

Students Guide to Citizen and Solidarity Commitment

2020 - 2021



Contents

4	Preface by the Rector
5	Definition
5	Expected Learning Outcomes
6	Commitment within the University
7	Commitment in a host Organization
8	Administrative Registration Methods
9	Assessment and certificates granting methods
11	Annexes
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Certificate of citizen and solidarity commitment• Certificate of citizen and solidarity commitment by host organization (in french, english and arabic)

Preface by the Rector

In a speech delivered on the 28th of April 2018, recalling that Saint Joseph University does not educate “technologically programmed robots for the market but coaches men and women 'working with and for others', according to the statement of the former Superior General RP Kolvenbach”, I have added: “Why don't we embed the student's human and social education in his portfolio in an institutional manner referring at least once, during his academic path, to his social commitment to citizenship? ”

As of 2019-2020, this commitment shall be implemented at the University: the student's citizen and solidarity commitment carried out as a part of USJ social projects or in a host organization of his choice, shall be validated by a certificate. This decision is in line with the Charter and the values of the University, whose third mission is community service.

Therefore, the community service mission starts by educating itself to the principles and practices of being a citizen with everybody and for everybody. Hence, the citizenship training sessions, apart from academic courses, are taken into consideration in the recognition of the commitment to a unified citizenship. Learning to reflect on being united and cooperative citizens, to respect the opinions of others, to develop critical judgment and acquire knowledge on the principles of alternation of citizenship, is at the heart of the process of reconstructing the city.

The USJ thus gives every young student the opportunity to learn about the most difficult social realities and to confront them, offering him the chance to serve his community through humanitarian micro-projects.

Hence, community service means that the student should devote, with the support of his team-leader, a part of his time and a part of his knowledge and power to the service of the population in need of means of living or survival and self-construction; ensure the well-being of children and promote women's conditions; restore or set up basic infrastructures of which the people is deprived.

Our conviction, shared by many others, is that the University, relying on its leadership, must constantly invest in this community service. In a social context such as the Lebanese reality where 2 million refugees reside and a large part of the Lebanese population lives below the poverty line, where all revolves around communities, learning to be a real citizen through community service requires leaving oneself behind and crossing to a new social space that I call “fraternity space”. The path towards this goal is difficult but not impossible. Many are those who lived and are living this reality.

Pr Salim Daccache s.j.

Rector of Saint Joseph University of Beirut

Definition

- All undergraduate (BS/BA) and graduate (MS/MA) students at Saint Joseph University « USJ » are strongly encouraged to engage in acts of solidarity, especially with the underprivileged.
- This commitment consists of an individual involvement in a one-off or sustainable project, carried out within the University or in a renowned host organization.
- It will constitute the equivalent of 1 or 2 ECTS CREDITS (25 and 50 hours respectively) in terms of the student's workload. The student will devote most of the allotted time to the field activity (20 hours per 1 credit); the remaining 5 hours will be devoted to the preparation of the evaluation report.
- In order to enhance this commitment, it has been decided to validate it by awarding a certificate to the student who fulfilled the required conditions at the time of graduation.
- The organization, monitoring and validation of this commitment will be carried out without any additional financial burden for the student, the University will bear all costs related to these activities.

Expected Learning Outcomes

- Participate in the university's (USJ) mission while satisfying the community's demands and social needs for services.
- Establish a sense of unified citizenship and assuming one's social responsibility towards public spaces.
- Develop a better understanding of social issues and build relationships with community partners.
- Develop transversal skills and competencies that can be valued throughout the student's academic and professional path especially when looking for an internship or a job: an appropriate code of conduct; teamwork ; setting up and monitoring projects; public speaking and communication; adherence to a schedule or a mission; managing a budget ...



The chaplaincy service is available in all campuses including the regional ones. It is a meeting and interaction area open for all. It is a welcoming space that offers openness, friendship, advice, dialogue, debate, helping others, deepening faith and searching for a meaning in life. On the field, teams of students including a coordinator and a chaplain are responsible for setting up and running a program for gatherings and activities.

The main objective of the chaplaincy is to ensure the presence of the Church within the University. This presence aims to create a community of men and women open to all individuals without any inclination to proselytize, at the heart of the university that seeks to live by the Gospel values and to share these values with other students while respecting their freedom. This community is mostly constituted of students but it includes as well administrative and teaching staff. It aims in particular to raise awareness among students and staff on issues related to injustice; hence, it organizes social activities on a regular basis.

Its essential goal is to help young men and women to find meaning in what they do and to combine their education with their life of faith and their civic and social commitments.

Our projects for the academic year 2019-2020

- Christmas Mission
- Jesuit Week
- A social project implemented at the North Lebanon, and Zahle and Bekaa campuses

and extending throughout the year

- 24 hours of starvation
- One-time projects on different campuses that will be revealed as they take place.

Contact Person | **Mrs. Marielle Boutros Zeidan**
Phone Number | 01.421.000, ext. 2289
email | marielle.boutroszeidan@usj.edu.lb

Contact Person | **M. Roy El Daher**
Phone Number | 01.421.000, ext. 2275
email | roy.daher1@net.usj.edu.lb

Operation of the 7th day

The social and civic vocational service of the University is reflected today through O7. Therefore, this operation aims at providing help for the poor and the most disadvantaged population. It encourages projects designed for the community, where the promotion of human welfare is a priority.

It draws upon the students' specific skills and competencies and serves as a platform of social solidarity, voluntary community service, and civic engagement established and developed within the University.

Through projects implemented by small groups reporting directly to the University institutions, the O7 seeks to promote the integration of its community members, especially the students, into the Lebanese social structure. It aims as well to offer training to citizens and professionals actively involved in developing Lebanon.

As a platform for communication, exchange and collaborative work between various stakeholders, O7 helps in promoting the sense of belonging to the University and contributes to positioning the University as a pilot and main player at the national level.

Contact Person | **M. Joe Hatem**
Phone Number | 01.421.000 - ext.
2309 Email | O7@usj.edu.lb

Student Life Service

The student life service welcomes you offering different activities, projects and structures relevant to your civic commitment and learning. Thus, dear students, you can be agents of change in our society through your active and responsible participation in the following programs:

- 1- Community life that validates and guides your responsibilities and positions within the students structures:
 - a. The Alumni offices of each institution
 - b. Students' clubs
 - c. Academic representatives
 - d. The student General Council
- 2- Civic life through your active participation in different intellectual and civic skills development activities:
 - a. Parliamentary simulation for USJ students: Model Youth Parliament.
 - b. Annual Citizenship Forum
 - c. Citizenship Summer School
 - d. International French-speaking, Arabic-speaking and English-speaking debating championship.
 - e. ESCWA

Contact Person | **Perla el Ahmar**
Phone Number | 01.421.000 ext

2355

email lperla.ahmar1@usj.edu.lb



Commitment in a host organization

A student can carry out his solidarity commitment in a host organization of his choice, if it fulfills the following conditions: being a non-profit local or international association, recognized by the Lebanese State with a mission to support and help disadvantaged people.

The priority is given to NGOs that have signed agreements with Saint Joseph University, namely:

- Anta Akhi
- Arcenciel
- Bassma
- CDLL (Cénacle de la lumière)
- Dar al-Aytam
- Dar al-Rahmé
- Dar al-Sadaqa
- Al-Mehdi Foundation
- Amel Foundation
- René Moawad Foundation
- Moussa Sadr Foundation
- Gladic
- IRAP
- Jesuit Refugee Service
- Lebanese Red Cross youth
- Offre-joie
- Sesobel
- SOS Villages Lebanon

Cf : <https://www.daleel-madani.org/civil-society-directory>
<http://www.undp.org.lb/partners/NGOs/AffiliationType.pdf>



Administrative Registration Methods

- A teaching unit TU entitled “solidarity commitment” (0 credits) is created on the information system (IS). The registration for this TU is free of charges. Each institution designates an advisor responsible for guiding and supporting the students throughout their activities.
- During the academic and administrative registration, the BA/BS and MA/MS student is informed of this free and uncredited TU and encouraged to register for it during his/her curriculum, preferably before his/her last academic semester.
- If the student wishes to be well informed before taking his/her decision, he/she can refer to the “Students guide to community engagement, citizenship and solidarity”. He/she can as well seek the advisor designated for this purpose by his institution.

Registration for these Teaching Units (TU)

- The registration for these teaching units is done through the student's website following steps:
 1. Access the student's website : <https://etudiant.usj.edu.lb>
 2. Enter My USJ **Mon USJ**
 3. Click on « Citizen and solidarity commitment » **Engagement social et solidaire**
 4. Check the desired course and then press the Subscribe button **S'inscrire**
- Once the registration is complete, an email is automatically sent to the advisor appointed by the institution to inform him.
- The registration takes place during the regular registration period.

- After finalizing the registration over the Information System (IS), the advisor shall gather the registered students in this TU for an information and orientation session. The student will submit his project to the advisor 15 days later.
- If his/her engagement is made within the University structures, the advisor will delegate his advising tasks to the responsible assigned by the relevant USJ structure.
- If its solidarity commitment is carried out outside the University, the choice of the activity and the host organization will be validated after the advisor assigned by his institution assesses these choices based on a brief description of the NGO and the activities in which the student will be involved.

Assessment and certificates granting methods

- This uncredited teaching unit will not appear on the transcript nor will it be graded; It shall be "Validated" through the delivery of a certificate or shall "not be validated" (the student will not obtain a certificate).

Validation bodies

- If the civic commitment is completed within the University structures, the advisors nominated by the relevant institution shall be responsible of the validation process. They inform the student's institution of their decisions.
- If the commitment is completed in a host organization:
 - a. At the end of his commitment, the student will give his institution a certificate (in Arabic, French or English) duly filled by the host organization, pursuant to the model predesigned by the University. (cf. Annex 2)
 - b. The student shall draw **an activity report** of 2 to 3 pages to be presented to the advisor appointed by his institution.

The assessment of this report will take into consideration the following aspects: the presentation of the host organization and the activity carried out in its context, the challenges or difficulties encountered, the solutions found and / or the student's self-assessment of his activity within the organization.

- At the end of each academic year, the head of each institution will draw up a list of students who have validated the EU and send it to SPCOM, which will prepare certificates acknowledging the University's recognition of this solidarity commitment.
- The Certificate shall mention the context in which the student carried out his solidarity commitment (host organization, the relevant project, number of field hours). It shall be signed by the Rector (cf.: Annex 1).

Annex 1

USJ - Certificate of Citizen and solidarity commitment

I, the undersigned, **Salim Daccache s.j.**
Rector of Saint Joseph University of Beirut

Certify that Ms./M.

**participated during his/her academic path
to the University's third mission: that of social community service**

His/her commitment was completed
within USJ, at (the chaplaincy, O7 or clubs...)

Or his/her commitment was completed in a host organization partner of

USJ (to be specified)

It represented the equivalent of one (two) TU (25 hours/50 hours)

This certificate is a proof of cross-disciplinary competence, including the ability to adopt an appropriate code of conduct, work in teams, establish relationships with community partners and develop a sense of responsibility. It is also a certificate of appreciation for his/her commitment to the mission of the University to build a more just and humane society.

Beirut,

Signature and stamp

