

**The Lebanese Higher Education System  
- A Short Description -**

## Table of Contents

I	Introduction.....	2
II	Lebanese Higher Education in Numbers .....	2
II.1	Universities .....	2
II.2	Students.....	2
II.3	Professors and Administrative Staff .....	3
II.4	Ranking the Professors .....	3
II.5	Adopted Systems .....	3
II.6	Credits Systems.....	4
II.7	Admission Rules .....	4
II.8	Doctoral Studies.....	4
II.9	Research Organisation .....	4
II.10	Services .....	5
II.11	Financing.....	5
II.12	Governance .....	5
III	Licensing rules .....	5
III.1	Licensing a New Institution or a New Faculty or a Branch.....	6
III.1.1	Standards.....	6
III.1.2	Procedure .....	6
III.2	Licensing a New Programme.....	7
IV	Recognition and Equivalence .....	7
V	Students.....	8
VI	Quality Assurance .....	8
VII	Placement and interaction with surrounding fabric .....	8
VIII	International cooperation .....	9
IX	Appendices.....	9
IX.1	Chart of the Lebanese Higher Education Governance.....	9
IX.2	New Draft Law Organizing the Higher Education .....	9

## I Introduction

This document briefly describes the different characteristics of the Lebanese higher education. It forms a basis for the activities conducted in the different technical tasks of the TLQAA project. The next section describes the Lebanese higher education by providing some numbers. Licensing rules and procedures are provided in the section III. The section IV is dedicated to the recognition and equivalence of degrees and diplomas in Lebanon. The roles of the students in the institutions and the sector are given in the section V. Quality Assurance as applied today in the Lebanese higher education is presented in the section VI. Finally, the interaction with the surrounding fabric and the international dimension of the Lebanese higher education are provided in sections VII and VIII respectively.

## II Lebanese Higher Education in Numbers

### II.1 Universities

According to the statistics report from the CRDP, there have been [38 universities](#) operating in Lebanon in the academic year 2009-2010. Among these universities there is [one public university](#), the Lebanese University, and [37 private universities](#). Higher Education is rooted in the Lebanese society. Two of the private universities are almost 150 years old and are among the oldest in the whole region.

### II.2 Students

The Table 1 presents for 3 years the total number of students and their distribution on the private and public higher education institutions as well as their gender distribution. Looking at Table 1 the annual increase in the total students' number seems to be around 4%. The number of students enrolled in the public Lebanese University is nearly constant leading to a continuous decrease in the proportion of students enrolled in the Lebanese University. Gender wise the proportion of female students seems to be constant around 54% of the total number of students. The evolution of the number of students has been studied in details by comparing the numbers between the academic years 2006-2007 and 2009-2010. This study shows that the number of students at the Lebanese University remains nearly constant. The increase in the number of students is absorbed by the private universities with different rates.

Year	Total Number of Students	Enrolled in the Lebanese University	Enrolled in the private universities	Number of Female Students	Number of Male Students
2006-2007	160364	72961 (45.5%)	87403	87126 (54.3%)	73238
2007-2008	167165	74176 (44.4%)	92989	91276 (54.6%)	75889
2009-2010	180850	72813 (40.3%)	108037	96202 (53.2%)	84648

**Table 1. Total number of students, their gender and their distributions between the private and public higher education institutions for 3 academic years.** (The numbers are obtained from the CRDP website)

### II.3 Professors and Administrative Staff

The numbers of professors and administrative support staff as well as their distribution between the private and public higher education for three academic years are shown in the Table 2. An average yearly increase of 10% of the total number of professors is noticed while the number of professors in the Lebanese University has only known a slight increase (note that the number of students enrolled in the Lebanese University has not varied a lot during the same period). As for the administrative staff, the average yearly increase is about 14% again with a slight variation in the number of staff at the Lebanese University. Deepening further the numbers one can notice that the ratio of the total number of students per the number of professors varies depending on the institution with an average per institution of 12 students for each professor.

Year	Total Number of Professors	Professors in the Lebanese University	Professors in the private universities	Total Number of Admin. Staff	Staff in the Lebanese University	Staff in the private universities
2006-2007	13556	4577 (33.8%)	8979	4511	1712 (38.0%)	2799
2007-2008	14608	5256 (36.0%)	9352	5064	1840 (36.3%)	3224
2009-2010	16387	5226 (31.9%)	11161	5826	1893 (32.5%)	3933

**Table 2. Total number of professors and administrative staff and their distributions between the private and public higher education institutions for 3 academic years.** (The numbers are obtained from the CRDP website)

### II.4 Ranking the Professors

Academic titles exist in the Lebanese universities and are generally of four levels: instructor, assistant professor, associate professor and professor. There is no national ranking for the professors in Lebanon and this ranking is done by each institution following institutional rules that are often similar. Instructor rank is often reserved for lecturers who have no PhD. Freshly PhD graduates will be at the assistant professor level. With the development of their expertise the assistant professors will be promoted to the position of associate professors and then full professors.

### II.5 Adopted Systems

The autonomy and freedom of education is guaranteed by the constitution in Lebanon. The two oldest universities, the American University of Beirut and the “Université Sain Joseph”, follow the American and French systems respectively. The old yearly based French system has been changed in almost all the universities to the European 3-cycle system; Bachelor-Masters-Doctoral (BMD) system. The two major systems in Lebanon are the American and European ones and almost all of the higher education institutions adopt a form of 3-cycles credit-based system. However, some variations exist since some

universities adopt the Canadian system, others German system and the Beirut Arab University adopts the Egyptian–Arab system.

## **II.6 Credits Systems**

As for the system in general, the credits systems also vary from one institution to another. There is no national credit system that allows the transfer, recognition and mobility of the students. The two major classes of credits' systems are: the American Credit system and the European Credit Transfer and Accumulation system (ECTS). The American credits are roughly based on contact-hours. The ECTS is student-centered and accounts the relative workload of the student in average.

## **II.7 Admission Rules**

Besides some minimal requirements set by the regulations, the admission rules to the different programmes are also set by the institutions. At the entry level to be admitted to higher education the student should have acquired the Lebanese Baccalaureate or equivalent. In addition to this global rule different requirements can be set by the institutions. Here some examples are provided to illustrate this diversity.

To join the Faculty of Engineering at the Lebanese University the students should pass an entrance examination and a number of the students with the highest achieved results will be admitted. A similar procedure is applied for the admission of students to engineering in the “Université Saint Joseph”. For medical studies, the system differs from one institution to another. For the Lebanese University the students will pass a entry and selection examination after a first year of study (mainly studies in biology). At the University of Balamand, the students only join the medical studies at the fourth year after a BS in Biology. The conditions in this case are threefold; a good average in the BS, a good average in SAT and passing an interview. A similar procedure applies at the American University of Beirut.

## **II.8 Doctoral Studies**

Traditionally doctoral studies were offered in few institutions including the Lebanese University in a limited number of domains of the human sciences. More recently, some doctoral schools have been established; three at the Lebanese University, one at the American University of Beirut and, one at the “Université Saint Joseph”. More classically, some joint PhD studies are launched with schools at the international level (co-tutelle in France, with Canada, with the USA etc.).

## **II.9 Research Organisation**

The organization of the research activities are also the sole of the institutions. At the national level, the National Council for Scientific Research offers some financial support to reviewed research projects. It also defines and supports associated research units. At the institutional level, several universities have established structures to encourage and

promote the research activities. For example, at the University of Balamand a Research Council has been established since 2003 and supports reviewed and precisely selected research projects using some seed funding. Moreover, the Lebanese researchers participate to some regional and international projects. It is worth noting that often the professors and active researchers at the Lebanese higher education institutions have maintained their contacts and cooperation with the research units they have visited during their PhD preparation.

## **II.10 Services**

Several of the universities in Lebanon offer services to the students and the surrounding fabric. Offices are dedicated to offer such services. It is therefore common to find in the universities an office of students' affairs or clubs for social and sports activities. The web sites of most of the universities offer precious information about the services to the students and their parents.

## **II.11 Financing**

The state supports completely the Lebanese University at the financial level. The students enrolled in the Lebanese University only pay the limited subscription fees. The private universities are completely independent and do not receive direct financial support from the government. Tuition fees form the major source of funding for the private universities. In addition to the tuition fees the private universities usually receive support from donors. It is worth noting that several universities have a scholarship system that usually supports the skilled students in reducing their tuition

## **II.12 Governance**

There is no single governance model adopted in the Lebanese universities. Each institution has its own governance. The Lebanese University is governed by the Council of the University formed of its president and respective faculties' deans. The deans are generally selected by the Council of Ministers from a list elected by the faculty members. Other universities, usually those adopting the American model, have a board of trustees that nominates the president and the deans. In these universities, the executive power is also in the Universities' Councils. Some private universities have also private owners who are in this case the members of the board of trustees.

## **III Licensing rules**

This section describes the licensing rules as adopted currently. These rules are divided into two parts. The first part is related to the licensing of a new higher education institution, or a faculty or a branch in an existing institution. The second part is related to the licensing of a new programme in an existing and licensed institution/faculty.

### **III.1 Licensing a New Institution or a New Faculty or a Branch**

The licensing of a new institution or a new Faculty or Branch in an already licensed and existing institution is regulated by:

- The private higher education act (26/12/1961)
- The decree 9274 (7/10/1996) dedicated to the this type of licensing
- The decree 8864 (26/7/1996) dedicated to the licensing of a new institution of technology

#### *III.1.1 Standards*

The main standards to be respected for this type of licensing are:

##### ***Institution Regulations***

These regulations should show that the main objective of the institution is higher education and that the institutions committees and bodies bylaws guarantee their independence from the legal entity requesting the license.

##### ***Buildings and Infrastructure***

The buildings should be independent and dedicated to the university or faculty. The surfaces and facilities should respect the needs of the academic programmes to be offered.

##### ***Scientific Equipments***

Laboratories facilities and libraries should be available and according to the need of the programmes to be offered.

##### ***Academic and Support Staff***

A professor should be envisaged for each 20 students including one full-timer for each 30 students. 50% of the professors should hold a PhD or the highest degree in their specialization. 90% of the professors should be Lebanese. The support staff should have expertise in their domains.

##### ***Start of Operations***

No teaching or operation should start before satisfying the conditions of licensing and before a written authorization from the directorate general after verifying that the conditions are respected.

#### *III.1.2 Procedure*

The procedure for this type of licensing is as follows:

1. Presenting the demand for licensing by the requesting legal entity;
2. The Directorate General verifies the licensing file and informs, in 15 days, the requesting entity if there exist some missing elements;
3. Once the licensing file is completed, the directorate general submits the file to the Council of Higher Education requesting the transfer of the file to the Technical Committee;
4. If the Council of Higher Education approves the procedure, the Directorate General transfers the file to the Technical Committee to study it and to report on this demand in a month period.
5. The report of the technical committee is then studied by the Council of Higher Education and may decide on licensing, requesting modifications or refusal of the demand.

6. In case the licensing demand is approved by the Council of Higher Education, the Minister will submit the file to the Council of Ministers.

### **III.2 Licensing a New Programme**

To obtain a license for a new programme, the higher education institution should present a file that includes the following:

1. Information about the institution presenting the demand;
2. Ranking of the professors in the institution;
3. Information about the new programme (objectives, number of years, number of credits, ...);
4. The curriculum;
5. Laboratories and other facilities;
6. Library;
7. Professors involved.

To start teaching in a new programme, the technical committee revises the programme against the initial submitted file and may perform a site visit to collect evidences on laboratories, facilities, libraries, infrastructures, equipments, staffs, etc. The report of the Technical Committee is then written and submitted to the Council of Higher Education that may give accordingly the authorization.

## **IV Recognition and Equivalence**

The recognition of degrees and diplomas is crucial in countries with strong migration of qualifications like Lebanon. To manage the recognition and equivalence of degrees Lebanon has established the equivalence committee in 1955. It is formed of the presidents of the Lebanese University, the American University of Beirut, the “Université Saint Joseph”, the Beirut Arab University, the “Université Saint Esprit Kaslik” and the “Académie Libanaise des Beaux Arts”, and an administrative judge. Its role is twofold; to recognize the diploma of private universities and institutions inside Lebanon and, to give equivalence to higher education diplomas from abroad. The Equivalence Committee has complete independence and its decisions can only be discussed by the Council of Ministers. For the equivalence of diplomas, the diplomas of the Lebanese University are considered as reference. The Equivalence Committee processes between 6000 and 8000 requests per year 65% of which are Lebanese degrees. Almost half of the requests for equivalence correspond to degrees in business administration. It is worth noting that there is no unit equivalent to the ENIC-NARIC offices in Lebanon delivering information about degrees and institutions.

Besides the Equivalence Committee there are profession-based committees that handle the degrees in specific domains. The Colloquium Examination Committee organizes colloquium exams twice per year to authorize the practice health and medical professions. Students holding Lebanese or foreign degrees in health and medical sciences should pass this exam. For engineering, there is the Engineering Practicing Committee established in 1955 advises the Ministry of Public Work about the authorization to practice engineering

for a specific degree. They apply currently the law 636/97. For degrees from abroad the committee requests the university delivering the degree to be accredited (ABET, CEAB, CTI, NAAB, ...).

## **V Students**

The Lebanese universities generally offer a good amount of information to their students. The quality, precision and easiness to access of this information vary depending on the institution. In addition, several universities have a clear students' support and tutoring strategy. Several universities have a well defined office of students' affairs. Some universities have also offices of employment. There is often a strong relationship with the alumni.

Some universities provide the students with a specific role in the committees at all levels. In most of the universities the students are requested to provide their feedback at the end of each course or module. This shows their role in the internal quality assurance system.

Students associations exist in nearly all the universities. However, there is no student union at the national level. Moreover, the elections of the boards of the associations are often politically oriented and one can notice the lack of discussions regarding the students' interest and the development of the higher education as a sector.

## **VI Quality Assurance**

Several institutions have established a clear internal quality assurance process with a quality assurance unit. Some of the institutions have undergone accreditation with international agencies. NEASC has accredited the American University of Beirut and the Lebanese American University at the institutional level. The "Université Saitn Joseph" has been evaluated by AERES. The "Université Saint Esprit Kaslik" has been evaluated by IEP. Several programmes have also been evaluated by ABET for example.

Besides, several projects dealing with quality assurance have been conducted. Some examples are the Tempus-QAHEL and Tempus-LEPAC and, the UNDP-EQAIP.

## **VII Placement and interaction with surrounding fabric**

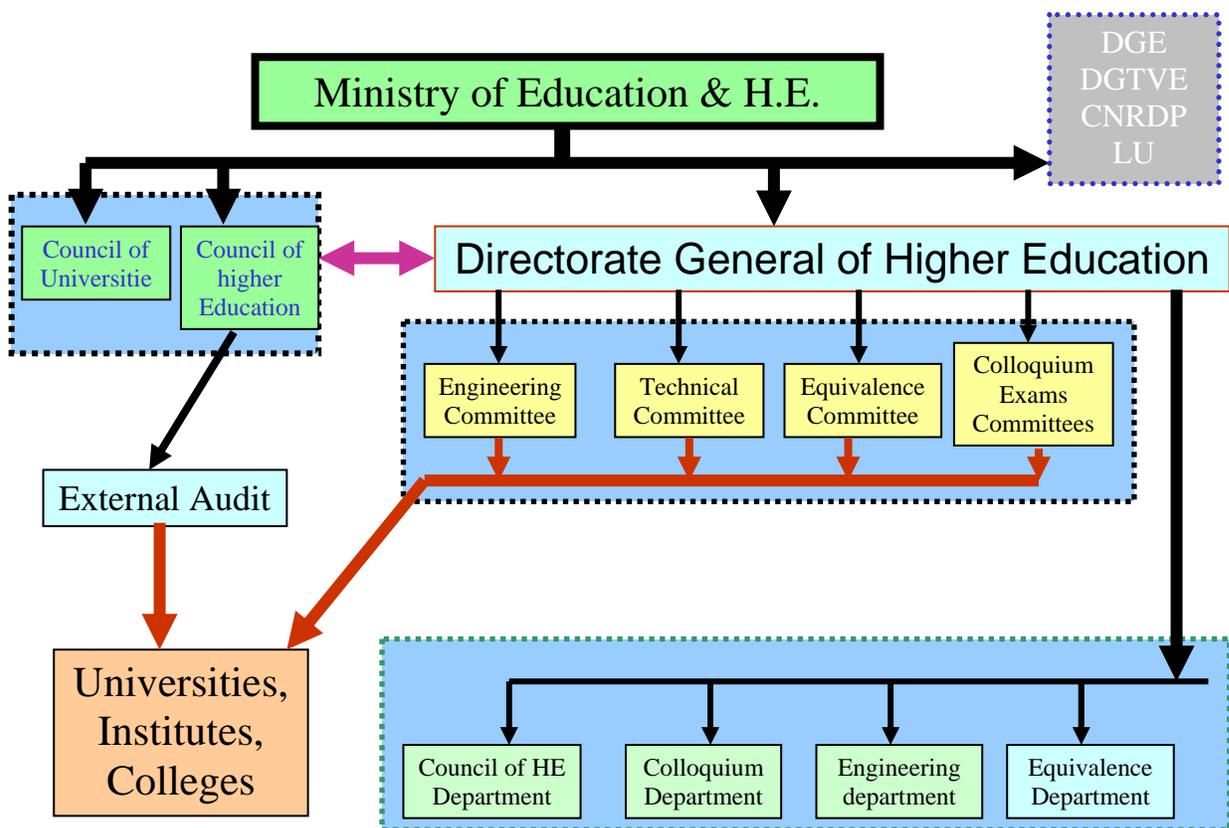
Placement of students and training periods are often part of the curricula in the different Lebanese universities. However, there is no clear and common regulations organizing the placement and training periods. These placements are often non-financed. Common projects with surrounding fabric exist but this aspect needs to be fostered. Efforts exist in this direction. For example the Lebanese Industrial Research Association (LIRA) is an example of cooperation between the Lebanese industrialists and the universities mainly centred on the final year projects.

## VIII International cooperation

International cooperation is another dimension of the Lebanese higher education. The Lebanese higher education has been and is still attractive for a significant set of students from the region. Besides, several Lebanese universities have opened branches in the Gulf region. At the international level, the Lebanese universities have well established cooperation with abroad universities. At the education level, the Lebanese universities in general participate actively in Tempus and Erasmus Mundus projects. At the research level, the Lebanese universities participate in EU (FP6, FP7) projects as well as several USAID projects. CEDRE programme has also been supporting research cooperation between Lebanon and France. Several other cooperation programmes exist. However, there is no clear policies regarding the organization and development of the international dimension in the Lebanese Higher Education.

## IX Appendices

### IX.1 Chart of the Lebanese Higher Education Governance



### IX.2 New Draft Law Organizing the Higher Education

## Draft Regulatory Law on Higher Education

## Index of Sections, Chapters, and Articles

### ***SECTION I***

#### **Terms and Definitions**

Article 1: Terms and definitions

### ***SECTION II***

#### **General Provisions: Higher Education Objectives, Institutions, Curricula, and Degrees**

Article 2: Name and scope of the Law

##### **Chapter 1**

##### **Objectives of Higher Education**

Article 3: Objectives of Higher Education

Article 4: The personality of Higher Education institutions

Article 5: General regulations for Higher Education

##### **Chapter 2**

##### **Private Higher Education Institutions**

Article 6: Types of Higher Education institutions

Article 7: Conditions, standards, and norms of institutions

##### **Chapter 3**

##### **Higher Education Programs, Curricula, and Degrees**

Article 8: Degrees awarded by Higher Education institutions

Article 9: Specialized training programs

Article 10: Description of curricula and programs

Article 11: Enrollment at Higher Education institutions

Article 12: General regulations for Master's and PhD degrees

Article 13: Document deposition requirements

### ***SECTION III***

#### **Regulatory Bodies for Private Higher Education Institutions**

##### **Chapter 4**

##### **The Higher Education Council**

Article 14: Formation of the Higher Education Council

Article 15: Nomination of Higher Education Council members

Article 16: Nomination and election of the representatives of private Higher Education institutions

Article 17: Duties of the Higher Education Council

Article 18: The Higher Education Council's rules of procedure

Article 19: Secretariat of the Higher Education Council

##### **Chapter 5**

##### **The Academic Technical Committee**

Article 20: The Academic Technical Committee and program specialist committees

Article 21: Duties of the Academic Technical Committee and program specialist committees

Article 22: Formation of the Academic Technical Committee

Article 23: Selection of the Academic Technical Committee's members

Article 24: The Academic Technical Committee's rules of meetings

Article 25: Formation of the program specialist committees

Article 26: Selection of the program specialist committees' members

Article 27: Duties of the program specialist committees

Article 28: Preparing a major not offered in Lebanon

### **Chapter 6**

#### **The Committee for the Recognition and Equivalency of Degrees Earned Abroad**

Article 29: Establishment of the Committee

Article 30: Composition of the Committee

Article 31: Principles and conditions for the selection of Committee members

Article 32: Duties of the Committee

Article 33: Rules of Committee meetings

### **Chapter 7**

#### **Special Provisions for Committee Membership**

Article 34: Combining memberships

Article 35: Committee indemnities

Article 36: Vacancies in councils and permanent committees

### **Chapter 8**

#### **Assessment and Accreditation of Higher Education Institutions and Programs**

Article 37: Accreditation of Higher Education institutions and programs

Article 38: Assessment and accreditation bodies and institutions

## ***SECTION IV***

### **Conditions of Authorization to Establish Private Higher Education Institutions or to Create a New Faculty, Institute, Major or Branch at an Existing Institution**

#### **Chapter 9**

#### **Legal Persons Entitled to Apply for Authorization to Establish an Institution and the Provisions of Such an Authorization**

Article 39: General capacity to apply for authorization

Article 40: Legal persons entitled to apply

Article 41: Conditions relating to non-Lebanese legal person

Article 42: Elements of authorization

#### **Chapter 10**

**Authorization Application and Documents Required for the Authorization to Establish a Higher Education Institution**

Article 43: Application documents

Article 44: Documents relating to the legal person

Article 45: Documents relating to the institution

Article 46: Obligations on behalf of the applicant

**Chapter 11**

**On the Creation of a New Faculty, Institute, Additional Campus, or Major**

Article 47: Creation of a new faculty or institute

Article 48: Creation of a new campus

Article 49: Creation of a major, or second or third level degree

Article 50: Program amendment

**Chapter 12**

**Special Conditions for Master's and PhD Programs**

Article 51: Minimum conditions to create a new Master's program

Article 52: Minimum conditions to create a new PhD program

**Chapter 13**

**Mechanisms and Special Conditions Relating to Authorization, Permission to Commence Instruction, and Degree Recognition Renewal**

Article 53: Mechanisms

Article 54: Special conditions

***SECTION V***

**Supervision, Inspection and Accreditation of Institutions**

**Chapter 14**

**Supervision of Higher Education Institutions by the Ministry of Higher Education**

Article 55: Elements of compliance in Higher Education

Article 56: Regular inspection and accreditation of institutions

Article 57: Examination of regular inspection reports

***SECTION VI***

**Administration of Private Higher Education Institutions**

**Chapter 15**

**Administration of Private Higher Education Institutions**

Article 58: General administration of the institution

Article 59: Principles of administration of the institution

Article 60: The institution's budget

**Chapter 16**

**Students' Rights in Higher Education**

Article 61: Students' rights

***SECTION VII***

**Breaches and Sanctions**

Article 62: Providing education before receiving authorization

Article 63: Breach by the institution of one or all authorization conditions

Article 64: Categories of breaches and related sanctions

Article 65: Putting an institution under supervision

***SECTION VIII***

**General, Temporary and Final Provisions**

Article 66: Complete loss of establishment authorization

Article 67: General conditions for university facilities

Article 68: -----

Article 69: -----

Article 70: -----

Article 71: -----

Article 72: -----

Article 73: -----

Article 74: -----

Article 75: Legal notice period for the verification of compliance of existing institutions with this Law

Article 76: Names of institutions

Article 77: Repeal of conflicting provisions

Article 78: Enforcement of this Law

## **SECTION I**

### *Terms and Definitions*

#### **Article 1: Terms and definitions**

As used in this Law, the following terms and expressions shall have the following meanings:

1. **The Ministry:** The Ministry of Higher Education.
2. **The Minister:** The Minister of Higher Education.
3. **The Council:** The Council of Higher Education.
4. **The Academic Technical Committee:** The committee charged by the Council, in accordance with its duties defined herein, to examine the files attached to the application forms submitted by Higher Education institutions.
5. **Recognition Committee:** The committee that recognizes Higher Education instruction, degrees, and equivalencies.
6. **High School Degree:** The Lebanese high-school degree (baccalaureate), the Lebanese vocational high-school degree, or its official equivalency.
7. **Higher Education:** Education subsequent to a High School Degree.
8. **Campus:** Any main or secondary geographic headquarter established by a higher Education institution where it pursues its academic activities.
9. **Academic Units:** Faculties, institutes or academic departments
10. **Teaching Staff:** All the workers in a Higher Education institution in charge of academic duties either as instructors or researchers.
11. **Course:** A set of lectures and instruction and learning activities relative to a certain subject as the basic unit of preparation in a given program; it is distinguished by a title, code, number of credits, and a comprehensive description of the syllabus.
12. **Credit:** The basic unit used to measure the numerical value of the quantity of academic work required to reach the goals set by a given syllabus.
13. **Curriculum:** A set of courses in a given program.
14. **Program:** Determines the educational career, assessment system, and examinations for a given educational level leading to earning a degree in a certain major. It includes more specifically the objectives, learning outcomes, admission conditions, minimum duration, and curricula of the program. It also describes the degree to which it leads its type and the number of required credits.
15. **Major:** A field of knowledge whose courses form the majority of a program that leads to a degree which holds the same name as the major itself, according to the standards that describe the degree mentioned herein, or in the relative executive decrees or decisions.
16. **Minor:** A field of knowledge different from the major field of the program leading to the degree. This minor is listed on the student's register once met the conditions stipulated herein or in the relative executive decrees or decisions.

17. **Concentration:** A field of knowledge derivative from the major field of knowledge of the program leading to the degree. This option is listed in the student's record once met the conditions stipulated herein or in the relative executive decrees or decisions.

18. **Quality Assurance:** The set of measures taken to enhance instruction, analyzing learning outcomes, and improving the level of all elements affecting Higher Education.

19. **Accreditation:** The recognition of a certain level of quality of the provided instruction. Accreditation could be granted to an institution or a program.

20. **Assessment:** The mechanism adopted to assess an institution, a program, or a set of programs in a Higher Education institution based on standards and indicators adopted to ensure quality.

21. **Self-Assessment:** An assessment done by the Higher Education institution through its internal Quality Assurance Unit in accordance with fixed methods and standards.

22. **External Assessment:** The assessment performed by a specialized entity independent from the Government or any institution under the control of the latter.

23. **Assessment Entity:** An independent entity whose role is to assess Higher Education institutions and programs in accordance with fixed methods and standards.

## ***SECTION II***

### ***General Provisions: Higher Education Objectives, Institutions, Curricula, and Degrees***

#### **Article 2: Name and scope of the Law**

“The Higher Education Law,” is the designation of this Law whose provisions govern all Higher Education institutions, public and private, legally established and in activity at the moment of its promulgation or those created later in accordance with its provisions.

### **Chapter 1**

#### **Objectives of Higher Education**

#### **Article 3: Objectives of Higher Education**

Higher Education is a public service provided by Higher Education institutions, both public and private. It caters for the needs of the society by building its capacities and improving its possibilities through scientific research. It also promotes the fundamental freedom of individuals and groups and noble values set by international conventions, especially where academic freedoms are concerned. Higher Education institutions partake in achieving the following objectives:

1. Providing all those who would like to pursue their education and have the capacity to continue learning at this level of education, including people with special needs.
2. Providing students with academic, personal, and professional competences and promoting their capabilities.
3. Preparing specialized intellectual leaders to run the various institutions of society and cater for needs in development and work market.
4. Developing the spiritual, intellectual, and physical dimensions of all men and women and providing them with a supporting academic environment that fosters their creativity and innovation and nourishes their talents.
5. Providing continuous learning.
6. Preserving, spreading, and developing knowledge.
7. Fostering critical thinking methodology.
8. Accompanying international developments and advancements in the fields of knowledge production and transfer.
9. Promoting social integration and the advancement of the society and committing to fundamental human rights.
10. Opening up to cultures and promoting inter-cultural communication.
11. Sustaining scientific research through the creation of research centers and laboratories.
12. Promoting scientific, cultural, and technical cooperation and expertise exchange among Higher Education and scientific research institutions, both private and public, in Lebanon and abroad, and with productive establishments.

#### **Article 4: The personality of Higher Education institutions**

1. Legally established Higher Education institutions enjoy personality and administrative, financial, and academic autonomy in the framework of their activities within the rights guaranteed under the Constitution.
2. Higher Education institutions under the provisions of this Law enjoy the inviolability of their campuses; security forces shall have no right to access these campuses except at the request and with the consent of the institution's president or his/her deputy, and upon writ to investigate or deal with a crime committed on campus or to pursue a criminal who has entered the campus provided that the institution's president or his/her deputy be informed of the writ's content.

#### **Article 5: General regulations for Higher Education**

Higher Education institutions under the provisions of this Law shall undertake to provide the public service expected of them with respect of the ethical standards at such an instructional level, and more precisely in accordance with the provisions of this Law and its executive decrees and regulations and other relevant international conventions.

## **Chapter 2**

## Private Higher Education Institutions

### Article 6: Types of Higher Education institutions

Private Higher Education institutions are devoted to scientific instruction and research and serving the community in High Education fields; they are divided into three types: university, college and higher vocational institute.

**First- The University** is any Higher Education institution that meets the following conditions:

1. Being comprised of three faculties at least, specialized each in one major area of studies recognized by international organizations, especially the UNESCO. These areas of studies are defined by a ministerial decree upon recommendation of the Academic Technical Committee<sup>1</sup>.
2. Providing nine majors at least leading to first level degrees as stipulated in this Law.
3. Devoting 5% minimum of its annual operating budget to scientific research and its requirements.
4. Hiring faculty staff among PhD holder instructors - or those holding the highest degree awarded in their field - to instruct 60% of the total number of credits. The conditions of hiring non-PhD instructors shall be set by a Cabinet decree.
5. Having tenured faculty to instruct a minimum of 50% of the total number of courses.
6. Having among tenured faculty a minimum of 50% as Lebanese PhD holder instructors.

**Second- The university college** is any independent Higher Education institution devoted to one or two of the aforementioned educational fields, and to which apply conditions (4), (5), and (6) of the First part of this article.

1. A college can provide academic or technological instruction.
2. For the college to provide technological instruction, the programs it offers should specialize in the applications of basic sciences such as engineering, medicine, nutrition, or information technology; in such cases, the percentage mentioned in item (5) of the First part of this article shall be reduced to 40% of the total number of the courses, except the cases where the instruction leads to degrees of the second level; in such a case, conditions (4), (5), and (6) of the First part of this article shall apply.

Colleges that provide exclusively technological instruction shall award degrees of the first and second level only in the majors officially licensed.

University institutes can be established within universities or colleges, are educational units that are devoted to instruction in a precise cognitive field, and are autonomous within the university or college to which it belongs.

**Third- The higher vocational institute** is a higher education institution devoted to instructing middle cadres, and whose programs specialize in one of the technical

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<sup>1</sup> Ministerial decree concerning major areas of studies.

fields such as industry, agriculture, or water, administrative, or human services. Such an institute shall be under the control of the Ministry of Education and its rules and regulations.

**Article 7: Conditions, standards, and norms of institutions**

A circular of the Minister, upon proposal from the Higher Education Council based on the recommendation of the Academic Technical Committee, shall define the conditions, standards, and norms required in every type of Higher Education institution not mentioned in this Law.

**Chapter 3**  
**Higher Education Programs, Curricula, and Degrees**

**Article 8: Degrees awarded by Higher Education institutions**

Higher Education institutions award the following degrees:

1. **The Bachelor's**, a first level degree, necessitates a minimum studies duration of three academic years or their equivalent in semesters, in which case, the minimum studies duration can be no less than two and a half academic years; in addition to the total number of credits required to receive the degree in accordance with the regulation of the institution approved of by the Higher Education Council. High-school degree holders can enroll in this type of degree.
2. **The Master's**, a second level degree, necessitates minimum studies duration of two academic years for the holders of first level degrees, in accordance with the regulation of the institution approved of by the Higher Education Council.
3. **The PhD**, a third level degree, necessitates minimum studies duration of three academic years for the holders of second level degrees, in accordance with the regulation of the institution approved of by the Higher Education Council.
4. **A university degree to practice particular jobs<sup>2</sup>**, whose name, studies duration, and academic and professional conditions shall be defined by a decree, upon proposal from the Higher Education Council based on the recommendation of the Academic Technical Committee, while taking into consideration the conditions regulatory of trades stipulated in the Law and applicable regulations. In such a case, the decree shall include special regulations relative to the second and third levels.
5. **A Specialized Technical Diploma** necessitates - subsequent to a high-school degree - minimum studies duration of two academic years in a higher technical institute. The degree is awarded to those who pass successfully the

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<sup>2</sup> A decree to name university degrees required to practice particular jobs.

official examination held by the Ministry of Higher Education in various majors. Its studies conditions and majors are academically and technically defined by decree upon proposal from the Minister<sup>3</sup>.

**6. Education Vocational Degrees:**

- The Bachelor of Education which falls under the Bachelor regulation as in (1) of this Article.
- The Teaching Diploma - a one-year-studies period subsequent to a Bachelor's degree - specialized in one teaching or procedural major area approved by the curricula. Teaching Diploma's can be taught in parallel with the courses of the Bachelor's degree provided that the studies duration for both degrees be no less than four academic years or their equivalent in semesters and in accordance with the regulation of the institution approved of by the Higher Education Council.
- The Master's Degree in Education which falls under the Master's regulation as in (2) of this Article. Its studies conditions and majors are academically and technically defined by decree<sup>4</sup> upon proposal from the Higher Education Council based on the recommendation of the Academic Technical Committee.

7. **The Bachelor of Law** in Lebanese Law is awarded exclusively by the Lebanese government who has the right to of supervision and regulation over the curricula and examinations of this degree.

**Article 9: Specialized training programs**

Higher Education institutions, mentioned in items (1) and (2) under Article 6, have the right to create specialized training programs of theoretical, practical, or vocational nature in the licensed fields; these programs lead to special certificates.

**Article 10: Description of curricula and programs**

In application of the provisions of this Law and pertaining decrees and regulations:

1. Each university adopts a unified form for the description of curricula and programs it offers.

**A curriculum includes the following:**

- (1) Course time.
- (2) Type of course pertaining to:
  - a. Required courses (from inside or outside the major).
  - b. Optional courses (chosen among courses from inside or outside the major).
  - c. Free elective courses (chosen from open-list courses from inside or outside the major).
- (3) Type of each course:
  - a. General ability course (languages, computer skills, and academic-related skills).

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<sup>3</sup> Decree of Master's in Education.

<sup>4</sup> Decree of Master's in Education.

- b. General culture course.
  - c. Specialization, concentration or minor course.
- (4) Quality of each course:
- a. Theoretical, practical applications or training course.
  - b. A course designed for a final project, dissertation, or thesis.
- (5) Outcomes of every course.
- (6) Instruction and learning mechanisms and assessment system.

**Article 11: Enrollment at Higher Education institutions**

The following shall be defined by ministerial decree<sup>5</sup> upon proposal from the Higher Education Council based on the advice of Academic Technical Committee:

1. High-school degree which allows enrolment at different type of Higher Education institutions.
2. Transfer conditions from one field of Higher Education to another (academic, technological, and vocational).
3. General framework for studying at a Higher Education level and in different types and majors.
4. Transfer conditions among Higher Education institutions.
5. Conditions for earning more than one degree in more than one concentration.

**Article 12: General regulations for Master's and PhD degrees**

The general regulations for the various types of Master's and PhD degrees shall be defined by a Cabinet decree<sup>6</sup> upon proposal from the Higher Education Council based on the advice of Academic Technical Committee.

**Article 13: Document deposition requirements**

Higher Education institutions shall deposit at the Directorate General of Higher Education all the documents that the Ministry of Higher Education requires by virtue of this Law and its executive decrees, following a procedure defined by a ministerial decree upon proposal from the Higher Education Council.

***SECTION III***

***Bodies Governing Private Higher Education Institutions***

**Chapter 4**

**The Higher Education Council**

**Article 14: Formation of the Higher Education Council**

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<sup>5</sup> Ministerial decrees: Admission conditions at the Higher Education institutions and transfer from one sector of Higher Education to another.

<sup>6</sup> PhD general regulations Decree.

The Higher Education Council shall be created under the direction of the Minister of Education and shall be comprised of Lebanese persons as follows:

- The General Director of Higher Education
- A judge from the State Council
- Two representatives from the Lebanese University
- Five representatives from private Higher Education institutions
- Three experts in Higher Education
- The president of the free trades Union

**Article 15: Nomination of the Higher Education Council members**

1. The State Council delegates to the membership of the Higher Education Council a judge among its counselors who have reached the tenth staff level as a minimum.
2. The Minister selects the representatives of the Lebanese University among the members of the four of academic boards, upon proposal from the University Council.
3. Universities shall be represented as follows:
  - a. Three representatives from institutions that have provided Higher Education for the last 50 years at least.
  - b. Two representatives from institutions that have provided Higher Education between 15 and 50 years

Each of the two aforementioned groups of institutions shall select its representatives by means of election; members whose membership to the Council has expired shall not be reelected before a full Council term ends subsequent to this expiry; rotational periodicity shall be observed if possible.

4. The Minister selects the three experts among the candidates to this position who have presented their candidacy in writing for this purpose.
5. Every representative of the Lebanese University or Private Higher Education institutions in the Council shall be either, the president, vice-president, or dean of faculty - in the case of institutions where the position of vice-president does not exist. They shall also have a minimum of 15 years experience as instructors in addition to a minimum of 5 years confirmed experience in university administration or quality control management.
6. The experts shall possess a 20-year-minimum solid academic and management experience in the Higher Education field and shall have no commitment toward any Higher Education institution working in Lebanon.
7. The membership term shall be fixed at a maximum of 3 years for all those who aren't members by virtue of their work.

**Article 16: Nomination and election of the representatives of private Higher Education institutions**

1. The private Higher Education institution that nominates a member to represent it in the Council shall fulfill the following requirements:

- having provided Higher Education for the last 15 years minimum, without interruption, and having graduated seven batches of first-level students and three of second-level students.
- not having been - for the last 3 years - object of a first or second type sanction as stipulated in this Law.
- having a minimum of 1500 full-time registered students.

2. A Higher Education institution's right to nominate or elect candidates to the Council that will be formed six years after the first formation of a Higher Education Council shall depend on this institution's accreditation in accordance with Article 15 herein.

### **Article 17: Duties of the Higher Education Council**

The Council shall undertake the following functions and duties in accordance with the provisions of this Law:

1. Taking part, in general, in developing a national Higher Education policy, pertaining especially to private Higher Education.
2. Submitting proposals pertaining to spreading and regulating Higher Education in the framework of the national Higher Education policy and in the light of the Constitution.
3. Proposing guidelines and norms for the creation of private Higher Education institutions, branches or programs.
4. Delivering recommendations pertaining to authorizations to create institutions.
5. Finalizing authorizations to commence instruction.
6. Recommending the creation of new programs in existing faculties and institutes provided that these programs be directly part of academic fields offered by these institutions.
7. Ratifying the proposals of Higher Education institutions on programs, regulations, and their amendments, that are subject to decisions made by the Council, in accordance with this Law, decrees and regulations hereof.
8. Recommending the cancellation of authorizations to create institutions, branches, or programs, when lacking technical and academic requirements.
9. Making decisions pertaining to recognizing a program for a limited period of time.
10. Receiving demands of accreditation for Higher Education institutions and programs subsequent to an independent assessment by a national or international body specialized in quality assessment and assurance.
11. Creating committees and seeking the assistance of qualified experts to perform tasks external to the Academic Technical Committee duties or to charge it of achieving them; or to seek the help of an external body for quality assessment and assurance.
12. Advising the Minister on all matters pertaining to Higher Education.
13. Performing all duties as stipulated in this Law and its executive decrees and regulations. Decisions and recommendations of the Higher Education Council

enumerated in items 3 to 9 of this Article are based on the reports of the Academic Technical Committee and program specialist committees.

**Article 18: The Higher Education Council's rules of procedure**

**First-** The Council's meetings:

1. The Higher Education Council regularly meets on the fifteenth of every month or on the following working day if the fifteenth happens to be a holiday. The Council shall also meet exceptionally at the invitation from its president, or at an invitation sent in writing by two thirds of its members at least. Its meetings shall be deemed valid with the presence of the absolute majority of the members who officially form the Council. In case of equality of votes, the Minister shall have the casting vote.
2. The General Director of Higher Education shall preside over the meetings in the absence of the Minister.

**Second-** The Council's fulfillment of its duties:

The Council shall have the right to form permanent or temporary subcommittees, from among its members or from specialized non-members, to examine some issues other than those which are the duty of the Academic Technical Committee and specialist committees, in accordance with the provisions of this Law.

**Article 19: Secretariat of the Higher Education Council**

The duties of the Secretariat shall be performed by a secretary that the Minister appoints among third level civil servants working at The Directorate General of Higher Education in the Ministry of Education; the secretary shall be aided by other employees appointed by the General Director of Higher Education.

## **Chapter 5**

### **The Academic Technical Committee**

**Article 20: The Academic Technical Committee and program specialist committees**

The Ministry of Higher Education shall establish an Academic Technical Committee to which are related other committees specialized in various academic programs. This Committee will be in charge of the duties stipulated in this Law, pertaining to private Higher Education institutions' compliance with rules and regulations; it shall regularly deliver recommendations of program recognition in accordance with the procedures stipulated in this Law and its pertaining regulations. The Committee shall also perform all duties of which the Higher Education Council shall charge it.

**Article 21: Duties of the Academic Technical Committee and program specialist committees**

**First** - Duties of the Academic Technical Committee and program specialist committees pertaining to authorizations:

1. To draw up a reference guide<sup>7</sup> for the examination of the documents required from legal persons applying for an authorization relative to their legal status and their institutions' regulations.
2. To examine the regulations of the institutions applying for authorization, and to issue reports concerning these regulations and the reports drew up by the program specialist committee; they shall then submit its recommendations to the president of the Higher Education Council.

If the Committee considers that a file doesn't fulfill the requirements, it shall return it - accompanied by the justification of such a decision - to the party concerned who shall have a period of two months to complete it. After expiry of this deadline, the Committee shall submit, to the Higher Education Council, a report including its opinion concerning the file and its recommendations thereof.

**Second** - Duties of the Academic Technical Committee and program specialist committees pertaining to instruction commencement:

1. To draw up a reference guide<sup>8</sup> on the conditions of instruction commencement.
2. To verify through a field inquiry about the institution's conditions prior to issuing the instruction commencement recommendation in each of the new majors it is authorized to create.
3. To draw up a report including the results of this inquiry and address it to the Council in case it is positive. In the negative cases, the General Director of Higher Education shall send it to the institution to complete the lacking elements in the file within two months. After expiry of this deadline, the Committee shall submit, to the Higher Education Council, a report including its opinion about the file and its recommendations thereof.

**Third** - Duties of the Academic Technical Committee and program specialist committees pertaining to the verification of programs and conditions within the institution:

1. To draw up a reference guide for the regular verification of the institution and its programs.
2. To regularly verify the institution and the authorized programs after the commencement of the instruction and upon a pre-fixed time schedule.
3. To issue recommendations for temporarily authorized programs.
4. To propose of a list of accredited programs.

**Fourth** - The duties of program specialist committees pertaining to its regular assessment of these programs.

1. To draw up a reference guide for the regular verification of the programs.
2. To regularly verify the partially authorized programs that are not accredited.

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<sup>7</sup> Higher Education Council's Decree: a reference catalog set by the Technical Committee.

<sup>8</sup> Higher Education Council's Decree: a reference catalog set by the Technical Committee about instruction commencement.

The Minister shall approve of the guides stipulated in this Article upon the recommendation of the Higher Education Council based on the opinion of the Academic Technical Committee; they also be published in the Public Journal.

**Article 22: Formation of the Academic Technical Committee**

1. The Academic technical Committee shall be comprised of ten members as follows:

- A. As president, the General Director of Higher Education.
- b. As member, a judge from the State Council having served as administrative judge for a minimum of 15 years, who will be in charge of this duty in accordance with the regulations of the State Council.
- C. As members, four experts from private universities.
- D. As members, two experts from the Lebanese University.

e. Two experts with no commitment of any kind to any Higher Education institution.

2. The expert member of the Committee shall have a 15-year-experience minimum in Higher Education, and shall be classified at either of the two highest levels of the academic staff, in addition to a certified experience in academic administration or quality systems for three years minimum.

3. All experts shall serve in the Committee for a maximum term of six years except the first Committee to be formed, where the membership of four of its members shall be of four years only.

4. Three years after the formation of the first committee subsequent to the promulgation of this Law, two among the private Higher Education institutions experts, one Lebanese University expert and one of the experts with no commitments to any Higher Education institution, shall be chosen by draw to be replaced for the next three-year term, whereas the rest of the members shall pursue their membership for the next three years.

5. After expiration of the first committee's term, half its members shall be renewed by replacing those four of them, whose six-year membership has finished, by members for a full term; this procedure shall be periodically adopted every three years.

**Article 23: Selection of the Academic Technical Committee's members**

1. All private universities, meeting the conditions stipulated in Article 16 of this Law, shall draw up a list of three experts who meet the conditions stipulated in Article 22 and the Lebanese University shall draw up a list of six experts upon nomination by the University Council; the universities shall then address the lists to the Higher Education Council.

2. The files of the expert instructors whose names are proposed by the private universities and the Lebanese University shall be studied by the Higher Education Council to verify whether they meet all the conditions; the Council could also seek help from experts from outside the Council to examine these files.

3. The Council shall draw up a list comprised of twelve names among the experts proposed by the private universities, four among those proposed by the Lebanese

University, and six among those with no commitment toward any Higher Education institution; then it shall address the list to the Minister who shall select the members of the committee and appoint them as members in accordance with the rules of formation of the committee, upon a decree for this purpose.

When selecting the experts, the diversity of their specializations, type of education and experience in academic administration and quality systems assessment shall be taken into consideration.

**Article 24: The Academic Technical Committee's rules of meetings**

1. The Committee shall meet every 15 days or when necessary at the invitation of its president or upon request of four members at least.
2. The Committee shall set up its rules of procedure that shall be ratified by a ministerial decree upon recommendation of the Higher Education Council<sup>9</sup>.

**Article 25: Formation of the program specialist committees**

1. The Academic Technical Committee is assisted in the fulfillment of its duties by committees specialized in all Higher Education programs.
2. The specialist committees shall be formed of:
  - a. Three experts in the required specialization, one of whom a coordinator, provided that they be chosen for their academic experience.
  - b. A representative of the concerned free trades Union when the major leads to earning a degree permitting the practice of a free profession regulated by a law.
3. The specialist committee member shall hold a PhD or the highest degree awarded in the major with a minimum experience of five years in Higher Education in the required field.

**Article 26: Selection of the program specialist committees' members**

1. By decree, and upon recommendation of the Higher Education Council based on a proposal from the Academic Technical Committee, the Minister shall draw up a list of the majors for which a committee is required.
2. Private Higher Education institutions shall draw up a list of specialists who meet the aforementioned conditions including those who have retired from these institutions.
3. The Academic Technical Committee shall examine the files of the specialists to verify whether they meet the aforementioned conditions.
4. Upon recommendation of the Higher Education Council, the Minister shall approve of the list<sup>10</sup> of specialists who meet the conditions; such list shall be adopted and notified to all Higher Education institutions.
5. Program specialist committees shall be appointed, by ministerial decree<sup>11</sup>, where and when necessary among the names of the adopted list, provided that an expert from an institution shall not partake in the examination of the file of the

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<sup>9</sup> The Committee shall set up its rules of procedure that shall be ratified by a ministerial decree upon recommendation of the Higher Education Council.

<sup>10</sup> List of specialists (Higher Education Council).

<sup>11</sup> Specialist committees shall be commissioned by ministerial decree upon proposal from the General Director of Higher Education.

Higher Education institution where he or she works as academic or administrative staff or as member in one of its councils.

6. The composition of the program specialist list is reviewed every three years.

**Article 27: Duties of the program specialist committees**

The specialist committees shall be entrusted the examination of the files relative to academic fields and programs and shall draw up a detailed report thereof showing the extent of compliance with the required conditions.

These committees shall also be in charge of examining whether the programs meet the academic requirements and shall spend the necessary field visits to ensure task progress after the commencement of instruction until the graduation of the first students' batch in the concerned majors.

**Article 28: Preparing a major not offered in Lebanon**

When an application is submitted to the Higher Education Council to authorize a major that has never been offered by Higher Education in Lebanon, and when such an application could not be studied by the specialists whose names are on the adopted list, and when it is impossible to seek the help of local experts to examine such a case, the applicant party shall have the obligation of providing an academic cooperation agreement with a Higher Education institution abroad accredited by an internationally recognized accreditation agency, and provided that the agreement includes the obligation of providing the requirements of instructing such a major by the academic staff and supervision until the graduation of the first batch.

## **Chapter 6**

### **The Committee for the Recognition and Equivalency Of Degrees Earned Abroad**

Article 29: Establishment of the Committee

The Ministry of Education shall create a committee whose duty is to recognize studies that students follow abroad and grant Lebanese equivalencies of the Higher Education degrees resulting thereof. This committee shall be named "Higher Education Equivalency Committee."

**Article 30: Composition of the Committee**

The Committee shall be formed by Ministerial decree and shall be comprised as follows:

1. A president, the General Director of Higher Education.
2. A judge from the State Council.
3. Two experts from the Lebanese University.
4. Four experts from private universities.

**Article 31: Principles and conditions for the selection of Committee members**

1. The Minister shall select the Committee members following the procedure of selection of the Academic Technical Committee, among the list of experts adopted for the selection of these members.
2. The diversity of the experts' specializations and their type of education shall be taken into consideration.
3. The judge should have served for a minimum of 15 years, and will be in charge of this duty in accordance with the regulations of the State Council.

**Article 32: Duties of the Committee**

The Committee shall make decisions on the following:

- a. Ensuring that the different types and levels of degrees, awarded by Higher Education institutions abroad, meet the conditions required in the laws, decrees, and regulations in force in Lebanon and delivering an equivalent Lebanese degree.
- b. Allowing those who have completed a certain number of years of studies or credits abroad, without earning a degree, to pursue their education in a given major.
- c. The rights and privileges of the holders of degrees that have no equivalent in the Lebanese Higher Education system.

**Article 33: Rules of Committee meetings**

1. The Committee shall meet on a weekly basis on fixed dates or when and where necessary at the invitation of its president or at the invitation of three of its members at least.
2. The Committee shall draw up its rules of procedure that shall be endorsed by a ministerial decree upon recommendation of the Higher Education Council<sup>12</sup>.

## **Chapter 7**

### **Special Provisions for Committee Membership**

**Article 34: Combining memberships**

The experts, representative of the Lebanese University and private universities shall not have the right to combine memberships in more than one permanent body mentioned in this Section.

**Article 35: Committee indemnities**

The indemnities of the members and secretaries of the Council and Committees created under this Section shall be defined by a Cabinet decree<sup>13</sup> upon recommendation of the Minister.

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<sup>12</sup> The Committee shall draw up its rules of procedure that shall be endorsed by a ministerial decree upon recommendation of the Higher Education Council.

**Article 36: Vacancies in councils and permanent committees**

In case of a vacancy in the Council or in any of the permanent committees stipulated in this Law, six months prior to the end of the concerned person's term, for any reason such as death, disability, loss of qualification to hold office, resignation, or dismissal for any of the reasons stipulated in the laws and procedures, a substitute shall be chosen in accordance with the principles stipulated in this Law, decrees and regulations thereof; the substitute shall take the vacant position until the end of the titular member's term.

**Chapter 8**  
**Assessment and Accreditation**  
**Of Higher Education Institutions and Programs**

**Article 37: Accreditation of Higher Education institutions and programs**

1. The Accreditation of Higher Education institutions and programs in Lebanon aims at assessing the regularity of their administrative and academic performance pertaining to delivering the majors and programs and awarding degrees, in such a way that shall preserve the student's rights and guarantee, develop and improve academic quality so that they comply with international Higher Education norms, while taking into consideration diversity in the Higher Education system adopted in Lebanon.

2. Each Higher Education institution shall impose upon itself and upon its programs, and at its own expenses, external and self-assessment in view of obtaining accreditation in accordance with requirements fixed by a decree relative to assessment and accreditation issued by the Cabinet upon proposal from the Minister.

**Article 38: Assessment and accreditation bodies and institutions**

1. After seeking advice from the Academic Technical Committee, the Council shall fix the national conditions and norms required for external assessment, quality assurance, and accreditation.

2. After seeking advice from the Academic Technical Committee, the Higher Education Council shall draw up, announce and amend a list of international assessment bodies and institutions, from which Higher Education institutions can get help when seeking accreditation or when looking forward to applying the assessment and quality assurance system; this list shall also include the National Authority for Assessment and Quality Assurance, which shall be created by a special law on quality assurance and accreditation.

**SECTION IV**  
**Conditions of Authorization**

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<sup>13</sup> Decree on the rules of procedure and committees indemnities.

*to Establish Private Higher Education Institutions  
or to Create a New Faculty, Institute, Major or Branch  
at an Existing Institution*

**Chapter 9  
Legal Persons Entitled to Apply for Authorization  
to Establish an Institution  
and the Provisions of Such an Authorization**

**Article 39: General capacity to apply for authorization**

Legal persons with private rights who are legally recognized, whether Lebanese or foreigners from a country officially recognized by Lebanon, shall have the right to apply for an authorization application to establish a private Higher Education institution.

**Article 40: Legal persons entitled to apply**

The term “Lebanese legal persons” entitled to apply for an authorization to establish a private Higher Education institution designates the following persons of private rights:

1. Civil companies and associations among whose objectives is the dissemination Higher Education.
2. Ecclesiastical or other independent sectarian communities specialized in education and to whom the relevant sect recognizes the capacity for the rights and duties that entitle it to independently establish and administer a private institution of higher Education.

**Article 41: Conditions relating to non-Lebanese legal persons**

Non-Lebanese legal persons, entitled to apply for authorization to establish a private Higher Education institution, should meet the following conditions:

1. They should be an active Higher Education institution officially recognized and authorized in a country officially recognized by the Lebanese State.
2. They shall award officially-recognized degrees in their country of affiliation.
3. The institution to be established in Lebanon shall be a branch of the parent institution which shall effectively supervise the branch object of the authorization.
4. They shall commit to abide by the Lebanese laws and regulations applicable to Higher Education.
5. They shall have Lebanese representatives who meet the conditions relative to the appointment of a Higher Education institution president to legally represent them before Lebanese authorities and courts in all cases, to receive notification and correspondences addressed to the parent institution, and to reside in Lebanon at the moment of the commencement application.

If the foreign legal person opts to provide education in cooperation with a Lebanese legal person, in addition to the conditions stipulated in the first paragraph of this Article, this Lebanese legal person shall meet the requirements that entitle it to obtain an authorization to establish a private Higher Education institution in Lebanon.

**Article 42: Elements of authorization**

The authorization application shall be comprised of the following:

1. An establishment application<sup>14</sup> granted by Cabinet decree, upon proposal from the Minister upon on a recommendation of the Council based on the Higher Education Committee report.
2. A commencement of instruction authorization<sup>15</sup> granted upon ministerial decree upon on a recommendation of the Council based on the Higher Education Committee report.

**Chapter 10**  
**Authorization Application and Documents Required for the**  
**Authorization**  
**to Establish a Higher Education Institution**

**Article 43: Application documents**

The Authorization application shall be submitted through a special form, approved by the Ministry, to which shall be attached the following documents:

1. Identity of the legal person applying for authorization.
2. Regulations of the institution object of the application.
3. A commitment to abide by the conditions required in the rules and regulations of Higher Education.
4. Solvency of the institution.

**Article 44: Documents relating to the legal person**

The documents relative to the legal person applying for authorization are defined as follows:

1. For Lebanese persons: an official certification of his judicial entity, in accordance with this Law.
2. for non-Lebanese persons: the following documents certified by the Lebanese embassy in this country:
  - a. Certification issued by the competent authority in the person's country proving that it is an active institution in Higher Education.
  - b. Certification from the competent authority, proving that the degrees awarded by the legal person are officially recognized in the country of origin.
  - c. The regulation that clearly describes the mechanism through which the parent institution shall supervise the branch.

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<sup>14</sup> An establishment application granted by Cabinet decree.

<sup>15</sup> A commencement of instruction authorization granted upon ministerial decree.

- d. An official document certifying the qualifications of the Lebanese representative of the institution applying for authorization.
- e. The official documents proving that the Lebanese party that shall cooperate with the legal person meets the requirements stipulated in this Law.

**Article 45: Documents relating to the institution**

As follows, are the documents required from the Higher Education institution, object of the authorization application?

**First** - The following administrative regulations of the institution:

1. The statute stating the mission, vision, and objectives of the university and that clearly reflects the independence of the administration of the institution from the body applying for authorization, as pertains to its internal academic and administrative affairs.
2. The regulations and structure of the higher administration supervising the institutions.
3. The regulations and structure of the academic administration which define the required qualifications for the appointment of the institution's president, vice-president (if any), deans, and the rest of the staff and the responsibility of each.
4. Rules and regulations of the institution, its academic units, and all its campuses.
5. Documentation procedures.
6. The non-faculty staff regulation provided that it includes a text stipulating that 90% among them shall be Lebanese and that they shall be subject to the Lebanese Labor Law.
7. The institution and programs assessment regulation.

**Second** - The financial regulations of the institution which shall show that it has its own annual budget independent from that of the legal person applying for authorization; more precisely, the following shall be précised:

1. The principles of budget approval and expenditure.
2. The percentage of the budget devoted to research in accordance to the provisions of this Law.
3. The percentage of the budget devoted to the students' financial aids which shall not be inferior to 5% of the students' costs.

Shall be attached to the application form:

1. A budget estimate for the establishment and functioning of the institution drawn up by an audit company approved by the Ministry of Finance.
2. A document proving the institutions' financial capacity to cover the costs of establishment and functioning over the first three years, such as certification from a bank whose name is on the list of banks working in Lebanon.

**Third** - A list of the faculties and institutes to be created and that are related with the institution, stating:

1. The location of these faculties and institutes and the land on which the buildings will be erected and their capacity, by providing a real estate certification proving the ownership of the land or an official document proving the right to construction on this landed property, provided that the right of usufruct of the institution be no less than twenty five years.
2. Detailed plans of the buildings and university facilities according to a guide<sup>16</sup> drawn up by the Academic Technical Committee.
3. The majors that are intended to be taught in the faculty or institute and the degree to which the instruction shall lead; more precisely, the following shall be detailed:
  - a. The programs and curricula of each major according to the terms and definitions in the first Article of this Law.
  - b. The equipments and sources of instruction and learning such as laboratories, workshop, and libraries.

**Fourth** - The regulations relating to the academic staff and detailing the following:

1. The conditions of tenure and contractual employment (per hour) and access to permanent positions if any.
2. The qualifications, degrees, and academic and professional experience required from the academic staff to instruct at each level of the degrees awarded by the institution.
3. The principles of classification of the academic staff and the procedure of promotion based on the minimum wage criteria which shall be decided by a ministerial decree<sup>17</sup> upon recommendation of the Council based on a proposal from the Academic Technical Committee.
4. Contractual conditions, termination of contracts, and indemnities in case of termination of contract or services provided that these conditions aren't less than their equivalent in the Lebanese University.
5. Social security indemnities to the tenured instructors or full timers provided that health care indemnities shall not be less than the Solidarity Medical Fund of the instructors at the Lebanese University.
6. Basic rights and freedoms especially academic freedom, intellectual property, and complaint procedures.

**Article 46: Obligations on behalf of the applicant**

The applicant for authorization shall attach to the authorization file all documents that prove its legal entity, certified by a notary by virtue of which it commits to:

1. Refrain from:
  - a. Lending or renting the authorization to whomever.
  - b. Commencing instruction before receiving the authorization.
  - c. Offering any major not covered by the authorization.

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<sup>16</sup> Detailed plans of the buildings and university facilities according to a guide drawn up by the Academic Technical Committee.

<sup>17</sup> Ministerial decree - minimum wage criteria for the classification of the faculty.

- d. Commencing instruction in any campus before receiving due authorization.
  - e. Performing any act of any kind - after the authorization - that might allow any foreign Higher Education institution non authorized in Lebanon, to provide higher education in Lebanon.
2. Advertise the institution and its majors and education levels in accordance with the content of the authorization decree.
  3. Adopt assessment systems for the assessment of the institutions and its programs.
  4. Hire an academic staff in conformity with the total number of students, in accordance with the norms that shall be defined in a ministerial decree<sup>18</sup> upon recommendation of the Higher Education Council, based on a proposal from the Academic Technical Committee.
  5. Observe the percentage of PhD holders and tenured instructors among the academic staff<sup>19</sup> for each program in which the institution awards a degree in accordance with the norms that shall be defined in a ministerial decree upon recommendation of the Higher Education Council, based on a proposal from the Academic Technical Committee.
  6. Appoint specialized directors for laboratories, workshops, and libraries in accordance with the regulations of every major.

## **Chapter 11**

### **On the Creation of a New Faculty, Institute, Additional Campus, or Major**

#### **Article 47: Creation of a new faculty or institute**

The required documents, for the authorization application of an active Higher Education institution, to create a supplementary faculty or institute are as follows:

1. The rules of procedures of the faculty or institute to be created.
2. The documents listed in the third paragraph of Article 44 herein.
3. The qualifications of the academic staff who will be in charge of instruction at the faculty or institute to be created.
4. A budget estimate for the establishment and functioning of the faculty or institute drawn up by an audit company approved by the Ministry of Finance.
5. A document proving the institutions' financial capacity to cover the costs of establishment and functioning over the first three years, such as certification from a bank whose name is on the list of banks working in Lebanon.

#### **Article 48: Creation of a new campus**

The required documents, for the authorization application of an active Higher Education institution, to create a supplementary campus are as follows:

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<sup>18</sup> Hire an academic staff in conformity with the total number of students, in accordance with norms defined in a ministerial decree.

<sup>19</sup> Observe the percentage of PhD holders and tenured instructors among the academic staff for each program in which the institution awards a degree in accordance with the norms that shall be defined in a ministerial decree.

1. The rules of procedures of the campus to be created and its relation with the parent institution.
2. The documents listed in the third paragraph of Article 44 herein.
3. The qualifications of the academic staff who will be in charge of instruction at the campus to be created.
4. A budget estimate for the establishment and functioning of the new campus drawn up by an audit company approved by the Ministry of Finance.
5. A document proving the institutions' financial capacity to cover the costs of establishment and functioning over the first three years, such as certification from a bank whose name is listed on the list of banks working in Lebanon.

**Article 49: Creation of a major, or second or third level degree**

The required documents for the authorization application of an active Higher Education institution to provide a major or instruction level previously not authorized, in and existing faculty or campus, are as follows:

1. The programs and curricula of each major according to the terms and definitions in the first Article of this Law.
2. The equipments and sources of instruction and learning such as the laboratories, workshop, and libraries required for the instruction of the new major.
3. The qualifications of the academic staff who will be in charge of instruction in each major object of the authorization application.
4. A document proving the institutions' financial capacity to cover the costs of establishment and functioning over the first three years, such as certification from a bank whose name is listed on the list of banks working in Lebanon.

**Article 50: Program amendment**

Higher Education institutions shall have the right to radically amend their programs as far as academic organization is concerned provided that they submit an application to the Higher Education Council. This latter shall have the right to accept or reject the application based on the examination of the Academic Technical Committee which shall draw up a report in accordance with its rules of procedures.

## **Chapter 12**

### **Special Conditions for Master's and PhD Programs**

**Article 51: Minimum conditions to create a new Master's program**

When submitting an authorization application to create a new Master's program, the following minimum conditions shall be met:

1. To meet the conditions for the authorization of programs leading to the Master's in accordance with the norms and procedures stipulated in this Law and its executive regulations.

2. To set up a research developmental plan taking into consideration human and material resources.
3. To draw up special regulations for acceptance and graduation conditions for this level.
4. To have the necessary human, technical, and administrative resources to meet the program's requirements.

**Article 52: Minimum conditions to create a new PhD program**

When submitting an authorization application to create a new PhD program, the following minimum conditions shall be met:

1. To meet the conditions for the authorization of programs leading to the Master's in accordance with the norms and procedures stipulated in this Law and its executive regulations and to have graduated ten batches of second level students.
2. To set up a research developmental plan taking into consideration human and material resources.
3. To draw up special regulations for acceptance and graduation conditions for this PhD level.
4. To have the necessary human, technical, and administrative resources to meet the program's requirements.

Authorization could be granted to a PhD program that would be in common among more than one Higher Education institution provided that the all the conditions stipulated in this Article be met.

The maximum number of theses that one Doctor could supervise shall be fixed by the special decree relative to the regulation of PhD studies.

**Chapter 13**  
**Mechanisms and Special Conditions Relating**  
**to Authorization, Permission to Commence Instruction,**  
**and Degree Recognition Renewal**

**Article 53: Mechanisms**

Mechanisms relative to the authorization and permission to commence instruction and to the renewal of degrees<sup>20</sup> shall be issued in a Cabinet decree upon proposal from the Minister.

**Article 54: Special conditions**

Special conditions relative to the authorization and permission to commence instruction and to the renewal of degrees<sup>21</sup> shall be issued in a ministerial decree

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<sup>20</sup> Mechanisms relative to the authorization and permission to commence instruction and to the renewal of degrees shall be issued in a Cabinet decree.

upon recommendation of the Higher Education Council based on a proposal from the Academic Technical Committee.

***SECTION V***  
***Supervision, Inspection and Accreditation of Institutions***

**Chapter 14**  
**Supervision of Higher Education Institutions**  
**by the Ministry of Higher Education**

**Article 55: Elements of compliance in Higher Education**

The following shall be considered as elements of compliance in Higher Education that the private Higher Education institution shall strive to meet:

1. Obtaining the authorization to create a new institution by Cabinet decree.
2. Obtaining the authorization to commence instruction by a decree issued by the General Director of Higher Education.
3. Identifying itself by its name that points out its real nature according to the authorization granted.
4. Providing education exclusively in the authorized major(s) to award the degrees it was authorized to deliver.
5. Abiding by the institutions regulations and providing the Higher Education requirements in accordance with the relevant legislative and organizational texts.
6. Submitting to the Directorate General of Higher Education the list of registered students every year according to an electronic chart whose content and submittal mechanism shall be determined by a ministerial decree upon proposal from the Academic Technical Committee<sup>22</sup>.

**Article 56: Regular inspection and accreditation of institutions**

The Academic Technical Committee, charged by the Higher Education Council, shall regularly inspect the situation of the Higher Education institutions and shall verify the compliance of these institutions with the provisions of the constitutional and organizational texts in charge of the Higher Education institutions.

The regular inspection of the institutions that haven't obtained accreditation shall be performed every six years at least to renew its accreditation, following an annual program which determines the concerned institutions and that shall be ratified by ministerial decree on proposal from the Council.

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<sup>21</sup> Special conditions relative to the authorization and permission to commence instruction and to the renewal of degrees shall be issued in a ministerial decree.

<sup>22</sup> An electronic chart whose content and submittal mechanism shall be determined by a ministerial decree upon proposal from the Committee.

This committee shall draw up reports relative to all the duties that it shall be in charge of and then shall submit them to the Council through the General Director of Higher Education; these reports shall include proposals based on the results of the audit.

**Article 57: Examination of regular inspection reports**

the Higher Education Council shall examine the report submitted to it; if it finds that the legally active Higher Education institution is in a situation where it breaches the provisions of this Law or of the decrees thereof, the Council shall address a notification to rectify the breach within a period that shall be fixed and that shall be no less than six months. In case the institution does not respond favorably, the Council can recommend the infliction of the suitable sanctions in accordance with the provisions stipulated in this Law.

***SECTION VI***

***Administration of Private Higher Education Institutions***

**Chapter 15**

**Administration of Private Higher Education Institutions**

**Article 58: General administration of the institution**

1. Every Higher Education institution shall establish a high authority representative of the legal person owner of the authorization that shall be held responsible for the implementation of the plans that will ensure the institution's fulfillment of its legal commitments.
2. The competences of the owner of the authorization are strictly limited to what is stipulated in the institution's regulations.

The reference conditions for the establishment of the higher authority shall be issued in a ministerial decree upon recommendation of the Higher Education Council based on proposal from the Academic Technical Committee.

**Article 59: Principles of administration of the institution**

1. The private Higher Education institution shall be administered by a president, assisted by an administrative staff; the president shall represent the institution towards third parties.
2. The president shall be held responsible for the commitment of the institution to the laws, decrees, and regulations in force and shall exercise the competences fixed in the institution's rules of procedure.
3. University presidents, faculty and college deans shall be holders of an officially recognized PhD and should meet the condition of being an associate professor at least.
4. The directors of higher technical institutes are holders of an officially recognized PhD, or the highest recognized degree in one of the majors offered by

the institute with a minimum experience of five years in Higher Education instruction.

**Article 60: The institution's budget**

1. The private Higher Education institution shall draw up an autonomous annual budget independent from the owner of the authorization.
2. The institution's revenues shall be comprised of the following:
  - a. Registered students' tuition fees.
  - b. The revenues from its immovable and movable property.
  - c. Counseling activities' fees and revenues of productive projects and the investment of its utilities.
  - d. Funding, grants, donations, and charitable contributions.
3. The Higher Education institution shall open an account, independently from the owner of authorization, in which it shall deposit its funds or from which it shall spend, in accordance with its financial regulations.
4. The institution's final financial reports shall be subject to legal audit by an officially recognized audit company. These reports shall be approved by the higher authority administering the institution.
5. The institution shall submit to the Higher Education Council a summary of the audit report that was established by the audit company; prove the institution's compliance with the provisions of this Law.

**Chapter 16**  
**Students' Rights in Higher Education**

**Article 61: Students' rights**

1. Students registered in private Higher Education institutions shall have right to:
  - a. Receiving an academic education following the minimum of internationally recognized standards.
  - b. Having the guarantee that the institution shall continue to provide the programs in which they are registered, until their graduation.
  - c. Freedom of expression in the framework of public order and the right to create representative bodies as well as cultural, social, sports and environmental clubs, etc.
  - d. Receiving social, cultural, sports and health services.
  - e. The annual guide of the Higher Education institution in which they are registered, including its programs, administrative, academic, and financial regulations as pertains to students, a copy of which shall be submitted to the Higher Education Council.
2. Each Higher Education institution shall draw up its own program policy and shall make it public and submit it to the Higher Education Council, by virtue of which it shall grant financial aid and scholarships to the needy and/or outstanding students.

3. The Higher Education institution shall have the right to adopt a special regulation to facilitate the registration of students with special needs qualified for Higher Education, who wish to register in its programs and to facilitate their studies until their graduation.

## ***SECTION VII*** ***Breaches and Sanctions***

### **Article 62: Providing education prior to receiving authorization**

1. If it becomes known to the Higher Education Council that any of the persons with private rights is providing education before receiving due authorization to establish an institution for this purpose, the Minister issues a decree to close the institution immediately and seizes the High Court Prosecutor's Office, through the Minister of Justice, to initiate public interest prosecution against the person held responsible for the breach of the Higher Education Regulatory Law. The person shall be punished for this breach by an imprisonment sanction ranging from three months to one year and a fine ranging from 500.000 L.P. to one thousand times the value of the monthly minimum wage. The prejudiced party shall have the right to a claim for personal right in an independent private right lawsuit, or to join to the initial prosecution.

2. In case the person who commits the breach is authorized to establish a Higher Education institution, other than a university, in addition to the sanctions stipulated in the first paragraph of this Article, the Minister shall address the institution a warning to immediately comply with the provisions of the authorization decree; otherwise, the Minister shall issue a decree to close the institution and propose the withdrawal of the authorization.

### **Article 63: Breach by the institution of one or all authorization conditions**

1. If it becomes known to the Council that a Higher Education institution has breached or is breaching any of the authorization conditions, or that it doesn't meet anymore any of the provisions under this Law, its decrees or the executive regulations thereof, or the provisions of any other laws, decrees and regulations in force, the matter shall be submitted to Academic Technical Committee for examination and advisory opinion.

2. If a breach is actually committed, the Minister shall address a warning for rectification of breach to the institution's administration, within a period to be fixed and that shall not exceed the academic year in progress; the Higher Education Council shall also have the right to recommend to the Minister the prolongation of this period provided that it does not exceed the academic year following the one during which the breach was committed.

3. In case the institution does not rectify the breach within the fixed period, the institution shall be exposed to the sanctions stipulated in this Law.

**Article 64: Categories of breaches and related sanctions**

The breaches fall into four categories:

**The first category** including:

- Instructing before receiving authorization to commence instruction.
- Renting the authorization.

In these cases, the following sanctions shall apply:

1. Closing the institution upon ministerial decree based on recommendation of the Council; such a decree shall apply until rectification of the breach.
2. A fine equivalent to 300 times the monthly minimum wage for every breach.
3. In case the breach is not rectified, the authorization shall be withdrawn by a Cabinet decree upon proposal from the minister based on the recommendation of the Higher Education Council.

**The second category** including:

- Instructing on a new non-authorized campus.
- Instructing in a non-authorized faculty.
- Instructing in a new non-authorized degree levels.
- Instructing non-authorized majors.

In these cases, the following sanctions shall apply:

1. Immediately ceasing activity on the campus, in the faculty, major, or level upon ministerial decree based on the recommendation of the Higher Education Council.
2. A fine equivalent to 300 times the monthly minimum wage for every breach.
3. In case of a repeat breach, the fine shall be doubled.
4. In case the breach is not rectified, the institution - upon ministerial decree based on the recommendation of the Council - shall be prevented from admitting new students during a whole academic year. If at the end of this sanction period, the institution does not rectify the breach; it shall be put under the supervision of the Higher Education Council until the graduation of the registered students and shall refrain from admitting new students during this period.

**The third category** including:

- Transferring the campus and instruction on it before receiving due authorization by the Council.
- Breaching the higher administration regulations of the institution, pertaining to the appointment of a president, deans and higher staff.
- Admitting students in a way that does not comply with the provisions of the Law.
- Allowing non-Lebanese Higher Education institutions to award degrees in Lebanon without due authorization.
- Substantially amending programs and implementing them within the institution before receiving the approval of the Council.
- Breaching the application of the percentages of faculty and areas.
- The absence of independence of the facilities from the objectives of the institution.

- Not cooperating with the committees charged by the Ministry of the matters stipulated in this Law.

In these cases, the following sanctions shall apply:

1. Issuing a warning to rectify the breach and a fine amounting to a hundred times the monthly minimum wage for every breach.
2. In case of a repeat breach, the fine shall be doubled.
3. In case the breach is not rectified, the institution shall be prevented from admitting new students during a whole academic semester and shall be put under the supervision of the Higher Education Council until the graduation of the registered students.

**The fourth category:**

The fourth category includes the rest of the breaches to the provisions of this Law others than those stipulated in the former three categories.

The institution shall be warned to rectify the breach with a fine amounting to fifty times the monthly minimum wage for every breach; the fine shall be doubled in case of a repeat breach.

The sanctions shall not prevent prosecution by the administration or prejudiced parties.

**Article 65: Putting an institution under supervision**

In case of circumstances that prevent the administration of the private Higher Education institution from performing its duties in accordance with this Law, it shall be put under supervision of the Council which shall appoint a committee to temporarily administer the institution till the end of the academic year; also, by ministerial decree upon recommendation of the Council the committees duties shall be prolonged till the end of the following academic year. This committee shall enjoy the entire academic, administrative, financial competences enjoyed by the higher administration of the institution stipulated in this Law; it shall also have to propose the suitable solutions including the rights of the institution's students and staff. Any institution put under supervision in accordance with the provisions of this Law, shall have its membership suspended from any councils, entities, and permanent committees until the rehabilitation of this institution or the cancellation of this membership.

It is required to add a text defining the notion of "unfeasibility" to prevent any misapplication.

## ***SECTION VIII***

### ***General, Temporary and Final Provisions***

**Article 66: Complete loss of establishment authorization**

1. The authorization of establishing a private Higher Education institution or one of its components shall be considered as void if the authorized person does not obtain the authorization to commence instruction within the period fixed in the decree of authorization of establishment.

2. The Minister shall consider the authorization as void upon recommendation of the Higher Education Council, and shall be published in the Public Journal.

**Article 67: General conditions for university facilities**

The general conditions required in university facilities, norms, standards, and criteria shall be fixed by a Cabinet decree upon proposal of the Ministers of Higher Education and the Minister of Public Works after seeking advice of the Higher Council for Urban Planning.

**Article 68:**

The concerned official administrations, in charge of drawing up technical inspection reports to issue building permits for erection, addition, modification, or restoration based on the application files it receives, to get the technical approval on a required permit, shall not be allowed to organize an inspection if it finds out that the plans and designs included in the file submitted for approval belong to university facilities, and that the file does not include a certified copy of the authorization decree to establish a private Higher Education institution concerned with the construction works subject of the file.

**Article 69:**

Mayors shall not be allowed to issue building permits for erection, addition, modification, or restoration of buildings that belong to a Higher Education institution unless the technical inspection report pre-established in accordance with the regulations, has fixed the purposes of use of these facilities for Higher Education; this same prohibition shall also apply to district administrators whenever they are the reference authority to issue such permits.

**Article 70:**

Administrations concerned with public services such as telephone, water, and electricity companies shall not be allowed to connect any building of a private Higher Education institution unless the subscription application includes a certified copy of the “land use permit”.

**Article 71:**

The person who breaches any of the Articles 68 to 70 shall be imprisoned for a period ranging from three months to one year and shall be fined the equivalent of 50 to 100 times the minimum wage or shall be sentenced to one of these two sanctions.

**Article 72:**

The institution applying for authorization shall have to commence its activity within five years from the issuing date.

**Article 73:**

The terms and conditions of advertisement by a private Higher Education institution about its instructional and academic activities shall be fixed by a Cabinet decree upon proposal of the Minister of Higher Education based on the

recommendation of the Council which shall seek the Academic Technical Committee's advice.

**Article 74:**

Applications submitted to establish a private Higher Education institution, to create new geographical branches, majors, or new instructional levels, to get an authorization to commence instruction, to obtain recognition of a degree that the institution awards, or the renewal of an authorization shall be subject to fees related to the minimum wage as follows:

Object of the application	Corresponding fees
- Creation of a university, faculty, university institute, or geographical branch. - Obtaining a commencement authorization in a Higher Education institution or in a geographical branch.	Ten times the minimum wage for the examination the regulations and facilities' files, in addition to three times the minimum wage for every major mentioned in the file.
- Obtaining a commencement authorization for a major.	Five times the minimum wage for every major mentioned in the file.
- Creating a new major or level.	Five times the minimum wage for every major mentioned in the file.
- Recognition or renewal of recognition.	Three times the minimum wage for every major mentioned in the file.

These fees shall be deposited on a special bank account at the Central Bank in the name of the Ministry of Higher Education - fees on private universities; from this account shall be spent, in accordance with the procedures adopted in ministerial decrees, the indemnities of the Academic Technical Committee and program specialist committees; exceeding sums, if any, can be used for studies and program development that are decided in accordance with the adopted principles at the Ministry of Higher Education - Directorate General of Higher Education.

**Article 75: Legal notice period for the verification of compliance of existing institutions with this Law**

Private Higher Education institutions legally authorized shall be granted a period of three years starting from the first academic year subsequent to the promulgation of this Law to ensure its compliance with conditions and standards stipulated in this Law.

The institution that breaches the provisions of this Article shall be exposed to procedures and measures stipulated herein.

**Article 76: Names of institutions**

All private Higher Education institutions shall be designated by their Arabic names; the use of any name shall be subject to the Higher Education Council's approval.

**Article 77: Repeal of conflicting provisions**

Shall be repealed the provisions of the Higher Education Law of January 26<sup>th</sup> 1961 as well as all provisions that conflict with the provisions herein; shall also be repealed the provisions of Law no 83/67 of January 28<sup>th</sup> 1967 relative to the creation of the Higher Council of Universities in Lebanon.

**Article 78: Enforcement of this Law**

The enforcement of this Law shall be fixed by Cabinet decrees upon a proposal of the Minister; shall remain applicable, the organizational provisions in force that do not conflict with the provisions of this Law, until the promulgation of the new organizational texts.

**Article 79:**

This Law shall be published in the Public Journal and shall be implemented as of its date of publication.

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