

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: Master of Law (Master 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

Master study programme:

Master of Law

Qualification awarded on completion:

Master of Law

General Information on the study programme

Brief description of the study programme:

The Master programme shall provide the students with specialised knowledge for the legal profession in various areas of the economy in Lebanon and the Arabic region (e.g. judges, lawyers and legal consultants). The programme offers a wide spectrum of specialisations to respond to different areas of the market in a more efficient way. The nine different specialisations are public law, private law, international and diplomatic relations, international trade, administrative and financial law, alternative disputes resolution techniques, intellectual property rights, criminal science, and procedural science. 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:

Master programme

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

2 years, 38 US credit hours

Mode of study:

Part-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 30 students

Programme cycle starts in:

both Fall and Spring term

Initial start of the programme:

2005

Type of accreditation:

Initial accreditation

Procedure

A contract for the initial accreditation of the programme “Master 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 “Bachelor 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 [Master of Law](#) offered by Beirut Arab University fulfils the FIBAA quality requirements for master 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 quality requirement that has not been fulfilled – Foreign language contents, see chapter 3.4 – is not an asterisk criterion, so that a further condition is not necessary. The measures the HEI takes to solve the identified problem are to be considered during the re-accreditation.

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:

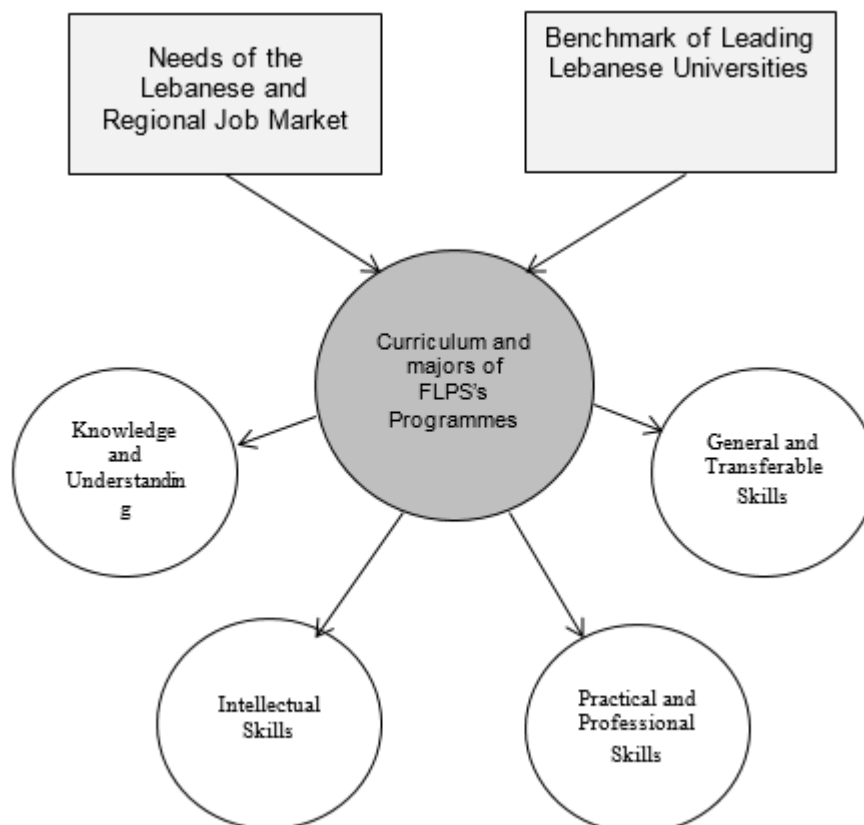
- Bachelor degree in Law;
- Bachelor degree in Political Science;
- Master degree in Law in the following specialisations:
 - Law (Public Law/ Private Law/ International and Diplomatic Relations/ International Trade/ Administrative and Financial Law/ Alternative disputes resolution techniques/ Intellectual Property Rights/ Criminal science/ Procedural science), (the programme at hand);
 - 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 Master programme shall provide the students with specialised knowledge for the legal profession in various areas of the economy in Lebanon and the Arabic region (e.g. judges, lawyers and legal consultants). The programme offers a wide spectrum of specialisations to respond to different areas of the market in a more efficient way. The nine different specialisations are public law, private law, international and diplomatic relations, international trade, administrative and financial law, alternative disputes resolution techniques, intellectual property rights, criminal science, and procedural science. 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 divided into two main components:

- Core Mandatory Courses (30 credit hours): 10 mandatory courses;
- Thesis (8 credit hours): research work.

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 Master 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 Master 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 Master degree.

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

1.2 International orientation of the study programme design (Asterisk 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.

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 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 (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 Master 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 Master programme with its different specialisation possibilities 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 Master 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;
- Professors and lecturers at universities and institutes;
- Members for civil society;
- Notary;
- Private sector.

As already mentioned FLPS offers the Master programme at hand as well as a Bachelor and a PhD programme of law. Postgraduate courses were established in 1993 in form of diplomas. The programme at hand was officially recognised by the ministry as a Master programme in 2005. It 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 Master 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 Master programme with its specialisations is the logical continuation with regard to the long-time establishes Bachelor programme in law. The Master offers students the possibility to deepen their knowledge according to individual interests. 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 Master programme, applicants must hold the Lebanese Secondary School Certificate or its equivalent (non-Lebanese Secondary Certificate) and a Bachelor degree in law from a Lebanese University or a Higher Education Institute abroad (if recognised) with a minimum cumulative Grade Point Average of “2.33”. 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;
- a certified photocopy of the Bachelor degree along with a transcript of the studied courses and the corresponding grades.
- 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.

The teaching language is Arabic. Therefore, the applicants must successfully pass an Arabic language exam and an exam in a foreign language (English or French). In the Arabic test the applicants must reach 50 out of 100 possible points.

Applicants who did not pass the BAU English or French Language Admission Exam will be asked to take remedial courses at the Language Centre of BAU.

The admission process is described the “Postgraduate Studies Bylaws” of 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 Master programme is published on the University’s Website as well.

Appraisal:

The panel considers the admission requirements as reasonable for a postgraduate Master 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 Master courses of the different specialisations of the study programme are shown in the following tables (first and second semester):

Specialisation Public Law:

First Semester

Cr.

MLAW	601	Administrative Law	القانون الإداري	3
MLAW	603	Penal Law	القانون الجزائي	3
MLAW	605	International Organization	التنظيم الدولي	3
MLAW	607	Constitutional Law	القانون الدستوري	3
MLAW	609	Research Workshop	قاعة بحث	3

				15

Second Semester

Cr.

MLAW	602	Constitutional Judicature	القضاء الدستوري	3
MLAW	604	Financial Law	القانون المالي	3
MLAW	606	Administrative Judicature	القضاء الإداري	3
MLAW	608	International Public Law	القانون الدولي العام	3
MLAW	610	Research Workshop	قاعة بحث	3

				15

Specialisation Private Law: First Semester

Cr.

MLAW	611	Philosophy of Law	فلسفة القانون	3
MLAW	613	Commercial Law	القانون التجاري	3
MLAW	615	Civil Procedures Law	قانون أصول المحاكمات المدنية	3
MLAW	617	Personal Status	الأحوال الشخصية	3
MLAW	619	Research Workshop	قاعة بحث	3

				15

Second Semester

				Cr.
MLAW	612	Comparative Civil Law	القانون المدني المقارن	3
MLAW	614	International Private Law	القانون الدولي الخاص	3
MLAW	616	Intellectual Property Law	قانون الملكية الفكرية	3
MLAW	618	In Depth Civil Law	القانون المدني مع التعمق	3
MLAW	620	Research Workshop	قاعة بحث	3

				15

Specialisation International Trade: First Semester

				Cr.
MLAW	631	International Economic Relations	العلاقات الاقتصادية الدولية	3
MLAW	633	International Trade Contracts	عقود التجارة الدولية	3
MLAW	635	International Private Law	القانون الدولي الخاص	3
MLAW	637	International Trade Institutions	نظم التجارة الدولية	3
MLAW	639	Research Workshop	قاعة بحث	3

				15

Second Semester

Cr.

MLAW	632	International Bank Operations	المعاملات المصرفية الدولية	3
MLAW	634	Intellectual Property Laws	قوانين الملكية الفكرية	3
MLAW	636	International Transports	النقل الدولي	3
MLAW	638	International Commercial Arbitration	التحكيم التجاري الدولي	3
MLAW	640	Research Workshop	قاعة بحث	3

				15

Specialisation Administrative and Financial Law:

First Semester

MLAW	641	Administrative Contracts	العقود الإدارية	3
MLAW	643	Environmental Law	قانون البيئة	3
MLAW	645	Financial Law	القانون المالي	3
MLAW	647	Tax Disputes	المنازعات الضريبية	3
MLAW	649	Research Workshop	قاعة بحث	3

				15

Second Semester

Cr.

MLAW	642	Control over Administrative Acts	الرقابة على أعمال الإدارة	3
MLAW	644	Tax System in Islam	النظم الضريبية في الإسلام	3
MLAW	646	Public Office	الوظيفة العامة	3
MLAW	648	Public Administration	الإدارة العامة	3
MLAW	650	Research Workshop	قاعة بحث	3

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Specialisation Alternative Disputes Resolution Techniques:

First Semester

MLAW	651	Arbitration System	نظام التحكيم	3
MLAW	653	Arbitration Agreement	اتفاق التحكيم	3
MLAW	655	Arbitration Litigation	خصومة التحكيم	3
MLAW	657	Arbitrator Legal System and Liability	النظام القانوني للمحكّم ومسؤوليته	3
MLAW	659	Research Workshop	قاعة بحث	3

				15

Second Semester

Cr.

MLAW	652	Arbitral Award	حكم التحكيم	3
MLAW	654	Mediation , Conciliation and Compromise	الوساطة و التوثيق و الصلح	3
MLAW	656	Arbitration in investment contracts	التحكيم في عقود الاستثمار	3
MLAW	658	Settlement of Intellectual Property Disputes	تسوية منازعات الملكية الفكرية	3
MLAW	660	Research Workshop	قاعة بحث	3

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Specialisation Intellectual Property Rights:

First Semester

MLAW	661	Copyright	حق المؤلف	3
MLAW	663	Related copyright	الحقوق المجاورة لحق المؤلف	3
MLAW	665	Commercial and Industrial Property	الملكية الصناعية التجارية	3
MLAW	667	International Protection of Intellectual Property Rights	الحماية الدولية لحقوق الملكية الفكرية	3
MLAW	669	Research Workshop	قاعة بحث	3

				15

Second Semester

Cr.

MLAW	662	Conflict of Laws in intellectual Property Rights	تنازع القوانين في مجال حقوق الملكية الفكرية	3
MLAW	664	Procedural Protection of Intellectual Property Rights	الحماية الإجرائية لحقوق الملكية الفكرية	3
MLAW	666	Criminal Protection of Intellectual Property Rights	الحماية الجزائية لحقوق الملكية الفكرية	3
MLAW	668	Economics of Intellectual Property Rights	الجوانب الاقتصادية لحقوق الملكية الفكرية	3
MLAW	670	Research Workshop	قاعة بحث	3

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Specialisation Criminal Science:

First Semester

MLAW	671	Criminology (in depth)	الإجرام و العقاب مع التعمق	3
MLAW	673	Comparative Criminal Law	القانون الجزائي المقارن	3
MLAW	675	Criminal Procedure (in depth)	أصول المحاكمات الجزائية مع التعمق	3
MLAW	677	Criminal Policy	السياسة الجنائية	3
MLAW	679	Research Workshop	قاعة بحث	3

				15

Second Semester

Cr.

MLAW	672	Criminal Law(in depth)	قانون العقوبات مع التعمق	3
MLAW	674	International Criminal Law	القانون الجزائي الدولي	3
MLAW	676	Islamic Criminal Law	القانون الجزائي الإسلامي	3
MLAW	678	Forensic Medicine and Criminal Evidence	الطب الشرعي و الأدلة الجنائية	3
MLAW	680	Research Workshop	قاعة بحث	3

				15

Specialisation Procedural Science:

First Semester

MLAW	681	Civil Procedural Law	أصول المحاكمات المدنية	3
MLAW	683	Criminal Procedure Law	أصول المحاكمات الجزائية	3
MLAW	685	Enforcement Procedure	إجراءات تنفيذ الأحكام	3
MLAW	687	Arbitral Proceeding	إجراءات التحكيم	3
MLAW	689	Research Workshop	قاعة بحث	3

				15

Second Semester

				Cr.
MLAW	682	Comparative Judicial System	النظام القضائي المقارن	3
MLAW	684	Auxiliaries of Justice	أعوان القضاء	3
MLAW	686	Legal Profession(attorneys)	قوانين المحاماة	3
MLAW	688	Legal Drafting	الصياغة القانونية	3
MLAW	690	Research Workshop	قاعة بحث	3

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The third and fourth semester are designated for research and the preparation of the Master thesis (8 credit hours).

The curriculum of the Master programme is composed of mandatory courses according to the different specialisations. Through the selected courses the graduates shall achieve theoretical and practical skills which are necessary for specialised legal professions. Besides the specialised content the curriculum includes two workshops which aim to enhance the students ability to undertake research. These two courses are important for students to prepare for the thesis which could take the form of a dissertation in any of the abovementioned disciplines (regarding the chosen specialisation). The courses of the curriculum are updated frequently upon the recommendation of the Advisory Committee and the market needs.

Because of the specialised content of law and legislation and the research focus the programme description and the awarded degree are "Master of Law".

FLPS provides opportunities to enhance the practical side of its students. For instance, questions of theoretical nature are concentrated in their scope of application in order to ensure professional skills. Practice is involved in the courses by the use of various methods (real cases, work in small groups, joint reports on chosen topics). 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. Subjects of international matter, intercultural communication, conflict resolution or professional ethics are included in different subjects. The fact that the full-time and part-time lecturers have different backgrounds regarding their education, their work experience and their research activities helps BAU to ensure interdisciplinary thinking within the Master programme. Regarding 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 case examples

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).

Students are tested on whether or not they achieve the intended learning outcomes of the courses through the tests and assignments during the first and second semester. 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.

In the Master programme the research workshops cover a substantial percentage of the course requirements. More importantly, in the thesis, students are expected to formulate a research problem, formulate hypotheses, propose a research design, analyse the problem, and give possible recommendations. Students are highly encouraged to select research topics that are related to the community in Lebanon and the region.

Appraisal:

The curriculum adequately reflects the qualification objectives of the Master 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 of the different specialisations. The specialisation choice enables students to acquire specific competences and skills according to their individual interests and needs.

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

Theory and practice are combined throughout the courses. 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 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 trained in the research workshops of the Master programme. Hence, the students are equipped with the advanced skills for research-oriented work and for applying those skills in their specific vocational fields.

The panel has seen a variety of examinations and examples of theses and discussed the system of continuous assessment of the students progress during the studies. The examinations comply with the subject 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 Master 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 part-time Master 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 Master programme offers a two years education with a total of 38 credit hours. The first and second semester consist of 30 credit hours. Each semester covers five courses of three credit hours. The third and fourth semester are designated for research and the writing of the Master thesis. The thesis is credited with eight credit hours.

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 part-time Master programme, the workload per week is 15 credit hours (= 45 academic hours and 33,75 time hours per week). BAU's regulation also says, that the 15 credit hours per week are the maximum workload of postgraduate students. The part-time students have the flexibility to study the programme over a longer period of time by taking less than 15 credit hours, but a minimum of two courses per semester.

The Master 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 courses, 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 Master programme are: written exams, oral exams, case studies, projects, presentations, and essays. 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 “Postgraduate Studies Bylaws” of 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. A relative grading according to the graduates Grade Point Average is possible but not obligatory part of the diploma supplements.

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

- the transferred courses should be equivalent to the courses of the relevant programme and gained at another recognised university ;
- the student has already passed these courses with a minimum of “C+” or its percentage equivalent in the yearly system;
- the total number of credit hours of the transferred courses should not exceed 30% of the total credit hours for courses needed to obtain the degree;
- it is not allowed to transfer courses that the student has studied more than 5 years ago.

Student’s attendance must be at least 80%. FLPS has also prepared a study plan for the four 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 Master programme includes 5 days from 4 pm to 7 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	Nationalities
2012-2013	Fall	23%	71%	7
	Spring	24%	65%	8
2013-2014	Fall	33%	64%	8
	Spring	35%	56%	8
2014-2015	Fall	21%	65%	6
	Spring	27%	60%	7

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 three credit hours per course, which represent courses with a total workload of 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. The workload of the courses is also evenly spread over the first and second semester. Sufficient time for the preparation of the thesis is given in the third and fourth semester. 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 Master 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*			X		
3.2.2*			X		
3.2.3*			condition		
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. Because of the possibility to build up on competences and skills the students achieved in their Bachelor programme, the teaching and learning methods in the Master programme at hand rely more on the problem-based learning approach, case analysis, and essays writing where students are stimulated to analyse and evaluate. 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;
- analysis and evaluation;
- case studies;
- project work;
- essays;
- 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".

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 present students insight from the organisations perspectives.

Appraisal:

The logic of the teaching methodology of the Master programme is adequate to lead students to the final qualifications. The methodology is described and explained in a logical and transparent manner. It takes into account the previous knowledge of the students from their former Bachelor studies. 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 case studies, projects, essays and presentations 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 Master 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 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. 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 Master programme references to French law (the basis of the Lebanese law) as well as to 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;
- International Public Law;
- Philosophy of Law;
- International Privat Law;
- International Economic Relations;
- International Trade Contracts;
- International Trade Institutions;
- International Bank Operations;
- International Transports;
- International Commercial Arbitration;
- Tax System in Islam;
- Copyright;
- International Protection of Intellectual Property Rights;
- Conflict of Laws in Intellectual Property Rights;
- International Criminal Law;
- Islamic Criminal Law.

Until now students from six countries studied in the Master 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. Currently, there is no course taught in a foreign language. Nonetheless, international content and English or French language literature are important components of the Master programme.

Appraisal:

International contents and intercultural competences are an emphasis of the curriculum of the Master programme. The references on French and Egyptian law are plausible and – with a view to the Arabic region – very useful for the students. This 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 competences and skills. Regarding the field of law the Arabic language as the main instruction language is adequate. Foreign language courses are currently not included in the programme. The panel therefore recommends offering such courses in the programme. Especially 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. In addition, the Master 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 as-

sist 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)

Students come to the Master programme as Bachelor graduates and regularly have a certain practical experience from work. Being back to a University allows the students to specialise in specific areas of law and to gain further insight according to their individual interests. They already know a lot, but the Master programme shows them a deeper and broader context. In this context they may use a range of ideas, knowledge and new skills to better manage challenging elements of their work. The programme helps to develop professional skills, but also to develop personality, the ability to discuss, to argue and defend their views and to share their experiences with others in the class.

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).

Appraisal:

Some of the students in the Master programme already work as lawyers and have shown their employability. The programme's aim is to increase the student's skills of their respective professional field. To reach this aim the programme has an emphasis in combining theoretical knowledge with practical application. Hence, the programme promotes the ability to take the broader view and to use the skills acquired actively in new areas of work and develop them further.

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 attaining 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 Master 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 Master programme is managed by the FLPS's administration, in particular the FLPS Postgraduate 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 Master 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 processes,

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 the supervision and examination of Master theses 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 the supervision of Master theses 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 ~300 US\$ for one credit hour. Hence, the costs for the entire study programme with 38 credit hours are

~11,400 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 Master programme are guaranteed.

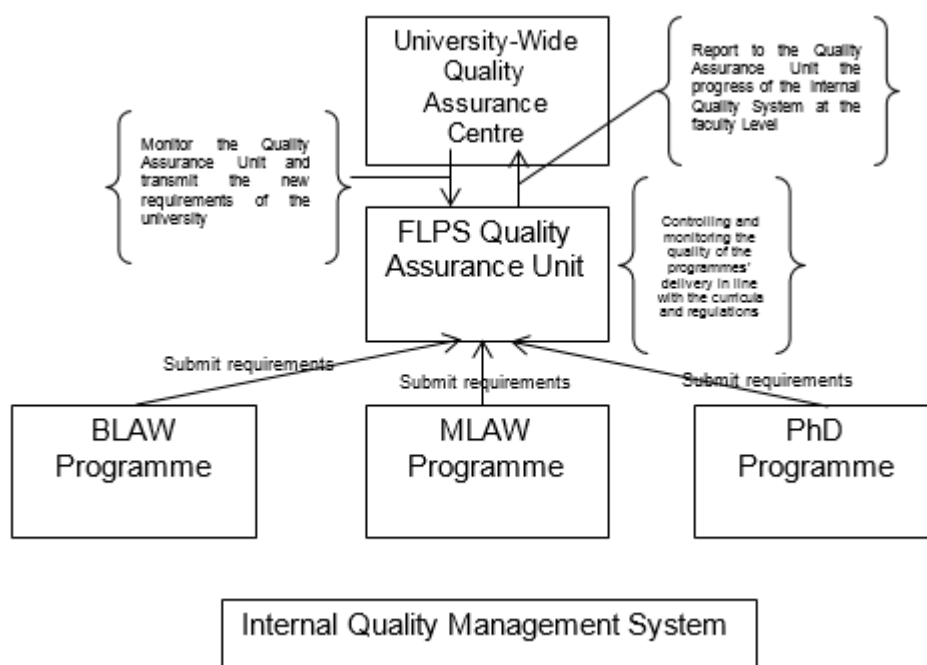
Appraisal:

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		

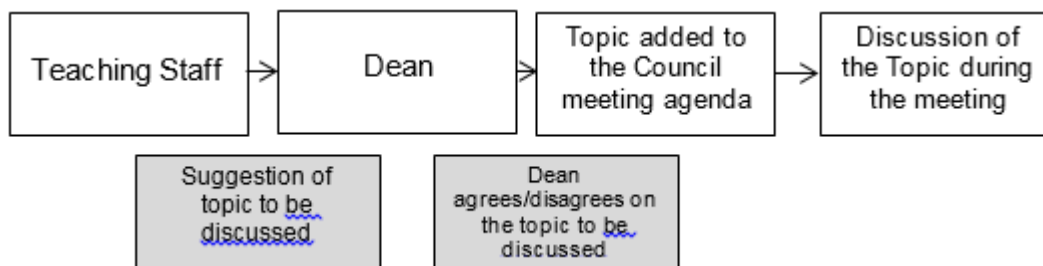
5 Quality assurance and documentation

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

Master programme: Master 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		