

Dean's Word

Education Challenged by Artificial Intelligence



Dear students,

The rapid advancement of artificial intelligence (AI) is undoubtedly reshaping our society, including the field of education. As we navigate through a “festival of uncertainties” (Morin, 2020), it is imperative to rethink the foundations of our educational system. While academic skills remain important, they alone

may no longer suffice in a world where AI applications compete with human capabilities. So, how should we respond? What strategies should we adopt?

The education sector has been significantly impacted by AI innovations, such as the conversational robot ChatGPT, which elicits both concern and fascination. However, allowing fear or excessive enthusiasm to guide our actions would be unwise. Completely banning the use of AI tools in education would likely be an uphill battle, as these tools are accessible to all students and are becoming increasingly essential in our daily lives. The question is not whether to accept or reject smart technologies since they are already pervasive, but rather how we can harness them for education while addressing the ethical challenges they present. Digital problems and challenges are no longer solely technical; they deeply impact student learning and teacher professional development.

At the Faculty of Education, we advocate for a thoughtful, human-centered approach to technology. We should utilize innovations to enhance student learning, seeking AI applications to complement learning rather than substituting it, and ensuring that individuals do not become overly dependent on machines. However, such a journey cannot occur in isolation. It requires the engagement of the entire educational community, including administrators, instructors, students, and parents. Together, we can provide institutional frameworks to guide the integration of these disruptive technologies into educational practices. This, in turn, may lead us to rethink how we teach students by emphasizing the development of life skills that are essential for the world of tomorrow.

In this context, we should also revisit our pedagogical approaches, including assessment methods. By cultivating critical and reflective thinking, coupled with ethics, we can safeguard the human being. According to Kant (1797), each person must be seen as an end, not merely a means to an end, and this constitutes his dignity.

Pr. Patricia Rached - HDR
Dean of the Faculty of Education

Students, actors of change

At our Faculty, students' voices are heard. They are represented during:

- Meetings of the Training and Student Life Council where teachers, students, alumni of the Faculty, and the Dean gather to discuss important issues.
- Faculty Council meetings where themes related to student life are deliberated.
- Regular meetings that take place between the delegates and the Dean.

Whom to contact

Deanery

Dean: Pr. Patricia Rached - HDR; ext. 5710

Administrative Coordinator of Academic Affairs: Mrs Soha Karam; ext. 5709

Communication Manager: Mrs. Suzanne Moubarak; ext. 5713

Academic support assistant: Mrs. Nicole Tannous; ext. 5719

Faculty Departments:

Head of Department (French Section)

Dr. Mirna El-Hage; ext.5714

Head of Department (English and Arabic Sections)

Dr. Bassem Kandil; ext. 5734

Director of the Educational Research Laboratory

Dr. Yvette Gharib; ext. 5712

Programs based on the latest educational topics

Programmes de formation francophones :

- Licence d'enseignement (60 crédits)
- Certificat d'aptitude pour l'enseignement secondaire-CAPES (90 crédits)
- Master en sciences de l'éducation, option Enseignement et coordination disciplinaire (120 crédits)
- Master en sciences de l'éducation, option Gestion scolaire et développement éducatif (120 crédits)
- Doctorat en sciences de l'éducation (180 crédits)

English Programs:

- Teaching Diploma (60 credits)
- Master in Education, emphasis: "Teaching and Pedagogical Counselling" (120 credits)
- PhD (180 credits)

البرامج المتوفرة باللغة العربية:

- ماستر في العلوم التربوية، التركيز: التعليم والتنسيق والإشراف التربوي (120 رصيداً)
- ماستر في العلوم التربوية، التركيز: الإدارة المدرسية والتنمية التربوية (120 رصيداً)
- دكتوراه في العلوم التربوية (180 رصيداً)



Practical Info

Administration Opening Hours

Every day between 9:00 A.M. and 5:00 P.M.

During the month of July from 7:30 A.M. till 14:00 P.M.

In view of the current circumstances, members of the faculty are available at all times. You can contact them by email or via WhatsApp.

Dr. Mirna El-Hage : mirna.hage@usj.edu.lb ; 03-454322

Dr. Bassem Kandil : bassem.kandil1@usj.edu.lb ; 03-373437

Mrs Nicole Tannous : nicole.tannous@usj.edu.lb ; 71-219684

How to register

- Visit the faculty with your file.
- Meet with the person responsible for the intended program.
- Fill out the registration sheet.

You can now register online, by clicking the following link

https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=NGnZKuVDWkGXyfM1_iFMw8IZUH6JfLICjU-0sWUGYItUMTAzNjE0ODVHUfo5UFYyU1k3VjlURzJXQS4u&fbclid=IwAR0pnd9IJ0AhimTZ9n55Hq9LymWbcQOqNyzXAdXHH-5bgYridm4rVDW6PBc

What should the registration file contain?

You will find the info under Rubric A of the Faculty's site, where the list of required documents for registration is available.

www.fsedu.usj.edu.lb

How to get your student ID

The student ID is usually given to students within 2 to 3 weeks after registration; a simple visit to the Administrative Assistant will be sufficient to collect the ID (check the name of this person as mentioned before).

Practical Info

How is the academic year divided?

The academic year is divided into 2 semesters. The courses are usually given in the afternoon since our students have work before noon.

Where to park?

There is an underground parking at the Human Sciences Campus. You can park there after filling the required paper available at the ground floor of the CSH. There are other nearby parking lots for those who occasionally visit the university.

Where to conduct research?

The library is located on the first floor, Building A. You can benefit from its services simply upon presenting your ID card.

Opening hours

Monday till Friday from 7:30 A.M. till 7:00 P.M.

July : Monday till Friday from 8:00 A.M. till 2:00 P.M.

For further info: <https://biblio.usj.edu.lb/>

How to present a project / a thesis / a dissertation / or a practicum report?

The required guide for each assignment is usually accessible online under the link Faculty- Pedagogical Documents of the Faculty's website. <https://usj.edu.lb/fsedu/>

Practical Info

How to benefit from the extracurricular activities?

- **Sports Center:** Innovation and Sports Campus (facing the French Institute). Special prices for USJ students.
- **University Chaplain:** Human Sciences Campus (Ground Floor).
- Activities organized by the Faculty. Regularly visit the Faculty's website.

What about housing?

The "USJ Residence" is located on Damascus Street, next to the Rectory.

For further info: <https://www.usj.edu.lb/etudiants/residence.php>

Who can help me find work?

Three possibilities:

- Create an account on the website of the USJ, job vacancies <https://etudiant.usj.edu.lb/insertion>, or on the website of Fédération des Associations des Anciens, l'alumni de L'USJ : <https://alumniusj.org/> for the deposit of your CV.
- Send your CV to the Communication Officer.
- Regularly check the Faculty website and social networks. The job offers are posted there.

The Faculty of Education

...a place for life...



<https://usj.edu.lb/fsedu/>