

Prospective graduate engineering students given opportunity to study at AUB via remedial English courses

Monday, August 16, 2010

Prospective engineering graduates who do not meet university-level English language requirements need not worry any longer. For the first time this summer, the University Preparatory Program (UPP) at the American University of Beirut (AUB) offered prospective students an intensive English summer course ahead of their first year of advanced studies on campus.



"The program is specifically tailored to grad students' needs," said UPP Director Reem Shaaban. "Now outstanding engineering students who would have been rejected for graduate studies at AUB because of their poor English skills have a solution, and they can join the Faculty of Engineering if they pass the remedial course."

The five-week program consists of five hours per day of reading, grammar, vocabulary, listening comprehension and speaking and writing skills. Led by Shaaban, the summer course is also taught by instructors May Mikati and Samar Harkous.

Students were asked to prepare oral presentations using multimedia. They learned how to critically read technical documents, how to write effectively and cross-culturally, and they increased their repertoire of technical terminology and practiced drafting abstracts and thesis proposals. A passing grade of 70 as a general average is required to allow them to start their graduate program in the fall.

The first batch of students graduated from the summer course on August 11, 2010.

The UPP began in 2002 as a program in the English Department catering to prospective first-year AUB students who needed to improve their English skills before entering University. Due to its high success rate, UPP became a department of its own in the Faculty of Arts and Sciences in 2006.