

# AI USE IN EDUCATION: A VIEW FROM THE AMERICAN UNIVERSITY OF BEIRUT

LINA CHOUEIRI, DEPUTY PROVOST

Positioning of Universities in Lebanon Regarding the Use of Al - December 16, 2025 Office of the Provost | American University of Beirut



# RESEARCHING AND TEACHING (ABOUT) AI

IN-PERSON CONVENING | JORDAN

ADVANCING **RESPONSIBLE AI** FOR GLOBAL HEALTH IN MENA



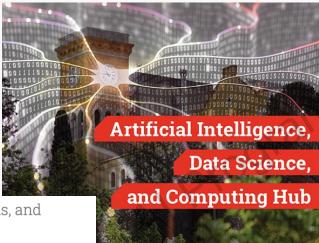
Bridging the Al Language Divide: What happens if Arabic is left behind?

Science & Technology Monday, September 9, 2024

A P

AUB's pioneering efforts, led by Professor Mariette Awad, to develop AI systems tailored to the needs of Arabic speakers, addressing the inadequacies of current AI models that often marginalize non-English languages.

VIEW MORE



Deta Power and P

AUB Announces Plans for School of Computing and Data Sciences

Data Science, Intelligent Systems, and Computational Engineering

MSFEA researchers explore artificial intelligence wicked problems facing humanity: information the learning, artificial intelligence, cybersecurity, signomputational techniques. From optimization me interface, our research pushes the boundaries of centered utilities and applications.











ART BY <u>EMILY ALTMAN</u> FROM CURRENT AFFAIRS MAGAZINE, ISSUE 56, OCTOBER-NOVEMBER 2025

STUDENTS USE AI TO WRITE PAPERS, PROFESSORS USE AI TO GRADE THEM, DEGREES BECOME MEANINGLESS, AND TECH COMPANIES MAKE FORTUNES. WELCOME TO THE DEATH OF HIGHER EDUCATION.

Ronald Purser – Al is Destroying the University and Learning Itself (Current Affairs, December 2025)



# Has your university developed a **strategy or guidelines** regarding the use of Al? If so, what are the **main pillars** of this strategy, and how has it been disseminated within the institution?

- Our approach to a strategy regarding the use of AI is distributed (vs. one-size-fits-all), bottom-up, with the central administration acting as coordinator and enabler to ensure coherence and alignment with AUB's values and mission. A process to develop AUB's IT AI Strategy has kicked-off with key stakeholder engagement across academic units to understand their current use cases, needs, and expectations around AI. The goal is to build a practical, institution-wide roadmap that aligns with AUB's academic and research priorities while supporting innovation and responsible adoption of AI technologies.
- AUB Guidelines for the Use of Generative AI in Research (v1, October 2025) Guiding principles: accountability and responsibility, data protection, privacy and confidentiality, research ethics, compliance, intellectual property rights and patentability, transparency and attribution; Opportunities and safeguards for AI use along the research phases from ideation, formulating a research hypothesis or question, writing a literature review, data gathering and analysis to writing and reviewing manuscript.

https://www.aub.edu.lb/research/Documents/AUB-guidelines-for-the-Use-of-Generative-Al-in-Research.pdf

Recently approved Guidelines for the use of Generative Al tools in courses: faculty establish and communicate their course-specific policy on the use of GenAl tools, which should explicitly state whether Al use is prohibited, permitted with restrictions, or fully encouraged and integrated into the course. Faculty members are strongly encouraged to explain the pedagogical rationale of their course policy on Al, connecting it directly to the course learning outcomes. (AAUP's report on Artificial Intelligence and Academic Professions)



What **concrete initiatives** has your university implemented to ensure an ethical and informed use of Al in **teaching**, **research**, **and the assessment** of student learning (guides, tools, training sessions, etc.)?



## Research

- 1 virtual discussion forum on 'Al for Research: Safeguards and Opportunities' – 130+ registered
- 2 online workshops on 'Al for Research:
   Overview of available tools' 350
   participants
- 1 in-person workshop on the 'Use of Generative AI in health research'

# **Teaching**

- Al Literacy trainings/workshops for faculty on use of Al in courses, Academic Integrity, and Assessment
- Dialogues with faculty and students within disciplines
- Talks and webinars for faculty and students



The Center for Teaching and Learning (CTL), the Office of Innovation and Transformation, and the Communication Skills Program at the American University of Beirut will hold their "Thirteenth International Conference on Effective Teaching and Learning in Higher Education" on April 19, 2024, Online. The Conference Program Committee invites university faculty members from Lebanon, the MENA region, and beyond to submit proposals for presentations to be reviewed for possible inclusion in the Conference program.

This year's Conference theme will focus on: "Learning Renaissance: Innovation and AI in Teaching, Learning, and Assessment".



MICHAEL M. CROW, WILLIAM B. DABARS, AND DAVID V. ROSOWSKY

# It's Time for Universities to Redesign Their 75-Year-Old Contract

neventy-five years ago this summer, President Truman signed the bill creating the National Science Foundation (NSF), setting in motion an innovation ecosystem that has delivered unrivaled military protection, remarkable economic growth, and countless lifesaving advances. The creation of NSF inaugurated the proposition that universities are responsible for producing a "flow of new scientific knowledge to those who can apply it to practical problems in government, in industry, or elsewhere," as Vannevar Bush wrote in Science, the Endless Frontier. Over time, research universities came to excel at fulfilling the technical side of this relationship with the federal government. But they have been slower to recognize the other dimension of this relationship, which obligates them to work towards equitable social outcomes benefitting all Americans.

Today, as political rancor, distrust of expertise, and declining trust in institutions threaten to dismantle

have been sometimes inadequate and incomplete. And, ironically, although universities unleashed an age of massive technical innovation, they failed to innovate their own designs to meet the changing needs of society. Now, each American research university must recognize how they are affected by this design flaw to redesign their own operations to meet the tremendous challenges that lie ahead. At Arizona State University, we have been working on correcting this design limitation over the past two decades, and we have seen that it is possible to integrate the social as well as the technical outcomes of the contract by embracing organizational innovation and responsivity.

#### The technical and social dimensions of the contract

By funding basic research without immediate commercial objectives and incentivizing technology transfer and commercialization efforts, postwar investments by the federal government helped America's research universities

Is there an **institutional body** (committee, unit, center, etc.) that provides orientation for the university's vision regarding Al usage? Is there a body responsible for its implementation?

- Vision and strategy for AI use in education: AUB leadership sets the framwork, purpose and values that the vision and strategy must adhere to.
- Implementation in teaching and research is distributed across faculties and programs, who are responsible for reshaping pedagogy and assessment of learning.
- In line with the principle of Academic Freedom, faculty members are responsible for course-specific policies on the use of Generative AI tools in their courses.
- The needed infrastructure, governance, ethics, data protection, and capacity building that will enable implementation and ensure sustainability are also the responsibility of the AUB leadership.



What **pitfalls** should be avoided, and what **concrete recommendations** can be shared to inspire universities in Lebanon to promote an ethical and informed use of AI?

- Evidence-based (not hype-based) adoption of AI: piloting and evaluation are necessary.
- Redesign curricula for Al-enabled learning. Al adoption without redesign will amplify existing challenges and failures.
- Al's educational value is contextual and disciplinary: Al literacy programs should not be a one-size fits all, focused only on available Al tools and how to use them.
- Al access should be treated like library access, LMS access, or advising access. It should be centrally supported, equitably available, and pedagogically contextualized.



# Do you have any **recommendation to** address to **public authorities**?

- National level computing infrastructure (local compute power, internet connectivity, and partnerships with major compute clusters in the region or internationally) – important for education and critical for research.
- National framework and legislation for Al seen not just as an innovation layer, but as a resilience and strengthening mechanism that can help restore trust in state institutions. The framework provides common principles, guardrails, and priorities for Al, while legislation establishes national standards and governance, such data privacy and ownership, algorithm transparency, cross-border data flows, etc.
- Distributed approach that empowers universities and schools to redesign curricula for Al-enabled learning, with strengthening learning quality, equity, and access as explicit policy objectives.

# **THANK YOU**





# Positioning of Universities in Lebanon

Regarding the Use of AI

USEK Approach

Dr. Marie-Rita Hojeij

Holy Spirit University of Kaslik

# Our Strategic Journey





Cross-faculty representation under the Office of the Provost

Comprehensive Al Readiness Assessment

Faculty, student, and administrative surveys with interviews

**Ethical Al Policy Development** 

Risk-based governance framework aligned with UNESCO principles

Faculty Development: Teach with Al

Two-tiered certification program with Al Ambassadors

**Student Al Literacy: GenAl Foundations Course** 

Mandatory general education with Pearson VUE certification

# AI Taskforce & Governance





Office of the Provost

Strategic ownership and institutional alignment

#### **GOVERNANCE BODY**

**CARE Committee** 

Committee for AI Responsibility & Ethics

#### **IMPLEMENTATION**

AI Taskforce

Faculty representatives from all schools

#### **CROSS-FACULTY REPRESENTATION**



#### **Consultation Process**

22 4 2
In-depth interviews Focus groups Months duration

# **Comprehensive AI Readiness Assessment**



**SURVEY 1** 

**Faculty** 

379

Respondents

46%

Participation rate

Full-time & Part-time faculty 52% female · 48% male

**SURVEY 2** 

**Students** 

Universitywide

All schools represented Undergraduate & Graduate **SURVEY 3** 

**Administration** 

**Operational** 

Readiness focus

Support services

Infrastructure assessment

Objective: Evaluate readiness across digital, ethical, and governance dimensions

# **Key Insights: Faculty AI Readiness**



**55**%

Rate themselves digitally proficient

30%

Report actual

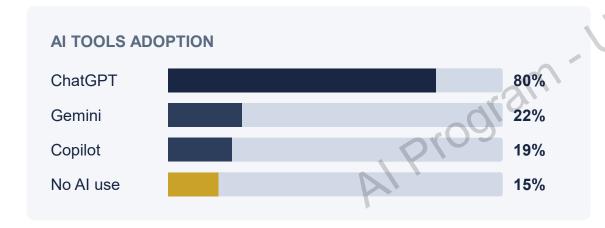
Al familiarity

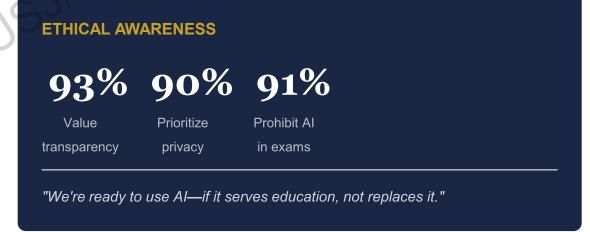
**65**%

Describe Al training as "highly needed"

5 hrs

Monthly commitment willing for training





# USEK Ethical AI Policy Framework



#### **UNESCO-Aligned**

Grounded in UNESCO's Recommendation on the Ethics of AI (2021)

#### **Human-Centered Approach**

Human oversight, shared responsibility, capacity building

#### **Risk-Based Framework**

Low · Moderate · High risk categorization with proportionate controls

#### **Transparency & Disclosure**

Mandatory Al disclosure in coursework and research

#### **FOUNDATIONAL PRINCIPLES**

**Human Rights & Dignity** 

**Do-No-Harm & Safety** 

**Equity & Accessibility** 

Privacy & Data
Protection

**Transparency** 

**Accountability** 

**Literacy & Capacity Building** 

# Risk-Based AI Governance



**LOW RISK** 

## **Permitted**

Brief disclosure · Human sense-check

Language polishing, brainstorming, formatting, captioning

**MODERATE RISK** 

## **Controlled**

RIA-Lite · Documented review · Audit logs

Formative feedback, draft assistance, code suggestions on synthetic data

**HIGH RISK** 

# **CARE Validation**

Full RIA · DPIA · Human-in-the-Loop

Grading assistance, proctoring, predictive models, sensitive research

**DOMAIN-SPECIFIC STANDARDS** 

#### **HUMAN-IN-THE-LOOP PRINCIPLE**

"Al detection scores are signals, not proof. Fair-process reviews come first, sanctions come after facts are established."

Discipline-Specific: Engineering, Business, Medicine, Law, Arts, Humanities, Theology

# Teach with AI: Faculty Development



Two-tiered certification program for AI literacy

TIER 1 · ALL FACULTY

## **Core Certification Track**

4 MANDATORY COURSES (4-6 HRS EACH)

#### 1. Introduction to AI in Education

Fundamentals, tools landscape, capabilities

#### 2. Al-Enhanced Course Design

Prompt engineering, content creation

#### 3. Assessment & Al Integrity

Detection protocols, resilient assessments

#### 4. Al Ethics & Responsible Use

Bias, privacy, equity, decision frameworks

**TIER 2 · SELECT FACULTY** 

# **AI Ambassador Pathway**

4 OF 8 ELECTIVES + CAPSTONE

Advanced Prompt Engineering

Personalized Learning Design

Multimodal Al Tools

Discipline-Specific Applications

**Target: 20-25 Al Ambassadors** 

Peer mentors · Workshop facilitators · Innovation catalysts

**Currently exploring certification partnerships** 

# Student AI Literacy: GenAI Foundations

Mandatory general education course for all USEK students

#### **COURSE CURRICULUM**



#### **Generative AI Tools**

Understanding AI capabilities, limitations, and appropriate use cases



### **Effective Prompting**

Techniques for clear communication and optimal AI outputs



## Al Ethics & Responsibility

Academic integrity, bias awareness, privacy, and disclosure norms

**Integration:** Part of USEK's general education requirements across all programs and schools



**INDUSTRY CERTIFICATION** 

# **Pearson VUE**

Generative AI Foundations Certification

Available upon course completion

## **Globally Recognized Credential**

Enhancing student employability

#### **Key Differentiator**

USEK graduates enter the workforce with verified Al competencies

# The 4-P Roadmap





# **Policy**

Ethical foundations

Al Ethics Framework, Disclosure protocols, School guidelines



# **People**

Empowering community

Faculty certification, Al Ambassadors, Student engagement



# **Practice**

Embedding in teaching

Pilot classrooms, Assessment redesign, Innovation grants



# **Platforms**

Digital infrastructure

Licensed Al tools, Al Knowledge Hub, Secure sandboxes

# What Makes USEK's Approach Distinctive



## **Evidence-Based Policy**

Framework derived from comprehensive surveys, interviews, and focus groups — not theoretical assumptions

## **Human-Centered by Design**

Grounded in USEK's Catholic mission: All enhances rather than replaces human judgment, creativity, and dignity

## **Integrated Ecosystem**

Parallel development of policy, faculty training, and student curriculum — all components aligned

## **UNESCO Alignment**

Explicitly aligned with UNESCO's Recommendation on Ethics of AI and Guidance for Generative AI in Education

## **Discipline-Sensitive**

Recognition that Engineering, Medicine, Law, and Theology require different AI integration approaches

## **Industry Certification**

Pearson VUE certification ensures graduates have globally recognized Al credentials

"Readiness depends less on technology and more on confidence, competence, and a shared ethical culture."



# Not to follow global trends but to define

# a distinctive model of responsible academic innovation

One that harmonizes faith, reason, and technology — forming ethical, discerning, and creative minds ready to lead with humanity in an AI-driven world.

379
Faculty surveyed

7
Ethical principles

4P
Strategic roadmap

1

Unified vision

Thank You



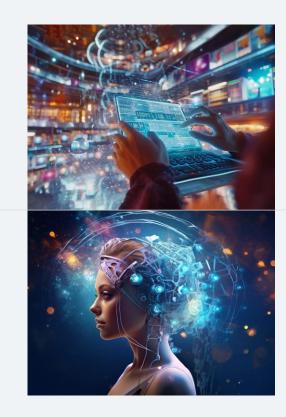






# Positioning of Universities in Lebanon Regarding the Use of Al

Wadad Wazen Gergy –
Director Center for Digital Innovation
& Artificial Intelligence
Saint-Joseph University of Beirut





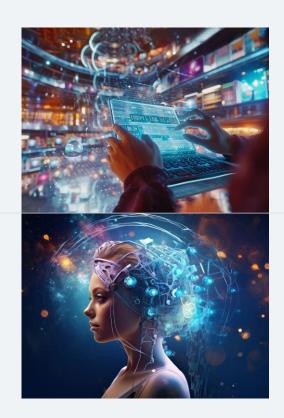






# A Human-Centered Al Journey at USJ

Wadad Wazen Gergy –
Director Center for Digital Innovation
& Artificial Intelligence
Saint-Joseph University of Beyrouth



# From Awareness to Action: Al at USJ





# How do we lead with AI, ethically, responsibly, and inclusively?

We

reflected

organized

collaborated

shared a vision







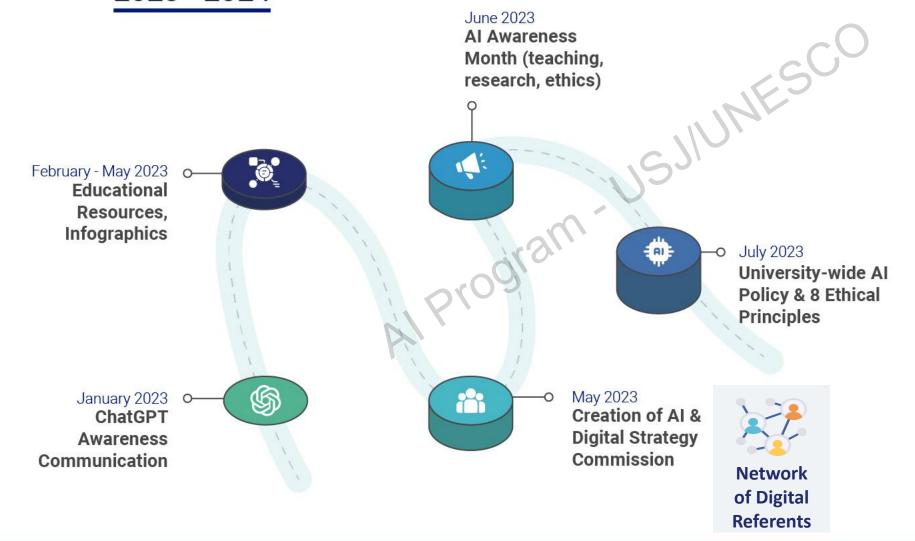








# **TIMELINE** 2023 - 2024





**TIMELINE** 2023 - 2024

June 2023
Al Awareness
Month (teaching,
research, ethics)

February Edu
Re
Info

USJ has chosen not to prohibit the use of generative AI, and instead to train its future graduates in informed usage that fosters critical thinking and creativity.

January 2023
ChatGPT
Awareness
Communication



O May 2 Crea Digit

May 2023
Creation of AI &
Digital Strategy
Commission



# Strategic Directions for the Integration of Al



Establishing a **monitoring unit** in each faculty to competencies expected by the job market in lig integration of future graduates



Training students, teachers, and administrativ



Providing a **repository of AI resources and tool** the CINIA Repository).

# Guiding Principles for Ethical Use of Artificial Intelligence in Teaching and Learning

The following guiding principles are designed to ensure the effective, responsible, and ethical use of artificient education teaching and learning. These principles are subject to evolution and will be adapted based on the the advancement of the relevant AI tools.

To fully leverage the benefits of artificial intelligence, **strategic directions for integrating AI into higher educa adopted**. This approach will optimize the application of these principles and harness the potential of AI to enha experience.



Recognize the Limitations of Generative AI: Understand that generative AI produces and probabilities and lacks a deep understanding of meaning, veracity, or relevance, making inaccurate or invalid.



Acknowledge AI Benefits and Risks: Be aware of the efficiency and speed that AI brings content writing, while also recognizing the risks of @algorithmic biases or @hallucine plausible yet inaccurate or fabricated information.

# **AI Trainings 2024–2025**







50h

de formations



355

enseignantchercheurs formés





14h

235

de formations participants



## Formations pour externe



53h 243

de formations participants

# Formations personnel USJ



8h 148 de formations employés

#### Formations cadre institutionnel USJ



8h

de formations

141

27

doyens/directeurs



## Webinaires ouverts



7.5h 1270 de formations participants

Ateliers enseignants-chercheurs



160

6h

de formations

enseignants-chercheurs

# From Campus to Community





UNIVERSITY DIPLOMA
IN ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

STEP INTO THE FUTURE:
AI FOR EVERYONE

**Economics, Management** and Banking: 6 Trainings

Arts, Literature and Humanities, Religious Studies: 4 Trainings

**Technology, Sciences:**3 Trainings

Medicine and Health: 1 Training

# Interdisciplinary collaboration: Catalyst for meaningful impact



11

The real impact happens when we bring together diverse minds, to solve complex challenges that no single discipline can tackle alone.

# Interdisciplinary collaboration: Catalyst for meaningful impact

# Medical Imaging and Al

**Detection and monitoring of liver tumors** 







# Language Models for Safer Healthcare

Safer AI tools for the medical field





# Seismic Al and Environmental Protection

Improve earthquake detection and identify unauthorized mining activity







Smart Grading System



USJ Chatbot



USJ Library Chatbot

# **Interdisciplinary Collaboration: Catalyst for Meaningful Impact**

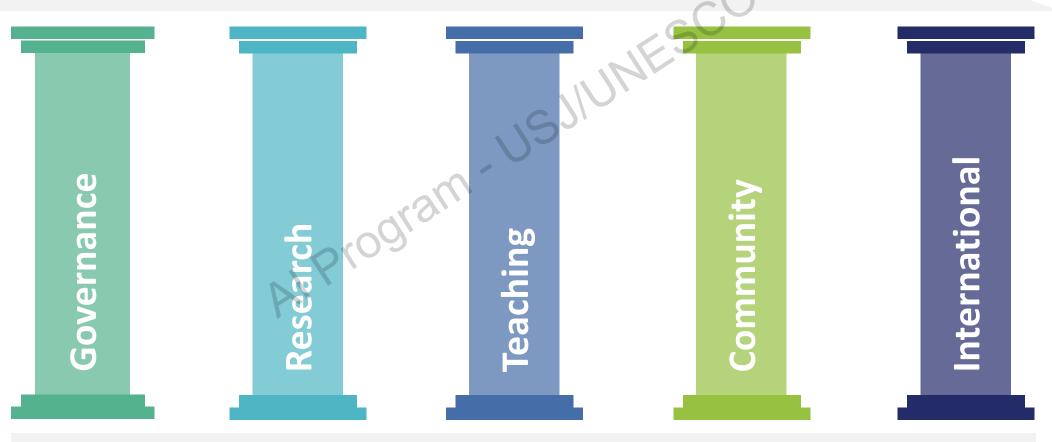


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These are not just academic exercises, they are solutions rooted in real-world needs, shaped by collaboration, and driven by a shared sense of purpose.



# **USJ Digital strategy**



# What have we built?





At USJ, we are not just adapting to AI, we are helping shape it.



Empowering USJ community



Participatory Strategy



Interdisciplinary Research



Homegrown Tools



Community Outreach

# Key Recommendations from USJ's Experience:

- Institutional Commitment
- Inclusive Governance
- Ethical Al Usage
- Comprehensive Training
- User-Centered Approach



A proactive and inclusive holistic approach combining transparent communication, training, and support.









# Thank You!



















### The Team



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Al in Lebanese Universities

LAU's Strategic Al Approach



### Our Al Vision

01

Laying the Foundation

Building a strong foundation with clear guidelines and coordinated efforts.

02

Empowering Our Community

Training and supporting faculty and staff to become Al-skilled.

03

Integrating AI in Learning

Weaving Al into curriculum for natural student learning and growth.

04

Responsible Al Innovation

Committed to ethical, transparent Al use with clear standards.

05

Leading Al Adoption

Goal: Become a top regional university in Al adoption.

This clear path ensures LAU's AI strategy comprehensively enhances university life.



### LAU's Al Hub

Your Central Hub for AI at LAU

The LAU AI Hub centralizes, guides, and accelerates AI initiatives across the university. It fosters a powerful, connected AI environment, moving beyond isolated projects to benefit everyone at LAU.

Integrating AI into academics, operations, and IT systems, the Hub ensures a shared vision. It empowers each school and department to explore their unique AI needs, ensuring cohesive yet flexible AI advancement.

# Al Hub Mission Our Mission

- Provide Resources to External Partners
   Offer current AI expertise and develop future workforce talent for industry and government partners.
- → Connect Global AI Networks
   Serve as a node linking LAU with international academic institutions and leading AI companies worldwide.



# Al Hub: Scope and Reach



#### **Academic Innovation**

- Develop new courses & curricula
- Create engaging digital learning
- Build essential Al skills
- Transform learning assessment



# Administrative Operations

- Automate processes & workflows
- Optimize service delivery
- Boost operational efficiency
- Manage resources intelligently



#### IT and Infrastructure

- Integrate & deploy Al models
- Develop powerful system solutions
- Build secure Al infrastructure
- Establish data governance

#### Three Core Functions of the Al Hub

#### Strategic Coordination

We align all AI projects across schools, departments, and administration, fostering innovation while ensuring unified direction.



#### **Technical Evaluation**

We evaluate new AI tools and solutions, then partner with IT to build a secure, automated infrastructure. This ensures safe and smooth AI integration across the university, with intelligent data handling.



#### **Capacity Building**

We empower faculty, staff, and students with Al through resources, guidance, and training. Our goal is to ensure responsible, ethical, and impactful Al use across the university.





# Integrating Al into Teaching and Learning

#### Faculty Innovation

Professors integrate Al into assignments, discussions, assessments, and course design, transforming student learning.

#### **Essential Student Skills**

Students gain hands-on experience with AI prompting, data understanding, evaluation, and critical thinking. This prepares them for an AI-centric future.

#### Natural Integration

We aim for AI to be a natural part of learning, not just an extra tool. This builds confidence and capability for both students and faculty.

## Al Training: Boost Team Potential

Two Steps to Al Confidence





Boost daily productivity by learning practical AI for tasks like time management, content creation, and communication. Gain immediate confidence in AI's real-world benefits.



Phase 2: Department-Specific Al Solutions

Explore Al benefits tailored to your team. Focus on automating processes, reducing manual effort, and transforming workflows to deliver better services.

This structured approach builds cultural momentum across LAU, increases staff confidence, and improves efficiency and innovation.

# Responsible Al: Our Commitment to Ethics

#### Innovating with Integrity

LAU is committed to ethical AI integration, guided by clear principles of fairness, transparency, and accountability to ensure AI benefits everyone.

This means we're focusing on key areas, including:

- Maintaining high academic standards and fair assessments
- Protecting data and ensuring security
- Ensuring Al fairness, accessibility, and bias removal
- Transparent Al usage
- Ethical Al research

LAU aims to be a regional leader in responsible AI for higher education.



# Supporting Lebanese Universities

What LAU Can Contribute Nationally



#### **Institutional Structures**

We'll share our Al committee and innovation hub setup, including templates, governance models, and valuable lessons learned.



#### Assessment Approaches

Let's collaborate to create effective student assessment methods for the AI era, tackling academic integrity and progress evaluation.



#### **Training Programs**

We'll share practical training frameworks and success stories to help institutions build tailored programs for their local needs.



#### Al Literacy Standards

Al literacy is a core student skill. Let's collaborate to ensure all graduates are ready for an Al-integrated future.

# Moving Forward Together

#### **Unified Vision**

LAU's AI Hub centrally aligns efforts for university-wide transformation.

# Comprehensive Integration

Al integrates deeply into teaching, operations, and research.

#### Responsible Leadership

We lead ethical and responsible AI use in higher education.

LAU actively shapes the AI era, integrating powerful technologies to enhance learning, operations, and community service. We lead the way.

