



DIALOGUE

a project funded by the U.S. Embassy in Beirut

Outreach, Leadership and Empowerment

Lebanese American University

Program Handbook

2023 - 2024



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I. Preface

The Outreach, Leadership & Empowerment division at the Lebanese American University (LAU) in partnership with Loyola University in Chicago (LUC) is implementing the DIALOGUE project - a program funded by the U.S. Embassy in Beirut.

DIALOGUE is a program that engages Lebanese and American high school students on the principles of good governance, social justice, inclusiveness, leadership, and civic engagement. The program provides a platform for students from both countries to engage in meaningful debate that promotes mutual understanding and respect for cultural diversity. Participants develop cross-cultural communication skills, leadership qualities, and a sense of global citizenship. The program provides the opportunity to address social issues and promote positive social change. The program aims to foster a new generation of global leaders who are committed to creating a more just, inclusive, and equitable world.

II. Brief Overview

A. Structure

DIALOGUE consists of:

- 3 In-Person Training Sessions at LAU
- 3 Virtual Debate Sessions

III. Session Dates & Conferences

Training Sessions

	Dates	Location
Training Session I & II	Saturday, February 17, 2024	LAU Beirut
Training Session II & III	Sunday, February 18, 2024	LAU Beirut

Virtual Debate Sessions

Session/Details	Date	Location	Time
Debate Session I	Friday, March 8, 2024	Virtual	5:00 P.M. (Beirut time/9:00 a.m. Chicago time)
Debate Session II	Friday, March 15, 2024	Virtual	5:00 P.M. (Beirut time/9:00 a.m. Chicago time)
Debate Session III	Friday, March 22, 2024	Virtual	5:00 P.M. (Beirut time/9:00 a.m. Chicago time)

Session Dates & Locations:

- All three **in-person training sessions** will occur in the LAU Beirut Campus, on the dates indicated in the tables above.
- The **virtual debate sessions** will be held with students at Loyola University Chicago (LUC). LAU Beirut Campus will be available for students to access on the dates of the debates, however, attendance on campus is not mandatory.

Note:

- All participating students will be granted internet bundles sufficient to cover the virtual debates.
- Virtual debate sessions will occur in the afternoon on Fridays (Beirut Time) to accommodate for the 8-hour time difference between Beirut and Chicago.
- Students can participate in multiple programs under the auspices of the Outreach, Leadership, and Empowerment (OLE) Department at LAU. For example, a student can participate in both DIALOGUE and one of the LAU Simulation Models (MUN, MAL, MEU, or MGG) in the same academic year.

IV. Further Details

A. Participation Fees

The project is fully funded by the US Embassy, and therefore, all participating students are **exempt** from paying any fees.

B. Registration Capacity

- Due to capacity constraints, registration to DIALOGUE is on a first-come, first-serve basis. New students continue to be accepted until maximum capacity is reached.
- Any students registering after the program has reached maximum capacity will be placed on a **waitlist**. That is, if any student withdraws their participation from the program, the first student on the waitlist takes their place, and so on.
- Each school is required to register **one advisor** to be the main contact person of the school, relay material and information to students, and accompany the students to campus whenever necessary.

C. Attendance Policy

- Students are required to attend all in-person training sessions at LAU Beirut Campus and the three virtual debate sessions.
- If a student cannot attend a specific program session for rare, extreme, or uncontrolled measures, the **school** will need to send an email to ole@lau.edu.lb clarifying the case with the necessary documentation and evidence. Program Management will then look into the case and identify whether an exception can be granted or not for obtaining a certificate of participation..

D. Awards

All students that participate in DIALOGUE and abide by the attendance policy **in section C above**, will receive a **Certificate of Participation**.

After the conclusion of the debate sessions, students will be eligible to win three awards:

- **Best Research Award:** outstanding research, analysis, and knowledge on all technical aspects of the debate topic.
- **Best Speaker Award:** outstanding public speaking skills, eloquence, and overall delivery of ideas and arguments.
- **Leadership Award:** outstanding communication, diplomatic skills, conflict-resolution skills, and overall leadership and approach to the debate.

Note:

- The three awards are **not ranked**, as each award recognizes a unique aspect of the student's performance in the debate.
- A student **cannot win** multiple awards.

We sincerely thank you for your trust in our department and programs. We aim to provide nothing less than an unforgettable, educational, and informative experience for all participating students. We look forward to having your esteemed school and students participate in our new program.

Should you have any further questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact us at ole@lau.edu.lb or call our offices in LAU Beirut and Byblos at +961 1 786 456 **ext. 1115**.