



Your Excellency the Minister of Education and Higher Education,  
Regional Director of the UNESCO Office,  
Representative of the French Embassy in Lebanon,  
Regional Director of the AUF Office,  
Director General of National Education,  
Reverend Father Rector,  
Dear Pedagogical Counselors, Teachers,  
Dear Colleagues and Friends,

"I do not know if this world has a rationale for its existence ... a meaning beyond my understanding", as said by Albert Camus. Yes, it has; this will be the response of every conscious educator who knows their mission, life is meaningful... And the humanist Viktor Frankl would answer that importance is not in "what we expect from life, but [in] what we bring to life".

To make sense of the world as enlightening actors, in this case as pedagogical advisors, is to contribute to the noble purpose of any instructive task, to honor humanity in all its dimensions, to lead it to excellence both intellectually and humanly, to give humans the means to think of the world and of life ... It is about helping persons develop a keen wisdom of constructive criticism, a spirit of creative initiatives. Finally, it is about being empathic in the presence of the other away from indifference, while daring to enrich our existence ... Our duty is to permeate a culture of values in service of the ultimate good.

In line with the latest scholastic trends, the Faculty of Educational Sciences, at Saint Joseph University of Beirut, hopes through its Diploma in Pedagogical Counselling, to be true to its mission of promoting an educational approach that is concerned with the needs of every single person. It also aims to provide you with opportunities that facilitate innovation in terms of professional practices; and above all, it anticipates to propel you to become "lifelong learners".

I would like to end my speech with the beautiful words of Ciceron, "The higher we are placed, the humbler we must become ". You as experienced mentors are challenged to return to the benches of the university, and yet this might seem confusing to you when you are successful professionals in your domains. This implies abiding by academic rules and regulations, along with assessments and evaluations; this requires intellectual humility. Nevertheless, knowledge and learning are not related to the age of a person. So, dare to move forward together on the path of learning, with joy and simplicity, as Albert Einstein once said "I explain nothing to my students, I create situations that will help them learn." At our Faculty, we do not pretend to teach you anything, but we will create the circumstances in which we will learn together.

Welcome to the Faculty of Educational Sciences; welcome to Saint Joseph University of Beirut! The start of our program will be on Thursday, September 12, at 7:30 A.M.; a reception will be held in your honor in the Hall of the Humanities' Campus. With great delight, we welcome you!

Patricia Rached  
Dean of the Faculty of Educational Sciences  
Saint Joseph University of Beirut