

**The Saint Joseph University:
A vision for the next ten years,
a mission and values**

THE SAINT JOSEPH UNIVERSITY: A VISION FOR THE NEXT TEN YEARS, A MISSION AND VALUES

Vision:

The Saint Joseph University aims to maintain **excellence** in training and relevance in **research**. It seeks to rely upon the know-how-to-be **skills** as well as formative **humanism**. It also develops **the idea of the University as a crossroad**, which presents itself as a cultural interface.

Mission:

The mission of the University articulates on three dimensions: the **creation** of new knowledge (research), the **transmission** of this knowledge (teaching) and putting this knowledge **at the service of the society** (service). In order to put this mission into execution, the University positions itself as an establishment of **francophone** language and culture, which privileges **multiculturalism** and **trilingualism** (French, Arabic and English) and that adopts **innovation** and **digital transformation**. Being accessible to all social classes and all communities, and at the service of the nation and the region, it fulfills its **social responsibility**, advocates for social inclusion and refutes any discrimination. In teaching and research, it promotes issues of **sustainable development**, primacy of **human rights, justice, democracy, dialogue of civilizations** as well as **issues of meaning**. Being open to the **international** sphere, it is determined to benefit from the extraordinary potentiality that the network of Jesuit and catholic universities represent throughout the world.

VISION

The vision components

The vision components of the Saint Joseph University and all its community, for the next ten years, are represented in **the following intertwining elements**:

- **reference of excellence in terms of university training.**
- **quality research and innovation and creation of new knowledge, meeting namely the national, regional and international needs.**
- **reinforced the position of the teacher and the student life.**
- **crossroad where the interreligious, intercultural, multilingualism, citizenship and conviviality paths meet.**
- **more and more relevant mission in the field of health and entrepreneurship.**
- **strengthened ties with the Alumni.**
- **promotion of the Lebanese, Arab and international culture.**
- **strategy of international cooperation, while remaining anchored in its francophone tradition.**

MISSION

The USJ mission is characterized by the following elements, which if taken separately can only characterize it partly, but if taken as a whole bring a somehow strong “trademark”:

- A University open to all.
- A University concerned with developing continuous training.
- A University of French culture and language, which favors multiculturalism and trilingualism (French, Arabic and English).
- A University at the service of the country and the region of the Near-East and the Middle-East, which favors issues of sustainable development, human rights, democracy and justice.
- A University which favors in its courses and research studies issues of sense making as well as interreligious dimensions.
- A University which dedicates important human and material means to research and innovation, as well as digital transformation, that must come under the three university missions:
 1. To create new knowledge (research, innovation and development);
 2. To transmit this knowledge (teaching);
 3. To put this knowledge at the service of society (service).
- A University which is open to the international level and favors the extraordinary potential that is represented by the network of Jesuit and catholic universities throughout the world.

VALUES

In its Charter, developed in 1975, the Saint Joseph University defines its objectives, its missions and the values that sustain it and will be sustaining it in the next decade.

The Board of Trustees, created in 2021, supports the university's undertaking.

The Society of Jesus ensures that the institution is faithful to its Charter namely when it comes to the spiritual, ethical and social issues.

Triple task: professional, cultural and spiritual

The USJ intends to ensure an academic and professional formation of excellence, to be completed by an authentic culture based on issues of sense making at the service of the promotion of persons. It is open to the acknowledgement of God, transcending human values. God who is honored by the Constitution of Lebanon.

Interdisciplinary collaboration

The USJ believes in the right for each discipline to develop in an autonomous way but it strongly encourages the existence of an interdisciplinary collaboration.

Multilingualism

The USJ, even if it has made the choice of bilingualism (French and Arabic), intends to promote the study and use of languages in academic programs that are important to be acquired.

Participation

The USJ structures are open to the participation of those who form the university community in the construction of the common house: teachers, researchers, students and administrative staff. The limits of this participation are within the skills required and the responsibility of the stakeholders; they are defined in the statutes.

Freedom of conscience

It is fundamental for the USJ that no discrimination is tolerated at the religious, community or political level. It requires from its members to have mutual knowledge and esteem within their diversity. It considers that the true freedom is the freedom of conscience.

Political independence

The USJ diversifies the recruitment of its teachers and students and cannot be driven by a political ideology; it holds on to safeguarding freedom of information and dialogue.

Social commitment

The USJ must collaborate in the efforts aiming at improving the life conditions of the most disadvantaged.

Autonomy

The USJ believes in the autonomy of the University vis-à-vis any external body; it works on ensuring the respect of this autonomy in the fulfillment of its university missions, its governance and its financing.

Jesuit pedagogical tradition

As a Jesuit university, the USJ promotes a pedagogy of encouragement, accompaniment and learning to discern on a day-to-day basis. The students are called upon to always do more (*magis*), to surpass themselves. To help them in that process, they are personally coached with all due respect for their person and for their learning process (*cura personalis*). The teachers' availability for the students is a strong characteristic of this Jesuit pedagogical tradition.