling of a commemorative plaque for the Faculty's IT infrastructure renewal project. Thanks to the generous support from the Region, it was possible to replace old computers and those damaged in the aftermath of the Beirut Port explosion.

August 31, 2023

Fondation USJ and Tarraf Foundation Sign Scholarship Agreement



In line with its mission, the Tarraf Foundation, represented by Dr. Rana Jammal, Managing Director, and Dr. Hadi Hammoud, member of the Board of Trustees of the Foundation, has signed, on August 31, 2023, a scholarship agreement with Prof. Salim Daccache, SJ, representing USJ. This agreement provides scholarship to students facing financial hardships. Thanks to the generous support of the Tarraf Foundation, eight students were granted financial aid during the 2023-2024 academic year, allowing them to continue their studies and work toward a brighter future.

<https://www.usj.edu.lb/news.php?id=13925>



## October 17, 2023

### Launch of BAFF 9



Alice Mogabgab, founder and artistic director of the Beirut Art Film Festival, along with the festival organizers, launched the BAFF 9 during a press conference held on Tuesday, October 17, at the Béryte Theater at USJ. The event celebrated historical artistic revolutions and some of the key cultural battles led by visual artists, writers, architects, and dancers. The festival ran from November 7 to 17, 2023. Through this collaboration with BAFF, we were able to support six students from the Institute of Theater, Audiovisual and Cinematic Studies (IESAV).  
<https://www.usj.edu.lb/news.php?id=13939>

## October 28, 2023

### Solemn Mass in Memory of the Late Laila and Sami Turki



Honoring the wishes of the late Sami Turki, who passed away in February 2022 at the age of 90, a solemn mass was held – an annual tradition – at the *Notre-Dame* Chapel in Beit Chabeb, on the land he generously donated to USJ in 2018. The mass, filled with emotion, was celebrated by Prof. Salim Daccache, SJ, and attended by Mr. Turki's family and friends. The ceremony also brought together local figures from Beit Chabeb, along with representatives from the University and *Fondation USJ*, for this meaningful annual tribute.  
<https://www.usj.edu.lb/news.php?id=13960>

## December 4, 2023

### The Saint Joseph University of Beirut and the Rotary Club of Beirut Launch a New Scholarship Fund

The Saint Joseph University of Beirut (USJ), represented by its Rector, Prof. Salim Daccache, SJ, has signed a memorandum of understanding with the Rotary Club of Beirut, represented by its President, Prof. Rita Hachem Meouchy, to establish a new scholarship fund titled the "Rotary Club of Beirut Scholarship Fund." Thanks to the Rotary Club's generous support, three students have already received financial aid, opening the door to new academic opportunities.  
<https://www.usj.edu.lb/news.php?id=14072>



## March 8, 2024

### Signing Ceremony for the Establishment of the "Aimée Alouf Boulos" Scholarship Fund

In celebration of International Women's Day, the "Aimée Alouf Boulos" subscription-based scholarship fund was established to provide financial support to students of the USJ Institute of Theater, Audiovisual and Cinematic Studies (IESAV). The official signing ceremony took place on March 8, 2024. This fund aims to help students who are unable to afford tuition fees pursue their studies at IESAV without financial barriers.  
<https://www.usj.edu.lb/news.php?id=14527>



## March 12, 2024

### Signing Ceremony at the Oriental Library for the Donation of an Artwork by Mr. Gilbert Hage



As part of the celebrations marking the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Oriental Library, the photographic artwork *L'Étiquette bleue* by Gilbert Hage – generously donated on March 12, 2024 – was officially unveiled on October 31, 2024. The ceremony took place in the presence of USJ Rector, Prof. Salim Daccache, SJ, and Fr. Michael Zammit-Mangion, SJ, Provincial of the Society of Jesus in the Near East and Maghreb.

## March 15-25, 2024

### Giving Week Returns for Its Second Edition

Held under the inspiring slogan, "Always Give, Never Give Up," the second edition of Giving Week coincided with the celebration of USJ's patronal feast. The entire USJ community – instructors, staff, students, friends, and alumni – rallied together through a series of events, including alumni-led fundraising dinners in Houston and Washington, D.C.

Their collective efforts raised an impressive **\$180,000** for the Student Scholarship Fund. We extend our sincere gratitude to all our generous donors, whose heartfelt testimonials shared on social media helped amplify the reach and impact of this initiative.



## April 22, 2024

### Second Edition of the "Maroun N. Chammas Recognition Award" Ceremony 2024



The second edition of the "Maroun N. Chammas Recognition Award" ceremony took place on Monday, April 22, 2024, at the Social Sciences Campus, Huvelin Street. The "Maroun N. Chammas Recognition Award" is a program designed to stimulate, recognize, and reward revolutionary innovation, entrepreneurship, and excellence. It is open to all USJ disciplines.  
<https://www.usj.edu.lb/news.php?id=14721>



## 3 Naming

December 13, 2023

### FGM's Room C504 Renamed "The Net Global Room"

The inauguration ceremony for the naming of room C504, now known as "The Net Global," took place on December 13, 2023, at the USJ Business School (FGM). This event followed the formal agreement signed on May 16, 2023. The ceremony was graced by the presence of Prof. Salim Daccache, SJ, USJ Rector, Dr. Fouad Zmokhol, FGM Dean, Mr. Mourad Aoun, Managing Director of The Net Global, Mrs. Cynthia-Maria Ghobril Andrea, Director of *Fondation USJ*, The Net Global team, the FGM Board, and the *Fondation USJ* team.

<https://www.usj.edu.lb/news.php?id=14156>



May 10, 2024

### Official Opening of the Prof. Fouad Khoury Center for Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery



The Prof. Fouad Khoury Center for Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery at the USJ Faculty of Dental Medicine was officially inaugurated on Friday, May 10, 2024, at Auditorium C on the Medical Sciences Campus.

Held under the patronage of H.E. Dr. Firas El Abiad, Minister of Public Health, the event brought together a distinguished audience, including Prof. Salim Daccache, SJ, USJ Rector, Prof. Nada Farhat Mchayleh, Dean of the Faculty of Dental Medicine, and Prof. Fouad Khoury, who traveled from Germany with his family to attend the ceremony.

Also present were Ms. Cynthia-Maria Ghobril Andrea, Director of *Fondation USJ*, along with prominent figures from the medical field, former ministers, vice-rectors, deans, faculty members, students, and long-time friends of the Faculty and the University.

<https://www.usj.edu.lb/news.php?id=14874>

## 4 Prizes

June 28, 2024

### 2024 Joseph Hajjar Excellence Award Ceremony

On June 28, 2024, the Joseph Hajjar Excellence Award was presented to three outstanding graduates of the Faculty of Medicine – Rita Naim, Ziad Zalaquett, and Elma Ayoub – by Dr. Edouard Hajjar, on behalf of the Hajjar family. The award ceremony took place during the graduation celebration at the Medical Sciences Campus, in the presence of USJ Rector, Prof. Salim Daccache, SJ, Prof. Elie Nemr, Dean of the Faculty of Medicine, and Mrs. Cynthia-Maria Ghobril Andrea, Director of *Fondation USJ*.

This year, the Hajjar family reaffirmed their commitment to fostering both academic and social responsibility by adding a philanthropic element to the award. In addition to receiving \$2,000, \$1,500, and \$1,000 respectively, each laureate was granted an extra \$400 to donate to a charitable organization of their choice. This initiative encourages young graduates to make a positive impact beyond academia through acts of generosity.

<https://www.usj.edu.lb/news.php?id=14951>



June 28, 2024

### Sejaan Boutros Ghafari Excellence Award

Each year, the Sejaan Boutros Ghafari Excellence Award honors the top-performing student with the highest cumulative GPA over three years at the USJ Business School – South Lebanon Campus. This esteemed award includes a \$2,500 cash prize, celebrating the recipient's academic excellence and dedication. In 2023, Yara Bou Chahine received the award, followed by Line Kassab in 2024.

<https://www.usj.edu.lb/news.php?id=13730>

<https://www.usj.edu.lb/news.php?id=15022>





## 5 Support and Guidance of *Fondation USJ* to USJ Institutions

### “One Kit, One Scholarship” – An FMD Initiative

With the backing of *Fondation USJ*, the Faculty of Dental Medicine (FMD) and its Alumni Association launched the “One Kit, One Scholarship” campaign to support dental students facing financial hardship.

FMD and its Alumni Association created a solidarity fund to provide assistance to as many students as possible, giving priority to children of FMD alumni.

This impactful initiative is designed to maintain the FMD's high standards of academic excellence by helping students overcome financial barriers and equipping them with essential clinical kits, ensuring they have access to the advanced tools needed for hands-on training.



### USJ Choir: A Voice of Cultural Resilience

At a time when basic needs are often unmet and international aid focuses solely on survival, music continues to be our anchor. At *Fondation USJ*, we are committed to keeping musical culture alive – because we believe music is not a luxury, but a vital source of emotional well-being and professional opportunity.

Despite the fact that USJ Choir members perform on a volunteer basis, the costs of staging concerts are significant. In the face of inflation and growing financial constraints, external support is essential.

By backing the USJ Choir, we aim to sustain Lebanon's cultural and musical presence on both local and international stages. Our support ensures the Choir can deliver high-quality performances in collaboration with acclaimed Lebanese and international musicians, while also nurturing and promoting emerging Lebanese talent.

### The Oriental Library

Established in 1875, the Oriental Library (BO) is both a heritage and research institution, intrinsically tied to the Jesuit mission and dedicated to Middle Eastern studies. It plays a crucial role in preserving the region's historical memory, housing approximately 3,700 manuscripts, 250,000 books, 250,000 photographic prints, and 4,000 maps.

To preserve its exceptional collections and reinforce its academic and research leadership, the library has launched several project initiatives.

Supporting the Oriental Library is essential to ensuring the perennity and visibility of this unique cultural legacy, keeping it at the forefront of scholarly work, and guaranteeing access for generations to come.





# RESEARCH AT USJ

## USJ: A Driver of Research, Innovation, and Technology Transfer

Since its founding in 1875, the Saint Joseph University of Beirut (USJ) has been actively committed to serving society, notably through dynamic research that enhances academic training and drives innovation across a wide range of disciplines. As the University prepares to celebrate its 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2025, and in the face of the multiple crises Lebanon has been experiencing since 2019, USJ remains firmly dedicated to advancing excellence in research and innovation in line with its strategic plan, designed to meet emerging challenges and address societal needs.

Five key research areas have been identified to respond to national, regional, and international priorities:

- Medicine and Health
- Science, Engineering, and Technology
- Economics, Management, Banking and Insurance
- Law and Political Science
- Arts and Literature, Humanities and Religious Studies.

All research projects at USJ are aligned with the United Nations'

17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), incorporating initiatives that address pressing global concerns such as poverty, gender equality, and climate change.

In 2019, USJ launched the Wikindx platform to centralize and manage research articles and bibliographic syntheses. Relaunched in 2024, the platform now tracks research outcomes, publications, and citations, and researchers are encouraged to submit their work to enrich the database and facilitate analysis. USJ also joined the international forum *One Sustainable Health For All 2023*, engaging in efforts to tackle health and environmental challenges caused by overlapping global crises. Its multidisciplinary project, "*USJ's Intervention Approach – Toward Sustainable Health for All*", contributes to this initiative by addressing Lebanon's specific needs.

Moreover, USJ was selected to participate in the *Lebanon Innovate* program, coordinated by Berytech and funded by the European Union, which aims to transform academic research

into market-ready products and support economic development in Lebanon over the next three and a half years. In this context, USJ has developed a comprehensive roadmap to enhance research management, increase the value of research findings, and support the commercialization of technologies, with training initiatives beginning in 2024.

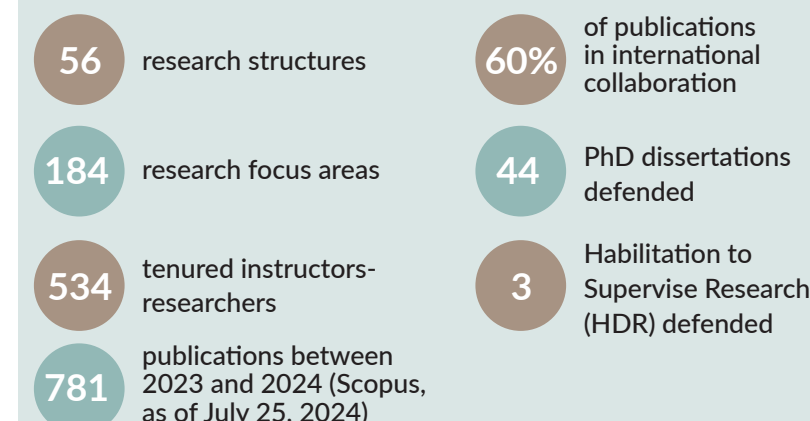
Prof. Richard Maroun, USJ's Vice-Rector for Research, was appointed Chair of the Research Commission of the Regional Conference of Rectors of the Middle East (C2RMO) under the *Agence Universitaire de la Francophonie* (AUF), a commission that seeks to structure and promote Francophone research in the Middle East while encouraging regional collaboration and interdisciplinary work. Through all these efforts and its 2024-2027 development plan, USJ reaffirms its essential role in Lebanon's economic and social development by investing in research, innovation, and international cooperation to address both present and future challenges.

## Key Research Figures at USJ in 2023-2024

As part of its research, innovation, and knowledge transfer strategy, USJ currently operates:

**56 research entities, including 17 Centers, 18 Laboratories, 12 Research Units, 4 Observatories, and 5 Chairs.**

These structures offer a wide range of technical and technological resources, tools, and services to support the University's research community and contribute to USJ's scientific outreach.



## Donors

- Agence Universitaire de la Francophonie (AUF)
- CEDRE Program
- CLOC DEAR MENA
- European Commission
- French Development Agency (AFD)
- French Embassy – *Institut Français*
- French National Research Agency (ANR)
- Geistlich
- *Institut Pasteur*
- International Barcode of Life (IBOL)
- Karagheusian Center
- London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine (LSTHM)
- National Council for Scientific Research - Lebanon – CNRS-L
- NODE
- The Cyprus Institute
- USJ Research Board
- USAID

## Awards and Recognitions

Three USJ instructors-researchers received the IRALEB Prize for their outstanding contributions to industrial research, innovation, and technology transfer. Chosen from a pool of 107 applicants, their projects addressed a range of fields including medical technology, sustainable agriculture, and innovative tools for measuring hydrophilic products. These achievements highlight USJ's dedication to scientific excellence and innovation. Moreover, several USJ research publications were featured in renowned academic journals and earned international accolades.

## 15<sup>th</sup> "Research Days" at USJ

On June 6 and 7, 2024, USJ held the 15<sup>th</sup> edition of its Research Days under the theme "Cutting-Edge Research at USJ: Synergy and Interdisciplinarity." The event showcased innovative and impactful work by PhD candidates and researchers, offering a platform to highlight the University's research achievements and create valuable connections with industry partners and potential investors

interested in scientific and technological breakthroughs. Five students received the "Best Oral Presentation" award, while four were honored with the "Best Poster" award. On this occasion, USJ also introduced the "Distinguished Researcher" award, celebrating Professor Ayman Assi in the "Emerging Talent" category and Professors Nicolas Louka and Hadi Kanaan for their "Outstanding Career."

## Research funding in 2023-2024

46 Research projects

5 research projects supported by a PhD scholarship

14 PhD scholarships

**\$1,301,952.86**  
in research funding

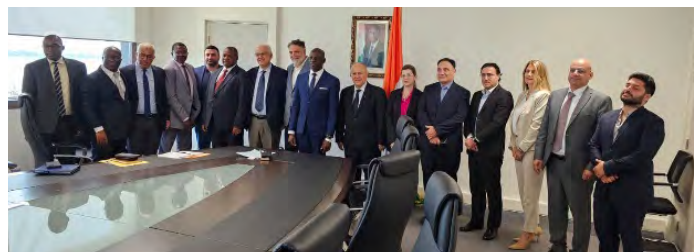


# INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

## Vice-Rectorate for International Relations: Past and New International Projects

### USJ and AIS Launch USJ-CI

During the 2023-2024 academic year, an ambitious and exciting project came to fruition: the establishment of the Saint Joseph University - Côte d'Ivoire, USJ-CI. The founding agreement was signed between USJ and the *Académie Ivoirienne des Sciences* (AIS) at USJ's Humanities Campus on April 30, 2024, during the ceremony marking the launch of our University's 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary activities. Over 700 people attended, including H.E. Abbas Halabi, Minister of Education and Higher Education, and representatives of H.E. Adama Diawara, Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research. This event was followed by the official launch of USJ-CI in Abidjan on June 12, 2024, at the *Sofitel-Hotel Ivoire* Conference Center. The launch event was attended by Ivorian partners, the Rector of USJ, leading a delegation of vice-rectors, deans, directors, and their representatives, as well as numerous ministers, public figures, and business leaders. The Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research was particularly well represented, with H.E. Adama Diawara and his eight advisors in attendance. Despite tight timelines and the war that devastated Lebanon, the academic year began as scheduled in September 2024, with around 100 students enrolled in the four bachelor degree programs offered: business administration and management, marketing and advertising, computer science, and psychology.



### USJ Receives Support from the *Fonds des écoles d'Orient* for the Second Consecutive Year

For the second consecutive year, USJ has benefited from the *Fonds des écoles d'Orient*, a joint initiative of the French Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs – through the French Embassy in Lebanon – and *Œuvre d'Orient*. In light of Lebanon's ongoing crisis, further intensified by the war that erupted on October 7, 2023, this exceptional support was renewed for the 2023-2024 academic year. The €265,000 grant helped cover part of the dollarized tuition fees for around 90 students in their final year of study. It also allowed for full coverage of these fees for eight students enrolled in the bachelor degree program that includes the "Teaching French" module at the Faculty of Education. These future educators will go on to teach French language and literature, as well as science subjects in French, in non-accredited schools. The aid is administered by the Vice-Rector for International Relations, in collaboration with the Financial Aid Office and the Faculty of Education.

### Rehabilitation Projects for the BO and MPL Successfully Concluded with Aliph, QNL, and *Œuvre d'Orient*

In the aftermath of the Beirut Port explosion, the Oriental Library (BO) and the Museum of Lebanese Prehistory (MPL) suffered extensive damage. Support from the Aliph Foundation and the Qatar National Library, in partnership with *Œuvre d'Orient*, played a key role in their restoration (cf. *Fondation USJ's* Annual Impact Report 2020-2022). Following a partial reimbursement by USJ's insurance provider in 2023, an agreement was reached with the international partners to close the projects. This final phase included a major improvement to the existing renovations: the purchase of a new power generator and the installation of solar panels, for a total investment of \$139,361.





# DONOR TESTIMONIALS

## A PLEDGE OF UNWAVERING TRUST

*Driven by generosity*

*Their support gives us the strength to move forward with determination, even in the face of adversity.*

*This generosity fuels our commitment to shaping a brighter future for our students.*



### Maroun CHAMMAS

The partnership between Berytech and the Saint Joseph University of Beirut (USJ) reflects a shared vision. Driven by a commitment to continuous improvement and innovation, USJ established Berytech to meet a critical need: to support innovation and create opportunities that turn challenges into engines of sustainable progress. Since 2002, we've been working together to pave new paths and guide Lebanese youth toward success and excellence.

In today's socio-economic environment, where challenges are increasingly complex, recognizing and nurturing talent is more important than ever. As a leading academic institution, USJ plays a key role in offering steadfast

support to its students. With the backing of their university and their own resilience, these students represent a generation poised to face tomorrow's challenges with determination and strength.

At Berytech, we firmly believe that Lebanon's future relies on these bold young minds, ready to innovate and transform obstacles into opportunities. Through strategic collaborations and shared initiatives, we are building the foundations for a brighter future. USJ students can be confident that, with their passion, perseverance, and the tools provided to them, they are equipped to thrive and actively contribute to a better world.



### Della TAMARI

Education is a cornerstone of society, shaping individuals who are responsible and future-oriented. For this reason, it has always been at the core of the Tamari Foundation's mission.

However, education alone is often insufficient. In Lebanon, where individuals must often take on the role of the absent State, civic engagement is just as essential if we aim to defend the common good and foster better governance at all levels of society. To achieve this, we must encourage dialogue and raise awareness of civic values among young people by creating spaces for exchanging ideas, rather than focusing on identities.

The Saint Joseph University of Beirut, whose values of tolerance and commitment align closely with those of the Foundation, was the perfect partner for the creation of the University Diploma in Civic Engagement and Citizen Initiative, developed in collaboration with the Tamari Foundation, ALAM, and *Fondation Diane*.

At the Tamari Foundation, we are proud to support students of this program through scholarships, just as we have supported young people in other fields of study both in Lebanon and abroad for many years. Watching the next generation grow intellectually and personally is incredibly rewarding. Beyond financial contributions, our goal is to provide opportunities that can truly change lives.

Supporting education is ultimately a long-term commitment. Students are agents of change who will build the society of tomorrow. This is why the Tamari Foundation strongly believes in a holistic approach to education – one that integrates human values such as respect and selflessness, alongside traditional academic success criteria.

We consider our mission a success when we see students we have supported giving back by helping others, whether through their time, expertise, or even financial contributions, creating a virtuous cycle of limitless mutual aid.



### Philippe JABRE

The association I founded is celebrating its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year, and since its creation, it has embodied my deep commitment to the academic sector. While its initiatives have expanded over the years to include medical, cultural, and institutional fields, my primary focus remains on education, as it is the key to transforming societies and offering individuals the opportunity for a better future.

This belief motivates my support for the Saint Joseph University (USJ), renowned for the exceptional quality of its students. Currently, my main priority is to assist those wishing to pursue a master's degree abroad, as this type of support is still rare and highly valuable.

I truly believe that investing in a student creates a long-lasting impact. By supporting them, we change their life, their family's life, and their community's life. The effect of this action lasts for decades, making it one of the most rewarding forms of assistance. In fact, I fully agree with the idea that there is more joy in giving than in receiving, provided the giving is thoughtful. I believe that true happiness lies in seeing the tangible impact of this help on others' lives. To date, I have had the honor of supporting over 3,000 university students, which remains a significant source of pride for me.

My collaboration with *Fondation USJ* is equally fulfilling. I appreciate their dedication and am always eager to learn about their new initiatives. As for the future of my scholarship program, I continue to rely on merit-based and weighted criteria, which have proven to be effective and relevant over the years. My greatest hope is that this approach will inspire other philanthropists, for in our country, where the State's role is limited, it is individual and collective initiatives that truly make a difference.

Lastly, I want to share a message of hope with the students benefiting from this support: the help they receive today is much more than just financial aid. It is a gesture of encouragement and a testament to our belief in their potential. I hope they will always remember that this support carries with it a responsibility – the responsibility to pass on this generosity to others. Making a difference in someone's life is the greatest act of gratitude and can help make the world a better place.



### Alexis HABIB

As a passionate advocate for education as a powerful engine of social change, I have always believed that supporting the academic sector is one of the most meaningful and lasting investments we can make for the future of our society. Young students are not only the promise of tomorrow – they are the very architects of a more resilient and prosperous Lebanon.

Our foundation's commitment to the Saint Joseph University of Beirut is rooted in a deep appreciation for its historical and ongoing role in shaping responsible, visionary leaders. USJ stands as more than a place of learning – it is a cornerstone of knowledge and excellence that continues to uplift Lebanon, even amidst significant socio-economic adversity.

Continuing to support USJ students is, for me, both a moral duty and a deeply rewarding endeavor. Investing in their education means nurturing individual potential and, through that, contributing to a more fair and equitable society. It's far more than a financial contribution – it's a human commitment, one that brings with it the quiet satisfaction of knowing we're making a real difference.

I truly believe in the saying, "There is more joy in giving than in receiving." I have seen firsthand how this support can transform lives, and these experiences only strengthen my desire to continue offering a helping hand.

Our partnership with *Fondation USJ* has been marked by transparency, and a shared commitment to impact. This strong collaboration gives me confidence as we look ahead – to expand our scholarship program, reach more students, and deepen the scope of our work.

To the students who benefit from this support, I offer a simple but heartfelt message: believe in your strength, your dreams, and your ability to rise above challenges. You are the heartbeat of our country's future, and it is a privilege to play a part in your journey.



# SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

## ONCE STUDENTS, ALWAYS ALUMNI

### *Generational Impact How Scholarships Are Shaping Our Students' Lives In Their Own Words...*

#### **Anonymous Recipient**

Faculty of Dental Medicine (FMD)

I'm writing this message with deep emotion, thinking back on everything I've experienced since the day I walked into Ms. Maria Saadé's office at the USJ Financial Aid Office. Back then, I was filled with hope – but also uncertainty about what the future would hold. Five years later, I realize that this scholarship has meant so much more than financial support. It became a foundation, a source of strength, and a gateway to my dreams. It gave me the peace of mind to focus entirely on my dental studies and face challenges without the constant weight of financial stress. Without it, my academic journey would have been much harder – perhaps even impossible.

To you, the generous donors – true builders of futures – I want to say thank you from the bottom of my heart. Your support is more than just financial aid; it's a mission that changes lives. You turn dreams into reality, fear into confidence, and ordinary paths into extraordinary ones. Thanks to you, I found the strength to keep going, to believe in myself, and to feel a deep sense of belonging in the USJ community.

If, one day, I succeed in my career thanks to the opportunity you've given me, I promise to carry this spirit forward. Whether by offering financial help, mentorship, or simply support, I will do my part to pass on the hope and light you've shared with me. You've changed my life – and for that, I will always be grateful.



#### **Nour Ghadban**

School of Mediterranean Agricultural Engineering (ESIAM) / Agricultural Engineering Student

The scholarship I received played a pivotal role in shaping my academic journey at USJ. It allowed me to pursue my degree in agricultural engineering despite the significant financial strain caused by the economic crisis of recent years. Thanks to this support, I was able to fully dedicate myself to my studies without the constant burden of tuition fees and other university-related expenses. Without it, I would have had to consider less expensive alternatives, which could have compromised

both the quality of my education and my career aspirations.

This opportunity also opened doors to enriching experiences – access to high-quality academic resources, personalized mentoring, participation in conferences, practical workshops, and innovative research projects. I am deeply grateful to the donors whose generosity went beyond financial help; it gave me a strong sense of belonging to USJ and deepened my commitment to learning.

Motivated by this experience, I am determined to give back – whether through financial support, mentorship, or guidance – to help future students thrive.

USJ has offered me more than an education; it has been a launching pad for my ambitions, where academic excellence is met with solidarity and personal fulfillment.

#### **Anonymous Recipient**

Faculty of Science (FS) / Biochemistry Student

I am currently studying at the Faculty of Science, where I earned my Bachelor in Life and Earth Sciences – Biochemistry, and I'm now pursuing a Master in Environmental Science and Management. The scholarship I received has relieved me of financial worries, enabling me to focus entirely on my studies and form strong connections with my peers. Without this support, I would have had to either attend a public university or work long hours while studying at USJ, which would have certainly impacted my academic performance. A donation for education is always valuable, as it opened the doors to a prestigious institution for me. In the future, I hope to give back and support upcoming USJ students, whether through donations or by providing job opportunities.



#### **Mariam SAAD**

School of Engineering of Beirut - North Lebanon Branch  
Computer and Communications Engineering Student

My journey at USJ: A dream come true thanks to solidarity!

Joining USJ was a dream, especially in light of the difficult times Lebanon has been enduring. However, angels appeared, offering me the support that reignited hope within me and promised a bright future. Without this invaluable support, I would have likely been forced to knock on countless doors, with no guarantee of achieving this dream.

I am deeply grateful to all the donors who made this possible. I will always remember those who supported me, particularly Mrs. Fadia Alam

El Gemayel and Ms. Myriam Ghosn, who were the foundation of my academic path. Their support relieved any financial worries, turning what could have been a struggle into a personal journey of success and excellence. Just as they helped me achieve my dreams, I am committed to helping other students in the future, because helping one person is like helping their entire family.

A heartfelt thank you to the Saint Joseph University of Beirut, and especially to its Rector, Prof. Salim Daccache, SJ, for making this all possible.

#### **Anonymous Recipient**

Faculty of Pharmacy (FP)

During these difficult times our country is going through, both economically and socially, the financial support I received has been a true relief, giving me the hope I needed to overcome these stressful situations. This scholarship has undoubtedly had a tremendous impact on my academic path, enabling me to focus entirely on my studies and give my best, all while envisioning a future full of success. This opportunity has inspired me to never lose hope and to understand that education is accessible to anyone who persists, regardless of the obstacles they face.

Of course, this would not have been possible without the generosity and support of the donors, and I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to them for the scholarship I received. In a few years, if the opportunity arises, I will not hesitate to give back by contributing to USJ to support those who lack the privilege of pursuing their studies without financial help, as I firmly believe that education is the key that opens doors to a brighter future and success, both professionally and socially.

#### **Anonymous Recipient**

Faculty of Law and Political Science (FDSP)

I would like to share my story, hoping that it will inspire other students facing challenges. Since 2019, Lebanon's economic crisis has greatly affected my dream of becoming a lawyer to defend those who are most vulnerable. I have always dreamed of attending USJ and studying law, but the situation almost forced me to give up on this ambition – until the day I reached out to the University's Financial Aid Office. With their help and the generous support of donors, I was finally able to make my dream a reality.

Today, I am in my second year of law. Without this crucial support, I would not have been able to continue my studies at a reputable university and would have had to settle for a field that does not excite me. I am deeply grateful to those who reached out to help me, and I hope that one day, I will be able to do the same for other students, helping them overcome their challenges and achieve their dreams, just as I have.

Our generous donors for the 2023-2024 academic year

To our benefactors, and generous local and international donors: your unwavering commitment and loyalty are truly invaluable to us.

Once again, we extend our deepest gratitude to all of you!  
A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO THE MAJOR DONORS  
OF USJ AND HDF FOR THEIR CONTINUOUS  
SUPPORT AND SOLIDARITY!

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  - Nohra Antoine
- The Alexis & Anne-Marie Habib Foundation

3 anonymous donors, including 1 alumnus

Should you notice any errors despite our diligence, please accept our apologies and kindly inform us.

The following donors made contributions between July 1, 2023, and June 30, 2024

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  - Abi Aad Tarek\*
  - Abi Fadel François\*
  - Abi Saab Jamale
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