

For Immediate Release



## **AUB to offer first graduate-level Diploma in Food Security in MENA region**

Beirut, Lebanon- 27/01/2015 - The American University of Beirut will launch the first graduate-level program on food security in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region, in summer 2015.

The new seven-week Diploma in Food Security program will be offered by the Faculty of Agricultural and Food Sciences (FAFS) and will be open to students with a bachelor's degree in a field related to food security and a high level of English proficiency. It will build the expertise of individuals with backgrounds in agriculture, nutrition, natural resources management, economics, or other relevant fields to prepare them for policy- and program-oriented careers in the area of food security.

Faculty members specialized in agricultural systems, nutritional health, development economics, and policy and programming will bring a deep knowledge of the MENA region to the classroom to engage and challenge students. Classes will be held at the AUB campus in Beirut, Lebanon beginning June 1, 2015.

The program has started accepting applications, and the submission deadline is April 1, 2015.

“AUB and FAFS have been leaders in education in the MENA region for more than a century and pioneers in delivering agriculture-, food-, and environment-related courses and degrees,” said FAFS Dean Nahla Hwalla. “With the launch of the Diploma in Food Security, we are sustaining our commitment to offer educational programs that address issues of global and regional concern and contribute to the future of the region.”

The concept of food security regained prominence following the 2007-2008 food crises, when millions around the globe were negatively impacted by rapidly rising food prices. The MENA region in particular remains food insecure, meaning that many individuals still do not have physical, social and/or economic access to sufficient, safe, and nutritious food which meets their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life. Challenges include a rising population, a lack of arable land and freshwater, unsustainable use of natural resources, and high rates of both obesity and micronutritional deficiency. A comprehensive approach to food security is required to design and implement appropriate policies and programs, given the complexity of issues involved, and so forms the cornerstone of the Diploma in Food Security curriculum.

For more information on the Diploma in Food Security, please go to:  
<http://www.aub.edu.lb/fafs/foodsecurity/> or email [foodsecurity@aub.edu.lb](mailto:foodsecurity@aub.edu.lb)

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**Note to Editors**

**About AUB**

Founded in 1866, the American University of Beirut bases its educational philosophy, standards, and practices on the American liberal arts model of higher education. A teaching-centered research university, AUB has more than 700 full-time faculty members and a student body of about 8,000 students. AUB currently offers more than 100 programs leading to the bachelor's, master's, MD, and PhD degrees. It provides medical education and training to students from throughout the region at its Medical Center that includes a full service 420-bed hospital.

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