



Department of Institutional Research and Assessment

Alumni Survey Analysis Class of 2017-2018

3/27/2020

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The key findings based on responses of the graduates of 2017-2018 are summarized below. 1,752 alumni were invited to participate in the survey, of whom 938 responded yielding a response rate of 54%. Findings can be used to predict with 95% confidence the true population statistic within +/- 2 percentage points of the sample statistic.

- 87% of LAU graduates were employed or continuing their education as full-time students within 12 months of graduation.
- Graduates majoring in Electrical Engineering, Industrial Engineering, Petroleum Engineering, Computer Engineering, Multimedia Journalism, Bioinformatics, Interior Design, Education, Nursing, Social Work, Mathematics, Fine Arts, Performing Arts, Translation, Communication Arts, Diploma in Learning Disability & Giftedness and Teaching Diploma had a 100% chance of securing a job.
- To search for their first job, graduates across all majors mainly relied on online job search platforms (74%), followed by family or personal connections (47%), social media platforms (34%), LAU career guidance/career portal (34%), LAU career fair (32%), an LAU teacher/faculty (21%), LAU academic departments (11%), career fairs organized by other organizations (6%) and online newspapers (6%).
- 27% graduates sought or earned a graduate/doctoral degree.
- 76% of graduates confirmed that their first job was related to their undergraduate field of study.
- The vast majority of respondents found their first job in Lebanon (91%) whereas 4% found their first job in the gulf region, 1% in Europe, 1% in North America, 1% in the Levant and 1% in Africa. To a large extent, the actual distribution of first job location is similar to the initial geographical preference of respondents.
- External employers had a demand for graduates who majored in Business, Architecture, Computer Science, Economics, Bioinformatics, Fine Arts, Graphic Design, Interior Design, Mathematics and Engineering (Mechanical, Civil, Computer, Industrial and Electrical).
- Graduates who were employed in Lebanon were mostly based inside the capital Beirut. There has been however a decrease in LAU graduates employed in Beirut in the last few years from 79% in 2014-2013 to 75% in 2015-2016 to 73% in 2016-2017 to 72% in 2017-2018 which reflects a spread of employment opportunities across the country especially in the governorate of Mount Lebanon.
- The industries that employed most of LAU graduates were (1) Marketing, Sales & Services, (2) Education & Training, (3) Health Science/Medical (4) Business, Management & Administration, (5) Architecture & Construction and (6) Sales & Distribution of Consumer Products.

- The average starting basic salary for all graduates amounted to \$1,119. The average basic salary ranged from \$1,068 for graduates employed in Lebanon to \$1695 for those employed in the Gulf. The highest paid graduates were those employed in Europe and the Gulf.
- The highest paid majors were: Computer Science, Performing Arts, Translation, Engineering (Electrical, Mechanical, Computer, Industrial, and Civil), Political Science/Int. Affairs and Architecture.
- 27% of graduates who had an internship experience were offered a full-time job afterwards in the same company. Graduates who majored in Business, Mechanical Engineering, Computer Science, Economics and Pharmacy were in the majority offered a full-time job after completing their internship.
- Were they to start again, 87% of graduates would pursue their studies at LAU.
- 95% of graduates believed that the preparation they received is the same or better than that received by their peers from other universities.
- 70% or more of alumni believed that their LAU education had a significant contribution (either “major” or “strong”) to their acquisition of the following: (1) ability to work under pressure, (2) communication skills (3) decision making, (4) flexibility, (5) leadership skills, (6) listening skills, (7) positive attitude, (8) presentation skills, (9) problem solving skills, (10) public speaking skills, (11) teamwork, (12) time management skills and (13) work ethics.

METHODOLOGY

All LAU alumni of the academic 2017-2018 were invited to participate in the online alumni survey. Alumni who did not complete their undergraduate studies at LAU were not invited. The alumni survey aimed at determining the employment and educational status of graduates and their views on the added value of internships on employment, when applicable. Alumni perspectives on their level of preparedness for employment reflected in the possession of the required theoretical knowledge and essential soft skill sets were also investigated.

The survey was disseminated by email to 1,752 LAU alumni via email. Initially 54 alumni responded to the survey within the first two weeks. Thereafter the remaining 1,698 alumni who did not respond to the survey via email were contacted via telephone and WhatsApp, of whom 884 responded. Thus out of the 1,752 alumni invited, 938 responded yielding a response rate of 54%. The generalizability of the results to the population depends on the sample size, which in turn depends on the degree of precision desired, the variability of the data sampled, and the type of sampling employed, namely level of tolerated error accepted. With 938 respondents, a 2 percent margin of error and a 95 percent confidence interval were generated. As such one can predict with 95% confidence that the true population statistic is within +/- 2 percentage points of the sample statistic.