

Q&A for the 2020-2021 school year

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Disclaimers and Definitions:

- This Q&A is a reference document that addresses questions from parents and guardians enrolling their children in Lebanese public schools for the 2020-2021 academic year. It will be used by frontline and humanitarian workers as a guide to answer questions they receive from parents/communities reaching out to them inquiring about the education situation of their children and the enrolment procedures in schools.
- This document should not be considered as an official document of the Government of Lebanon and is only as guidance elaborated by the Education Sector in Lebanon. Any information in this document can be subject to change without notice.

I. Enrollment:

1. How do I identify a Lebanese public school?

- Lebanese public schools are educational institutions officially run by the Ministry of Education and Higher Education (MEHE) and financed by the Lebanese Government. Every public school in Lebanon has an official school name, an official enrollment number (CERD number), and will have “Rasmiya” mentioned in the school title.
- Always ask the school director to provide you with documents mentioning the official school name, the CERD number and the school contact (except the TVET schools that do not have CERD numbers). The school entrance sign should always have the Lebanese flag and the “Rasmiya” mention in the school title.
- Public school lists (1st and 2nd shift) are available at the UNHCR Reception Centers, education partner’s centers, Community Development Centers, PHC centers, Ministry of Social Affairs (MOSA) Social Development Centers and with all the outreach volunteers, as well as online at www.refugees-lebanon.org and Ministry of Education and Higher Education website: www.mehe.gov.lb. Please approach schools that were operating as 2nd shift in the 2019-2020 scholastic year (a revised list for 2nd shift schools for 2020-2021 scholastic year will be issued soon).
- Teachers in public schools are certified Lebanese teachers.

2. What is the difference between first and second and shift public schools?

The second shift public school was opened to accommodate the extra demand of children in the public school system in primary education following the Syrian crisis. Both the first and second shift schools follow the Lebanese curriculum. The first shift school accommodates children of all nationalities with priority to the Lebanese while the second shift accommodates only non-Lebanese and offers the following additional services:

- Prep- ECE: only offered in 2nd shift schools and combines the KG1-3 curriculum targeting children aged 5 to 7.
- Psychosocial Support Services: Based on funding, PSS counsellors are in every second shift school providing in class and out of class psychosocial support.

- Health Support Services: Based on funding, Health counsellors are in every second shift school providing in class and out of class health awareness support.
- Based on funding, DOPS academic counsellors are undertaking more frequent visits to second shift schools than to the morning shift
- Students of second shift schools may be eligible to benefit from cash assistance for transportation through the Reaching School Programme. Priority is given to young children in Prep ECE, students with disabilities and students in Grades 1 to 3 enrolled in schools that are isolated, located in remote areas and difficult to reach by foot. UNICEF is keen to also extend this support to children in cycle 2, grades 4 to 6, under the same conditions as those in cycle 1, this possibility will be confirmed later in January. UNICEF partners will start registration of eligible students for the Reaching School Programme inside all second shift schools sometime between December and January. Please see separate Q&A for the Reaching School Programme (RSP). For more information: call the hotline on 04 727 300.

3. How can I enroll my (non-Lebanese) children in Lebanese public schools?

a. In Morning/ first shift schools:

For returning students (those who are continuing their education rather than enrolling for the first time), provided there is capacity in the school:

For non-Lebanese students, registration is expected to remain open until end of January 2021 (registration is ongoing). Please note that the places in first shift schools will be much more limited this school year, so parents can be asked to register in second shift school instead.

b. In Pre-primary Education:

- Non-Lebanese children, who are 5 years old (before 14th September 2020) and did not reach six and a half will be accepted, as well as any child who has exceeded this age but lacking academic knowledge to enroll in grade 1 shall enroll in Prep-ECE.
- New prep-ECE classes will be opened for children in second shifts schools (please refer to NGO outreach worker in your area to access the list of second shift schools, also available at the UNHCR Reception Centers – updated lists of prep-ECE schools will be shared with NGOs as soon as available). Prep-ECE Classes started on 29 October 2020.
- Non-Lebanese children, who have documents proving the completion of any of the three programs listed below, should approach the nearest second shifts schools to enroll in Grade 1:
 - Kindergarten certificate – public or private, attested by MEHE regional
 - Preparatory ECE (Prep-ECE) certificate
 - CB-ECE certificate, attested by PMU

c. In Primary education, in the afternoon/second shift schools:

For non-Lebanese children entering school Grades 1 to 9 (afternoon/second Shift):

- To enroll non-Lebanese children in Grade 1, they must be 6 years old by the 31st of January 2021 - noting that students who exceeded this age but are not older than 9 shall be accepted in this grade - with proof that the child is academically capable of following grade 1 (see 3 certificates listed above or with previously enrolled in formal education) otherwise he/she will be put in Prep ECE. Registration started on 28 September 2020 (for returning students or new students). Grade 9 classes for the

afternoon shift started on 15 October, Grades 7 and 8 classes started on 29 October and Grades 1 to 6 classes for the afternoon shift started on 5 November 2020.

- Registration for non-Lebanese children in second shift remains officially open until Wednesday 23rd of December 2020, and will normally be further extended until the end of January 2021 (registration is ongoing).

What about Non- Lebanese children who were not in school the previous year?

- New Students who completed and passed ALP can enroll in a grade appropriate to the ALP level reached (Grade 1 to 9), pending the results of the end of program assessment.
- New students previously enrolled in recognized public or private schools (in or outside Lebanon) certified by MEHE, for the school years 2018-2019 or 2019-2020, should sit for an entrance exam to enroll in the public school, and submit official transcripts certified by MEHE; based on the results of the exam, they will either enroll in school based on availability of seats, or referred to non-formal education (ALP, BLN, YBLN, etc.). An exception is given to those without an official certificate who shall also be accepted, even in the absence of a certified school certificate, provided they present valid grades cards which prove they followed formal education.
- An ALP round is scheduled to take place, starting late 2020 – early 2021. Priority will be given to children who were referred to the previous round scheduled to start early 2020 and discontinued due to the COVID-19 pandemic outbreak. NGO outreach workers in your area will be contacting eligible children to inform them about the round start and school locations.
- New students, who are 8 or 9 years old and have no previous education or children age 8 and above who have been out of school for more than two years, should approach the nearest public school operating as ALP (please refer to NGO outreach worker in your area to access the list of ALP schools.). Children age 10 and above who had no previous education should contact the outreach worker to be referred to BLN classes.
- A child can also transition from BLN directly to FE, on the condition that the child has completed advanced levels of BLN and is ready to enroll in public school. Names of children identified as suitable by the NGO should be shared with the PMU through a standardized form to ensure follow up on enrolment of those children directly in FE. Before enrolment, children will be asked to do a placement test for the relevant grade.

d. In Secondary education:

For the secondary level, non-Lebanese who have a Lebanese Brevet certificate can enroll in secondary schools without sitting for an entrance exam. Also, those who have an equivalent certificate to the Brevet can enroll in any secondary level Grade without the need to sit for the placement test. Classes started on 15 October 2020.

4. What documents do I need to enroll my children at a Lebanese public school?

To enroll children at a Lebanese public school in **Basic Education** (KG to Grade 9 in morning shift / Prep ECE to Grade 9 in second shift)

To enroll non-Lebanese children in a public school, you should bring all the following documents (note that these documents are not mandatory for returning students registering in the same school):

- ID documents of each child (**UNHCR Certificate can serve as an alternative**)
- Birth registration certificates for children aged between 5 and 10 years old (if available, but not mandatory)

- 2 passport size photos of each child;
- Vaccination card and the health certificate of each child;
- Certificate or transcript for the past two years, especially when enrolling in Grade 9, if available bring transcripts when enrolled in any of the previous grades, but when not available, placement test will be provided by the public school. Parents to note that the placement test is mandatory.

Any student who provides a formal document proving his identity must be admitted in any of the classes in the afternoon shift. **Birth registration certificates** are **NOT** a requirement for entry into public schools (failure to provide this document shall not prevent the enrollment of these students), however, parents are encouraged to bring birth registration certificates for enrolment of non-Lebanese children in public schools. **Children denied from registration due to missing birth registration certificates should be referred to MEHE (through the sector complaints mechanism).**

If you do not have all of these documents, you can still enroll your children provided you have a residency certificate from the mokhtar (إفادة سكن). This is not to be confused with the residency permit (إقامة) but still the birth certificate needs to be submitted if possible.

To enroll non-Lebanese children in a public **secondary school** (Grades 10-12), you should bring the following documents (note that these are not mandatory for returning students registering in the same school):

- ID documents of each child (**UNHCR Certificate can serve as an alternative**)
- 2 passport size photos
- Valid residency permit issued by the General Directorate of General Security and/or UNHCR valid registration document
- Vaccination card and the health certificate
- Certified school attestation showing the final grade of the child the previous grade, or certified equivalency statement issued by MEHE Equivalence Committee
- Brevet certificate issued by the Lebanese department of official Examinations or its equivalent issued by General Education Equivalence Committee

Documents needed for equivalence:

- Report cards of the last 3 years (original and copy) both certified by the Ministry of Education, Foreign affairs, and the Lebanese Foreign Affairs + Residency permit for the past 3 years in the country where Grade 6-7-8 were completed.
- The above is not required if the actual Brevet certificate from country of study is available and if the country of study where Brevet certificate was issued is the same as country of nationality.
- Origin Foreign Passport (country of origin) + copy of both student and guardian.

Enrollment in public schools does NOT require residency permits, as MEHE waives residency documentation requirements for students wishing to enroll in primary or secondary schools, on a case by case basis.

Case of the stateless:

Stateless children (مكتومي القيد) can enroll in public schools and secondary schools by providing a document from the mokhtar (إفادة خاصة تسمى افادة تعريف). MEHE already has memos issued in this regard and all school principals are aware of it.

5. What if there are no places in the closest public school?

For the Morning shift:

If the public school cannot accommodate your child because it has no more capacity, ensure that the child is placed on a waiting list for this school, and go as soon as possible to a nearby afternoon/second shift school to enroll (see list of public basic education schools that offer afternoon/second shift enrollment). If there is no space in the morning shift school, please see below. But as mentioned previously in Question 3, new non-Lebanese cannot register in the morning shift even if there is capacity.

For the Second shift:

If a parent is trying to enroll his / her child in a school and the school wants to put the child on a waiting list, the parent needs to request that the school takes the child's name and grade, the parent's phone number. The family can go to the neighboring school and mention they have put their children's names on the waiting lists of another school. **If the child is turned away from school by the school director, please inform the outreach worker in your area (specifying the name of school, CERD number, name of the child and contact details).**

For public secondary schools:

If there is no capacity for your child in a specific secondary school, you are advised to visit another nearby secondary school. Directors will also be requested to record your information on a waiting list that will be sent to the Directorate of Secondary Education who will try find you a place in another school. However, priority is always given for old returning students, Lebanese students, then non-Lebanese.

6. If a non-Lebanese child was enrolled in the morning/first shift in a Lebanese public school last year, will they be automatically re-enrolled this year?

If a non-Lebanese child was enrolled in a morning/first shift school last year, he/she will be enrolled in a morning/first shift school again this year if there is space. However, note that priority is for the Lebanese children; if there is no more space in that school, the child will be allowed to enroll in an afternoon/second shift school.

7. If a child was enrolled in an afternoon/second shift school during the 2019/2020 school year; will they have a place in a morning/first shift school with the Lebanese students this year?

No. If a child has been previously enrolled in an afternoon/second shift school, he/she cannot enroll in a morning/first shift school, unless he/she has completed Grade 9 and is going into Grade 10.

8. Will students enrolled in an afternoon/second shift school get an official/recognized certificate from the Ministry of Education in Lebanon at the end of the year, like students in a morning/first shift school?

Yes. The afternoon/second shift provides the same formal education as the morning/first shift. Students from Grades 1 to 9 who succeed will receive an official/recognized certification from MEHE.

Non-Lebanese students in secondary schools also get an official/recognized certificate from MEHE after completing each grade.

9. What about school enrolment for Palestine refugees in Lebanon?

UNRWA provides education services (Grades 1 to 12) to Palestine refugees living in Lebanon, including Palestine refugees coming from Syria. UNRWA provides education free of charge, in addition to textbooks and back to school kits. Secondary education is free of charge for Palestinian refugees who wish to enroll in Lebanese public secondary

schools. Please refer to Question 3 to learn about the documents required by MEHE for registration in public secondary schools.

For Palestinian youth only, UNRWA provides limited spaces in technical vocational education training centers. For further info contact UNRWA on 01840490.

Palestinian children who were in Lebanon before the Syrian crisis and who were not enrolled with UNRWA before during last school year can enroll in first shift public school provided that they do not have an UNRWA school in the geographical area where they live.

10. Are non-Lebanese children allowed to sit for official exams to earn the Brevet and General Secondary Certificate?

Yes. All students in Grades 9 and 12 will be able to sit for the Lebanese official exams. MEHE sends every year to the Council of Ministers a request to allow them to sit for the exams even if they do not have the required documents.

11. My child has special needs. Can she/he still enroll in public school?

In addition to the regular pathways conditioned by age-groups and prior learning, please note the following:

- If the child has difficulties walking, hearing or seeing he/she can enroll in school and apply for transportation and technical aids.
- If the child has learning difficulty/mild intellectual disability, he/she can enroll in school and apply for transportation.
- Children with severe intellectual disability should be referred to specialized services.
- For more details, see Annex “Referral Pathways of Children with Disabilities”.

12. Are Syrian learning centers recognized in Lebanon?

The Ministry of Education in Lebanon does not recognize the Syrian curriculum and does not accredit Syrian learning centers on the Lebanese territory. UN agencies do NOT support Syrian learning centers in Lebanon. Children from Syrian accredited schools approaching public schools for enrolment will sit for a placement test (in Arabic) to assess their educational level and be referred to the appropriate age in formal education otherwise if they are from centers they will be referred to non-formal education (ALP, BLN, etc.).

Due to the COVID-19 situation, will my children be able to go to school?

In the first semester of the 2020/2021 academic year, public schools and secondary schools will divide each section into two groups, until health conditions return to normal. Each group will include 50% of the total number of students in each section. The first group will attend school all days of the first week and the second group will attend school the week after, adhering to social distancing guidelines, while noting that the first group will be learning remotely while the second group is at school and vice versa.

All public schools are requested to take the necessary health precautions to help ensure the safety of all children. These measures include physical distancing, the use of masks by children and staff, disinfection of materials, training of all staff on health protocols, ventilation of classrooms, etc. If a child has fever or any other symptoms, they will be requested to stay home for 2 weeks, which is normal procedure and important to limit the infections - this is nothing to be embarrassed for and the child can simply come back to school two weeks later. MEHE has published a Health Manual to ensure that all schools implement the necessary measures. In addition, you can call the MEHE hotline to report or refer suspected cases (01/772186) and the Ministry of Health hotline for any COVID-19 related questions (01/594459).

II. FEES:

13. Do I have to pay to enroll children in Lebanese public schools?

For Public Basic Education (Grades 1-9):

Public basic education (Grades 1-9) in Lebanon is free of charge for all children. Parents do NOT have to pay schools for enrolling their children, the fees for non-Lebanese are covered by the international community through UNICEF.

For the Secondary level (Grades 10-12),

Enrollment is free of charge for non-Lebanese, because the fees are covered by UNESCO. This only includes registration fees (LBP 271,000.00) and does not include textbooks, transport, school uniform, or other fees.

14. Are there any other fees?

- Children enrolled in second shift schools (Grades 1 – 9) are provided with stationary (School in a Box). This stationary is distributed at the start of the academic year. Any extra stationary needed throughout the school year is the responsibility of the parents.
- ECE kits are provided to second shift schools (Prep ECE) and not to individual students at the start of the school year. Parents should not be asked to purchase any stationary upon registration. Should this be the case, then parents should report this to the hotline.
- School Books are distributed to children in both morning and second shift schools from KG to Grade 9 (Prep ECE included) (or in case unavailable, e-books might be provided). Parents are not expected to purchase any books except for cycle 3 (Grades 7-9), where the history textbook is to be covered by the parents. Textbooks are not provided at the secondary education level. Miscellaneous fees asked upon registration:
- Stamps/photocopies of papers: Documents requested for official use may need a stamp of 1,000 L.L or more. This is depending on the paperwork needed. The parent is responsible for such payments.
- School fees: The cycle 3 (grades 7-9) school fees of 20,000 lbp have been eliminated.

15. Will transport costs be covered to send children to school?

Transportation remains the responsibility of parents particularly in the morning shift. However, in second shift schools, transportation support through mainly cash assistance will be provided to selected families. The “Reaching School Program” will support children who face greater challenges getting to school and meet the following eligibility criteria: very young children enrolled in prep ECE; disabled children and children living far away from school or attending schools that are difficult to reach enrolled in cycle 1 (grades 1 to 30 and possibly in cycle 2 (grades 4 to 6).

UNICEF partners will start with the registration of eligible students for the Reaching School Programme between December 2020 and January 2021 inside all second shift schools. Parents and caregivers will be informed by the school about eligibility criteria. UNICEF NGO partners will also be contacting families of eligible children. For any questions on the program, families should please call the UNICEF hotline on 04 727 300 from Monday to Friday from 9.00 am until 6.00 pm. More details regarding the programme are also provided in a separate Q&A for RSP.

III. Other Education Programs and Academic Support Available in Public Schools:

16. Are there other kinds of schools or education programs?

Yes. There are several education programs in Lebanon:

- Private schools are education institutions run by independent organizations or individuals. They are certified by the Ministry of Education when they follow the Lebanese certified curriculum as long as they are registered and licensed with MEHE. You should check with the school management before enrolling your child. If the school has a CERD number and uses the Ministry of Education's Lebanese curriculum, the education program will provide official certification. There are also some semi-private schools that are partially financed by the Ministry of Education and Higher Education for a limited number of Lebanese students in grades 1 to 6 only. Sometimes these schools provide education in the afternoon without being registered at MEHE which make them unrecognized.
- Based on availability of funds, the Accelerated Learning Program (ALP) is a non-formal education programme offered and managed by the Ministry of Education. Completion of this ALP certification will lead to enrollment in public formal schools.
- Other Non-Formal Education (NFE) programs are also available depending on the child's learning needs. These programs are offered by Education NGOs and **do not always** lead to a recognized certificate. MEHE has endorsed a number of NFE programs, such as the Community Based Early Childhood Education Program (CB-ECE) the ALP, the BLN (10 to 14 years) and the youth BLN (15 to 24 years) as above. Any other schools or programs adopting curricula other than the Lebanese official curriculum are NOT recognized by the Ministry of Education and Higher Education. You are strongly encouraged not to enroll your children in these programs.

More details on ALP and NFE programs can be found in Question 18.

17. My child is having a difficulty following the Lebanese curriculum in public schools, what type of support is available to help retain my child in school?

Retention support is provided to some students which includes both homework and remedial support. Homework support is provided to students already enrolled and regularly attending formal education in public schools, but at risk of dropping out. Homework support is provided on punctual basis in different settings, where the students bring their school books and get support allowing them to succeed the school year. These programs are conducted in public schools and in community venues for students who are enrolled in public schools and in need of such support. Homework support and foreign language support is also available within the communities. *Please refer to the outreach worker in your area to access the list of homework support and foreign language support activities near your residence.*

18. What if a child has been out of school for many years, or has never been to school before?

- For children aged 8 to 17 who have been out of school for two years and more, an Accelerated Learning Program (ALP) has been developed by the Ministry of Education that will help them catch up with the Lebanese educational system.

The ALP is based on the Lebanese curriculum and provides subjects required by the official Lebanese curriculum such as Arabic, French or English, Mathematics, Life Science, Chemistry and Physics (for cycle 3), in addition to Life Skills and psycho-social support modules. The ALP has nine levels corresponding to the nine grades within the Lebanese basic education system (Grades 1 to 9). The child is required to complete a minimum of 300-350 hours during a three to four months' period.

At the end of the program period, children and/ or youth have the possibility to access formal schooling in Lebanon. In terms of learning outcomes, children undertake an assessment at the beginning and at the end of the program to ensure they are well equipped for reintegration into the formal education system the following year.

- For children and youth who have never been to school and who lack the most basic learning skills, the Ministry is developing a basic literacy and numeracy program, BLN that supports entry into ALP, or formal public education. Basic Literacy and Numeracy programs are being conducted by NGOs.

IV. Barriers to attending Public schools:

19. Is there a way to report problems that a family could face in a public school?

Yes. To report any misbehavior, fraud, discrimination, violence or abuse in a public school, parents are responsible to communicate with the school director and to call the Ministry of Education hotline number (01-772661) during working hours. For cases of violence against children outside the public schools, please inform the outreach worker in your area to refer the child to a child protection agency who could help you with your situation.

In most second shift schools there will also be one or more Education Community Liaisons (ECL volunteers) supporting communication between the community and the school. They can assist with referring cases to the appropriate agencies for follow up depending on the case (through their partner NGO focal point), as well as to DOPS as per MEHE's child protection policy.

All humanitarian agencies' services and activities are free of charge. If anyone asks you for money or favors in return, please contact any of the organizations mentioned at the end of this document immediately.

To report problems faced by children attempting to register at second shift schools, please contact your outreach worker in your area to follow the Back to School Online Complaints mechanism set by the Education Sector.

V. Technical Vocational Education and Training (TVET):

20. My child would like to move from the academic to the vocational and technical system (Grade 7 and above). Is this an option?

Yes. Students between 13 and 21 years old, who have completed Grade 7, can enroll in public vocational and technical schools for formal vocational education in TVET public schools of the Government of Lebanon. You can approach any of the vocational and technical schools or one of the humanitarian organizations listed below to enroll. UNICEF is supporting by paying to MEHE directly the tuition fees on behalf of some Lebanese and all the non-Lebanese students affected by the Syrian crisis. The selection of a number of students benefiting from the fees coverage is based on specific registration criteria developed by MEHE and UNICEF from 2015.

21. When and how can the youth enroll in public vocational and technical schools?

For both Lebanese and non-Lebanese adolescents entering public vocational and technical schools:

- Enrollment for BP (Brevet Professionnel) and BT (Baccalaureate Technique) is taking place starting in September/October 2020, Non-Lebanese children affected by the Syrian crisis and whose enrollment fees will be covered by the UNICEF registration coverage do not pay any enrollment fees to the Vocational and Technical schools.
- A Lebanese student suffering from the impact of the economic situation and not able to register at any of the public TVET schools could be referred to UNICEF in order to resolve the issue with the TVET school directors or the TVET directorate by covering the registration fees by the UNICEF registration coverage.

- If any of the TVET school directors has requested from the Non- Lebanese children to pay the enrollment fees at the beginning of the academic year, the case should be referred to UNICEF in order to resolve the issues directly with the TVET directorate.
 - For the registration of non-Lebanese students into the MEHE Vocational and Technical schools whose enrollment fees will be covered by the UNICEF registration coverage are as follows:
 - Student's identity card
 - Two passport photos of the student
 - A school statement of the past two years or a copy of it.
 - Residency permit or valid UNHCR Registration Certificate (when available)
- N.B 1: Syrian students are not allowed to sit for the TVET final official exam if they haven't submitted the official documents that prove they are eligible for it; or get an approval from the council of ministers for their candidacy.
- N.B 2: Any Syrian student can enroll in TS (Technicien Superieur) given that they have all documents to prove successful completion of BT (Baccalaureat Technique)

In the case where the above required documents cannot be provided upon registration, the student can nevertheless register and enquire at the school administration about available options to provide alternative documentation; as long as the required documents can be submitted prior to the date of the official exams. It is worth noting that the submission of a residency card/ permit is not a requirement for the registration of non-Lebanese students into the public technical schools. Upon the Ministry of Education circular, residency permit is not a required document to enroll in the public vocational schools.

22. Can a youth without a Grade 7 certification still benefit from vocational training?

Lebanese and non-Lebanese adolescents without intermediate or secondary education can enroll in certified vocational training sessions in public vocational and technical schools with the Ministry of Education or the Ministry of Agriculture. The Ministry of Labor also provides certified vocational training through a number of organizations affiliated with them including the National Center for Vocational Training. Additional skills training is provided by one of the humanitarian organizations that will be listed asap to enquire about the available programs and enroll.

VI. Higher Education:

Q1: Can I enroll or resume my education in universities in Lebanon?

Yes. All refugees in Lebanon, who have completed the official high school in Lebanon (Thanawieh Aamah Lubnanieh) or its equivalence in their country of origin, are eligible to enroll in public or private certified universities in Lebanon pending other admissions requirements. **(List of Universities is included in the Annex)**

Q2: What documents do I need to access universities in Lebanon?

When approaching a university in Lebanon, you should bring all the following documents:

- Valid ID document
- Official high school transcript validated by the ministry of education in Lebanon, or equivalence certificate, delivered by the equivalence committee in the ministry of education and higher education in Lebanon (see more about equivalency in Q4).
- Language proficiency score (for some universities) or entrance exams for some specialties (You are encouraged to check directly with the university you wish to apply regarding these requirements).

Q3: When can I apply for/enroll/ register in universities in Lebanon?

The application deadline and enrollment date vary for each university. You could contact the university you wish to apply to in order to learn more about their specific enrollment date, application, and registration procedure.

Q4: What is the equivalence process?

Any student who holds a general certificate of secondary education issued by a governmental entity from an Arab or foreign country and wants to pursue their studies in Lebanon should submit a request to the Equivalence Committee in the Lebanese Ministry of Education and Higher Education to obtain his/her grade equivalence before registering into the institutions of higher learning/universities.

Submitting requests can be done through the mail (Libanpost via e-mail customercare@libanpost.com or calling 1577) or directly through the Ministry of Education and Higher Education, the equivalence department. For more information on the equivalence process, <https://www.mehe.gov.lb/ar/Transactions/GeneralEducationEquivalence>

Q5: What are the documents that must be submitted to the Equivalence Committee?

Academic Documents:

For the general certificate of secondary education students:

- Brevet certificate
- General Certificate of Secondary Education with a clear mention of success

For University degree:

- A certified copy of the Bachelor's degree certificate, if applying for a Master equivalency you should add a certified copy of your Master's degree certificate
- A certified transcript of all academic years if applying for a Master equivalency you should add a certified transcript of your Master's degree academic years

If documents were not issued in Lebanon, the original ones and official copies should be validated and stamped by the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in the country in which studies were completed, and then by the relevant embassy in Lebanon, and then stamped by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Lebanon before presenting them to the Lebanon Ministry of Education and Higher Education.

Administrative documents:

- Valid Passport or Residency card issued by the General Security
- UNHCR registration certificate if available
- Administrative fees (Official Lebanese stamps for a total value of 36,000 Lebanese Pounds)

Note:

The application is submitted according to an application form directly to the Secretariat of the Equivalence Committee or via LibanPost in addition to the attached the documents required for the equivalence of certificates issued from inside and outside Lebanon. All required documents should be collected and submitted jointly with their certified copies altogether. **Foreign curriculum equivalency demands should be presented before the end of January of the current year to be able to be enrolled in the next academic year.**

Q6: What do I do if I do not have one or more of the documents required? Who can I contact?

These documents are mandatory to enroll in a certified university in Lebanon. We encourage you to gather all authentic documents as soon as possible. If you do not have any of these documents, you could contact the university you wish to apply for to see if they have alternative options.

Q7: Do I need a residency permit to go to university in Lebanon?

Yes, according to Lebanese law, you might be requested to show a valid residency permit to enroll in a university. In case you do not have your residency permit, contact the university or scholarship to which you wish to apply or UNHCR for assistance.

Q8: Are foreign languages essential to access university education in Lebanon?

Not necessarily. The minimum proficiency requirements for foreign languages differ from one university to another, as well as from one faculty of studies to another. Nevertheless, even to study Arabic literature, universities in Lebanon usually require mandatory foreign language courses (English or French) to be completed.

Many institutions offer foreign language classes across Lebanon. For more information, you could contact:

1. American Lebanese Language Center: <http://allcs.edu.lb/>
2. AMIDEAST: <http://www.amideast.org/lebanon>
3. British Council: <https://www.britishcouncil.org.lb/en>
4. Cervantes: <http://beirut.cervantes.es/fr/default.shtm>
5. Goethe Institute: <https://www.goethe.de/ins/lb/en/index.html>
6. Institut Français (French Institut for French language) <http://www.institutfrancais-liban.com/>
7. Italian Institute: http://www.iicbeirut.esteri.it/iic_beirut/it/
8. ULYP: <http://www.unitelebanonyouth.org/>
9. Université Libanaise, Bureau des Langues calargefady@yahoo.com

Q9: Do I have to pay to enroll in a University in Lebanon? If yes, what are the costs?

Even public education in Lebanon is not free of charge. To access a public university faculty, foreign students must pay around 1,000,000 LBP for a BA per academic year and up to 1,800,000 LBP for MA per academic year. Private universities cost range between 3,750,000 and 27,000,000 LBP per academic year. Limited numbers of scholarships are available to help cover the costs.

Q10: What are the different University scholarships available in Lebanon and abroad?

Below are some of the university scholarships in Lebanon available to refugee youth between 18-30 years old who have completed their secondary education. Each scholarship provider offers different support packages and has different selection processes and application deadlines. To learn more about the type of support offered, contact the scholarship provider directly or visit their webpage.

1. The Arab Open University in partnership with KFAS (Kuwait Fund for Advancement of Sciences) offers scholarships for Syrian refugees to complete their education at the tertiary level. For more information contact StudentAffairs@aou.edu.lb or registrar@aou.edu.lb
2. The Arab Open University in partnership with CAWTAR (Center of Arab Women for Training and Research) offers scholarships for Syrian female refugees to complete

- training in Business and/or IT. For more information contact StudentAffairs@au.edu.lb or registrar@au.edu.lb
3. Al Ghurair Foundation offers the ASU Online Master's Degree Program through the AGFE Open Learning Scholars' Program to all Arab students. This is the final application window which will be accepting applications until Sunday, 4th October 2020. For more information contact the OLSP Team at openinglearning@alghurairfoundation.org or visit <https://goto.asuonline.asu.edu/agfe/>
 4. AMIDEAST manages the MEPI Tomorrows' Leaders Scholarship Program, which provides full scholarship funding for Syrian students to study at AUB and LAU. For more information contact lebanon@amideast.org or visit www.amideast.org/lebanon
 5. AMIDEAST offer counseling, test prep, and English Language support to prepare students to enroll in universities in Lebanon or the U.S. For more information contact lebanon@amideast.org or visit www.amideast.org/lebanon
 6. AMIDEAST's Hope Fund program helps PRL apply to and win scholarships to study at U.S. universities. For more information contact lebanon@amideast.org or visit www.amideast.org/lebanon
 7. European Union's Erasmus+ Programme offers exchange programmes and scholarships for masters' degrees. For more information, contact neo@erasmusplus-lebanon.org or visit <http://erasmusplus-lebanon.org/>
 8. The Global Platform for Syrian Students (GP4SYS) offers scholarships for BA, MA, and Ph.D. degrees for Syrian students in Lebanon. For more information, contact secretariado@casadoregalo.pt or visit www.globalplatformforsyrianstudents.org
 9. The project HOPES-LEB (Higher and Further Education Opportunities and Perspectives for Syrians and vulnerable youth in Lebanon), funded by the European Union, through the EU Regional Trust Fund in response to the Syrian Crisis, the 'EU Madad Fund' and implemented by the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) together with Campus France and Nuffic. It aims at improving livelihood prospects through higher education opportunities for vulnerable Lebanese youth and refugees from Syria in Lebanon thus increasing their chances for a better future. The project is a continuation of the HOPES regional project (April 2016-August 2020) and seeks to provide better access to quality further and higher education opportunities and support to higher education and local institutions in Lebanon. The life span of the project is from April 2020 until December 2023. For more info, contact the HOPES team at Lebanon@hopes-madad.org or visit www.hopes-madad.org.
 10. JICA offers scholarships for masters and doctorate for universities in Japan. For more information, contact jpembassy.syria@gmail.com
 11. Lebanese Association for Scientific Research (LASer) provides scholarships to Syrians and Palestinians from Syria. For more information contact info@laser-lb.org or visit www.laser-lb.org
 12. Southern New Hampshire University offers undergraduate level university scholarships through the Global Education Movement (GEM) to all Arabs students with a special focus on females and students with abilities. For more information visit www.gem.snhu.edu
 13. SPARK has created an EU-funded scholarship programme in Lebanon ranging from a certified degree to vocational courses. For more information contact Lebanon@spark-online.org or visit www.spark-syria.eu
 14. The French Embassy through the SAFAR program provides university scholarships to Lebanese between ages 18 and 30 for Graduate, Masters, Graduate Ph.D., and Postgraduate levels. For more information visit www.institutfrancais-liban.com
 15. The Partnership between the MasterCard Foundation and the American University of Beirut (AUB) offers undergraduate scholarships to Africans, Syrians, Palestinians, and Lebanese. For more information contact scholarsprogram@aub.edu.lb or visit www.aub.edu.lb/mcf
 16. The Slovakian Government offers Slovak Government Scholarships to Lebanese and Syrians between ages 18 and 34 to pursue Undergraduate or Master's Degrees in Slovakia. For more information visit <https://www.vladnestipendia.sk/en/>
 17. ULYP provides scholarships for Lebanese, Syrian, PRL, PRS. For more information visit <http://www.unitelebanonyouth.org/projects/view/27>

18. UNHCR provides DAFI scholarships to refugees known to UNHCR willing to start or continue their university studies in Lebanon, in partnership with World Learning. For more information contact 01-990410 / dafi@worldlearning.org
19. UNRWA provides scholarships for PRL and PRS. From each yearly awarded list one scholarship is allocated for students with specific needs. For more information visit www.palscholarships.org
20. The UK government through the Chevening Programme provides scholarships for Syrians and PRS students to study Master's at any university in the UK. For more information, visit: www.chevening.org/syria
21. The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) offers the Higher Education Scholarship Program: Refugee/Displaced Scholarship Support (RSS) undergraduate scholarships at the American University of Beirut and the Lebanese American University to promising public and private high school students and technical school graduates from all governorates of Lebanon. (For more information, you can visit <https://www.aub.edu.lb/usp/Pages/requirementseducationalbenefits.aspx> and <https://hes.lau.edu.lb/rss/>)

Q11: Do I have to pay some fees to apply for a scholarship in Lebanon?

Humanitarian agencies provide services FREE of charge, but there are commercial agencies that provide priced services.

Q12: Does the scholarship money have to be repaid like a loan?

Scholarships are grants that do not need to be paid back. Some scholarship providers do however require volunteering work to be done as a condition. Check with your scholarship provider for more information.

Q13: Can I apply to a scholarship again in case I was previously not selected?

Yes. You can re-apply to a scholarship every year or at every call for applications as the selection criteria might differ from a year to another, or additional slots can be added.

Q14: Can I apply for more than one scholarship?

Yes. You can apply for different scholarships. However, applicants accepted in more than one scholarship will need to check the rules and regulations of each scholarship provider as policies may vary. In most cases, applicants might need to withdraw from one of the scholarship awards.

Q15: Can I receive assistance from more than one scholarship?

Since the spaces for scholarships are limited, most scholarship providers do not allow recipients to receive assistance from more than one source. However, it is best to check the rules and regulations of each scholarship provider as policies may vary.

Q16: Who selects the recipients of a scholarship?

The scholarship providers, usually through a panel or committee, by their own rules and regulations, select scholarship recipients.

Q17: Where can I find information on available scholarships? Is there any website?

Many scholarships have their outreach channels. Here are some of the websites that compile scholarships:

- www.refugees-lebanon.org
- www.hopes-madad.org
- www.spark-syria.eu
- <http://min7asyr.com>
- www.unrwa.org
- <https://www.facebook.com/dafischolarshiplebanon/>
- <https://iiepeer.org/>
- <https://www.al-fanarmedia.org/scholarships/>
- <https://opportunities.arabyouthcenter.org/#opportunities>

Q18: What are the other education opportunities available if I cannot enroll or afford to enroll in universities in Lebanon?

You can access formal technical pathways at the Directorate General of Technical and Vocational Education, such as Superior Technician (TS) available in over 120 vocational public centers. The academic year at TS level cost around 465,000 LBP (Ministerial circulars are issued at the beginning of each academic year listing the accredited institutes or Vocational Training schools).

Some humanitarian entities are supporting refugee enrolment by covering mainly tuition fees for formal vocational training and short vocational training in public TVET schools.

The American University of Beirut through the Partnership for Digital Learning and Increased Access (PADILEIA) provides a College Readiness Program for 8 months (20 hours/week) to 50 beneficiaries per year (Lebanese and Syrian students) in the Bekaa Region for free. The AUB PADILEIA Foundation Certificate College Readiness Program also provides psychological, academic, and peer support along with strengthening students' English skills and aid them in applying to university scholarships. For more information contact ccecs@aub.edu.lb or visit www.padileia.org/

PADILEIA also offers short online courses developed by King's College London and hosted on the FutureLearn platform including topics such as English, Introduction to Nursing, Business and Entrepreneurship, and Digital Skills (<https://www.futurelearn.com/courses/collections/refugees-displaced-people>). You can sign up and take these independently at your own pace through the FutureLearn website. If you are interested in taking these online courses as part of a facilitated group at the American University of Beirut PADILEIA campus in Bar Elias, Bekaa, contact ccecs@aub.edu.lb with PADILEIA in the subject of your email.

Erasmus+ provides also International Credit Mobility scholarships for students enrolled in Lebanese universities. To see which institutions have such ICM projects, consult <http://erasmusplus-lebanon.org/content/840>. To find out about the scholarships available, the student should consult the student services office or the international relations office in the respective institution. More than 1000 mobility scholarships are available to Lebanese higher education institutions.

Kiron provides free online and offline courses that are validated on a case-by-case basis by MEHE in Lebanon as university equivalent courses to refugees, IDPs, and disadvantaged Lebanese. When you are ready to enroll at university, Kiron will help you to recognize the courses' credits you took online and then transfer to the university. Kiron also works through the Partnership for Digital Learning and Increased Access Program to provide the same services specifically to Lebanese and Syrians. For more information contact students.lebanon@kiron.ngo or visit www.kiron.ngo/mena

Unite Lebanon Youth Project (ULYP) provides SAT preparatory courses through the BRIDGE Program to Lebanese, Syrian and Palestinian students. ULYP also provides psychological, academic, and peer support along with career guidance and civic engagement. ULYP offers students with university preparatory courses during high school years to facilitate their transition to tertiary education with partner universities American University of Beirut (AUB), Lebanese American University (LAU), and American University of Science and Technology (AUST).

The Al Ghurair Young Thinkers Program (YTP) is a free-of-charge, online college prep program and career readiness platform developed to help Arab youth, ages 15 – 35, achieve future success! The Young Thinkers Program is a flagship program of the Abdulla Al Ghurair Foundation for Education and is powered by Arizona State University. The program supports

youth with key skills such as Communication, Digital Literacy, Personal Development, Emotional Intelligence, among many other skills. To register for the Al Ghurair Young Thinkers Program, visit <https://youngthinker.org/>

Annex 1.

List of Accredited Private Universities and University Institutes or colleges by the Ministry of Education and Higher Education

Private Universities

- 1 American University of Beirut- AUB
- 2 University of Balamand- UOB
- 3 Beirut Arab University- BAU
- 4 Université la Sagesse- ULS
- 5 Holy Spirit University of Kaslik- USEK
- 6 Middle East University- MEU
- 7 Université Saint-Joseph- USJ
- 8 Lebanese American University- LAU
- 9 Haigazian University- HU
- 10 Lebanese International University- LIU
- 11 Islamic University of Lebanon- IUL
- 12 Beirut Islamic University- BIU
- 13 Notre Dame University Louaize- NDU
- 14 Makassed University- MU
- 15 Antonine University- UPA
- 16 Jinan University- JU
- 17 Global University
- 18 Arab Open University- AOU
- 19 City University (Al-Manar University- MUT)
- 20 Rafik Hariri University- RHU
- 21 American University of science and Technology- AUST
- 22 American University of Technology- AUT
- 23 Arts, Sciences & Technology University in Lebanon- AUL
- 24 Modern University for Business & Sciences- MUBS
- 25 Lebanese Canadian University- LCU
- 26 Lebanese German University- LGU
- 27 Université Libano-Française de Technologie et des Sciences Appliqués-ULFTSA
- 28 Kafaat University- UK
- 29 Holy Family University
- 30 University of Tripoli- UT
- 31 American University of Culture and Education- AUCE

- 32 University of Sciences & Arts in Lebanon- USAL
- 33 Phoenicia University- PU
- 34 Maaref University- MU
- 35 Al Azm University for Sciences & Arts- AZM
- 36 The International University of Beirut- BIU

University Institutes and Colleges

- 1 Ouzai University College
- 2 Ecole Supérieur des Affaires- ESA
- 3 Sidoon University College- SUC
- 4 Jwaya University College of Technology- JUCT
- 5 Matn University College of Technology- MUC
- 6 Al Rassoul Alaazam University Institute- RAU
- 7 Faculty for Nursing Sciences of the Lebanese Red Cross
- 8 Institut Technique des Soeurs des Saints Coeurs
- 9 Academic University College for Non-violence & Human Rights- AUNOHR

University Institutes for Religious studies

- 1 St. Paul Institute of Philosophy & Theology
- 2 Near East School of Theology- NEST
- 3 Daawa University College for Islamic Studies

For more details on each University or University Institute please check the following link:

www.higher-edu.gov.lb/arabic/privuniv/personal_univ.html