



ACTIVITIES, ACHIEVEMENTS, AND HIGHLIGHTS: PAST TWO SEMESTERS

POLIS DEPARTMENT SHOWCASE

A YEAR OF EXCELLENCE, RESILIENCE, AND IMPACT

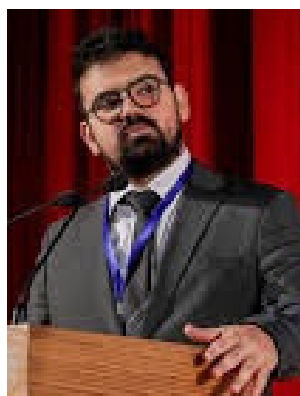
FACULTY EXCELLENCE AND ACADEMIC CONTRIBUTIONS

RESEARCH EXCELLENCE, PUBLICATIONS, GLOBAL RECOGNITION, AND ACADEMIC IMPACT



DR. LEILA DAGHER

RECOGNIZED AMONG THE
TOP 2% OF SCIENTISTS
WORLDWIDE AND
SELECTED AS A 2026-2027
WILSON CENTER
RESEARCH FELLOW



DR. FADI HACHEM

PUBLISHED FREEDOM OF
RELIGION OR BELIEF IN
REGIONAL TRANSFORMATIONS
AND WAS APPOINTED TO THE
COUNCIL OF EXPERTS OF THE
INTERNATIONAL RELIGIOUS
FREEDOM OR BELIEF ALLIANCE



DR. LATIFA REDA

PUBLISHED SENSING
PALESTINE: GLOBAL
DECOLONIAL AESTHETICS IN
LATIN AMERICAN-
PALESTINIAN MUSICAL
COLLABORATIONS,
EXPANDING
INTERDISCIPLINARY
SCHOLARSHIP



DR. JEFFREY KARAM

PUBLISHED KNOWING
WITHOUT SEEING,
CONTRIBUTING TO
CONTEMPORARY DEBATES
IN INTERNATIONAL
SECURITY AND THE
OCTOBER 7 STRATEGIC
SURPRISE



DR. SONIA NAKAD

COMPLETED HER PHD AT
THE UNIVERSITY OF
TÜBINGEN WITH HIGH
DISTINCTION (MAGNA CUM
LAUDE)



DR. JOSEPH EL HELOU

PUBLISHED A BOOK
CHAPTER WITH MS. AYA
FARHAT ON STATE
GOVERNANCE, FINANCIAL
TECHNOLOGY, AND
POLITICAL ECONOMY IN
THE UAE.

FACULTY EXCELLENCE AND ACADEMIC CONTRIBUTIONS

RESEARCH EXCELLENCE, PUBLICATIONS, GLOBAL RECOGNITION, AND ACADEMIC IMPACT



DR RAMZI ABOU SMAIL

**PUBLISHED CONCEPTUALIZING
AND MEASURING SUPPORT FOR
COLLECTIVE VIOLENCE IN
AGGRESSIVE BEHAVIOR**

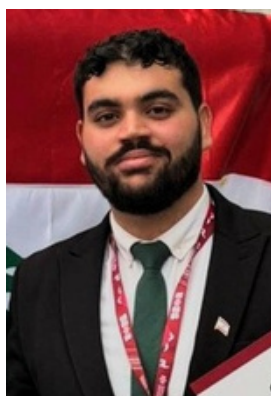


DR. JOSEPH EL HELOU

**PUBLISHED INFORMALITY AS
INFRASTRUCTURE : MIGRANT AGENCY
AND THE COLLAPSE OF FORMAL
ROUTES BETWEEN SYRIA AND EUROPE
WITH DR. JASMIN LILIAN DIAB AND
DR. ABEL POLESE**

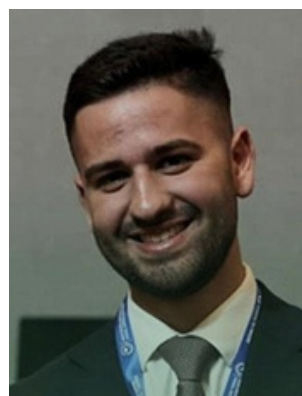
STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS AND AWARDS

AWARDS, FELLOWSHIPS, GRADUATE ADMISSIONS, MEDIA RESEARCH, AND ALUMNI DISTINCTION



ROY ABI RAAD

**WINNER OF THE HARVARD
WORLD MUN DIPLOMACY
AWARD IN LIMA; ALSO
ENGAGED IN POLICY
ACTIVITIES AT THE NASW
BOISE CAPITOL AND COP30
SIMULATIONS**



SERGE NOHRA

**RECEIVED THE BEST
DELEGATE AWARD AT THE
ASIA YOUTH
INTERNATIONAL MUN
2025 IN KUALA LUMPUR**



GHASSOUB JARRAH

**EARNED AN HONORABLE
MENTION AT THE
ISTANBUL
INTERNATIONAL MODEL
UNITED NATIONS**



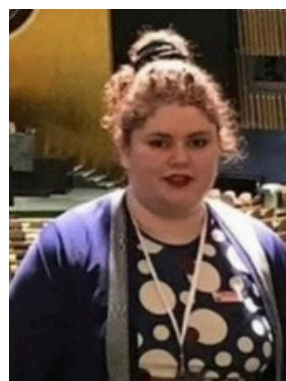
LYNN AL HADI

**AWARDED THE
FULBRIGHT
SCHOLARSHIP TO BEGIN
HER MS IN
INTERNATIONAL
SECURITY AT GEORGIA
INSTITUTE OF
TECHNOLOGY**



SOPHIA HADDAD

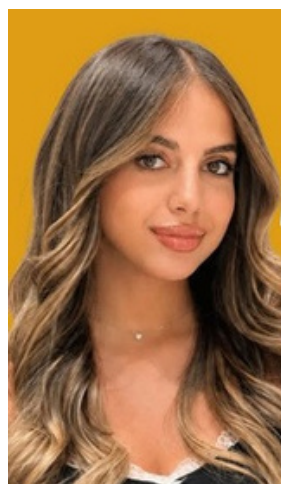
**REPRESENTED
LEBANON WITH DISTINCTION
AT HARVARD WORLD MUN
IN PERU**



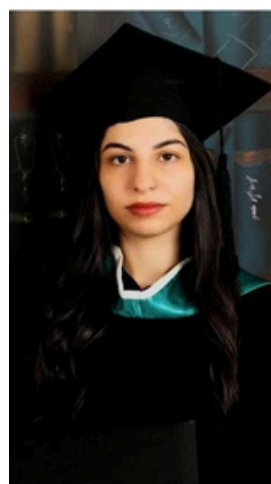
CHRISTELLE BARAKAT

**SELECTED AS A
SCHWARZMAN
SCHOLAR FOR
THE 2026-2027
COHORT.**

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS AND AWARDS



NOURA ABOU HAMZE
 DISTINGUISHED
 HERSELF THROUGH
 MIGRATION POLICY
 RESEARCH, HUMAN RIGHTS
 ADVOCACY, JOURNALISM,
 AND COMMUNITY
 ENGAGEMENT



AIDA JABER
 RECEIVED THE
 OUTSTANDING
 RESEARCH AWARD IN
 SOCIAL SCIENCES AND
 MANAGEMENT.



PIERRE ABOU JAOUDE
 PUBLISHED UNEVEN AND
 COMBINED DEVELOPMENT
 AND THE LEBANESE STATE:
 SECTARIAN GOVERNANCE,
 POLITICAL ECONOMY, AND
 FRAGMENTED
 SOVEREIGNTY



MICHELLE ESHAK
 ADMITTED TO THE
 GRADUATE PROGRAM
 AT GEORGETOWN
 UNIVERSITY

A STRONG CULTURE OF STUDENT EXCELLENCE

These achievements reflect the global competitiveness and leadership of POLIS students and alumni across diplomacy, research, graduate study, fellowships, media, and advocacy

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS AND AWARDS



NADIA AHMAD

**AWARDED THE YOUNG
RESEARCHER
FELLOWSHIP AT AN-
NAHAR NEWSPAPER**



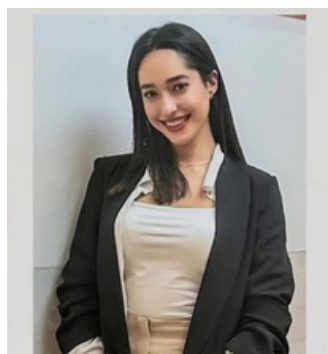
KARIM SALAHEDDINE

**HONORED WITH THE
OUTSTANDING RESEARCH
AWARD IN THE FIELD OF
SOCIAL SCIENCES &
MANAGEMENT**



CEDRIC KEYROUZ

**ACCEPTED INTO THE
YOUNG MEDIA
RESEARCHER PROGRAM**



JOELLE EL KAASAMANI

**AWARDED THE NADINE
SAID KHALAF ENDOWED
SCHOLARSHIP FUND**

A STRONG CULTURE OF STUDENT EXCELLENCE

These achievements reflect the global competitiveness and leadership of POLIS students and alumni across diplomacy, research, graduate study, fellowships, media, and advocacy

TALKS, GUEST LECTURES, AND CONFERENCES

POLICY DIALOGUE, GUEST SPEAKERS, DIPLOMATIC EXPOSURE, AND REGIONAL ANALYSIS



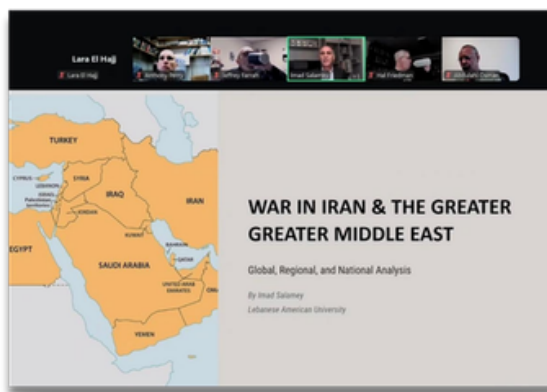
POLICY DIALOGUE

**WELCOMED H.E. DR. NASSIFHITTI, FORMER MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS,
FOR A LECTURE ON LEBANESE POLITICS AMID REGIONAL TENSIONS**



NATIONAL SECURITY

**STRATEGIC GUEST LECTURES WERE DELIVERED BY GENERAL ZIAD RIZKALLAH AND
MAJOR GENERAL FADI MAKHOUL**



REGIONAL ANALYSIS

**DR. IMAD SALAMEY LED AN INTERNATIONAL SEMINAR ON "THE WAR IN IRAN AND THE
GREATER MIDDLE EAST"**

TALKS, GUEST LECTURES, AND CONFERENCES

POLICY DIALOGUE, GUEST SPEAKERS, DIPLOMATIC EXPOSURE, AND REGIONAL ANALYSIS



DR NAYLA TABBARA

**“WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO
LIVE IN AN INCLUSIVE
SOCIETY?”**



DR NAYLA TABBARA

**FEATURING REV. LINDA
MAKTABI AND SHAYKH
RABIH KOBEISSY.**

**“ROLE OF RELIGIOUS
LEADERS DURING THE
WAR: THE CASE OF
LEBANON”**



DR IMAD SALAMEY

**“LEBANON’S POLITICAL
ORDER AND THE
REGIONAL CONTEXT” AT
FREI UNIVERSITY OF
BERLIN.**



DR ASSEM DANDASHLY

**“RETHINKING EU DEMOCRACY
PROMOTION: LOCAL ACTORS,
REGIME SURVIVAL AND NORM
IMPLEMENTATION IN THE ARAB
MEDITERRANEAN COUNTRIES.”**



DR MICHAEL THEODOSIADIS

**“THE TRAGEDY OF
MIGHT: SIMONE
WEIL AND
ETHICAL
LEADERSHIP IN
INTERNATIONAL
RELATIONS.”**



DR HICHAM ABOU NASSIF

**“U.S FOREIGN POLICY AND
THE LEBANESE CIVIL WAR
(1981-1984)”**

TALKS, GUEST LECTURES, AND CONFERENCES

POLICY DIALOGUE, GUEST SPEAKERS, DIPLOMATIC EXPOSURE, AND REGIONAL ANALYSIS



DR JULIEN BEAUJOUAN

**“FROM LIBERAL PEACE TO
POWER
PEACE: RETHINKING
CONFLICT
RESOLUTION IN THE 21ST
CENTURY”**



DR NICOLA NONES

**“MILITARY BUILD
UP UNDER
HEGEMONIC
SHADOW ”**



DR ZIAD ABDEL SAMAD

**“WHAT HAPPENS IF
EVERYONE IS A PASSIVE
CITIZEN ?”**



DR KINDA MAJARY

**“WHAT IS A GENDER-
INCLUSIVE CITIZENSHIP ”**



DR ELIE ABOU AOUN

**“WHY ARE HUMAN
RIGHTS
IMPORTANT FOR
CITIZENS?”**



ESQ. VERENA EL AMIL

**“SHOULD CITIZENS
ENGAGE IN POLITICS AT
A YOUNG AGE?”**

TALKS, GUEST LECTURES, AND CONFERENCES

POLICY DIALOGUE, GUEST SPEAKERS, DIPLOMATIC EXPOSURE, AND REGIONAL ANALYSIS



DR ABBAS RAMMAL

**“ENHANCING RESEARCH
METHODOLOGY WITH
QUANTITATIVE DATA AND
STATISTICAL ANALYSIS:
INFERENTIAL METHODS AND
TOOLS”**



**MISS LISBETH
PILEGAARD**

**“DEMOCRATIZATION &
THE MENA
REGION ”**



DR JOSEPH FARCHAKH

**“HOW CAN NEWS OUTLETS
AND ANCHORS BECOME A
VOICE FOR CITIZENS IN THE
COUNTRY?”**



H.E ANDREW BARNES

**“AUSTRALIA’S
DEMOCRATIC JOURNEY:
ACHIEVEMENTS AND
EMERGING
CHALLENGES”**



H.E FRANK MOLLEN

**“DUTCH FOREIGN
RELATIONS&
DIPLOMACY IN A
COMPLEX REGION”**



H.E MOHAMMAD AL- ASSAAD

**“من الفكرة إلى
الثورة إلى الدولة”**

STUDENT & INSTITUTIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

- GRADE 11 STUDENTS FROM FRÈRES MARISTES CHAMPVILLE SCHOOL VISITED LAU BYBLOS.
- “COFFEE WITH POLIS” SESSIONS WERE ORGANIZED TO FOSTER DIALOGUE AND ENGAGEMENT.
- OFFICIAL LAUNCH OF THE MASTER’S PROGRAM IN CONFLICT RESOLUTION, MARKING A SIGNIFICANT ACADEMIC DEVELOPMENT WITHIN THE INSTITUTION.
- THE INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS CLUB WAS FEATURED IN L’ORIENT-LE JOUR, HIGHLIGHTING ITS ACTIVITIES AND STUDENT ENGAGEMENT ON A NATIONAL PLATFORM.
- LEBANESE AMERICAN UNIVERSITY HOSTED A CONCERT IN COLLABORATION WITH UNESCO, PROMOTING CULTURAL EXCHANGE AND ARTISTIC EXPRESSION.

POLIS GRADUATING STUDENTS

UNDERGRADUATE FALL-2025

SARA HEMADNEH

ELISSA TAOUKJIAN

REINA SINNO

JOMANA EL KHAZMI

UNDERGRADUATE SPRING-2026

JUDY VIRGINIA ABOU AYACHE

YARA ABDALLAH

LEA FARHAT

RAFI DAOU

ANGELICA SAHLI MONZER ROMY

LABBAN

RACHEL SHALHOUB

THEA MARIA SARKIS FRANCESCA

BOURI

POLIS GRADUATING STUDENTS

UNDERGRADUATE SPRING-2026

ROY ABI RAAD

TALEEN ABDEL KHALEK YASMINA

EL AMIN

MICHELLE ESHAK

ALIZA KHAZZAKA

SOPHIA HADDAD

TIA ABDUL BAKI

YORGO BOU ASSI

MABEL KARKAR

DONA MARIA MATTA

NOUR NAJJAD

CHRISTIAN DACCACHE

ELIE SAWAYA

LENA MAKHOUL

SELENA HARFOUCH

LEYA SINNO

POLIS GRADUATING STUDENTS

UNDERGRADUATE SPRING-2026

SALINA MARIA ABOU JAOUDE

FATIMA RAMADAN

MARWAN MOUKARY

PETRA ABOU KASM

ADELE BOU RAAD

GRADUATE SUMMER-2025

RITA THERESIA MAKHLOUF

GRADUATE FALL-2025

AMAL ZAIDAN

MAROUN AL IRANI

OMAR BAZ RADWAN

MOHAMMAD ABED AL RAZAK GHALAYINI

MARIA AKIKI

POLIS GRADUATING STUDENTS

GRADUATE SPRING-2026

HAYTHAM AL TABESH

MARIA CHRISTINA SAAD

SUHA ABOU RIALY

REEM HAIDAR

YARA HALABI MAHMOUD

KOBROSLY MIA AZZI

SADEEL ISMAIL

SERGE HAMPARSOUMIAN

POLIS STUDENT MOBILITY: EXPANDING GLOBAL HORIZONS IN 2025-2026

THE 2025-2026 ACADEMIC YEAR MARKED A SIGNIFICANT MILESTONE FOR STUDENT MOBILITY WITHIN THE DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL AND INTERNATIONAL STUDIES (POLIS AT THE LEBANESE AMERICAN UNIVERSITY).

A TOTAL OF 15 UNDERGRADUATE AND GRADUATE STUDENTS PARTICIPATED IN INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGE PROGRAMS, SUMMER SCHOOLS, AND STUDY-ABROAD OPPORTUNITIES ACROSS EUROPE, REFLECTING POLIS'S GROWING COMMITMENT TO GLOBAL ENGAGEMENT AND EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING.

STUDENTS PURSUED ACADEMIC AND PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCES IN EIGHT COUNTRIES — FRANCE, THE UNITED KINGDOM, SLOVENIA, FINLAND, AUSTRIA, ITALY, ESTONIA, AND THE CZECH REPUBLIC—THROUGH A RANGE OF PRESTIGIOUS INSTITUTIONS INCLUDING SCIENCES PO PARIS, SCIENCES PO LYON, THE UNIVERSITY OF HELSINKI, THE UNIVERSITY OF TORINO, TALLINN UNIVERSITY, EMUNI UNIVERSITY, CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY SUMMER SCHOOL, AND THE UNIVERSITY OF GRAZ PEACE SUMMER SCHOOL.

FRANCE EMERGED AS THE LEADING DESTINATION, HOSTING FIVE POLIS STUDENTS, FOLLOWED BY ITALY, SLOVENIA, AND THE UNITED KINGDOM.

MOBILITY OPPORTUNITIES WERE SUPPORTED THROUGH SEVERAL COMPETITIVE FUNDING SCHEMES, INCLUDING ERASMUS+, MARE SCHOLARSHIPS, ISP MOBILITY SUPPORT FUNDS, AND SPECIALIZED PROJECT-BASED GRANTS.

THE MOBILITY COHORT INCLUDED BOTH UNDERGRADUATE AND GRADUATE STUDENTS FROM THE BEIRUT AND BYBLOS CAMPUSES, WITH FEMALE STUDENTS REPRESENTING NEARLY THREE-QUARTERS OF PARTICIPANTS. THESE EXPERIENCES ENABLED STUDENTS TO STRENGTHEN THEIR ACADEMIC EXPERTISE, DEVELOP INTERCULTURAL COMPETENCIES, EXPAND PROFESSIONAL NETWORKS, AND ENGAGE WITH DIVERSE PERSPECTIVES ON INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS, GOVERNANCE, PEACEBUILDING, AND PUBLIC POLICY.

THROUGH THESE INTERNATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES, POLIS CONTINUES TO ADVANCE ITS MISSION OF PREPARING GLOBALLY MINDED GRADUATES EQUIPPED TO NAVIGATE AND LEAD IN AN INCREASINGLY INTERCONNECTED WORLD.

EXCHANGE PROGRAM UNDERGRADUATES & GRADUATES

ERASMUS +:

MOUNYA EL SAID- SPRING 2026- SLOVENIA
JOELLE AL KAASAMANI- SPRING 2026- SLOVENIA
MICHELLE ESHAK- FALL 2025- FINLAND
SERGE TACHDJIAN- SPRING 2026- ESTONIA
KYLE TYAN- SPRING 2026- FRANCE

ERASMUS- SEA SAVE PROJECT:

TONIA ASSAL- FALL 2025

MARE SCHOLARSHIP:

MARIA CHRISTINA SAID- FALL 2025- ITALY
ANHAL KOZHAYA- FALL 2025- ITALY

ISP MOBILITY SUPPORT FUND:

ANHAL KOZHAYA- SUMMER 2026- AUSTRIA

EXCHANGE PROGRAM UNDERGRADUATES & GRADUATES

JUDY VIRGINIA ABOU AYACHE- FALL 2025- FRANCE

YAZAN ABOU EL EZZ- SUMMER 2026- UK

AYA AL MAWLA- SUMMER 2026- UK

FRANCESCA BOURI- FALL 2025- FRANCE

CHRISTIAN EL DACCACHE- FALL 2025- FRANCE

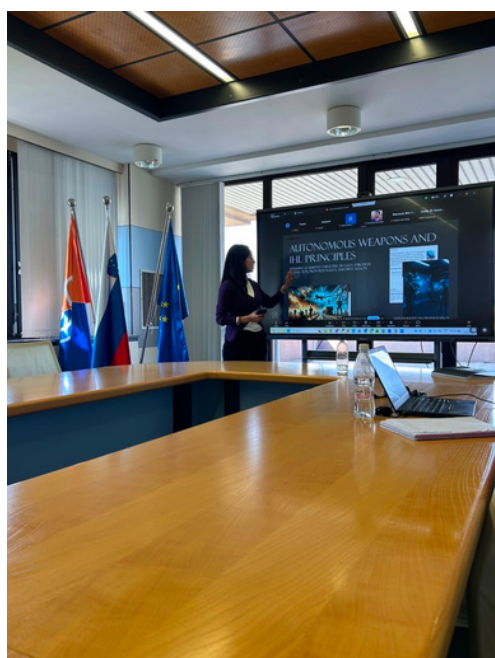
LAYA SNIH- SUMMER 2026- CZECH REPUBLIC

CLARA TAWK- SPRING 2026- FRANCE



EXCHANGE PROGRAM EXPERIENCES

“SPENDING A SEMESTER AT EMUNI UNIVERSITY IN SLOVENIA THROUGH THE ERASMUS+ PROGRAM WAS ONE OF THE MOST REWARDING EXPERIENCES OF MY ACADEMIC JOURNEY. AS AN INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS STUDENT, STUDYING IN SUCH A DIVERSE AND INTERNATIONAL ENVIRONMENT GAVE ME THE OPPORTUNITY TO ENGAGE WITH DIFFERENT PERSPECTIVES, BUILD MEANINGFUL FRIENDSHIPS ACROSS CULTURES, AND DEEPEN MY UNDERSTANDING OF THE GLOBAL ISSUES WE DISCUSS IN THE CLASSROOM. BEYOND ACADEMICS, I WAS FORTUNATE TO EXPLORE SEVERAL EUROPEAN COUNTRIES, INCLUDING AUSTRIA, CROATIA, AND ITALY, EXPERIENCES THAT BROUGHT MANY OF THE CONCEPTS I STUDY TO LIFE. I AM INCREDIBLY GRATEFUL TO MY UNIVERSITY AND DEPARTMENT FOR SUPPORTING OPPORTUNITIES LIKE ERASMUS+, WHICH NOT ONLY ENRICH STUDENTS ACADEMICALLY BUT ALSO HELP SHAPE MORE GLOBALLY MINDED INDIVIDUALS.” **-JOELLE EL KAASAMANI**

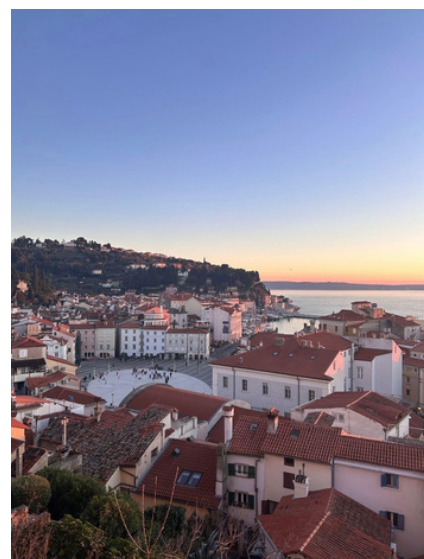


EXCHANGE PROGRAM EXPERIENCES

“STUDYING ABROAD HAD ALWAYS BEEN A DREAM OF MINE, AND THANKS TO AN ERASMUS SCHOLARSHIP, I SPENT THREE UNFORGETTABLE MONTHS AT EMUNI IN SLOVENIA WHILE PURSUING MY MA IN INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS AT LAU. THE EXPERIENCE ALLOWED ME TO CONNECT MY BACKGROUND IN COMMUNICATION WITH MY PASSION FOR HUMAN RIGHTS AND INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS.

BEYOND THE CLASSROOM, I LEARNED FROM CLASSMATES FROM DIFFERENT COUNTRIES, EXPLORED NEW CULTURES, CELEBRATED RAMADAN AND EID AWAY FROM HOME, MADE LIFELONG FRIENDS, AND CREATED MEMORIES I WILL ALWAYS CHERISH. FROM MEANINGFUL CONVERSATIONS TO SUNSETS BY THE SEA, EVERY MOMENT HELPED ME GROW BOTH ACADEMICALLY AND PERSONALLY.

THIS JOURNEY REMINDED ME THAT EDUCATION IS NOT ONLY ABOUT WHAT WE LEARN IN CLASS, BUT ALSO ABOUT THE PEOPLE WE MEET AND THE EXPERIENCES THAT SHAPE US. IT IS A CHAPTER OF MY LIFE I WILL PROUDLY TELL MY GRANDKIDS ABOUT.”- **MOUNYA EL SAID**



POLIS STUDENTS AWARDED PRESTIGIOUS UN FELLOWSHIPS

THE DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL AND INTERNATIONAL STUDIES (POLIS) PROUDLY CELEBRATES THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF SIX STUDENTS WHO HAVE BEEN AWARDED PRESTIGIOUS FELLOWSHIPS WITH THE UNITED NATIONS. SADEEL ISMAEL, LARA EL HAJJ, MARIA-CHRISTINA SAAD, JAD RAHME, AND JOELLE KAASAMANI WERE SELECTED IN RECOGNITION OF THEIR ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE, LEADERSHIP POTENTIAL, AND COMMITMENT TO INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS. THE UNITED NATIONS FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM OFFERS STUDENTS VALUABLE PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE WITHIN A MULTICULTURAL AND GLOBALLY ENGAGED ENVIRONMENT. THROUGH THESE FELLOWSHIPS, PARTICIPANTS GAIN PRACTICAL INSIGHT INTO DIPLOMACY, PEACEBUILDING, SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT, AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION WHILE CONTRIBUTING TO INITIATIVES THAT ADDRESS PRESSING GLOBAL CHALLENGES. THE OPPORTUNITY ALSO ALLOWS STUDENTS TO CONNECT THEIR ACADEMIC STUDIES WITH REAL-WORLD POLICY AND INSTITUTIONAL PRACTICE.

THIS ACCOMPLISHMENT REFLECTS POLIS'S ONGOING COMMITMENT TO PREPARING FUTURE LEADERS THROUGH RIGOROUS ACADEMIC TRAINING, EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING, AND ENGAGEMENT WITH INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTIONS. BY COMBINING SCHOLARLY STUDY WITH HANDS-ON OPPORTUNITIES, THE DEPARTMENT EQUIPS STUDENTS WITH THE KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS NEEDED FOR IMPACTFUL CAREERS IN DIPLOMACY, PUBLIC POLICY, INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS, AND GLOBAL GOVERNANCE.

THE POLIS COMMUNITY WARMLY CONGRATULATES SADEEL ISMAEL, LARA EL HAJJ, MARIA-CHRISTINA SAAD, YARA HALABI, JAD RAHME, AND JOELLE KAASAMANI ON THIS WELL-DESERVED RECOGNITION. THEIR SELECTION HIGHLIGHTS BOTH THEIR INDIVIDUAL DEDICATION AND THE DEPARTMENT'S MISSION TO EMPOWER STUDENTS TO CONTRIBUTE MEANINGFULLY TO THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY. WE WISH THEM CONTINUED SUCCESS AS THEY EMBARK ON THIS EXCITING NEW CHAPTER WITH THE UNITED NATIONS.

EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING AND SUMMER CAMPS

APPLIED TRAINING, FIELD VISITS, LEGAL LEARNING, MUN SUMMER CAMPS, AND STUDENT LEADERSHIP

MEET OUR DISTINGUISHED SPEAKERS

BEIRUT CAMPUS MUN POLIS SUMMER CAMP

Frank Mollen Dutch Ambassador Monday July 6, 2026	Paula Yacoubian Lebanese journalist and Member of Parliament Thursday July 9, 2026
Mahasen Rahhal United Nations professional in development and humanitarian affairs Tuesday July 7, 2026	Nayla Tabbara Co-founder of Alyan Foundation Wednesday July 8, 2026

FOR MORE INFORMATION AND REGISTRATION:
<https://www.lau.edu.lb/camps/mun-diplomacy-summer-camp-2026.php>

EMPOWERING FUTURE LEADERS. SHAPING A BETTER WORLD.

**BEIRUT CAMPUS MUN POLIS
SUMMER CAMP SPEAKERS 2026**

MEET OUR DISTINGUISHED SPEAKERS

BYBLOS CAMPUS MUN POLIS SUMMER CAMP

Tom Wilson Australian Ambassador Tuesday July 7, 2026	Michel Douaihy Member of Parliament, Lebanon Member of Foreign Affairs & Human Rights Committee Thursday July 9, 2026
Nada Koussa Miss Lebanon 2024 and Clinical Psychologist Monday July 6, 2026	Fadi Hachem International Human Rights Lawyer and University Lecturer Wednesday July 8, 2026

FOR MORE INFORMATION AND REGISTRATION:
<https://www.lau.edu.lb/camps/mun-diplomacy-summer-camp-2026.php>

EMPOWERING FUTURE LEADERS. SHAPING A BETTER WORLD.

**BYBLOS CAMPUS MUN POLIS
SUMMER CAMP SPEAKERS 2026**

APPLIED TRAINING

STUDENTS COMPLETED THE PUBLIC INTERNATIONAL LAW IN ACTION PROGRAM WITH LEGAL ACTION WORLDWIDE AND PARTICIPATED IN FIELD VISITS TO THE BASIL FULEIHAN INSTITUTE OF FINANCE

SUMMER CAMP 2026

THE DEPARTMENT WILL FEATURE A DISTINGUISHED LINEUP OF SPEAKERS, INCLUDING AMBASSADOR FRANK MOLLEN, MP PAULA YACOUBIAN, MP MICHEL DOUAIHY, AND OTHER LEADING PROFESSIONALS

IMPACT THE 2025

SUMMER CAMP WELCOMED 100 STUDENTS ACROSS BEIRUT AND BYBLOS, FOSTERING INTEREST IN DIPLOMACY, NEGOTIATION, AND GLOBAL DECISION-MAKING AMONG HIGH SCHOOL LEADERS

EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING AND SUMMER CAMPS

APPLIED TRAINING, FIELD VISITS, LEGAL LEARNING, MUN SUMMER CAMPS, AND STUDENT LEADERSHIP

POLIS MUN DIPLOMACY SUMMER CAMP 2026: INSPIRING THE NEXT GENERATION OF GLOBAL LEADERS

FOR FIVE DYNAMIC DAYS, THE POLIS MUN DIPLOMACY SUMMER CAMP BROUGHT TOGETHER AMBITIOUS HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS ACROSS THE BEIRUT AND BYBLOS CAMPUSES FOR AN IMMERSIVE EXPERIENCE IN DIPLOMACY, LEADERSHIP, AND GLOBAL AFFAIRS. COMBINING INTENSIVE MODEL UNITED NATIONS (MUN) TRAINING WITH CONVERSATIONS LED BY DISTINGUISHED DIPLOMATS, POLICYMAKERS, AND EXPERTS, THE CAMP EMPOWERED PARTICIPANTS TO DEVELOP THE SKILLS NEEDED TO NAVIGATE TODAY'S COMPLEX INTERNATIONAL LANDSCAPE.

THE JOURNEY BEGAN WITH COMPREHENSIVE MUN TRAINING SESSIONS LED BY THE OLE TRAINERS AT BOTH CAMPUSES. STUDENTS WERE INTRODUCED TO THE FOUNDATIONS OF MODEL UNITED NATIONS, LEARNING THE PRINCIPLES OF DIPLOMACY, NEGOTIATION, PUBLIC SPEAKING, AND RESOLUTION WRITING IN PREPARATION FOR THE CONFERENCE. ON THE FIRST DAY, STUDENTS AT THE BEIRUT CAMPUS HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO ENGAGE WITH MS. MAHA SEN RAHAL, SENIOR POLITICAL AFFAIRS OFFICER AT THE UNITED NATIONS SPECIAL COORDINATOR'S OFFICE FOR LEBANON (UNSCOL), WHO SHARED VALUABLE INSIGHTS INTO THE WORK OF THE UNITED NATIONS, MULTILATERAL COOPERATION, AND THE IMPORTANCE OF DIPLOMACY IN ADDRESSING REGIONAL AND GLOBAL CHALLENGES. MEANWHILE, PARTICIPANTS AT THE BYBLOS CAMPUS WELCOMED MS. NADA KOUSSA, WHO INSPIRED STUDENTS THROUGH HER REFLECTIONS ON LEADERSHIP, CONFIDENCE, AND REPRESENTING LEBANON ON INTERNATIONAL PLATFORMS.

BUILDING ON THEIR NEWLY ACQUIRED SKILLS, STUDENTS CONTINUED THEIR MUN TRAINING ON THE SECOND DAY WHILE LEARNING FROM DISTINGUISHED INTERNATIONAL GUESTS. AT THE BEIRUT CAMPUS, HIS EXCELLENCY MR. FRANK MOLLEN, AMBASSADOR OF THE KINGDOM OF THE NETHERLANDS TO LEBANON, OFFERED STUDENTS VALUABLE PERSPECTIVES ON DIPLOMACY, INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION, AND THE EVOLVING ROLE OF AMBASSADORS IN FOSTERING DIALOGUE AND STRENGTHENING BILATERAL RELATIONS. MEANWHILE, STUDENTS AT THE BYBLOS CAMPUS WELCOMED HIS EXCELLENCY MR. TOM WILSON, AUSTRALIAN AMBASSADOR TO LEBANON, FOR AN INSIGHTFUL DISCUSSION ON DIPLOMACY, INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS, AND THE ROLE OF AMBASSADORS IN STRENGTHENING GLOBAL PARTNERSHIPS.

EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING AND SUMMER CAMPS

APPLIED TRAINING, FIELD VISITS, LEGAL LEARNING, MUN SUMMER CAMPS, AND STUDENT LEADERSHIP

THE THIRD DAY FURTHER DEEPEDED STUDENTS' UNDERSTANDING OF GLOBAL AFFAIRS. ALONGSIDE ADVANCED MUN TRAINING, BEIRUT PARTICIPANTS ATTENDED ENGAGING SESSIONS WITH DR. NAYLA TABBARA AND HIS EXCELLENCY JOHAN ARIEF JAAFAR, ACTING AMBASSADOR OF MALAYSIA TO LEBANON, WHOSE DISCUSSIONS HIGHLIGHTED INTERCULTURAL DIALOGUE, PEACEBUILDING, AND DIPLOMATIC COOPERATION. AT THE BYBLOS CAMPUS, ACCLAIMED LEBANESE AUTHOR AND MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT MICHEL DOUAIHY ENCOURAGED STUDENTS TO THINK CRITICALLY ABOUT PUBLIC SERVICE, CIVIC ENGAGEMENT, AND THE POWER OF INFORMED LEADERSHIP.

ON THE FOURTH DAY, STUDENTS CONTINUED REFINING THEIR NEGOTIATION AND DEBATING SKILLS THROUGH INTENSIVE MUN SIMULATIONS BEFORE HEARING FROM ANOTHER EXCEPTIONAL LINEUP OF SPEAKERS. BEIRUT PARTICIPANTS MET MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT PAULA YACoubIAN, WHO SHARED HER EXPERIENCES IN PUBLIC SERVICE, ADVOCACY, AND CIVIC RESPONSIBILITY, WHILE STUDENTS IN BYBLOS ENGAGED WITH DR. SONIA NAKAD, WHOSE SESSION EMPHASIZED LEADERSHIP, COMMUNICATION, AND THE IMPORTANCE OF INFORMED DECISION-MAKING.

THE CAMP CULMINATED IN AN EXCITING MODEL UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE, WHERE STUDENTS STEPPED INTO THE ROLE OF DIPLOMATS, REPRESENTING COUNTRIES, DEBATING PRESSING INTERNATIONAL ISSUES, NEGOTIATING RESOLUTIONS, AND APPLYING EVERYTHING THEY HAD LEARNED THROUGHOUT THE WEEK. THE CONFERENCE SHOWCASED NOT ONLY THEIR GROWTH IN PUBLIC SPEAKING AND DIPLOMACY BUT ALSO THEIR ABILITY TO COLLABORATE, THINK CRITICALLY, AND ADDRESS GLOBAL CHALLENGES WITH CONFIDENCE AND PROFESSIONALISM.

THE POLIS MUN DIPLOMACY SUMMER CAMP 2026 WAS MORE THAN A SUMMER PROGRAM; IT WAS A TRANSFORMATIVE LEARNING EXPERIENCE THAT CONNECTED ASPIRING YOUNG LEADERS WITH ACCOMPLISHED DIPLOMATS, POLICYMAKERS, AND EXPERTS WHILE EQUIPPING THEM WITH PRACTICAL SKILLS IN DIPLOMACY, NEGOTIATION, AND LEADERSHIP. AS STUDENTS CONCLUDED THE WEEK WITH RENEWED CONFIDENCE AND A BROADER UNDERSTANDING OF INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS, THEY LEFT PREPARED TO BECOME THOUGHTFUL GLOBAL CITIZENS AND FUTURE CHANGEMAKERS.

EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING AND SUMMER CAMPS

APPLIED TRAINING, FIELD VISITS, LEGAL LEARNING, MUN SUMMER CAMPS, AND STUDENT LEADERSHIP



EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING AND SUMMER CAMPS

APPLIED TRAINING, FIELD VISITS, LEGAL LEARNING, MUN SUMMER CAMPS, AND STUDENT LEADERSHIP



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APPLIED TRAINING, FIELD VISITS, LEGAL LEARNING, MUN SUMMER CAMPS, AND STUDENT LEADERSHIP



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CELEBRATION WITH AUSTRALIAN AMBASSADOR

AS A CELEBRATION OF ABORIGINAL HERITAGE AND CULTURE WEEK, THE AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY IN BEIRUT RECENTLY HOSTED A SPECIAL COMMUNITY SCREENING OF THE ACCLAIMED SHORT FILM GREEN BUSH. HOSTED BY THE AUSTRALIAN AMBASSADOR, THE EVENT SERVED AS A UNIQUE CULTURAL BRIDGE, BRINGING TOGETHER LOCAL STUDENTS, COMMUNITY ORGANIZERS, AND PROMINENT INSTITUTIONAL FIGURES. THE GATHERING DREW A HIGHLY ENGAGED AUDIENCE, FEATURING REPRESENTATIVES FROM UNESCO ALONGSIDE THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE POLITICAL AND INTERNATIONAL STUDIES DEPARTMENT AT THE LEBANESE AMERICAN UNIVERSITY (LAU), REFLECTING THE EVENT'S SIGNIFICANCE ACROSS BOTH DIPLOMATIC AND ACADEMIC CIRCLES. DIRECTED BY WARWICK THORNTON, GREEN BUSH CENTERS ON AN INDIGENOUS COMMUNITY RADIO DJ WORKING A NIGHT SHIFT, BEAUTIFULLY ILLUSTRATING HOW A SIMPLE BROADCAST STATION CAN ACT AS A SANCTUARY, A LIFELINE, AND AN ANCHOR FOR THE COMMUNITY IT SERVES. BEYOND SIMPLY SHOWCASING AUSTRALIAN INDIGENOUS ART, THE FILM PROVIDED A POWERFUL SPRINGBOARD FOR A DEEPER DISCOURSE ON THE UNIVERSAL THEMES OF GRASSROOTS LEADERSHIP, SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY, AND RESILIENCE. IT HIGHLIGHTED HOW LOCALIZED, COMMUNITY-LED PLATFORMS ARE VITAL FOR MARGINALIZED GROUPS TO PROTECT THEIR HERITAGE AND ASSERT THEIR COLLECTIVE VOICE.

THE SCREENING NATURALLY TRANSITIONED INTO AN OPEN, THOUGHT-PROVOKING DIALOGUE BETWEEN THE AMBASSADOR, THE DISTINGUISHED GUESTS, AND THE STUDENT ATTENDEES. THE CONVERSATION EXPLORED THE PROFOUND PARALLELS BETWEEN THE EXPERIENCES OF INDIGENOUS AUSTRALIANS AND BROADER, GLOBAL EFFORTS TO FOSTER SOCIAL COHESION AND CIVIC EMPOWERMENT.

BY FRAMING ABORIGINAL CULTURE NOT JUST AS A HISTORICAL SUBJECT, BUT AS AN ACTIVE, LIVING BLUEPRINT FOR COMMUNITY SOLIDARITY, THE EVENING SUCCESSFULLY TURNED A FILM SCREENING INTO A MEANINGFUL REFLECTION ON SHARED HUMANITY, CONFLICT RESOLUTION, AND THE ENDURING POWER OF STORYTELLING.

CELEBRATION WITH AUSTRALIAN AMBASSADOR



VISIBILITY AND INSTITUTIONAL IMPACT

NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL VISIBILITY THROUGH MEDIA, ALUMNI, AND INSTITUTIONAL STORIES



PRESIDENT JOSEPH AOUN - POLIS ALUMNUS FEATURED ON THE LAU ALUMNI PODCAST 100/100



PRINCETON ALUMNI WEEKLY FEATURE: LIFE DURING WARTIME



LAU FEATURE HIGHLIGHTING STUDENT ACCOMPLISHMENTS AT INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES



POLIS STUDENTS TOOK PART IN THE Y-IMPACT PROJECT

EXCELLENCE. RESILIENCE. IMPACT.

LEBANESE AMERICAN UNIVERSITY | POLIS

Over the past two semesters, the POLIS Department has demonstrated that its foundation is built on excellence, resilience, and impact. The department remains committed to being a leading center for political science and international affairs education, advancing scholarship, student success, experiential learning, and meaningful public engagement.