Université Saint-Joseph de Beyrouth
جامعة القدّيس يوسف في بيروت

Université Saint-Joseph de Beyrouth
(USJ-Saint Joseph University of Beirut)

A Vision for the Next Ten Years, a Mission and Values

The French text of this policy was approved by the University Board during its 183rd meeting on October 28, 2015 and updated during its 212th meeting on February 23, 2022 and its 225th meeting on October 15, 2025

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

Vision:

Saint Joseph University of Beirut 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 crossroads,** which presents itself as a cultural interface.

Mission:

The mission of the University is articulated around 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 carry out this mission, 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 communities, and at the service of the nation and the region, it promotes, through its teaching and research, issues such as **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 potential that is represented by the global network of Jesuit and Catholic universities.

VISION

The vision components

The vision components of the Saint Joseph University of Beirut 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 the national, regional and international needs.**
- **reinforced position of the instructor-researcher and the student life.**
- **crossroads where interreligious, intercultural, multilingual, civic and convivial paths intersect.**
- **increasingly relevant mission in the health field and entrepreneurship.**
- **strengthened ties with 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 lifelong training.
- A University of French culture and language, that promotes multiculturalism and trilingualism (French, Arabic and English).
- A University at the service of the country, the Near and the Middle East, committed to sustainable development, human rights, democracy and justice.
- A University that prioritizes in its teaching and research questions of meaning as well as interreligious traditions.
- A University that dedicates significant human and material means to research and innovation, and digital transformation that fall under its three core 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 that is internationally open and draws on the extraordinary potential offered by the global network of Jesuit and Catholic universities.

VALUES

In its Charter, first drafted in 1975 and updated in 2024, the Saint Joseph University of Beirut (*Université Saint-Joseph de Beyrouth*-USJ) outlines its goals, mission, and the values that continue to guide its work today and into the next decade.

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

The Society of Jesus ensures that the University remains faithful to this Charter, particularly in matters related to spirituality, ethics, and social responsibility.

Academic Excellence and Humanism

USJ is committed to providing a high-quality academic and professional education, rooted in a spirituality and a culture grounded in the search for meaning and dedicated to the promotion of individuals. The University aims to form ethical professionals and responsible citizens who think critically, exercise sound judgment, and commit themselves to serving the common good. It also welcomes the acknowledgement of God, who transcends human values and is honored in the Constitution of Lebanon.

Collaboration Spirit and Interdisciplinary Dialogue

USJ believes that every academic discipline has the right to develop independently while respecting its own methods and knowledge. At the same time, it fosters a spirit of collaboration and interdisciplinary dialogue, and believes that this interdisciplinary convergence is a source of intellectual enrichment, a driver of innovation, and a way to serve the human person in all their complexity.

Linguistic and Intercultural Openness

USJ embraces trilingualism in French, Arabic, and English, and encourages both the study and use of languages. It views linguistic openness as a means of cultural enrichment, a catalyst for dialogue among peoples, and a pathway to understanding of the world. This approach is central to the University's mission to prepare individuals capable of navigating multicultural contexts with respect and discernment.

Participatory Engagement

USJ encourages the active participation of all members of its university community, including students, academic and administrative staff, alumni, and other stakeholders. All are invited to take part in building a shared academic home. This participatory approach is rooted in the recognition of every person's skills and responsibilities, as defined in the University Bylaws. It reflects a dynamic vision of university life based on shared responsibility, open dialogue, and collective contribution.

Freedom of Conscience and Mutual Respect

USJ firmly believes that no form of discrimination, whether religious, sectarian, racial, political, based on origins, gender or ideological beliefs, should ever be tolerated. The University expects its members to cultivate mutual understanding and respect within a diverse environment. This principle goes beyond tolerance. It affirms that true freedom lies in freedom of conscience, which is essential to foster dialogue among civilizations and form individuals who are free, responsible, and respectful of others.

Independence and Pluralism

USJ, firmly committed to upholding Human Rights, protects its independence from all political ideologies in order to preserve academic freedom, the integrity of its mission, and the diversity of perspectives. The University actively promotes a diverse academic and administrative community as a key foundation for open and critical thinking. It places strong value on freedom of information and democratic debate as essential tools for forming citizens who serve society.

Solidarity and Social Commitment

USJ places solidarity and social commitment at the heart of its mission. The University strives to form citizens who are alert to injustice and committed to the common good. This commitment is reflected in projects, partnerships, and a teaching approach that remains connected to social realities. It aims to encourage active participation, both individual and collective, in building a more just and compassionate society.

Institutional Autonomy

USJ places great importance on maintaining its independence from all external influence. It actively protects its academic mission, governance, and finance. This independence is seen as essential to preserving academic freedom and staying true to the University's educational and scientific mission.

Jesuit Pedagogy and Personalized Support

USJ, as a Jesuit university, embraces a holistic approach to education rooted in encouragement, guidance, and the daily practice of discernment. Students are invited to always do more (*magis*), to push beyond their limits. To support this growth, every student is guided with due regard to their person and learning approach (*cura personalis*). The dedication of instructors and staff to the individual development of students is a cornerstone of this Jesuit educational tradition. The goal is to form free, responsible, and committed individuals who combine academic excellence with human and spiritual depth.

Sustainable Development and Environmental Responsibility

USJ recognizes its responsibility in building a more just and sustainable future. It promotes environmentally conscious practices and raises awareness across the University community about ecological challenges. It integrates the principles of sustainable development into its teaching, research, and governance, adopts eco-conscious policies, and supports concrete initiatives that contribute to ecological transition.

Inclusion and Diversity

USJ values social, cultural, and intellectual diversity. It is committed to making education accessible to all and to creating an inclusive environment where every student has the opportunity to thrive, regardless of background or personal situation. The University offers tailored support and fosters a culture of mutual respect, grounded in the belief that diversity strengthens the entire university community.