

For Immediate Release



Beirut: 4-3-2021

**Clarification Statement by AUB Office of Communications:**

The American University of Beirut wishes to clarify the implications of the decision taken by the fast-track judge in Beirut on February 26 regarding the students who deposited tuition fees with the notary public. The decision by the judge placed a temporary stay of two weeks on the deregistration of the students, a step which was to occur on March 3 as per standard university protocol for all students who have not paid or made arrangements with the university to pay their tuition fees.

Unfortunately, misinformation has been circulating that AUB intended to expel these students, an accusation we categorically deny. AUB has not expelled students for non-payment of tuition fees. This has never been – and never will be – an AUB policy.

As of this moment, the overwhelming majority of students have paid or made arrangements with the university to pay their dues. This spring term, AUB has also nearly doubled its financial support to ensure that students with demonstrated need can continue their education. AUB has always believed that education is a right for all and not a privilege for a few and has been promoting academic excellence for Lebanon and the region for over 150 years, irrespective of the financial capabilities of its students.

It is also important to remember that AUB is living through compounded crises, not of its making, and like other institutions in Lebanon, we are looking for ways to survive. We also understand the pressures and frustrations that students are living through and will continue to support their right to free speech and protest. This is why the university has put its resources and experience into alleviating, as much as possible, the pain felt by the students and their families while working to ensure its own survival.

ENDS

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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 900 full-time faculty members and a student body of about 9,500 students. AUB currently offers more than 140 programs leading to 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 365-bed hospital.

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