

USJ



Université Saint-Joseph de Beyrouth
Faculté de droit et des sciences politiques

LL.M.

in Business Law

LL.M. en Droit des affaires

■ LL.M. in Business Law

The LL.M. in Business Law aims to provide high-level training for legal professionals, perfectly bilingual in French and English, and familiar with the rules and practice of business law in domestic and international relations.

The LL.M. in Business Law of the Faculty of Law and Political Science at Saint-Joseph University of Beirut is a one-year postgraduate degree. It aims at providing a solid academic legal training to students and legal professionals who specialize in the field of business law and wish to enhance their skills and careers in law firms, banks or major companies in Lebanon and abroad.

The program is designed to familiarize the candidates with the rules and practices of Business Law in both domestic and international relations, and allow them to adapt to various legal systems.

It also aims at providing the required skills for negotiating and drafting legal documents.



■ Academic Director



Professor Youmna Zein Hayek
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■ Admission Requirements

Candidates must hold a Lebanese Bachelor of Law (M1) or an equivalent diploma.

They are selected based on their academic record and/or professional experience, and, if necessary, after an interview with the selection committee.

Proficiency in English and French is mandatory.

Applicants must provide an academic transcript, a cover letter and a curriculum vitae.

■ Career Opportunities

- Corporate lawyer
- Business lawyer
- Judge specialized in business law



The LL.M. in Business Law extends over an academic year divided into two semesters.

Obtaining the degree requires the validation of 60 credits.

■ International Partnerships and Exchange Programs

Professors from French universities, as well as internationally recognized practitioners in their field, contribute to this program. Additionally, students exchange programs are implemented under agreements between the Saint Joseph University of Beirut and renowned foreign universities.

■ Program

The program consists of four teaching units delivered in the form of seminars combining legal theory and practical studies:

Contract Law

- 1 Contractual Techniques (negotiation and drafting)
- 2 Project Financing and Public-Private Partnerships (PPP)
- 3 Fiduciary Contracts
- 4 Oil Contracts
- 5 Consumer Contracts
- 6 Intellectual Property

Banking Law and Financial Markets

- 1 Corporate Financing techniques (Syndicated loans, Leasing, Factoring)
- 2 Overview of the Banking System in the UAE
- 3 Islamic Finance
- 4 International Banking Law (Documentary Credit and First Demand Guarantee)
- 5 Financial Markets regulations

Corporate Law

- 1 Mergers and Acquisitions
- 2 Shareholders' Agreements
- 3 Holding and Offshore Companies
- 4 Corporate Taxation
- 5 Corporate Criminal Law

Arbitration

- 1 Arbitration Law
- 2 Commercial and Investment Arbitration

Internship: Candidates must complete a minimum of six-week internship under the supervision of professionals and submit a report at the end of the internship.

■ Learning Outcomes

Master the negotiation and drafting process of contracts

Become familiar with specific contracts in business law

Develop the ability to adapt to the diversity of legal systems

Train practitioners familiar with the rules and practice of business law in domestic and international relations

Master the dispute resolution mechanisms

Learn to conduct in-depth research

Develop analytical and reflective skills

■ Scientific Advisory Board

Marie-Claude Najm Kobeh

Dean of the Faculty of Law and Political Science - USJ

Younna Zein Hayek

Professor at the Faculty of Law and Political Science - USJ, LL.M. Director, Member of the Beirut Bar

France Drummond

Professor at Paris-Panthéon-Assas University

Patrick Soumrani

Professor at the Faculty of Law and Political Science - USJ, Member of the Beirut Bar

Andrew Bernstein

Lawyer, Member of the Bars in New York and Paris

Georges Haddad

Lecturer at the Faculty of Law and Political Science - USJ, Member of the Beirut Bar

■ LL.M. en Droit des affaires

Le LL.M. en Droit des affaires a vocation à assurer une formation de juristes de haut niveau, parfaitement bilingues, en français et en anglais, et rompus aux règles et à la pratique du droit des affaires dans les relations internes et internationales.

Le LL.M. en Droit des affaires de la Faculté de droit de l'Université Saint-Joseph de Beyrouth est un diplôme de 3e cycle d'une durée d'un an. Il a vocation à assurer une formation à des étudiants et des professionnels spécialisés en droit des affaires et appelés à exercer une activité professionnelle au sein de cabinets d'avocats, de banques ou de grandes entreprises au Liban et à l'étranger.

Le programme des enseignements a pour but de former des praticiens rompus aux règles et à la pratique du droit des affaires dans les relations internes et internationales et susceptibles de s'adapter à la diversité des systèmes juridiques.

Le programme vise également à donner aux étudiants les compétences nécessaires pour maîtriser les techniques de négociation et de rédaction d'actes juridiques.



■ Responsable académique



Professeuse Youmna Zein Hayek
✉ youmna.zeinhayek@usj.edu.lb

■ Conditions d'admission

Les candidats doivent être titulaires d'une Licence libanaise en droit (M1) ou d'un diplôme jugé équivalent.

Ils sont sélectionnés sur la base de leur dossier universitaire et/ou de leur expérience professionnelle ainsi que, le cas échéant, après un entretien avec le comité de sélection.

La maîtrise de l'anglais et du français est obligatoire.

Les dossiers de candidature doivent comporter le dossier universitaire, une lettre de motivation et un curriculum vitae.

Le LL.M. s'étend sur une année universitaire divisée en deux semestres.
Son obtention nécessite la validation de 60 crédits.

■ Débouchés

- Juriste d'entreprise
- Avocat d'affaires
- Magistrat spécialisé en droit des affaires



■ Partenariats internationaux et programmes d'échange

Des professeurs des universités françaises et des praticiens internationalement reconnus dans leur domaine de compétence interviennent dans ce diplôme. De plus, des programmes de mobilité étudiante sont prévus en vertu de conventions conclues par l'USJ avec de nombreuses universités étrangères.

■ Programme

Le programme comporte quatre unités d'enseignement dispensées sous forme de séminaires fondés sur la méthode interactive, alliant les enseignements théoriques à l'étude de cas pratiques :

Droit des contrats

- 1 Techniques contractuelles (négociation et rédaction)
- 2 Financement de projets et partenariats public-privé (PPP)
- 3 Contrats de fiducie
- 4 Contrats pétroliers
- 5 Contrats de consommation
- 6 Propriété intellectuelle

Droit bancaire et des marchés financiers

- 1 Financement des sociétés (prêts syndiqués, crédit-bail, affacturage)
- 2 Initiation au droit bancaire aux Emirats Arabes Unis
- 3 Finance islamique
- 4 Droit bancaire international (crédit documentaire et garantie à première demande)
- 5 Droit des marchés financiers

Droit des sociétés

- 1 Fusions-acquisitions
- 2 Pactes d'actionnaires
- 3 Sociétés holding et offshore
- 4 Fiscalité des sociétés
- 5 Droit pénal des sociétés

Arbitrage

- 1 Droit de l'arbitrage
- 2 Arbitrage commercial et d'investissement

Stage: Les candidats doivent effectuer un stage de six semaines au moins sous la supervision de professionnels et rédiger, à l'issue de celui-ci, un rapport d'activité.

■ Objectifs

Maîtriser le processus de négociation et de rédaction des contrats

Se familiariser avec des contrats particuliers du droit des affaires

Développer la faculté d'adaptation à la diversité des systèmes juridiques

Former des praticiens rompus aux règles et à la pratique du droit des affaires dans les relations internes et internationales

Maîtriser les mécanismes de résolution des différends

Apprendre à mener une recherche approfondie

Développer les qualités d'analyse et de réflexion

■ Conseil scientifique

Marie-Claude Najm Kobeh

Doyen de la Faculté de droit et des sciences politiques de l'USJ

Younna Zein Hayek

Professeur à la Faculté de droit et des sciences politiques de l'USJ, avocat au Barreau de Beyrouth

France Drummond

Professeur à l'Université Paris-Panthéon-Assas

Patrick Soumrani

Professeur à la Faculté de droit et des sciences politiques de l'USJ, directeur du LL.M., avocat au Barreau de Beyrouth

Andrew Bernstein

Avocat au Barreau de New York et de Paris

Georges Haddad

Chargé de cours à la Faculté de droit et des sciences politiques de l'USJ, avocat au Barreau de Beyrouth

Our LL.M. teaching team combines highly qualified and internationally renowned academics and practitioners in their field of expertise.

Marie-Antoinette Airt

Partner, Airt Law office. Marie-Antoinette Airt advises mainly in the areas of corporate, mergers and acquisitions, banking, legal and financial structuring and restructuring, construction and project management, hospitality, media, commercial agency, pharmaceuticals, intellectual property and real estate. Graduated from the Faculty of Law of Saint Joseph University and from Panthéon-Sorbonne University (Paris II), she lectures on Corporate Law at the Faculty Law of Saint-Joseph University.

Andrew Bernstein

Senior Counsel, Cleary Gottlieb Steen & Hamilton LLP, and Senior Fellow, Columbia Center on Sustainable Investment. Andrew Bernstein's practice focuses on transactions for sovereigns, including financings, restructurings, securities offerings and energy transactions, as well as on sustainable investments. He also has extensive experience in international capital markets and sovereign dispute resolution. He received a J.D. degree from Columbia University School of Law in 1987 and holds an undergraduate degree, magna cum laude, from Harvard College in 1984. He is a member of the Bars in New York and Paris, and a former member of the Haut Comité Juridique de la Place Financière de Paris.

Joe Berti

Joe Berti is currently the General Counsel of the Damac Group. He held, previously, numerous executive and senior roles including Chief Legal Officer of the Emaar Group, Production Group General Counsel at Schlumberger Ltd, General Counsel M&A at SLB and sole legal counsel at MH Al Shaya Group. Joe Berti graduated from Panthéon-Sorbonne University (Paris I).

Nicolas Binctin

"Agrége" from the French faculties of Law, Nicolas Binctin is Professor at the University of Poitiers where he manages a postgraduate program on Research and Innovation Development Law, a postgraduate program on IP Law and a joint postgraduate program on IP and Digital Law in Lomé (Togo). Nicolas Binctin teaches Business and Intellectual Property Law in its various components at the universities of Poitiers, CEIPI and Paris Panthéon-Assas, and has been invited as professor and lecturer in several countries. Author of a thesis entitled *Le capital intellectuel* (LexisNexis, 2007), he has numerous publications in French and English, mainly on corporate strategy and IP Law. He acts as an expert or arbitrator in different fields of IP Law and Business Law.

Thierry Bonneau

"Agrége" from the French faculties of Law, Thierry Bonneau is Professor at Paris Panthéon-Assas University where he also acts as the Director for the LL.M. in Banking and Financial Law. He lectures in both French and in English in many other countries. He specializes in Banking and Financial Law and Regulation and is the author of several publications, including major books on Banking and Financial Law and Regulation as well as on FINTEC and Law, in addition to numerous articles on these subjects. He is also a columnist for several law journals. He contributes to the European Society for Banking and Financial Law and the European Banking Institute (EBI) and is a former member of the consultative committee of the French Financial Authority ("Autorité des marchés financiers"). He acts as an expert or arbitrator both in Paris and in other countries.

France Drummond

"Agrége" from the French faculties of Law, France Drummond is currently Professor at Paris-Panthéon-Assas University. She specializes in Business Law and is the author of several publications, mainly a major book on the Capital Markets Law (*Droit financier*, Economica, 2020). She is a former member of the « Commission des sanctions - Autorité des marchés financiers ».

Marc Fornacciari

Partner in Dentons' Paris office. Marc Fornacciari specializes in Administrative Law, in particular regulatory and project finance schemes for public infrastructure projects. He is active in the area of public-private partnerships (PPP) in France and abroad. He graduated from Ecole Nationale d'Administration ENA, Ecole Normale Supérieure and Sciences Po Paris.

Georgiane Hachem

Georgiane Hachem is a Senior Manager with the Transfer Pricing practice at PwC Middle East and has 8 years of Transfer Pricing experience from France, Sub-Saharan Francophone Africa and Middle East.

Georges K. Haddad

Partner at HBD-T Law Firm/ Beirut and lecturer at the Faculty of Law of Saint-Joseph University since 1993. Georges Haddad's expertise is the Law of Contracts, with a special interest in contracts negotiation and regulated-environment agreements. Georges counsels for top ranked multinationals and corporate clients in Lebanon and the MENA region, including major FMCG and pharmaceuticals manufacturers and distributors, international insurance and telecom leading companies, with a current focus on due diligences, mergers and acquisitions and restructuring of businesses. Georges Haddad graduated from the Faculty of Law of Saint-Joseph University (ranking first with honors) and Panthéon-Assas University (Paris II). He since undertook executive programs at the Harvard Law School as well as at the École Supérieure des Affaires (ESA) in Beirut and PwC/ Paris.

Charles Jarrosson

Emeritus Professor of Law, University of Paris-Panthéon-Assas; Editor in chief of the *Revue de l'arbitrage*. Charles Jarrosson is the author of numerous articles on Arbitration & ADR. He regularly acts as independent arbitrator or mediator in international disputes.

Michèle El Khoury

Michèle El Khoury is a French/Lebanese banking & finance lawyer registered with the Bars of Paris and Beirut. She holds a DESS in banking & finance (Paris I, Panthéon-Sorbonne) and a Ph.D. (from Panthéon-Assas University (Paris II)). She worked in two law firms in Dubai (Allen & Overy) and Paris (Herbert Smith) and is currently a principal lawyer with Support Legal, a law firm based in DIFC, Dubai. She mainly advises institutional clients in respect of cross border transactions related to structured finance (conventional and Islamic), securitisation, LMA syndicated loans and project finance. She regularly publishes articles in specialised magazines including the French *Revue de droit bancaire et de la bourse* and *Revue Banque*, Lexis Nexis and the Global Restructuring Review (UK).

Hervé Lécuyer

"Agrége" from the French faculties of Law, Hervé Lécuyer is Professor at Paris-Panthéon-Assas University. He also lectures at the "Centre de Formation des Notaires de Paris". He specializes in Civil Law, Business Law and Insurance Law and is the author of several publications and a co-author of a book on the Lebanese Code of Obligations and Contracts.

Dominique Legeais

"Agrége" from the French faculties of law, Dominique Legeais is currently Professor at Paris, Paris-Cité University. He specializes in Commercial Law and is the author of several publications, mainly on Blockchain and Crypto-Currency Law.

Ziad Mekanna

Ziad Mekanna is an attorney at law and legal consultant specializing in criminal justice and human rights. He practices in the fields of public policy, regulatory affairs, governance and dispute resolution and advises on anti-corruption, access to justice and criminal justice reform matters. He is a leading expert in criminal justice, with significant experience from senior roles in the judiciary and policy making institutions. He holds a Ph.D. in law from the Lebanese University and is the author of various publications on criminal law and procedures and human rights. He is the founder and editor of a series of legal publications titled «Commentaries on Lebanese Laws». He is a frequent speaker and contributor to academic and professional conferences and seminars and regularly designs and delivers training events to public agencies and law enforcement personnel.

Carole Moudaber Haddad

Partner at HBD-T Law firm/Beirut and lecturer at the Faculty of Law of Saint-Joseph University since 1998 on Legal Methodology, Inheritance Law and Consumer Contracts. Carole Moudaber Haddad specializes in business and family Law, with a special interest for estate planning, corporate governance, restructurings, family business advisory, legal technology and litigation. She counsels for large manufacturers, contracting and distribution companies in the Mena region and West Africa, and sits on the board of leading companies in Sub-Saharan Africa. She is a board member of the Levant Chapter of the Family Business Network (FBN- International) and is part of several legislative commissions in Lebanon. She is a graduate of the Faculty of Law of Saint-Joseph University and Panthéon-Sorbonne University (Paris I).

Nada El Sayed

Tax leader at PwC Lebanon, leading a team of 30 highly specialized tax professionals. Nada El Sayed provides international tax advisory and structuring services to local, regional and international clients. She is extensively involved in tax planning, mergers & acquisitions and tax structuring projects for leading companies and family businesses in various industries. She holds a Master in Business Administration, a bachelor degree in Law and the US CPA. She is a member of PwC Middle East Supervisory Board.

Patrick Soumrani

Professor of Corporate Law at the Faculty of Law of Saint-Joseph University. Patrick Soumrani specializes in mergers and acquisitions, banking and finance law, corporate law, commercial law, aviation law, real estate law and dispute resolution. Graduated from the Faculty of Law of Saint-Joseph University, he received his Ph.D. from Panthéon-Assas University (Paris II). He is the author of several publications, including a book on the fiduciary ownership of shares (*Le portage d'actions*, LGDJ, 1996). He is also Managing Partner at Soumrani & Partners.

Younna Zein Hayek

Professor of Banking Law in Lebanon and in the UAE at the Faculty of Law of Saint-Joseph University and Director of the LL.M. program in Business Law. Younna Zein Hayek is also Senior Partner at Zein Law Firm. She advises in a large number of fields, mainly in banking and finance law, corporate law, commercial law, real estate law and acts as expert in Lebanese banking law in international arbitration. Graduated from the Faculty of Law of Saint-Joseph University, she received her Ph.D. from Panthéon-Assas University (Paris II). She is the author of several publications, including a book on syndicated loans (*Les pools bancaires, aspects juridiques*, Economica, 1999).

Nassib Ziadé

Nassib G. Ziadé is an international judge and arbitrator. He is the President of the International Monetary Fund Administrative Tribunal, the First Vice-President of the United Nations Appeals Tribunal, and a Member of the Sanctions Panel of the Geneva-based Global Fund. He has regularly served as tribunal chair or co-arbitrator in arbitrations relating to international commerce, construction, investment, and public international law. He has been designated as a Member of the Permanent Court of Arbitration (PCA) and the ICSID Panels of Arbitrators and Conciliators. He is a Member of the Board of Trustees of the Cairo Regional Centre for International Commercial Arbitration, a Member of the Board of Trustees of the Lebanese Arbitration and Mediation Center. He is the Founder and General Editor of the BCDR International Arbitration Review and a member of the editorial advisory committees of several law journals. He has been a Visiting Professor at the University of Miami School of Law, the University of Panthéon-Sorbonne (Paris I) and the Universities of Chile and Heidelberg in Santiago, Chile. He also delivered a course on "the independence of arbitral bodies established in the framework of international organizations" at The Hague Academy of International Law. He is an Associate Member of the Institut de droit international.

■ Testimony - Student

“ It has been a privilege to be part of such a rigorous and rewarding academic journey.

As a student in the LL.M in business law program, I can confidently say that this past year has been transformative. I have gained invaluable knowledge that surpasses all my previous years of legal education. The depth and breadth of information acquired in this program feels equivalent to a decade of professional experience.

One of the program's greatest strengths is its faculty. Each professor is an expert in their field, offering not only theoretical insights but also practical tactics derived from real-world experience. Their generosity in sharing their expertise has been instrumental in shaping my understanding of complex legal concepts.

I wholeheartedly recommend the LL.M in business law to future students seeking a comprehensive and practical education in the field of business law.

Marielle Haddad
Promo 2024

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■ Témoignage - Alumni

“ Une étape d'une importance considérable dans mon parcours académique et professionnel.

Le LL.M m'a offert une vision très enrichissante de la pratique du droit des affaires. Les matières que nous avons suivies sont variées et couvrent une multitude de sujets qui sont d'une grande utilité pour la pratique d'un avocat d'affaires. De plus, il était particulièrement intéressant pour mes camarades et moi-même de découvrir des sujets qui touchent à l'actualité comme les marchés financiers, la crypto-monnaie et les « blockchains », ou les partenariats public-privé. Tous ces sujets sont présentés par des intervenants hors-pair à travers des cours interactifs (et ce malgré les cours virtuels en période de pandémie !). Dans les divers dossiers que j'examine en pratique, je ne cesse de retrouver régulièrement les notions acquises en LL.M. et de les utiliser.

Nicole Araygi
Promo 2020

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■ Testimony - Lecturer

“ The lively student participation has enriched the experience for all.

I have had the pleasure of teaching in the USJ LL.M program since it was founded. I teach using the US method, interactive and practical, designed to encourage the students to think about problem-solving using the tools of legal practitioners. They have responded with enthusiasm and their lively participation has enriched the experience for all.

Andrew A. Bernstein
Partner, Cleary Gottlieb Steen & Hamilton LLP

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