

For Immediate Release



AUB receives \$2 million Mellon grant to promote arts and humanities in the region

Beirut, Lebanon- 19/06/2015 - The American University of Beirut has received a grant of \$2 million from The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation for the establishment of a Center for Arts and Humanities.

The grant is the largest Mellon Foundation commitment to the University to date.

Over the next five years, the grant will fund 15 faculty fellowships and 10 postdoctoral fellowships in addition to writers and artists in residence, high-profile public arts events, regional collaboration with scholars and universities, and other program activities and exchanges.

“Given the radical transformations underway in the region, the humanistic role of AUB is more critical than ever,” said AUB Provost Ahmad Dallal, the champion of this initiative. “This new center will provide an alternative Middle Eastern site for the production of humanistic knowledge rooted in local and regional cultures. The Center will occupy a pivotal position in mediating and articulating both interregional and East-West cultural dialogues in a way inaccessible to similar centers in the U.S or Europe, and will be the natural regional and international partner for collaborative arts and humanities projects.”

The award, building on the impressive record of the Arts and Humanities Initiative, which has been generously supported by the Mellon Foundation since its inception in 2012, will further establish AUB’s regional leadership in liberal arts education.

“As one of the leaders of liberal education in the region, AUB is well positioned to advance creativity and to promote freedom of expression, tolerance, diversity, and dialogue,” said Eugene Tobin, a senior program officer at the Mellon Foundation.

“The decision to establish a Center for the Arts and Humanities reflects the University’s core educational and research mission, and its far-reaching commitment to the region’s societies and their rich cultural legacies,” said AUB President Peter Dorman. “This grant is a measure of the confidence Mellon feels in AUB, both in the importance of its educational mission in the Middle East and as an interlocutor for intercultural discourse.”

For information about the faculty and post-doc fellowships, please go to:

<http://www.aub.edu.lb/CAH/Pages/faculty-fellows.aspx>

<http://www.aub.edu.lb/CAH/Pages/mellon-post-doc-fellows.aspx>

For more information about the Center for Arts and Humanities, please go to:
<http://www.aub.edu.lb/cah/Pages/index.aspx>

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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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