

Decision of the FIBAA Accreditation Committee for Programmes



101th Meeting on 25. November 2016

Project Number: 15/092
Higher Education Institution: Beirut Arab University
Study Programme: Bachelor of Law (Bachelor of Law)

The FIBAA Accreditation Committee for Programmes has taken the following decisions:

According to § 7 (2) in conjunction with § 10 (1) of the “Special Conditions for awarding the FIBAA Quality Seal for Programmes”, the study programme is accredited.

Period of Accreditation: November 25th, 2016 and finishing on the end of winter term 2021/22

Assessment Report

Higher Education Institution (HEI):

Beirut Arab University
Campus Beirut

Bachelor study programme:

Bachelor of Law

Qualification awarded on completion:

Bachelor of Law

General Information on the study programme

Brief description of the study programme:

The Bachelor programme shall provide the students with the crucial qualifications to practice the legal profession in various areas of the economy in Lebanon and the Arabic region (e.g. as judges, lawyers and legal consultants). FLPS aims to prepare its students to be in charge of legal and administrative professions in the public and private sectors, such as business establishments, law enforcements, dispute settlements, civil and penal issues related to the society. Hence, the curriculum of the programme is designed to equip students with the necessary skills and knowledge to compete in the national and regional job market.

Type of study programme:

Bachelor programme

Projected study time and number of ECTS points assigned to the study programme:

4 years, 138 US credit hours

Mode of study:

Full-time

Didactic approach:

Study programme with obligatory class attendance

Double/Joint Degree programme:

no

Scope (planned number of parallel classes) and enrolment capacity:

One at a time, about 50 students

Programme cycle starts in:

both Fall and Spring term

Initial start of the programme:

1960

Type of accreditation:

Initial accreditation

Procedure

A contract for the initial accreditation of the programme “Bachelor of Law” was made between FIBAA and Beirut Arab University on October 13th, 2015. On January 26th, 2016, the HEI submitted a self-evaluation report, which included a detailed description of the programme and further documents in order to prove that the criteria for programme accreditation were met.

At the same time, FIBAA appointed a review panel. The HEI agreed with the chosen experts. The panel consisted of:

Prof. Dr. Christian Joerges

University of Bremen / Hertie School of Governance, Berlin
Professor for German and European Private and Economic Law as well as International Private Law

Prof. Dr. Axel Benning

University of Applied Sciences Bielefeld
Professor for Economic Law

Prof. Ghaleb Khalil Farhat

Lebanese University, Beirut
Professor of Private Law

Dr. jur. Gisela Nagel

Groth & Pakutz - Lawyers
Lawyer

Sarae El-Mourabit

Ruprecht-Karls-University Heidelberg
Law Student

FIBAA project manager:
Ass.jur. Lars Weber

The assessment is based on the self-evaluation report, amended by further documents, requested by the panel, and a site visit. The site visit took place on October 5th/6th, 2015 at the HEI's premises in Beirut, Lebanon. The same cluster included an appraisal of the programme “Master of Law” and “PhD of Law”. On end of the on-site visit, the panel gave a short feedback on its first impressions to representatives of the HEI.

The assessment report based on this was delivered to the HEI for comment on November 7th, 2016. The statement on the report was given up on November 10th, 2016; it has been taken into account in the report on hand.

Summary

The Bachelor of Law offered by Beirut Arab University fulfils the FIBAA quality requirements for bachelor programmes and can be accredited by the Foundation for International Business Administration Accreditation (FIBAA) for five years starting on November 25th, 2016 and finishing on the end of winter term 2021/22. The programme is in accordance with the national and the European Qualification Frameworks and the European Standards and Guidelines in their applicable version valid at the time of opening of the procedure, and with the Bologna declaration.

The panel members identified several areas where the programme could be further developed:

- Structure (see chapter 3.2);
- Didactical concept (see chapter 3.3);
- Internationality (see chapter 3.4);
- Quality assurance (see chapter 5).

The measures that the HEI takes in order to implement the recommendations of the panel members are to be considered during the re-accreditation.

There are criteria in which the programme exceeds the quality requirements:

- Ethical aspects (see chapter 3.1);
- Methods and scientific practice (see chapter 3.1);
- Equality of opportunity (see chapter 3.2);
- International contents and intercultural aspects (see chapter 3.4);
- Multidisciplinary competences and skills (see chapter 3.5);
- Practical business experience of faculty (see chapter 4.1);
- Student support by the faculty (see chapter 4.1).

For the overall assessment of the programme, please refer to the quality profile at the end of this report.

Institutions Details

Beirut Arab University (BAU) was established in 1960 by the decree 17 of the Lebanese Higher Education Law. The Faculty of Law and Political Sciences (FLPS) established in 1960, is one of the ten existing faculties of BAU which are all fully recognised by the Directorate General of Higher Education in the Ministry of Education and Higher Education in Lebanon. In addition to FLPS, the faculties of BAU include Business Administration, Pharmacy, Medicine, Dentistry, Health Sciences, Architectural Engineering, Engineering, Science, and Arts.

BAU's history is rooted in the history of education of the region. It counts over 100,000 graduates over the last 50 years. BAU has currently over 9,000 students studying across 10 disciplines and has 1117 faculty members including full-time, part-time, and teaching assistants.

The eleven academic departments of FLPS are Department of Civil Law, Civil Procedure Law, Commercial Law, Penal law, Islamic Law, Public Law, Public International Law, Private International Law, History and Philosophy of Law, Economic and Public Finance and Political Science. In 2007, FLPS adopted the credit hour system of the United States of America, thereby offering students much needed flexibility and simplicity in designing their own academic programmes in terms of course selection and schedules. FLPS offers the following programmes/degrees:

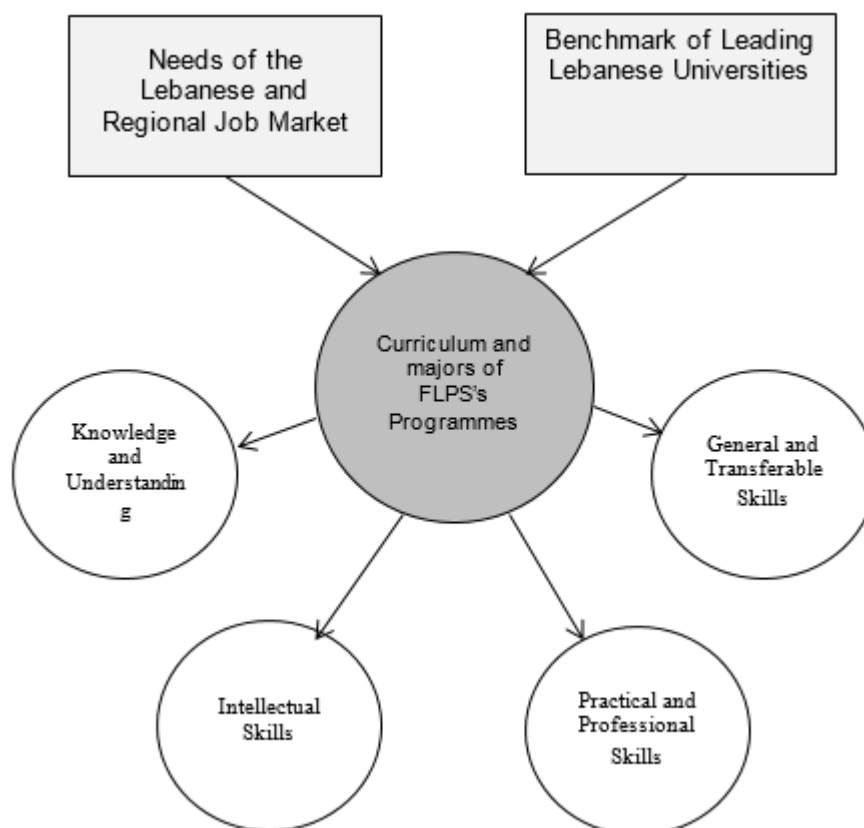
- Bachelor degree in Law (the programme at hand);
- Bachelor degree in Political Science;
- Master degree in Law in the following specialisations:
 - Law (Public Law/ Private Law/ International and Diplomatic Relations/ International Trade/ Administrative and Financial Law/ Alternative disputes resolution techniques/ Intellectual Property Rights/ Criminal science/ Procedural science),
 - Political Science;
- PhD degree in Law;
- PhD degree in Political Science.

Programme Description and Appraisal in Detail

1. Objectives

1.1 Objectives of the study programme (Asterisk-Criterion)

The Bachelor programme shall provide the students with the crucial qualifications to practice the legal profession in various areas of the economy in Lebanon and the Arabic region (e.g. as judges, lawyers and legal consultants). FLPS aims to prepare its students to be in charge of legal and administrative professions in the public and private sectors, such as business establishments, law enforcements, dispute settlements, civil and penal issues related to the society. Hence, the curriculum of the programme is designed to equip students with the necessary skills and knowledge to compete in the national and regional job market.



In order to achieve its aims, the programme's curriculum is carefully divided into two main components containing a variety of courses that students must complete in order to be eligible for graduation:

- Major Courses (126 credit hours): are a group of courses designated to equip students the necessary learning outcomes in the field of law;
- Liberal/Non-law Courses (12 credit hours): are a group of courses designated by the FLPS to ensure students' broad knowledge.

The programme is taught in Arabic. Arabic is the teaching language because it allows to better achieve the learning outcomes of the courses and as such respond to the market needs since Arabic is the formal language of the law and of the courts in Lebanon.

Appraisal:

The qualification objectives of the Bachelor programme are explained and convincingly presented in relation to the target group, the targeted professional field of lawyers and the societal context of the law in Lebanon as well as in other Arabic countries. In the view of the panel the objectives embrace academic proficiency, comprehensive employability of the graduates, as well as the development of the individual student's personality.

The Dublin Descriptors are adequately covered by the intended learning outcomes of the Bachelor programme. Furthermore, the requirements of academic abilities are fulfilled. Hence, the panel considers the learning outcomes of the programme to be at the appropriate level for a Bachelor degree.

	Exceptional	Exceeds quality requirements	Meets quality requirements	Does not meet quality requirements	n.r.
1.1* Objectives of the study programme (As-terisk Criterion)			X		

1.2 International orientation of the study programme design (As-terisk Criterion)

Besides the objective on achieving work possibilities for graduates in the Lebanese job market the programme has a focus on the preparing the students with the necessary skills to work abroad and especially in other Arabic countries. The focus can be seen in the international content and the corresponding course materials and recommended literature (see chapter 3.4).

Furthermore, BAU and FLPS are members in the international student mobility programme ELEMENT funded by the EU and the mobility programme PEACE. In addition, faculty members in FLPS participate in Tempus projects. For Example, some faculty members participated in the Tempus Project "Tuning Middle East and North Africa", in coordination with University of Deusto (Spain) and the Association of Arab Universities. Some faculty members are involved in consultancy and training with Beirut Bar Association, the United Nations Development Programme and other international organisations. Students of FLPS participated in three regional Moot Court competitions for the academic year 2014/15:

- The first one was under the supervision of Raoul Wallenberg Institute of Human Rights RWI (Swedish) with the participation of different Arab countries (Lebanon, Jordan, Palestine, Morocco, Algeria).
- The second one held by the University of Qatar with the participation of many Arab countries (Lebanon, Jordan, Palestine, Tunisia, Libya, Kuwait, Oman, Algeria).
- The third was recently organised in Tunisia.

In addition FLPS regularly organises workshops and conferences with participants from Lebanon and abroad (e.g. Workshop "The Legal and Practical Frameworks Towards Combating Corruption" in 2014; Workshop on "In Depth Overview on the Draft of the Egyptian Constitution in 2013"; Workshop on "Harmonization of the Law: The Hague Conference, Unidroit and UNCITRAL" in 2012; Conference on "The role of the judge in the litigation: Unity of purpose and the multiplicity of roles" in 2010; Conference on "The Revision of the UNCITRAL Arbitration Rules In light of 30 Years of Experience, A look into the future" in 2010).

Appraisal:

The programme design appropriately takes into account various international aspects, especially regarding the differences and the basis of legal systems in the Arabic region. The international content as well as the possibilities of student exchange and the other international activities (Moot Courts, Workshops, and Conferences) clearly promote the graduates' employability in an international context.

	Exceptional	Exceeds quality requirements	Meets quality requirements	Does not meet quality requirements	n.r.
1.2* International orientation of the study programme design (Asterisk Criterion)			X		

1.3 Positioning of the study programme

On a historical scale, BAU is perceived as a well-established University, similar to the American University of Beirut (AUB), the Lebanese American University (LAU), the University Saint-Joseph (USJ), and the Lebanese University (LU). Until 2000, BAU was among the very few universities operating in Lebanon. Since 2000, the number of universities has substantially increased and many existing universities have diversified.

However, on a tuition fees scale – contrary to Universities like AUB – BAU and FLPS are positioned to offer education to the middle and lower middle class in Lebanon and the region. From that perspective, the unique selling proposition of BAU and the Bachelor programme is to provide quality education by a reputable and long-established university at affordable tuition fees for the middle class in Lebanon. For instance, offering education to the middle and lower middle class has always been an integral part of the university's mission since its establishment.

Furthermore, FLPS has the following strengths:

- FLPS was established and fully recognised in 1960 when only very few universities were operating at both the national and regional level.
- FLPS is perceived as a leading university at the national and regional level. The FLPS has several thousands graduates.
- FLPS has established over the years strong connections with the legal community in Lebanon, the region and on the international level.
- FLPS is among very few faculties of law in Lebanon that rely on a large number of full-time faculties that are PhD holders. In addition, FLPS relies on part-time lecturers from the legal community in order to highlight the practical dimension.
- FLPS is among few faculties of law that have an Advisory Committee composed of members from the legal community and policy makers in Lebanon. This Advisory Committee has a strong influence on the FLPS's decisions when it comes to recommendations about new courses, curriculum update, job opportunities, and strategic direction.

FLPS states, that the Bachelor programme responds to the market needs which are continuously changing. A Faculty Council, in collaboration with the Advisory Committee, discusses periodically the emerging employment needs in the market and the necessary amendments to the programme curriculum.

Graduates of the Bachelor programme can have the following job opportunities:

- Magistrates;
- Consultants for legal affairs in banks;

- Consultants for corporations;
- Public officials at ministries and public services;
- Diplomatic and consular representatives;
- Lecturers at some institutes;
- Members for civil society;
- Notary;
- Private sector.

As already mentioned FLPS offers the Bachelor programme at hand as well as a Master and a PhD programme of law. The Bachelor programme was established in 1960 and was constantly offered until today. Over the years the HEI developed the programme according to changing (legal) conditions of the education and the job market.

Appraisal:

The HEI analysed its competition in the education market and explained the situation of programmes in the field of law in Lebanon in an intelligible manner. The panel came to the conclusion that the programme can compete on the Lebanese educational market because of BAU's self-imposed quality standards (e.g. the amount of PhD holding staff or close relations to the legal community). The panel appreciates very much the intention of offering high quality education for the Lebanese middle and lower middle class. The quality standards and the affordable tuition fees appear as the reason why students choose to study the Bachelor programme of FLPS. This was confirmed by both students and alumni during an interview on-site.

Regarding the competitiveness of the programme's graduates on the job market the panel has no doubt that they can compete successfully on the job market in Lebanon as well as in other Arabic countries. The future fields of employment for graduates are described plausibly for the programme. The graduate' profiles correspond to the foreseeable demand.

The Bachelor programme is the main programme of the FLPS and has a long, successful history and several thousand graduates. It pursues qualification goals which correspond to the HEI's concept and strategic planning.

		Exceptional	Exceeds quality requirements	Meets quality requirements	Does not meet quality requirements	n.r.
1.3	Positioning of the study programme					
1.3.1	Positioning of the study programme in the educational market			X		
1.3.2	Positioning of the study programme on the job market for graduates („Employability“)			X		
1.3.3	Positioning of the study programme within the HEI's overall strategic concept			X		

2. Admission

To be accepted in the Bachelor programme, applicants must hold the Lebanese Secondary School Certificate or its equivalent (non-Lebanese Secondary Certificate). Required documents for admission are:

- photocopy of the Lebanese Secondary School Certificate (or its equivalent) or a certificate of registration in Grade 12. They should submit equivalence for their certificate

issued from the Equivalence Committee at the Lebanese Ministry of Education & Higher Education;

- official school records of Grades 10 and 11;
- photocopy of the Single Civil Status Record (for Lebanese applicants only);
- photocopy of the identity card or photocopy of the passport (for non-Lebanese applicants only); and
- two recent passport-size photos endorsed by the relevant authorities.

In addition, in the application to join BAU, students are given the right to select four choices of specialisation with order of preference. The Bachelor programme choice could appear as a first, second, third or fourth choice.

The teaching language is Arabic. A test of Arabic language competences is not allowed for undergraduate programmes in the field of law.

The admission process is described in the “Undergraduate Admission to BAU” and the Status Report (see chapter 3.1). Prospective students can access the information available the FLPS’s website to know more about the programme and the admission. The website contains contact details of FLPS and the admissions and is regularly updated. Prospective students can also call the university and get brochures (e.g. “Why BAU”) and catalogues with information on the study programme. The information about the students who are accepted in the Bachelor programme is published on the University’s Website as well.

Appraisal:

The panel considers the admission requirements as reasonable for an undergraduate Bachelor programme. They are in line with the Lebanese national requirements. Applicants can directly turn to FLPS or staff of BAU admissions for clarification of specific questions, of personal aptitude, of career perspectives etc. Hence, a personal dialogue and information via telephone and e-mail is available. The admission procedure is described and documented in binding regulations and accessible on the University’s website and in information brochures. The admission decision is based on transparent criteria and is published on the website.

	Exceptional	Exceeds quality requirements	Meets quality requirements	Does not meet quality requirements	n.r.
2.1* Admission requirements (Asterisk Criterion)			X		
2.2 Counselling for prospective students			X		
2.3* Selection procedure (if relevant)					X
2.4(*) Professional experience (if relevant; Asterisk Criterion for master programmes that require professional experience)					X
2.5* Ensuring foreign language proficiency (Asterisk Criterion)					X
2.6* Transparency and documentation of admission procedure and decision (Asterisk Criterion)			X		

3 Contents, structure and didactical concept of the programme

3.1 Contents

The curriculum of the study programme is shown in the following table:

CURRICULUM

First Semester				Cr.
BLAW	221	Introduction to Law I (Theory of Legal Rule)	المدخل للعلوم القانونية (1) (نظرية القانون)	2
BLAW	223	Political Institutions	النظم السياسية	3
BLAW	225	History of Social and Legal Institutions	تاريخ النظم الاجتماعية والقانونية	2
BLAW	227	Islamic Law I	الشريعة الإسلامية (1)	3
BLAW	229	International Organization	التنظيم الدولي	3
		Elective (General) ¹		2
		Elective (Faculty) ²		2
Total				17
Second Semester				Cr.
BLAW	222	Penal Law I	القانون الجزائي (1)	3
BLAW	224	Constitutional Law	القانون الدستوري	2
BLAW	226	Legal Methodology	المنهجية القانونية	2
BLAW	228	Citizenship and Foreigners Status	الجنسية و مركز الاجانب	2
BLAW	230	Principles of Political Economy	مبادئ الاقتصاد السياسي	2
BLAW	232	Introduction to Law II (Theory of Rights)	المدخل للعلوم القانونية (2) (نظرية الحق)	2
		Elective (General) ¹		2
		Elective (Faculty) ²		2
Total				17
Third Semester				Cr.
BLAW	251	Penal Law II (General Part)	القانون الجزائي (2) (القسم العام)	3
BLAW	253	Public International Law	القانون الدولي العام	3
BLAW	255	Civil Procedural Law I	أصول المحاكمات المدنية (1)	3
BLAW	257	Personal Status Laws of Different Religious	الأحوال الشخصية للشرائع الدينية المختلفة	2
BLAW	259	Administrative Law I	القانون الإداري (1)	3
BLAW	261	Civil Law I (Sources of Obligation)	القانون المدني (1) (مصادر الالتزام)	3
Total				17

Fourth Semester				Cr.
BLAW	252	Public Finance	المالية العامة	3
BLAW	254	Islamic Law II	التريعة الإسلامية (2) الزواج والطلاق	3
BLAW	256	Civil Procedural Law II	أصول المحاكمات المدنية (2)	2
BLAW	258	Law of Proof	الإثبات	2
BLAW	260	Administrative Law II	القانون الإداري (2)	3
BLAW	262	Civil Law II (Rules of Obligation)	القانون المدني (2) (احكام الإنترام)	2
		Elective (General) ¹		2
Total				17
Fifth Semester				Cr.
BLAW	301	Criminal Law I	فانون العقوبات (1)	3
BLAW	303	Commercial Law I	القانون التجاري (1)	2
BLAW	305	Labor Law	فانون العمل و الضمان	3
BLAW	307	Introduction to Intellectual Property Law	مقدمة في فانون الملكية الفكرية	2
BLAW	309	Administrative Judicature I	القضاء الإداري (1)	3
BLAW	311	Civil Law I (Special Contracts)	القانون المدني (1) (العقود المسماة)	2
		Elective (General) ¹		1
		Elective (Faculty) [*]		2
Total				18
Sixth Semester				Cr.
BLAW	302	Criminal Law II	فانون العقوبات (2)	3
BLAW	304	Commercial Law II	القانون التجاري (2)	2
BLAW	306	Islamic Law III	التريعة الإسلامية (3) المواريت والوصايا والأوقاف	3
BLAW	308	Money & Banking	الاقتصاد النقدي والمصرفي	2
BLAW	310	Administrative Judicature II	القضاء الإداري (2)	3
BLAW	312	Civil Law II (Special Contracts)	القانون المدني (2) (العقود المسماة)	2
		Elective (Faculty) [*]		2
Total				17
Seventh Semester				Cr.
BLAW	403	Maritime and Air Law	القانون البحري والجوي	2
BLAW	405	Fundamentals of Islamic Doctrines	أصول الفقه الإسلامي	3
BLAW	407	Private International Law I	القانون الدولي الخاص (1)	2
BLAW	409	Law of Penal Procedures I	أصول المحاكمات الجزائية (1)	3
BLAW	411	Civil Law III (Real Rights)	القانون المدني (3) (الحقوق العينية الاصلية)	2
		Elective (General) ¹		3
		Elective (Faculty) ²		2
Total				17

Eighth Semester				Cr.
BLAW	402	International Commercial Arbitration	التحكيم التجاري الدولي	2
BLAW	404	Commercial Law III	القانون التجاري (3)	2
BLAW	406	Forced Execution	التنفيذ الجبري	3
BLAW	408	Private International Law II	القانون الدولي الخاص (2)	2
BLAW	410	Law of Penal Procedures II	أصول المحاكمات الجزائية (2)	3
BLAW	412	Civil Law IV (Real & Personal Collaterals and Real Estates Registration)	القانون المدني (4) (السجل العقاري والتأمينات الجنبية)	2
		Elective (General) ¹		2
		Elective (Faculty) ²		2
Total				18

¹ A total of 12 credits is required as General University Requirement; 1 or 2 or 3 credits are selected from the University Mandatory courses list including- ENGL 001 (2Cr.) or [FREN 001 (2Cr.) or FREN 002 (2Cr.)] + ICDL and another 10 credits are selected from the University Elective courses list.

² Chosen from First level courses offered by the Faculty of Law & Political Science

³ Chosen from Second level courses offered by the Faculty of Law & Political Science

⁴ Chosen from Third level courses offered by the Faculty of Law & Political Science

⁵ Chosen from Fourth level courses offered by the Faculty of Law & Political Science

*Lebanese Undergraduate Students are not allowed to register any of the 300 level courses unless three of the following courses are completed successfully: BLAW 224, BLAW 252, BLAW 254, or BLAW 256.

The curriculum of the Bachelor programme is designed based on a comparison with other comparable programmes in Lebanon and the region. The courses of the curriculum are updated frequently upon the recommendation of the Advisory Committee and the market needs.

The component of major requirements aims at achieving a general and specialised knowledge and understanding, analysis, application, and evaluation in legal studies. The liberal (non-law) requirements component aims at providing additional insights. The mandatory major requirements are crucially important to achieve the programme objectives and as such has 82% of the credit requirements for graduation. The mandatory liberal courses, which make 2% of the credit requirements, includes English or French language and are essential for any university student regardless of the field of study. Elective courses, which make 16% of the credit requirements allow students to gain beneficial skills in accordance with their own preferences. In line with the empowering of the students professional and practical skills, as well as general and transferable skills, each course of the curriculum must cover learning outcomes related to professional and practical skills.

Because of the content of law and legislation the programme description and the awarded degree are “Bachelor of Law”.

FLPS provides opportunities to enhance the practical side of its students. For instance, a substantial number of courses have tutorials that are an integral part of the course. An important point is that FLPS makes sure that the part-time lecturers have leading positions in the legal field in Lebanon (i.e. lawyers, judges, policy makers, etc.). This allows to bring examples from the real world to the classroom. In addition, FLPS brings theory to practice is by encouraging students to be involved in the activities of the Human Right Center (see also chapter 3.5) that bring students closer to their communities challenges and appreciate practically the importance of volunteering. The Center of Continuing Education at BAU offers a several training courses of soft skills, communication skills, and some computer and financial skills. Furthermore, FLPS established regular legal clinics in cooperation with Johns Hopkins University (USA) where students of the Bachelor programme can participate and practice the profession with real life cases. In addition, every year, FLPS works with several lawyer and solicitors as well as courts to organise field trips for students of the Bachelor programme.

The main aim of these trips is to help students develop a practical understanding of the legal profession and to get accustomed to the working conditions and locations.

The Bachelor programme contains a blending of core courses from several disciplines (the Liberal Requirements, 12 credit hours) which are meant to broaden the knowledge of students and ensure interdisciplinary thinking. The 12 credits can be selected from a wide range of courses including language courses (e.g. French language), Culture and Health, Principles of Nutrition, Introduction to Business, Entrepreneurship, Medicinal Herbs, Photography, Introduction to Astronomy, etc. In the major courses, the curriculum provides courses also in economics and money and banking. Another important issue in the programme are ethics. The students discuss in various courses ethical aspects, ethical behavior with regard to the profession of lawyers as well as ethics of scientific work. Ethics are also important in the work on cases in the above mentioned legal clinics as well as in activities of BAU's Human Rights Center. This Center provides various opportunities for students to participate in projects and workshops which deal with topics related to human rights (see also chapter 3.5).

Likewise, great importance is given to the training of methodological competences, specifically understanding theories, practical application of knowledge and getting familiar with values and attitudes by implementing different approaches like activity approach, cultural approach, communicative approach and others. Using a variety of methods, students learn to understand and compare the material from specialised sources. The results of this research work are scientific reports and papers.

Students are tested on whether or not they achieve the intended learning outcomes of the programme through the tests and assignments during the programme. A system of continuous assessment is used and has the advantage of students receiving continuous feedback on their progress. The continuous monitoring of student progress means that problems which some individual students may have are identified sooner, and instructors can immediately refer these students to the study advisors for a meeting.

Appraisal:

The curriculum adequately reflects the qualification objectives of the Bachelor programme. The content of the courses that is described in the Status Report is well-balanced, logically connected and oriented towards the intended learning outcomes. The electives enable students to acquire additional competences and skills.

The degree and programme name "Bachelor of Law" correspond to the contents of the curriculum and the programme objectives.

Theory and practice are sufficiently combined throughout the curriculum. Theoretical questions are explained by means of practical examples. Especially the part-time lecturers bring their practical experience with up-to-date knowledge of recent developments in the field of law into the programme. The panel very much appreciates the offer of legal clinics to the Bachelor students. The programme's content also promotes interdisciplinary thinking. Furthermore, the identification and reflection of ethical aspects are strongly promoted and an integral part of the study programme's qualification objectives. The panel was also impressed by the activities of the Human Rights Center.

Methodological competences and scientific practice are thoroughly trained in the Bachelor programme. Hence, the students are equipped with the necessary skills for research oriented work and for applying those skills in the respective vocational fields.

The panel has seen a variety of examinations and discussed the system of continuous assessment of the students progress during the studies. The examination comply with the sub-

ject matter to be tested. The level of performance in examinations are aligned with the learning outcomes of the courses. The requirements are in line with the Bachelor level.

	Exceptional	Exceeds quality requirements	Meets quality requirements	Does not meet quality requirements	n.r.
3.1 Contents					
3.1.1* Logic and conceptual coherence (Asterisk Criterion)			X		
3.1.2* Rationale for degree and programme name (Asterisk Criterion)			X		
3.1.3* Integration of theory and practice (Asterisk Criterion)			X		
3.1.4 Interdisciplinary thinking			X		
3.1.5 Ethical aspects		X			
3.1.6* Methods and scientific practice (Asterisk Criterion)		X			
3.1.7* Examination and final thesis (Asterisk Criterion)			X		

3.2 Structure

HEI in Lebanon are free to implement the American credit hour system or the European credit point system. The Bachelor programme follows the credit-hour system of the United States. For instance, the implementation of the credits, workload, grading and other educational characteristics are all in accordance with the American credit-hour system. The Bachelor programme offers a four years education with a total of 138 credit hours. The distribution of the credit hours per week over the semesters is as follows:

1. Sem.	2. Sem.	3. Sem.	4. Sem.	5. Sem.	6. Sem.	7. Sem.	8. Sem.
17	17	17	17	18	17	17	18

Each semester covers a selected number of course units of 2-3 credit hours each. Hence, each semester contains five or six courses. The two main components of the programmes are the major requirements and the University requirements (liberal requirements), both including mandatory and elective courses.

Programme	1 st Component Liberal Requirements		2 nd Component Major Requirements		Total Credit Hours
	Module Mandatory Courses	Module Elective Courses	Module Major Core Courses	Module Major Elective Courses	
BLAW	2	10	114	12	138

One credit hour is based on one hour of contact hours (lectures) and two hours of guided self-study per week. Each semester (spring and fall) are structured into 15 weeks. For example, a 3 credit hour course is based on 3 hours of class and six hours of self-studying (homework, studying notes, supplementary readings, preparation of examinations) per week.

In normal circumstances, for the Bachelor programme, the workload per week is 16 to 18 credit hours (= 48/55 academic hours and 36/40,5 time hours per week). BAU's regulation also says, that the maximum workload of undergraduate students is 18 credit hours and should not be less than 12 credit hours per week (which corresponds to a maximum workload of 54 academic hours/40,5 time hours in one week).

The Bachelor programme's "Status Report" (one "Status Report for the Bachelor, Master and the PhD programme of Law from BAU) includes a detailed description of the structure of the programme including (among others): information about FLPS (mission, vision, strategic goals, departments), the curriculum, the objectives and learning outcomes, information on the degree, information about the core courses, elective courses and University's requirements, information about the involved faculty members, their specialisations and research activities.

The Status Report also contains course specifications of every course which include (among others): course title, credit hours, academic level and term, objectives and learning outcomes, teaching and learning methods, literature recommendations, and information on examinations.

Examination forms in the Bachelor programme are: written exams, oral exams, debates, quizzes and various types of projects. Regarding the assessment requirements, the following table shows the appropriate number, frequency of examinations as well as grading percentages.

Week	Assessment	Assessment percentage
1-7	Seventh week assessment	30%
8-12	Twelfth week assessment	20%
13-15	Assessment of weeks 13-15	10%
16	Final exam	40%
Total		100%

The Bachelor programme does not include an internship, nor a final thesis. After finishing all courses the graduates receive their diploma supplement which includes all examination results and the GPA. A relative grading is possible but not obligatory part of the diploma supplements.

The "Student Manual" (Rules and Regulations of the Undergraduate Programmes at BAU) contain information about the credit-hour-system, the admission, the semester schedules, the prerequisites for graduation, the tuition fees, the evaluation and grading, as well as course transfer. The "BAU Guidelines for Effective Student Assessment" contain detailed information about the examination system.

Regarding course transfer in undergraduate programmes BAU has the following regulations:

- the transferred courses must be comparable in the scientific content and in the number of credits to the BAU courses which are required to attain the desired degree;
- the applying student must have already passed the course with a GPA not less than C or its percentage equivalent in the yearly system;
- general knowledge courses can be transferred from other universities without being compared with equivalent BAU University Elective courses, as long as their credit count does not exceed 50% of the required BAU University Elective credits;
- the course completion date must not exceed 5 years; and
- the total transferred credit hours should not exceed 50% of the total number of credit hours required to obtain the relevant major degree.

Student's attendance must be at least 80%. FLPS has also prepared a study plan for the eight semesters and contract sheets which allow students to keep track of their progress in line with the structural requirements of the programme. These are communicated to students

to be able to plan their workload. The standard week for the Bachelor programme includes 5 days from 8 am to 4 pm every day.

As to office hours, each faculty member is expected to allocate a minimum of 6 office hours per week. In terms of general student support, the administrative staff of FLPS as well as those of BAU (for common multi-faculty student services) are available during regular office hours.

According to its own statement, BAU is committed to eliminating all forms of discrimination in all of its activities, and in respect of all students, staff and relationships with the wider community.

The age distribution of students in the programme is varied. In addition, FLPS does not discriminate on the basis of marital status, economic class, or religious affiliations. The programmes are open to all students whether national or international, female or male, lower middle or upper classes, young or old, and whether married or single. The selection of students that participate in FLPS's regular councils are based on their GPA (Grade Point Average). Furthermore, every year, BAU provides direct financial support to students experiencing hardship in the form of tuition fees reductions.

FLPS allows students with disability as well as students with some specific health conditions for extra time during assessments and allocate some people to write on behalf of students who have writing problems.

The following table shows the statistical data from the years 2012 until 2015:

Year	Semester	Female	Foreign	No of Nationalities
2012-2013	Fall	28%	51%	11
	Spring	29%	53%	10
2013-2014	Fall	34%	43.5%	10
	Spring	32%	46.5%	9
2014-2015	Fall	36%	39%	11
	Spring	38.5%	38%	11

Appraisal:

The structure of the programme follows the credit system of the United States. Hence, the amount of contact hours in class and of self-study hours that are necessary to achieve the goals of the courses are reflected in the amount of credit hours of each course. The regular size of two to three credit hours per course, which represent courses with a total workload of six to nine hours per week, corresponds to the American system. In the view of the panel the structure of courses and workload in the programme is comprehensible and appears reasonable to enable the students to achieve the intended objectives of the programme in the designated time. Furthermore, the ratio of core modules and elective modules is, weighted in a balanced manner. The workload is also evenly spread over the eight semesters. The structure therefore helps to set the objectives of the student workload and the students to acquire the skills. Due to the fact that there are no courses with a duration over two semesters, the student's mobility is warranted. Furthermore, the programme's structure is in line with the requirements of the Ministry of Education and Higher Education in Lebanon.

Regarding the diploma supplements the panel learned a relative grading is not an obligatory part of the supplements but is set in it if students ask for it. The panel recommends implementing an obligatory relative grading, which allows HEI to ensure fair transfer and recognition of grades of its students who want to study abroad.

The Status Report contains general information about the programme and detailed information for all courses (like content, learning outcomes, credit hours and examinations). Examination regulations exist and regulate the structural requirements for the programme. Furthermore, the panel learned that BAU was one of a few HEI in Lebanon that was involved in the process of establishing the national requirements which were officially implemented by the Ministry. Lebanon has not ratified the Lisbon Convention. But BAU has formulated detailed regulations regarding the recognition of course achievements and credit transfer from other HEI.

There are several aspects that promote the feasibility of the Bachelor programme. Subject specific and general support is provided to the students. The number and frequency of examinations is high but manageable due to the fact that the time schedules and preparation information is announced early via the “Status Report” (regarding the system of continuous examinations see also chapter 3.1). Altogether the panel comes to the conclusion that the student workload seems feasible.

The panel members came to the conclusion that gender equality and the implementation of general bans on discrimination are promoted by the BAU. The aim is to create a learning and working environment that ensures equal opportunities for all students and employees of the Faculty. Students with disabilities are provided with affirmative actions concerning time and formal standards/requirements throughout the programme and examinations. Students in special circumstances, such as foreign students, are particularly assisted. The panel members appreciate very much the efforts of BAU to enrol and involve students from Syria in the University’s programmes and the extracurricular activities. According to the current situation in Syria and due to the large number of refugees in Lebanon the panel likes to pay its respect to BAU’s work in offering young Syrians higher education.

		Exceptional	Exceeds quality requirements	Meets quality requirements	Does not meet quality requirements	n.r.
3.2	Structure					
3.2.1*	Modular structure of the study programme (Asterisk Criterion)			X		
3.2.2*	Study and exam regulations (Asterisk Criterion)			X		
3.2.3*	Feasibility of study workload (Asterisk Criterion)			X		
3.2.4	Equality of opportunity		X			

3.3 Didactical concept

BAU encourages the lecturers to use many different teaching methods, to enable a choice for the most effective methods and to connect to different teaching and learning methods. The teaching and learning methods are described in the Status Report so students can understand the logic of the programme and position themselves as active and affective learners. The courses comprise a combination of:

- lectures with direct reading;
- practical training;
- data shows and analysis;
- case studies;
- project work;
- presentations; and
- group discussions.

The lectures can use white boards, overhead projectors, PowerPoint and personal computers for data shows.

The responsible lecturers for each course have developed descriptions of the courses which contain its aim, the basic literature and applied teaching methods. The students receive this information with the Status Report. Additional materials like lecture notes, textbooks and other materials for preparing the student's self-study time are presented by the lecturers during their courses or online via the student's portal "iConnect".

A specialty in the Bachelor programme is that selected courses are taught by professors from the Lebanese University in Beirut. This follows a fixed concept and allows the students to profit from the experience of lecturers from the well-known and only state university in Lebanon. Furthermore, activities of the Human Rights Center of BAU include training courses and workshops in which experts from other institutions like Raoul Wallenberg Institute of Human Rights and Humanitarian Law (Sweden) or the Protections Project from Johns Hopkins University (United States) are involved and give students insights from the organisations perspectives.

Appraisal:

The logic of the teaching methodology of the Bachelor programme is adequate to lead students to the final qualifications. The methodology is described and explained in a logical and transparent manner. A diverse range of methods is used on the programme and tailored to the specific courses in the field of law. Besides forms of written examinations projects, presentations and discussions are used as part of the curriculum and are aimed at developing the students' skills regarding the demand of the lawyers profession.

The accompanying course materials are oriented towards the intended learning outcomes and correspond to the required Bachelor level. They are user-friendly and encourage students to engage in further independent studies. The materials are electronically accessible on the student's internet portal.

The panel appreciates that Lecturers from the Lebanese University are invited and contribute to the students' qualification process with their special experience from the state university. The same appears for the activities of the Human Rights Center (see also chapter 3.5) which enable the students to receive insights in NGO and other organisations. Student assistants are currently not involved in teaching.

	Exceptional	Exceeds quality requirements	Meets quality requirements	Does not meet quality requirements	n.r.
3.3 Didactical concept					
3.3.1* Logic and plausibility of the didactical concept (Asterisk Criterion)			X		
3.3.2* Course materials (Asterisk Criterion)			X		
3.3.3 Guest lecturers			X		
3.3.4 Lecturing tutors					X

3.4 Internationality

Besides the Lebanese law system the Bachelor programme has a special focus on French law (the basis of the Lebanese law) as well as on the Egyptian law which is a very important source for most of the Arabic law systems. The international focus of the programme reflects in various international and intercultural aspects. This includes among others the modules:

- International Organisation;
- Public International Law;
- International Commercial Arbitration;
- Private International Law I, II.

Furthermore students can choose elective courses like:

- International Economy;
- International Humanitarian Law;
- International Economic Law;
- Multinational Companies;
- Transnational Transactions;
- Introduction to the Anglo-American Law;
- Maritime and Air Law;
- Legal Terminology in Foreign Language I, II.

Until now students from eight countries studied in the Bachelor programme. Currently there are students from Syria, Iraq, Jordan, Egypt, and Palestine studying in the law programmes of BAU. The nationalities of the students from different Arab countries reflect the above mentioned international focus. Especially the content regarding French and Egyptian law makes the programme very attractive for those foreign students.

Teaching staff in the programme represent four nationalities: Lebanese, Egyptian, Jordanian and Syrian. In addition, many lecturers have an international experience. Many graduated from Universities abroad, e.g. HEI in Egypt, France, United States, Great Britain, and Germany. The experience from their studies brings an international dimension to the content and delivery of the course. In addition, most of the teaching staff have a practical experience at an international level and participate almost every year in international conferences and workshops in Lebanon and abroad.

The profession of lawyer in Lebanon and the region is primarily based on the Arabic language. Nonetheless, in the Bachelor programme, students must study a course in English language or French language as a requirement for graduation (“Legal terminology in Foreign Language”). This is intended to promote the employability of the graduates and enhance their ability to gain knowledge in Legal studies in English or French. Finally, among the university elective courses, students can study French, Spanish, and several other courses as part of the Liberal Elective Courses.

Appraisal:

International contents and intercultural competences are an emphasis of the curriculum of the Bachelor programme. The focus on French and Egyptian law is plausible and – with a view to the Arabic region – very useful for the students. This focus makes the programme also very attractive for foreign students of the Arabic region. The international composition of the student body therefore corresponds to the programme concept. Altogether, the students are thus prepared for the challenges in an international working environment. The international composition of the faculty (teachers from different countries, teachers with international academic and professional experience) also promotes the acquisition of international compe-

tences and skills. Regarding the field of law the Arabic language as the main instruction language is adequate. English and French courses are included in the programme as well but the proportion is rather low. The panel therefore recommends to increase the amount of foreign language courses in the programme. Especially more English courses might be very useful with regard to the participation of students and graduates in international projects and conferences outside the Arabic region.

	Exceptional	Exceeds quality requirements	Meets quality requirements	Does not meet quality requirements	n.r.
3.4	Internationality				
3.4.1*	International contents and intercultural aspects (Asterisk Criterion)		X		
3.4.2	Internationality of the student body			X	
3.4.3	Internationality of faculty			X	
3.4.4	Foreign language contents			X	

3.5 Multidisciplinary competences and skills (Asterisk Criterion)

Public speaking skills, teamwork and conflict handling are an integral part of the learning approach at FLPS and shall be achieved in-class and outside the class through extracurricular activities. Within each course, the students are expected to gain communication skills by participating in class or by making presentations. This is reflected in the programme through various oral assessments. Besides the offered legal clinics and the participation of students in moot courts the students benefit from the activities of BAU's Human Rights Center. The Center cooperates closely with FLPS and is one of the most dynamic centers of the field in Lebanon and the region. The initiatives and projects assist students and accordingly their communities to better understanding their rights through raising awareness in the course of formal and non-formal methods. The Center offers activities such as summer courses on human rights, NGO fairs, training courses and workshops that focus on various human rights related topics, researches, conferences, researches and country mappings. It strives to partner with other national and international institutions and NGOs and works on achieving its objectives through empowerment skills, access to data, and communal interaction. The Center is currently cooperating with international and national parties. The international cooperation includes, but is not limited to the Arab Academic Human Rights Network, the Raoul Wallenberg Institute for Human Rights and Humanitarian Law (Sweden), the Council of Europe (France) and the Protection Project at Johns Hopkins University (United States). The national cooperation includes among others the Association Libanaise pour l'Education et la Formation, The Lebanese Women Democratic Gathering, and the American Bar Association.

Appraisal:

In the view of the panel communication skills and public-speaking skills as well as cooperation and conflict handling skills are key elements of the study programme's profile and in accordance with the course descriptions. This is supported by means of suitable didactical and methodological measures as well as various activities like the legal clinics, moot courts and the impressive projects of the University's Human Rights Center. These extracurricular activities are highly appreciated by the students and exceptional for the Arabic region. Hence, the acquisition of further multidisciplinary competences is ensured.

		Exceptional	Exceeds quality requirements	Meets quality requirements	Does not meet quality requirements	n.r.
3.5*	Multidisciplinary competences and skills (Asterisk Criterion)		X			

3.6 Skills for employment / Employability (Asterisk Criterion)

The programme is designed for comprehensive training of future lawyers. The curriculum of the programme is constantly monitored by an Advisory Committee whose members are from the legal community of Lebanon. Their role among others is to provide the dean with advice on the emerging needs of the job market for lawyers in Lebanon and the Arabic region (see also chapter 4.2). Besides disciplines which are mandatory, the curriculum offers elective courses, which allow students to gain a deeper understanding on relevant areas according to their individual interests. This approach allows the students to develop the skills which the student finds most interesting and promising, in accordance with the plans of his future career.

The employability of graduates from the programme is based among others on the following elements:

- a strong link between theory and practice,
- the training of methodological competences,
- international and intercultural content,
- the promotion of self-dependent and systematic work, and
- the training of social skills.

Appraisal:

The promotion of employability is ensured through the integration of theory and practice (both curricular and extracurricular activities) and through the promotion of multidisciplinary competences and skills. The employability also benefits from the influence of the Advisory Committee on the development of the programme.

		Exceptional	Exceeds quality requirements	Meets quality requirements	Does not meet quality requirements	n.r.
3.6*	Skills for employment / Employability (Asterisk Criterion)			X		

4 Academic environment and framework conditions

4.1 Faculty

The following table shows the structure and number of the faculty of FLPS which is involved in the teaching of the programme:

	Fall 2014-2015	Spring 2014-2015
<u>Full-time faculty</u>		
Number of academic staff members	11	11
% holding a doctoral degree	100%	100%
% non-nationals	36.36%	36.36%
Number of Nationalities	4	4
% faculty with foreign professional or study experience	100%	100%
<u>Part-time Faculty</u>		
Number of academic staff members	15	15
Number of Nationalities	1	1

The procedure of appointing a new faculty member to a position is performed considering FLPS's professional requirements in collaboration with the Human Resources Department. However, the final decision on whether to take the applicant on board is made by the dean of FLPS. The HR Department is responsible of verifying the authenticity of the documents submitted by candidates and implement the whole recruitment procedure.

Applicants applying for "Professor" and for Associate Professor" must have a Master and PhD degree and have spent at least 5 years outside higher education after attaining their PhD. Furthermore they have to submit 3-5 (for Associate Professor) or 5-8 (for Professor) academic works, of which at least 1 (Ass. Prof.) or 2 (Prof) must be single authored works.

The minimum requirement for part-time lecturers is to hold a Master degree in their respective field of teaching. However, most of the part-time faculty members hold a PhD degree from international universities.

FLPS pays attention to the development of junior instructors that start as teaching assistant and eventually can get a part-time or full-time position. The teaching assistants are current or previous students that have strong academic credentials.

The teaching staff actively participates in national and international conferences and workshops. At the same time, FLPS hosts and organises conferences at national and international levels. The most recent was a conference in "The Legal and Practical Frameworks towards Combating Corruption" which was organised in December 2014. Moreover, every year the university organises teaching skills workshops where new teaching techniques and technologies are discussed. All faculty members of the university are encouraged to attend. At the beginning of each academic year, a workshop is organised and delivered by an external expert and participating faculty members attended and receive a certificate of attendance.

Most of the full-time faculty members are or have been previously involved in consultancy work. In addition, some of them worked for large multinational organisations such as the United Nations (United Nations Development Programme), the High Commissioner of Human Rights, the League of Arab States, and other consultancy companies in Lebanon and the region. In order to bring more of the world of practice to the classroom, FLPS is always

relying on part-time faculties that have remarkable experience in the Lebanese public administration such as judges in several courts, president of Criminal and Arbitral Courts, the Financial Prosecutors organisations, etc. In fact, this allows bridging the gap between the classroom and the domestic legal practical side.

FLPS holds regular formal and informal meetings to discuss problems related to the programmes and make decisions. As to the formal meetings, FLPS holds a Faculty Council twice a month. Prior to the Council, an agenda is prepared. This agenda can include topics related to student affairs and other academic and administrative issues. All full-time faculty members must attend the Faculty Council. The decisions made are then approved by all faculty members. In addition, FLPS organises some informal meetings in order to discuss pressing issues that can't wait for the next Faculty Council. The part-time faculty is invited to participate in the Council and is informed about the results and decisions that have been made. In general, the dean is in close contact with the part-time faculty and ensures that they are involved in the internal cooperation in the programme.

Regular supporting and consulting of students is compulsory to all faculty members. This takes place through office hours. Each full-time faculty member is expected to allocate a minimum of six office hours per week. Part-time lecturers are available before their courses and always stay longer after their courses for answering individual questions of the students. Both, full-time and part-time faculty is also available via e-mail. Faculty members are also expected to support students during Advising/Registration processes. In addition, faculty members can be freely consulted on personal matters. Students and teachers can also interact through the university system "iConnect" via e-mails or by posting latest news related to the course.

Appraisal:

The structure and number of teaching staff correspond with the programme requirements. A list of all involved lecturers shows the availability of the required capacity to implement the programme. According to the CVs the academic ability and qualification of the teaching staff is in line with the requirements of the programme for teaching. According to the panel, the practical experience – especially from the part-time lecturers who include their daily work experiences and real-life cases into their teaching – is above average and fosters clearly the achievement of competences and skills of the students. The staff's pedagogical/didactical qualifications are in line with their tasks and have been verified. Altogether, FLPS follows a very clear strategy when appointing new lecturers. A special focus is given to the academic qualifications which results in the high amount of PhD holding teaching staff. The panel learned that this fact is a clear advantage in the regional educational market. The personal development of the lectures is ensured via regular workshops (e.g. regarding new teaching methods) and via possibilities of attending conferences in Lebanon and abroad.

Internal collaboration and coordination is ensured by the dean and the assistant dean and can be seen clearly in the meetings of the teaching staff. The panel appreciates especially the Faculty Councils in which the HEI's teaching staff participates on a regular basis.

As affirmed by students of the Bachelor Programme during the on-site visit, the counselling of students by teaching staff is intensive. Student support is an integral part of the services provided by the faculty. The lecturers are available for the students outside the specified office hours as well and e-mails are answered fairly quickly. Hence, the students are "fully content" with the support they receive and the Open Door Policy of the FLPS.

	Exceptional	Exceeds quality requirements	Meets quality requirements	Does not meet quality requirements	n.r.
4.1	Faculty				
4.1.1*			X		
4.1.2*			X		
4.1.3*			X		
4.1.4		X			
4.1.5*			X		
4.1.6*		X			
4.1.7(*)					X

4.2 Programme management

The Bachelor programme is managed by the FLPS's administration, in particular the FLPS Undergraduate Programme Coordinator.

The coordinator runs the programme on the day-to-day basis, takes actions if necessary, and controls the quality of education. The coordinator is also responsible of interviewing and selecting the staff of the programme and monitors the progress and performance of the involved part-time instructors. The coordinator is supported by the heads of the departments and the faculty members.

Teachers and students take part in the decision-making process which affects their area of activity as well. Faculty members can freely discuss with the programme director and the dean different issues related to their courses and activities. Students at the undergraduate and postgraduate levels are involved in the decision-making process by attending and participating in the regular Faculty Councils. For instance, two student's representatives participate in the faculty's councils. This allows students to raise issues related to their own interests and ensures more transparency. Students are also encouraged to join the activities groups that established and managed by the university's student activities department.

FLPS provides advising to students during their studies. The questions can be subject specific questions or general questions about the overall academic progress of the student. Besides contact possibilities via phone and e-mail the administration is available during regular office hours from 8:00 am till 4:00 pm. Hence, individual meetings can be arranged, too.

The administrative staff has regular possibilities of further education/development, such as IT-courses (Computer Driving License), workshops for time management, communication skills, leadership skills or regarding budgeting matters.

Appraisal:

The programme coordinator coordinates the activities of everyone involved in the programme and ensure that the Bachelor programme runs smoothly. The process organisation, administrative support as well as decision-making processes, skills and responsibilities are determined transparently. The lecturers and students are involved in the decision-making pro-

cesses, which affect their areas of responsibility. In terms of both quality and quantity sufficient staff is available taking account of their involvement on other programmes so that the processes described can be implemented appropriately. In addition, the core procedures and responsibilities of the programme administration as well as the general administration support for students are described adequately. Personal meetings and electronic service-support possibilities provide advice on a one-to-one basis. Regarding the administrative staff BAU offers continuous professional development possibilities.

	Exceptional	Exceeds quality requirements	Meets quality requirements	Does not meet quality requirements	n.r.
4.2 Programme management					
4.2.1* Programme Director (Asterisk Criterion)			X		
4.2.2 Process organisation and administrative support for students and faculty			X		

4.3 Cooperation and partnerships

FLPS has several cooperation agreements with international academic institutions in the fields of educational activities as well as student and staff exchanges for networking of FLPS with other universities. BAU and FLPS are members in the international student mobility programme ELEMENT funded by the EU and the mobility programme PEACE. BAU is also participating in the exchange possibilities of Erasmus. The cooperation with universities includes teaching some courses and examinations by lecturers of the Lebanese University, Beirut as well as the organisation of workshops and conferences. The network includes universities like the Philadelphia University (Jordan), Johns Hopkins University School of Advanced International Studies (United States, partner of FLPS regarding the legal clinics), American University in Cairo, Cairo University, Alexandria University (all Egypt), University of Kuwait, and Qatar University as well as organisations like the Beirut Bar Association, the UN and Ministries Council in Lebanon, and the Lebanese Parliament.

The Advisory Committee of FLPS consists of representatives from the legal community. The responsibilities of the Advisory Committee that meets once every term, is to raise issues from the legal environment that are relevant to education in the field of law. From that perspective, they provide suggestions in terms of curriculum development of the programmes, employability, and quality assurance.

Appraisal:

Cooperation with Higher Education Institutions and other organisations as well as the legal community (e.g. Beirut Bar Association) are described and actively pursued. Results are, among others, activities such as mutual projects, lecturer and student exchanges and courses, offered by lecturers from the Lebanese University. Overall, the cooperation have an impact on the programme and promote the development of the students' skills. In addition, an Advisory Committee has been established by FLPS and its recommendations are used with regard to the programmes objectives and content.

		Exceptional	Exceeds quality requirements	Meets quality requirements	Does not meet quality requirements	n.r.
4.3	Cooperation and partnerships					
4.3.1(*)	Cooperation with HEIs and other academic institutions or networks (Asterisk Criterion for cooperation programmes)			X		
4.3.2(*)	Cooperation with business enterprises and other organisations (Asterisk Criterion for educational and vocational programmes, franchise programmes)			X		

4.4 Facilities and equipment

The FLPS is situated at the main building of the university in Beirut. The building has dozens of classrooms in different sizes. The classrooms are equipped with modern multimedia facilities (projectors, whiteboards, and multimedia devices). The University offers free access to a high speed Wi-Fi connection so that students can work there with their own laptops. The building is equipped with elevators.

Considering access to required literature, a library is available. According to FLPS, each lecturer updates the library on the relevant books and textbooks s/he would like to use. Access to the literature and journals are geared to the programme content and are up-to-date. The main library in Beirut houses a growing collection of textbooks, 21,812 books at the time of the on site visit. The books/textbooks are in Arabic, English and French language. Besides the books the libraries contain theses, 151 periodic journals (87 Arabic, 64 French) electronic journals as well as references, maps and CDs/DVDs. The libraries are also equipped with photocopiers and printers. Regarding e-resources, Al-Manhal is the database used by students, practitioners and researchers. It contains cover to cover indexing, abstracts and full text for journals. Al-Manhal is a leading full-text law database in the Arabic region.

The library opening time is 8 am till 6 pm (Wednesday 8 am till 8 pm) during term time and 8 am 4 pm otherwise. It is closed on the weekends except for the time when the students prepare for the final examinations. The staff of the library assists and supports the students in all matters regarding the library. At the beginning of semesters new students are invited to introduction lectures to get to know the library and its services. An online library catalogue provides students with information on the library's holdings and gives access to online databases and open access resources. The library includes additional rooms which may be used by the students for self-directed learning. They are designated either for individual quiet study or group activity. In addition, desktop PCs for students who do not bring their own laptop are available, too.

Appraisal:

In the view of the panel, the number and size of teaching rooms and the equipment of all learning facilities are in line with the needs described for the programme, also taking into account the use of resources for other programmes. Free access to a Wi-Fi network is available for students. The building is fully equipped with modern information technology. This was confirmed by students and lecturers of FLPS. The building is equipped with elevators. Nonetheless there are some barriers that impede the access for disabled people to parts or rooms of the building. But BAU sufficiently assured to provide barrier free access in case that disabled students are enrolled.

Access to the literature and journals as well as to digital media (e.g. electronic media, databases) is ensured, in line with the programme contents and up to date. The opening hours

and the support service take into account the students' needs. There are sufficient library workstations available to students with sufficient technical equipment and space for group work.

	Exceptional	Exceeds quality requirements	Meets quality requirements	Does not meet quality requirements	n.r.
4.4 Facilities and equipment					
4.4.1* Quantity, quality, media and IT equipment of teaching and group rooms (Asterisk Criterion)			X		
4.4.2* Access to literature (Asterisk Criterion)			X		

4.4 Additional services

The Alumni Affairs and Career Office communicates job vacancies and internships via e-mails and social media to alumni and potential graduates. The Office organises workshops for the students like "Build your CV and Ace your Interview". Furthermore, the Office organises events, workshops and seminars for the members of the Alumni Association. One of the organised events is the annual Job Fair in which the students of the programme at hand can participate. The organisations that participate in the job fair also organise some job based workshops.

The student affairs department supports students through various activities such as:

- Financial Aids (e.g.: scholarships, reduction of fees or individual pay plans/rates),
- Psychological Support (every faculty has advisors for the students and the Department of Psychology offers a psychological service), and
- Health Care Support.

Appraisal:

Career counselling and placement services are offered to the students and graduates to promote their employability. Sufficient resources are provided. The panel especially appreciates the organised job fairs which benefits from the companies-network of BAU. An alumni organisation has been set up with the aim of developing an alumni network. In addition, counselling and welfare services are an integral part of the HEI's services and are offered on a regular basis.

	Exceptional	Exceeds quality requirements	Meets quality requirements	Does not meet quality requirements	n.r.
4.5 Additional services					
4.5.1 Career counselling and placement service			X		
4.5.2 Alumni Activities			X		

4.6 Financing of the study programme (Asterisk Criterion)

BAU is a private university, which sustains itself. As the University states, fees for education and donations constitute the main sources of BAU's income. The financial activity is given by the facts that the number of students has been stable and through the existence of a reserve fund of the BAU. The current tuition fees of the undergraduate programme are ~140 US\$ for one credit hour. Hence, the costs for the entire study programme with 138 credit hours are

~19,320 US\$. Altogether, BAU is in a position to secure funds for requisite investment, to cover the running costs over the planning periods and demonstrate that the continued financial viability of the Bachelor programme are guaranteed.

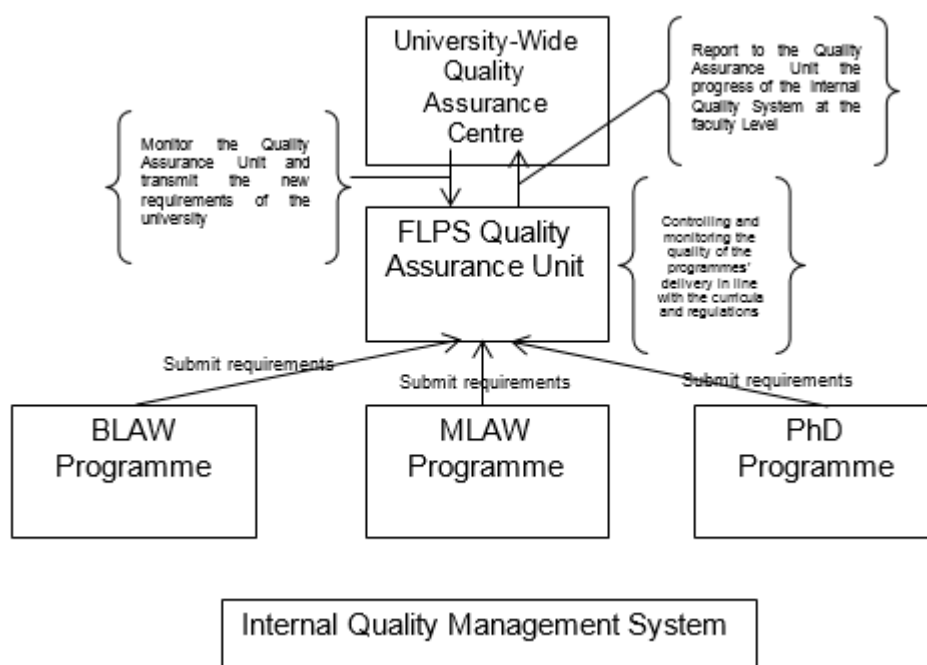
Appraisal:

The programme finances itself through tuition fees which cover the running costs. A reserve fund exists. Within the limits of a review process and with regard to financial stability of the University in recent years and the existing reserve fund, the panel concludes that financial stability is ensured for the current programme cycle and the entire accreditation period.

		Exceptional	Exceeds quality requirements	Meets quality requirements	Does not meet quality requirements	n.r.
4.6*	Financing of the study programme (Asterisk Criterion)			X		

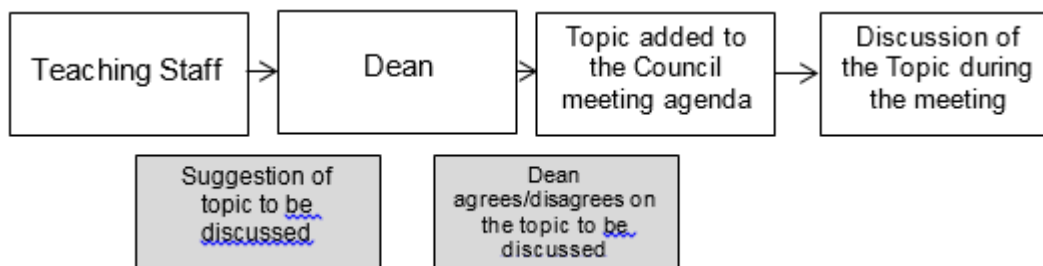
5 Quality assurance and documentation

According to BAU, quality enhancement is one of the main pillars of the University. This was explicitly adopted in the University-wide strategic plan of 2013-2018. BAU has installed an Internal Quality Management System that ensures a continuous update of the quality management criteria and its objectives. The system aims to develop the study programmes curricula in line with the development of scientific knowledge, technologies, and job market needs and update the quality assurance process of the study programmes curricula and teaching plans. The University-wide Quality Assurance Committee has the role of continuously controlling and monitoring the quality of the programmes' delivery as well as the outcomes of the study programmes. Furthermore, each faculty at BAU, including FLPS, has a Quality Assurance Unit (QAU) in charge of monitoring the delivery of the programmes offered. The monitoring occurs at the end of each term. Faculty members are expected to submit a list of required documents through which the QAU can make sure that the programme requirements as well as the faculty and university regulations are well respected. The QAUs are also monitored by a University-wide Quality Assurance Committee. For instance, anytime, the University-wide Quality Assurance Committee can visit the documents stored by the Faculty QAU in order to make sure that the criteria of monitoring are well respected.



Students' feedback and input are taken into consideration at two different levels. At the first level, since 2011, the university has required that student representatives attend and participate in the Faculty's Council meetings. At the second level, students are expected to fill a survey at the end of the semester to give their feedback on their overall satisfaction, and course-specific feedback. The questionnaire includes a question regarding the allocated and the actual workload (courses and self-studies). The results of these surveys are collected by the Centre of Academic Development. These results are taken into consideration by the university-wide Quality Assurance Committee to feed into new criteria and measures through Quality Assurance Units and the deans of the faculties. Two years ago, BAU has established a new position known as the "the Dean of Student Affairs" in order to monitor among others the student satisfaction and come up with suggestions to improve the studying experience at BAU.

Involvement of teaching staff:



As shown in the above diagram, according to the university regulations, each faculty must meet once per month during term period. The teaching staff can request, upon permission from the dean, to discuss during FLPS's monthly Council a specific topic that will then be added on the meeting agenda. During the meeting, this issue will then be discussed.

In order to enforce the legal community and third parties input into FLPS's decisions, FLPS has established the before mentioned Advisory Committee (see chapter 4.2) that meets with FLPS each term to question its general progress and suggest recommendations based on the professional experience of its members. In addition, a member of the Advisory Committee attends the regular FLPS's meetings being held three times every term. The Advisory Committee of the FLPS provides high-level, strategic advice to the dean, faculty members and staff. It is worth mentioning that the Advisory Committee has alumni among its members.

Information on the objectives and content of the programme, its structure and the admission requirements are published and available for online access on the website of the BAU. The main source of information about the University, the programme and the courses is the Status Report which are provided to the students at the beginning of every academic year. The programme and examination regulations are published in the student handbook which is available to students on the portal "iConnect". The handbook includes all necessary information on the credit-hour system including semester registration, academic advising, grading system, general rules, requirements of the programme etc.

BAU prepares an annual report at the university level. Each of the 10 faculties of BAU provides the details of all activities that took place in the previous academic year. These include student activities, new programmes, organised conferences, publications and paper conferences, and other activities.

Appraisal:

The panel members came to the conclusion that BAU has formulated quality targets for the development of programmes and regularly assesses their implementation. Its system of quality assurance and development is designed comprehensively so that continuous quality improvement of the institution can be achieved. A quality assurance and development procedure on faculty level exists as well and is used for constant improvement as well as for the strategic development of the programme.

Evaluation by the students is carried out on a regular basis and in accordance with a described procedure. The questionnaire which is used for evaluation of the courses covers the key aspects of the programme.

The teaching staff is involved in the further development of the programme through regular meetings and has the possibility to point out options for quality enhancement. Third parties (alumni and practitioners from the legal field) are involved in the quality assurance system as well but the panel recommends to extend and formalise the evaluation processes.

As for the description of the programme content, the panel states that the programme is described in detail and the description is constantly updated. Also, the activities which take

place during the academic year are continuously documented and published in annual reports.

	Exceptional	Exceeds quality requirements	Meets quality requirements	Does not meet quality requirements	n.r.
5.1*			X		
Quality assurance and quality development with respect to contents, processes and outcomes (Asterisk Criterion)					
5.2					
Instruments of quality assurance					
5.2.1			X		
Evaluation by students					
5.2.2			X		
Evaluation by faculty					
5.2.3			X		
External evaluation by alumni, employers and third parties					
5.3					
Programme documentation					
5.3.1*			X		
Programme description (Asterisk Criterion)					
5.3.2			X		
Information on activities during the academic year					

Quality profile

HEI: Beirut Arab University

Bachelor programme: Bachelor of Law

	Exceptional	Exceeds quality requirements	Meets quality requirements	Does not meet quality requirements	n.r.
1 Objectives					
1.1* Objectives of the study programme (Asterisk Criterion)			X		
1.2* International orientation of the study programme design (Asterisk Criterion)			X		
1.3 Positioning of the study programme					
1.3.1 Positioning of the study programme in the educational market			X		
1.3.2 Positioning of the study programme on the job market for graduates („Employability“)			X		
1.3.3 Positioning of the study programme within the HEI's overall strategic concept			X		
2 Admission					
2.1* Admission requirements (Asterisk Criterion)			X		
2.2 Counselling for prospective students			X		
2.3* Selection procedure (if relevant)					X
2.4(*) Professional experience (if relevant; Asterisk Criterion for master programmes that require professional experience)					X
2.5* Ensuring foreign language proficiency (Asterisk Criterion)					X
2.6* Transparency and documentation of admission procedure and decision (Asterisk Criterion)			X		
3. Contents, structure and didactical concept					
3.1 Contents					
3.1.1* Logic and conceptual coherence (Asterisk Criterion)			X		
3.1.2* Rationale for degree and programme name (Asterisk Criterion)			X		
3.1.3* Integration of theory and practice (Asterisk Criterion)			X		
3.1.4 Interdisciplinary thinking			X		
3.1.5 Ethical aspects		X			
3.1.6* Methods and scientific practice (Asterisk Criterion)		X			
3.1.7* Examination and final thesis (Asterisk Criterion)			X		
3.2 Structure					
3.2.1* Modular structure of the study programme (Asterisk Criterion)			X		
3.2.2* Study and exam regulations (Asterisk Criterion)			X		

	Exceptional	Exceeds quality requirements	Meets quality requirements	Does not meet quality requirements	n.r.
Criterion)					
3.2.3* Feasibility of study workload (Asterisk Criterion)			X		
3.2.4 Equality of opportunity		X			
3.3 Didactical concept					
3.3.1* Logic and plausibility of the didactical concept (Asterisk Criterion)			X		
3.3.2* Course materials (Asterisk Criterion)			X		
3.3.3 Guest lecturers			X		
3.3.4 Lecturing tutors					X
3.4 Internationality					
3.4.1* International contents and intercultural aspects (Asterisk Criterion)		X			
3.4.2 Internationality of the student body			X		
3.4.3 Internationality of faculty			X		
3.4.4 Foreign language contents			X		
3.5* Multidisciplinary competences and skills (Asterisk Criterion)		X			
3.6* Skills for employment / Employability (Asterisk Criterion)			X		
4. Academic environment and framework conditions					
4.1 Faculty					
4.1.1* Structure and quantity of faculty in relation to curricular requirements (Asterisk Criterion)			X		
4.1.2* Academic qualification of faculty (Asterisk Criterion)			X		
4.1.3* Pedagogical / didactical qualification of faculty (Asterisk Criterion)			X		
4.1.4 Practical business experience of faculty		X			
4.1.5* Internal cooperation (Asterisk Criterion)			X		
4.1.6* Student support by the faculty (Asterisk Criterion)		X			
4.1.7 Student support in distance learning (*) (only relevant and an Asterisk Criterion for blended-learning/distance learning programmes)					X
4.2 Programme management					
4.2.1* Programme Director (Asterisk Criterion)			X		
4.2.2 Process organisation and administrative support for students and faculty			X		
4.3 Cooperation and partnerships					
4.3.1 Cooperation with HEIs and other academic institutions or networks (Asterisk Criterion for cooperation programmes)			X		
4.3.2 Cooperation with business enterprises and other organisations (Asterisk Crite-			X		

	Exceptional	Exceeds quality requirements	Meets quality requirements	Does not meet quality requirements	n.r.
rion for educational and vocational programmes, franchise programmes)					
4.4	Facilities and equipment				
4.4.1*	Quantity, quality, media and IT equipment of teaching and group rooms (Asterisk Criterion)		X		
4.4.2*	Access to literature (Asterisk Criterion)		X		
4.5	Additional services				
4.5.1	Career counselling and placement service		X		
4.5.2	Alumni Activities		X		
4.6*	Financing of the study programme (Asterisk Criterion)		X		
5	Quality assurance and documentation				
5.1*	Quality assurance and quality development with respect to contents, processes and outcomes (Asterisk Criterion)		X		
5.2	Instruments of quality assurance				
5.2.1	Evaluation by students		X		
5.2.2	Evaluation by faculty		X		
5.2.3	External evaluation by alumni, employers and third parties		X		
5.3	Programme documentation				
5.3.1*	Programme description (Asterisk Criterion)		X		
5.3.2	Information on activities during the academic year		X		