



Faculty of Agricultural and Food Sciences (FAFS)

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Coordinator of Programs

Lara Nasreddine	Coordinator of Undergraduate Studies, ND-Program
Jad Chaaban	Coordinator of Undergraduate Studies, Agri-Business Program
Mustapha Haidar	Coordinator of Graduate Studies Program

Historical Background

The MS graduate program at FAFS was initiated in 1956. The program aims to offer specialized training in a variety of fields in food and agriculture, and to prepare students for further studies in Europe and North America. The first MS degree in Horticulture was granted in 1958, and the first MS in Food Technology in 1959. Since then, FAFS has kept adapting its graduate programs to meet the needs of an evolving regional demand. An MS in Nutrition was introduced in 1963, and the first degree was granted in 1965. An MS in Ecosystem Management, a major of the interfaculty MS in Environmental Sciences, has been offered since 1997. FAFS currently offers MS specialization in animal science, poultry science, agricultural economics and development, irrigation, mechanization, soil science, plant protection, plant science, nutrition, food technology and ecosystem management.

Mission

The mission of the Faculty of Agricultural and Food Sciences is to promote, through higher agricultural education, teaching, research, and extension in agriculture, food and nutrition, environment and natural resources, and community and rural development as a basis for sustainable improvement in the lives of people throughout Lebanon, the Middle East region, and the world.

Vision

The vision of FAFS is to be an institution committed to helping the Middle East region in improving agricultural practices with the aim of approaching self-sufficiency in food production. It is an institution committed to research, development, and the training of dedicated and highly motivated men and women to satisfy the needs of human power resources in the Middle East. FAFS conducts on-campus academic instruction, research through its on-campus facilities and AREC, as well as outreach education, all patterned after the land-grant college system of the USA. In the coming years the Faculty of Agricultural and Food Sciences will develop as a center for excellence in higher agricultural education and research in the areas of sustainable and urban agriculture, environmental sciences related to agriculture and natural resources, arid land agriculture, food quality and safety, and nutrition. These areas are emphasized because they reflect important needs in agricultural education and development in the region we serve.

Graduate Programs

The faculty offers the MS degree, with or without thesis, in the following majors: agricultural economics, agricultural extension (not offered at present), animal sciences, food technology, irrigation, mechanization, nutrition, plant protection, plant science, poultry science, and soil science. The faculty also participates in the interfaculty graduate programs leading to the degrees of MS in Environmental Sciences (major: Ecosystem Management) and MS in Nutrition.

Students following a thesis program are required to take a minimum of 21 graduate level course credits plus a thesis (equivalent to 9 credits). No thesis program should include more than 3 tutorial course credits. Core regular courses should constitute a minimum of 12 credits excluding seminars and tutorials, with graduate elective courses to be determined with the advisor. A student following a non-thesis program is required to take a minimum of 33 graduate level course credits. The program should include a minimum of 3 credits and a maximum of 6 tutorial credits with at least 12 credits being from core courses in the major.

Rules and regulations for graduate programs are given in this catalogue in the Admissions section and include details about the environmental sciences program. Information is also available in the FAFS Graduate Study Manual. Changes made after the publication of this catalogue will be available through the academic advisers.

The Environment and Sustainable Development Unit (ESDU)

ESDU is an interdisciplinary research and development unit specializing in sustainable rural livelihoods. It was established at the Faculty of Agricultural and Food Sciences to promote collaboration on sustainable development initiatives among departments at AUB and with a wide variety of other institutions and organizations undertaking related activities.

ESDU activities, including research, capacity building, and outreach, aim at

- providing opportunities for faculty and students to work on real-life rural development projects
- fostering partnerships between research, private and public sectors, and local communities in order to develop community-based solutions
- networking with national, regional, and international centers and institutes in the areas of integrated natural resource management and sustainable development

For more information refer to www.ecosystems.org.