



AMERICAN
UNIVERSITY
OF BEIRUT

Mediterraneo

AMERICAN UNIVERSITY OF BEIRUT

MEDITERRANEO

1st Graduate Commencement

SEPTEMBER | 02 | 2025



This is a historic day for the American University of Beirut – Mediterraneo (AUB Mediterraneo) and for the American University of Beirut (AUB): the day on which we celebrate the commencement of the first 15 students to earn master’s degrees at AUB Mediterraneo with Board of Trustees Chair Abdo Kadifa as the keynote speaker.

It was just five years ago, on June 4, 2020, that the AUB Board of Trustees approved the establishment of a twin campus in Pafos, Cyprus as part of AUB’s VITAL 2030 global strategic plan. AUB Mediterraneo traces its roots, however, to a much earlier time, to 1866, and the founding of the American University of Beirut in Beirut, Lebanon. The values that inspired AUB’s founders and have defined AUB for almost 160 years are the ones that we embrace at AUB Mediterraneo: a commitment to excellence, understanding and overcoming fear of the other, always seeking to make the world a better place, especially for those less fortunate.



We are here to work in partnership with Cyprus to help educate and empower the best and brightest from Cyprus, the region, and the world, that they may help lift their societies to more abundant and more inclusive destinies. Not just for individuals, but for the societies they come from.

President Fadlo R. Khuri
September 4, 2024

On this milestone occasion, we salute our founders: AUB President Fadlo R. Khuri, who imagined a global American university anchored in Beirut, Lebanon; with offices in North America; hubs in Africa; an expanded AUB Online presence; and campuses outside Lebanon. It is that vision and the leadership of then Board of Trustees Chairman Dr. Philip S. Khoury; the tireless dedication of the “architect” of AUB Mediterraneo, Senior Vice President Imad B. Baalbaki; the steady hand and indomitable persistence of our founding rector, Dr. Wassim El Hajj; and the dedication of our founding deans, Alain Daou (Faculty of Business), Salah Sadek (Faculty of Engineering), and Malek Tabbal (Faculty of Arts and Sciences), that have led us to this moment.

AUB’s partnership with the Municipality of Pafos, led by Mayor Phedonas Phedonos, was pivotal in the establishment of AUB



Mr. Abdo George Kadifa
Board of Trustees Chair, AUB



Dr. Philip S. Khoury
Chairman Emeritus, AUB



Dr. Fadlo R. Khuri
President, AUB



Dr. Imad B. Baalbaki
Senior Vice President, AUB



Dr. Wassim El Hajj
Founding Rector, AUB Mediterraneo

AUB Mediterraneo Timeline

2020–2021

June 4, 2020

The AUB Board of Trustees approves the VITAL 2030 strategic plan. One of its components is AUB Global, which includes the establishment of twin campuses outside Lebanon.

April 2021

AUB senior leadership team (President Fadlo R. Khuri, SVP Imad B. Baalbaki, Dean Nadia El Cheikh, and CITO Yousif Asfour) travels to Cyprus and meets with the Mayor of Pafos, Mr. Phedonas Phedonos.

April 2021

AUB engages the Albright Stonebridge Group to analyze nine countries as possible sites for an AUB twin campus.

September 1, 2021

Dr. Wassim El Hajj appointed AUB Mediterraneo executive director to lead in strategic and academic planning, accreditation, legal agreements, human resources, communications, finance, procurement, and facilities.

September 7, 2021

The AUB Board of Trustees, chaired by Dr. Philip S. Khoury, votes unanimously to proceed with opening an AUB campus in Pafos.

October 2021

SVP Imad B. Baalbaki and Founding Rector Wassim El Hajj lead an AUB team that prepares and submits a proposal to the Pafos Municipality to establish a twin campus in Pafos.

Mediterraneo and to its continued success. We are also grateful for the strong support of the current and former presidents of the Republic of Cyprus, His Excellency Nicos Anastasiades (2013–23) and His Excellency Nikos Christodoulides (since February 28, 2023); the members of the International Advisory Committee; and to the Dar Group, a long-time partner of the American University of Beirut, that designed AUB Mediterraneo’s stunning campus in Pafos, Cyprus.

Although much has been accomplished, we have only just started. Already home to more than 250 students from more than 25 countries, we will:

- Build our student body to 2,000.
- Grow our portfolio of undergraduate and master’s degree programs.
- Deepen and broaden our ties with our partners in Cyprus and throughout Europe and the Mediterranean.

Working with all of you, we will make our university, and the AUB Mediterraneo Innovation Center, a hub for education, training, and events that attracts people from across the Mediterranean basin and the MENA region.

OUR FIRST GRADUATES

Mazen Marwan Abou Chaar MSBA '25	Ahmad Hussein Ismail MSBA '24
Anas Wajeeh Azayzeh MSEM '25	Anwar Raymond Issa MSBA '25
Magdalena Michail Bodouris MSBA '25	Marina Kevork Markarian MSBA '25
Omar Bassam El Hafi MSBA '25	Rafqa Abdo Radi MSEM '25
Jad Marwan El Katerji MSBA '24	David Ruben Shairian MSBA '24
Aya Merwan El Saoudi MSBA '24	Neofytos Feidias Stokkos MSBA '25
Aya Ibrahim Ezzeddine MSEM '25	Farah Anwar Termos MSBA '25
Noor Wissam Hamad MSBA '25	

AUB Mediterraneo Timeline

2022–2023

April 8, 2022

AUB President Fadlo R. Khuri signs an agreement with the Municipality of Pafos, Cyprus to establish the American University of Beirut – Mediterraneo (AUB Mediterraneo), AUB’s first twin campus outside Lebanon.

April–May 2022

AUB signs a contract with Dar Group to design and implement the AUB Mediterraneo master plan; made possible by a donation from Dar Group and its CEO, Trustee Talal Shair.

September 22, 2022

AUB announces that JV MAN Enterprise and Atlas Pantou have been selected to construct the American University of Beirut – Mediterraneo campus in Pafos, Cyprus.

January 1, 2023

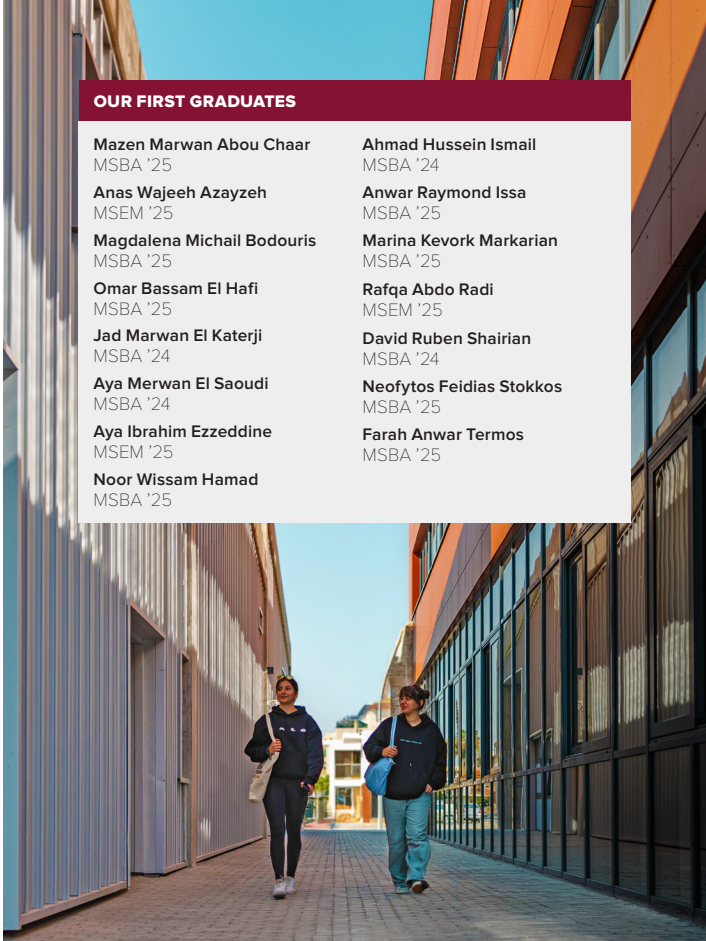
AUB President Fadlo R. Khuri announces the appointment of Dr. Wassim El Hajj as AUB Mediterraneo’s first rector.

March 15, 2023

The Cyprus Agency of Quality Assurance and Accreditation in Higher Education (CYQAA) accredits the American University of Beirut – Mediterraneo as a private institution and accredits all of its departments and programs.

May 24, 2023

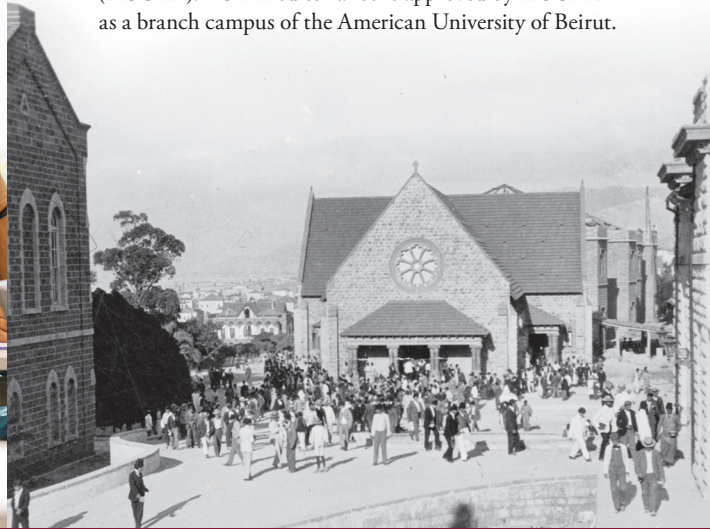
AUB announces the appointment of the founding deans of AUB Mediterraneo: Alain Daou (Faculty of Business), Salah Sadek (Faculty of Engineering), and Malek Tabbal (Faculty of Arts and Sciences).





About the American University of Beirut

Founded in 1866, the American University of Beirut bases its educational philosophy, standards, and practices on the American liberal arts model of higher education. Its mission is “to provide excellence in education, to participate in the advancement of knowledge through research, and to serve the peoples of the Middle East and beyond.” AUB is governed by a private and autonomous Board of Trustees and is an accredited institution by the Middle States Commission on Higher Education (MSCHE). AUB Mediterraneo is approved by MSCHE as a branch campus of the American University of Beirut.



AUB Mediterraneo Timeline

2023–2025

June 7, 2023

The foundation stone for the American University of Beirut – Mediterraneo is laid during an official ceremony at Apostolou Pavlou Avenue in Pafos, Cyprus in the presence of the President of Cyprus.

September 6, 2023

AUB celebrates the inaugural opening of the American University of Beirut – Mediterraneo at the Pafos Innovation Center and welcomes its first cohort of students.

March 18, 2024

The Middle States Commission on Higher Education (MSCHE) confirms the accreditation of AUB Mediterraneo as a branch campus of AUB.

July 3, 2024

AUB Mediterraneo is awarded an International Investment Award at the 12th Invest Cyprus International Investment Awards organized by Invest Cyprus under the auspices of HE President Nikos Christodoulides.

September 4, 2024

AUB celebrates the opening of its new campus on Apostolou Pavlou Avenue in Pafos, Cyprus and welcomes its second cohort of students in the presence of the President of Cyprus.

September 2, 2025

AUB Mediterraneo celebrates the graduation of 15 master's students. Chair Abdo Kadifa is the keynote speaker at the first Graduate Commencement.



American University of Beirut

PO Box 11-0236, Riad El Solh | Beirut 1107 2020, Lebanon
T +961 135 00 00

American University of Beirut — Mediterraneo

51 Apostolou Pavlou Avenue | 8046 Pafos, Cyprus
T +357 26 813333

The Debs Center — New York Office

3 Dag Hammarskjold Plaza, 8th Floor
New York, NY 10017 USA
T +1 212 583 7600

aub.edu.lb

