

Safeguarding Integrity: Financial Aid and Corruption Risks in Higher Education

Amman, 26-27 July 2025

Outline

Financial Aid at ULS

Corruption Risks in Financial Aid

Strategies to Promote Integrity

Financial Aid at ULS

- Needs – Based financial Aid
- Merit-based scholarships
- Grants from foreign partners
- Work-study programs
- Tuition waivers

Corruption Risks in Financial Aid

a. Eligibility Fraud

- Misrepresentation of income or academic records by applicants.
- Collusion with insiders to manipulate eligibility criteria.

b. Favoritism and Nepotism

- Aid awarded based on personal connections, not merit or need.

c. Bribery and Kickbacks

- Staff accepting bribes for granting aid or speeding up processes.

d. Ghost Students or Phantom Beneficiaries

- Aid awarded to non-existent students or diverted to false accounts.

e. Misallocation of Funds

- Funds not reaching intended recipients due to poor oversight

Example 1: Financial Aid Policy

and good.

6.1.2. Financial Aid Eligibility

In order to be eligible for financial aid, a student needs to fulfill the following conditions:

- Must have fully submitted his/her application and all supporting documents.
- Must be enrolled or accepted on a substantially full-time basis².
- Must demonstrate financial need and submit supporting documents.
- Must be in good academic standing³. For incoming students this criterion does not apply for the first semester.
- Must be in good conduct standing⁴.

Good Academic Standing

refers to undergraduate student with cumulative GPA ≥ 2.0 ; graduate student with cumulative GPA ≥ 3.0 .

Good Conduct Standing



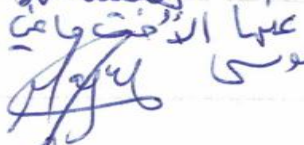



refers to student who did not receive disciplinary sanctions for contravening the ULS Code of Conduct.

Example 2: Scholarships (merit-based)

	Awarded to	Explanation	Risk Agent	Mitigation Agent
Presidential Scholarship	Based on academic prowess, personal qualities, leadership traits, and involvement in extracurricular activities.	Based on recommendations from their faculty or the Office of Student Affairs. Recommendations are submitted to the President of ULS at the end of each semester, the President may choose to add students whose achievements came directly to his attention.	Dean / Student Affairs Officers	President
Academic Distinction Scholarship	Students with a top academic performance and a consistent record of excellence.	This scholarship is awarded to a percentage of the top students of each program. There is no need for an application, the faculty will automatically highlight the qualified candidates	Student Affairs Officers	Dean
Prodigy Achievement Scholarship	Incoming students based on their performance in high school and/or at the Lebanese Baccalaureate or its equivalent degrees.			
Third Party Scholarships	Third parties willing to offer scholarships targeting specific audiences		Third Party	MoU

Example 3 : Grants

Signature of Beneficiaries of A.C.N for FALL 2023 at the Faculty of Religious and Theological Sciences

ID	First Name	Middle Name	Last Name	Phone	Actual or Future pastoral engagement	Amount in USD from A.C.N. spent on student	Signature
201725687	Mariam	Mikhaël	ABI HATEM	96170952932		55	
202301786	Sarah	Farid	Abi Nasr	96176834540		55	
202101457	Al Amira Dolly	Bachir	Abillama	9613496289	member in comitte of administration of her parish's finances	55	
017990252	L'Emira Jovanna	El Amir Amin	ABILLAMA	96170049616	I belong to the sisters of the Forsaken Jesus and our congregation missions is part of the eparchy activities	55	
202300916	Fadi	Antoine	Abou Khalil	9613919001		55	
202301963	Lamia	Georges	Abou Rjeily	9613253096		55	
201716786	Roula	Ghassan	ABOU TACCA	9613099558	Helping and assisting in many activities - st Charbel - Fanar	55	
202101393	Sylva	Jean	Al Antoury	9613038245		55	

Example 4: Work-Study Programs

CAREER FAIR USHERS 2025				
N.	ID	Std Name	Hours	
1	202201839	Chantal Icho	8h45 - 4h00	7h15min
2	202400470	Charbel Abou Nader	8h30 - 3h30	7h
3	202201256	Christie Bou Arbid*	9h00 - 5h30	8h30min
4	202200683	Chrisine Kayfejian	8h00 - 4h00	8h
5	202201010	Gaelle Abdo	9h15 - 5h42	8h27min
6	202301015	Jamil Rahme	8h30 - 5h00	8h30min
7	202300179	Joseph Mhanna	9h10 - 5h30	8h20min
8	202200638	Marielle Jabbour	8h30 - 4h00	7h30min
9	202300847	Paul Al Douaihy	9h07 - 3h30	6h23min
10	202200731	Peter Mouradian	9h15 - 5h30	8h15min
11	202400942	Rebecca Massoud	8h00 - 3h55	7h55min
12	202200562	Ritta Gharib	9h00 - 5h30	8h30min
13	202301326	Rony Harouny*	9h10 - 5h01	7h51min
14	201723906	Elias Hani	9h00 - 4h30	7h30min
15	202200986	Tia Attieh*	9h00 - 5h30	8h30min

Strategies to Promote Integrity

- **a. Transparent Policies and Criteria**

Clearly defined and publicized aid criteria and procedures.

- **b. Digitization and Automation**

Use of technology to minimize human discretion and error.

- **c. Internal Controls and Independent Audits**

Regular checks, balances, and monitoring of financial aid processes.

- **d. Whistleblower Mechanisms**

Safe, anonymous channels to report misconduct.

- **e. Training and Ethics Education**

Building a culture of integrity among staff and students.