



Advocating, advancing, and evaluating quality education in Landscape Architecture

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September 3, 2021

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Yaser Abunnasr, PhD
Department Chair, BLA Coordinator, and Associate Professor
Department of Landscape Design and Ecosystem Management
American University of Beirut
Beirut, Lebanon

Dear Professor Abunnasr:

The Landscape Architectural Accreditation Board (LAAB) at its July 29-30, 2021 meeting granted initial accreditation for a period of six (6) years to the course of study leading to the professional BLA degree at American University of Beirut. This status is subject to review of an interim report to be submitted by June 1, 2023, together with annual reports and maintenance of good standing.

The interim report should provide an update on each Recommendation Affecting Accreditation (RAA) in order to demonstrate compliance, or steps towards compliance, with the respective standard. In accordance with LAAB policy, programs have up to two years to resolve their RAA(s). Upon receipt of the two-year Interim Report, the LAAB will accept that the RAA(s) have been addressed or, if not, the program will be given two more years to resolve the issues. A second Interim Report will be due to the LAAB on or before four years from the receipt of this Accreditation Action Letter. If the RAA(s) are not successfully resolved or, in the case of longer term issues, substantial and verifiable progress has not been made at that time (after four years from this Accreditation Action Letter) then the program may be moved to provisional status, it may be suspended, or in some cases the program's accreditation may be revoked.

Accreditation is awarded on a time-certain basis. The six-year period of accreditation ends June 30, 2027. Accordingly, the BLA program at American University of Beirut is next scheduled for a review during the spring of 2027.

In making its decision, LAAB considered the program's self-evaluation report, the visiting team's report, and the program's response to the report.

Enclosed is a list of recommendations affecting accreditation (to be responded to in the interim report via the process laid out above) and an Interim Reporting template. This list was developed by LAAB from the materials reviewed during the meeting.

On behalf of the visiting team, I would like to thank you for the hospitality extended to them by the faculty, staff, and students.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jack Ahern".

Jack Ahern, PhD, FASLA, FCELA
LAAB Chair

Enclosure

cc: Fadlo R. Khuri, MD, President

**American University of Beirut
BLA Program
LAAB Meeting
July 29-30, 2021**

SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendations Affecting Accreditation

1. The program should strengthen the technical skills sequence of courses in the curriculum, particularly LDEM 249, (the final synthesis course of three focused site engineering). In particular, care should be given to provide greater depth of coverage of grading, drainage, and construction layout in the contract documents package that forms the core of the work demonstrating student learning outcomes (Standard 3).

Landscape Architectural Accreditation Board

Interim Report

Date:

Section 1.

Name of Institution:

Name of Department:

Name of Program:

Date of Decision Letter:

Section 2.

Recommendation Affecting Accreditation: (Describe verbatim the Recommendation Affecting Accreditation identified in the Decision Letter that is the subject of this Report and attach the Decision Letter. If Decision Letter identified more than one (1) Recommendation Affecting Accreditation, complete an Interim Report for each Recommendation.)

Section 3.

Action Taken by Program: (Describe the action taken by the Program to address the Recommendation Affecting Accreditation identified in Section 2 of this Report. Attach any appropriate documentation that supports the action taken by the Program)