AUB ATHLETICS

2024-25 ANNUAL REPORT

AUB ATHLETICS MISSION

To foster athletic excellence, student development, and lifelong well-being through inclusive, competitive, and high-quality sports programs. AUB Athletics is committed to empowering student athletes to reach their full potential, promoting integrity, teamwork, leadership, and sportsmanship, and cultivating a vibrant sporting culture that strengthens university pride and represents AUB with distinction nationally and internationally.

OVERVIEW

The 2024-2025 fiscal year underscored AUB Athletics' ability to sustain institutional excellence amid unprecedented geopolitical and economic instability. While our athletes delivered success on national and international stages, the financial environment demanded agile, disciplined, and strategic management to safeguard the university's athletic mission.

The Paradox of Success
Our recent national and international achievements have reinforced AUB's Culture of Excellence. Yet global competitive success brings localized financial pressures. To preserve our standing as a premier athletic institution, we are prioritizing three strategic investment pillars:

1. **Talent Retention**: Supporting our highly specialized coaching staff, the architects of our success - within a hyper inflationary environment.
2. **Modern Infrastructure**: Securing high performance equipment aligned with international competitive standards.
3. **Global Presence**: Sustaining the cost of international competition, a defining pillar of the AUB student athlete experience.

Navigating Operational Instability
Traditional year over year comparisons do not fully capture the realities of the 2024-2025 period. External disruptions, ranging from league suspensions to regional instability, have created an uneven and volatile expenditure landscape.
» Inflationary Pressures: Significant cost escalations across travel, customs, and athletic supplies.
» Operational Resilience: Despite these challenges, our focus remained on continuity, ensuring the "business of sport" advanced even in unpredictable conditions.

A Call for Strategic Investment
To secure AUB Athletics' competitive future, the budget must evolve alongside market realities. Supporting the is no longer just about maintenance; it is about strategic defense. Investing in athletics today is an investment in the university's global reputation, institutional resilience, and long term leadership. By addressing rising costs and talent retention now, we ensure that AUB continues to compete, and win, regardless of external volatility.

COMPETITIVE OUTCOMES

A YEAR OF PERFORMANCE AND PROGRESS

A. NATIONAL

AUB closed the year ranking 7th nationally among 17 participating teams from across Lebanon in the Lebanese Federation of University Sport (LFUS). 11 AUB teams placed in the top 5.



WOMEN'S & MEN'S SWIMMING - 1ST PLACE
Positioning AUB as a leading regional aquatic program



MEN'S RUGBY - 1ST PLACE
Secured the 24-25 Collegiate Championship Title

Women's Handball - 3rd
Men's Handball: 3rd
Men's Table Tennis - 3rd
Men's Badminton - 3rd

Archery - 1st, 2nd, 3rd
Women's Taekwondo - 2nd
Women's Football - 3rd
Men's Football - 3rd



TAEKWONDO - 2ND PLACE
Earned 2nd place in the University League, reflecting resilience and discipline



MEN'S & WOMEN'S TENNIS - 1ST PLACE
Claimed 1st place at the Lebanese Federation of University Sport (LFUS)



ARCHERY - 1ST PLACE
The athletes achieved a remarkable sweep with a full podium (1st, 2nd, and 3rd) finish at the Lebanese Indoor & Outdoor Collegiate Archery Championships



MEN'S HANDBALL - 3RD PLACE



MEN'S VOLLEYBALL - 2nd PLACE



WOMEN'S HANDBALL - 3rd PLACE



MEN'S TABLE TENNIS - 3rd PLACE



MEN'S BADMINTON - 3rd PLACE



TAMER ABOU OMAR
JIU-JITSU
»The Lebanese Federation of University Sport (LFUS) - 1st (U70kg)



JUAN SEIF & SAMI HARB
MUAY THAI
»The Lebanese Federation of University Sport (LFUS) - 1st

COMPETITIVE OUTCOMES

B. INTERNATIONAL

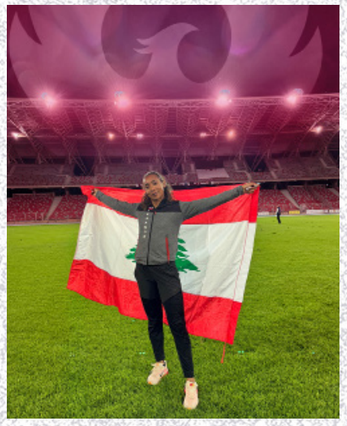
AUB student-athletes competed across regional and international stages, elevating the university's athletic presence beyond national competition.



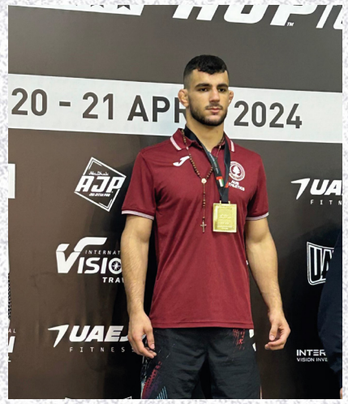
MARC ANTHONY IBRAHIM
TRACK & FIELD
» U23 Arab Championship, Egypt 2024 - 1st
» U23 West Asian Championship, Iraq 2024 - 1st
» Seiko Golden Grand Prix, Japan 2024 - 2nd
» Arab Championship, Algeria 2025 - 2nd (400mH)



AHMAD SAFIYA
SWIMMING
Basel International Competition (Switzerland)
» 50m Backstroke - 1st
» 100m Backstroke - 1st
» 200m Backstroke - 1st



AZIZA SBAITY
TRACK & FIELD
» Arab Championship, Algeria 2024 - 3rd (100m)
» NYRR Night, New York City 2025 - 3rd



CHARBEL FARAH
MMA
» Abu Dhabi AJP 2024 Tour - 1st (Amateurs 77kg)



MAHMOUD HACHICHO
JIU-JITSU
» Wrestling National Championship 2025 - 1st



DANA ANDARI
TAEKWONDO
» Arab Taekwondo Championships UAE, 2024 - 3rd
» Arab Taekwondo Championships UAE, 2025 - 3rd



TENNIS
» ACG International Sports Festival, Greece 2024 - 1st



WOMEN'S FOOTBALL
» ACG International Sports Festival, Greece 2024 - 3rd

ATHLETE NIGHT ACKNOWLEDGMENTS



TEAM OF THE YEAR
SWIMMING



COACH OF THE YEAR
MAZEN FATHALLA
SWIMMING



ATHLETE OF THE YEAR
MARC ANTHONY
TRACK & FIELD

ATHLETE NIGHT ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

CELEBRATING 31 STUDENT-ATHLETES AT ATHLETE NIGHT

1. Roberto Shehadeh	Track & Field Men	**17. Tara Hokayem**	Volleyball Women
2. Alexandra Ghanem	Track & Field Women	**18. Roy Aldarzi**	Table Tennis Men
3. Mohammad Fakih	Football Men	**19. Lea Assaf**	Table Tennis Women
4. Racha Annan	Football Women	**20. Karim El Tom**	Tennis Men
5. Rayan Daccache	Frisbee	**21. Lama Antoun**	Tennis Women
6. Adam Yehya	Rugby Men	**22. Ali Herz**	Archery Men
7. Lynn Deeba	Rugby Women	**23. Rawane Ghoussainy**	Archery Women
8. Firas Rammal	Football JV	**24. Hassan Zalzali**	Squash Men
9. Christa Nakhal	Cheerleading	**25. Mahmoud Hachicho**	Wrestling Men
10. Raphael Feghaly	Futsal Men	**26. Ali Lamaa**	Jiujitsu Men
11. Tatiana Nourallah	Futsal Women	**27. Ella Abi Farah**	Taekwondo Women
12. Karim Oueidat	Basketball Men	**28. Ahmad Safiya**	Swimming Men
13. Ola Tourbah	Basketball Women	**29. Wafaa Sablouh**	Swimming Women
14. Tarek Aylouch	Handball Men	**30. Jad Saadeh**	Badminton Men
15. Tatiana Nourallah	Handball Women	**31. Sacha Seif**	Badminton Women
16. Dany Srour	Volleyball Men		



WAFA SABLOUH
SWIMMING
MVP



ELLA ABI FARAH
TAEKWONDO
MVP



KARIM OUEIDAT
BASKETBALL
MVP



MOHAMMAD FAKIH
MEN'S FOOTBALL
MVP



LAMA ANTOUN | KARIM EL TOM
TENNIS
MVP



LYNN DEEBA
WOMEN'S RUGBY
MVP







ACADEMIC OUTCOMES

THE SCHOLAR-ATHLETE: ACADEMIC BALANCE

AUB student-athletes continue to demonstrate a strong ability to balance the rigors of university academics with the demands of competitive sports. The high average GPAs recorded this year reflect a disciplined approach to time management and a commitment to personal growth beyond the field.

ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE METRICS:

» Combined Annual GPA: 3.57
» Fall 2024 Term GPA: 3.69 (with 16 of 26 teams achieving above a 3.0)
» Spring 2025 Term GPA: 3.79 (with 16 of 26 teams achieving above a 3.0)

INDIVIDUAL ACADEMIC STANDOUTS:

» High Achievers: Over the course of the year, 140 student-athletes maintained a GPA of 3.0 or higher.
» Top Percentile: Notably, 50 student-athletes achieved a perfect 4.0 term GPA across the Fall and Spring semesters.

STUDENT-ATHLETE DEMOGRAPHICS:

This year, AUB Athletics supported 515 student-athletes (198 female and 317 male), reinforcing the university's commitment to athletic participation and student development.

ATHLETIC SCHOLARSHIPS & STUDENT SUPPORT

AUB Athletics remains committed to supporting student-athletes by providing financial assistance and recognizing athletic excellence, enabling them to pursue their academic and sporting ambitions.

During 2024-2025, the Athletic Scholarship Program received **60 applications**, with 12 qualified candidates and 9 shortlisted. **Four student-athletes were awarded full and Partial athletic scholarships:** Marc Anthony Ibrahim, Ahmad Safiah, Karim Oueidat, and Dana Al Andary.

AUB's scholarship and recognition framework includes the **President's Full Athletic Scholarship**, **Distinguished Athletic Scholarship**, **Partial Athletic Scholarships**, and **Special Athletic Awards** presented during the annual Athlete Night.

Academic year	Funding account	Students	Amount
2024-25	Presidential Athletic Scholarships	6	$78,967.33
2024-25	Distinguished Athletic Scholarships	2	$26,108.00
2024-25	Farid Saab Student Athlete Award	2	$5,000.00
2024-25	Abdul Kader Sbaiti Spirit Award	1	$1000.00
2024-25	Partial Athletic Scholarships	11	$44,000
Total		22	$155,075

HONORS AND RECOGNITION

AUB's athletic culture of excellence was further recognized through the awarding of the President's Athletic Scholarship to two outstanding student-athletes.

MARC ANTHONY IBRAHIM



2024-2025 awardee of the President's Athletic Scholarship at AUB

Ranked 55th worldwide and holder of national and regional records, Marc Anthony continues to set new standards for Lebanese Track & Field.
World Participation (2024): Achieved a semi-finalist position (Rank 23) at the World U20 Championships in Lima, Peru, where he set a National Record of 49.11s.

Regional Participation (2025-2024): Secured Gold medals at the Arab U23 Championships in Ismaïlia, Egypt (2024) and the West Asian Championships in Basra, Iraq (2024). More recently, he earned a Silver medal at the Arab Championships in Oran, Algeria (May 2025).

European Participation (2024): Demonstrated high-level consistency in international meetings, winning Gold at the Memorial Josefa Odlozila in Prague and the Hungarian GP Series in Budapest, while also securing Silver at the Seiko Golden Grand Prix in Tokyo.



HONORS AND RECOGNITION

Ahmad Safiya had a highly decorated 2024 swimming season, marked by multiple national records, international medals at the Arab Aquatics Championships, and a World University Championship title. He consistently broke records in both backstroke and individual medley events while representing Lebanon and the American University of Beirut (AUB).

AHMAD SAFIYA



2024-2025 awardee of the President's Athletic Scholarship at AUB

Arab Aquatics Championships - Cairo 2024
Gold - 200m Backstroke (Arab & Lebanese Record: 2:03.38)
Silver - 100m Backstroke (Lebanese Record: 56.51s)
Silver - 50m Backstroke (Lebanese Record: 26.01s)
Silver - 200m Individual Medley (2:07.22)
Bronze - 400m Relay

World Inter-University Championships - Barcelona
Gold - 50m Backstroke (World Inter-University Champion - 25.41s)
Gold - Mixed Relay
Bronze - 200m Individual Medley
Bronze - 50m Breaststroke
Bronze - 200m Freestyle

Lebanese National Championships 2024 (Short Course)
5 Gold Medals
National Records:
50m Backstroke (25.18s)
100m Backstroke (54.02s)
200m Backstroke (1:58.89)

Hungarian National Short Course Championships – Budapest
Lebanese Record - 200m Backstroke (1:57.22)
Lebanese Record - 50m Backstroke (24.76s)

International Stage
Competed at the World Aquatics Championships - Doha 2024

"The Presidential Full Athletic Scholarship has had a life-changing impact on my life, whether it is academically, athletically or even personally. Financially, it removed a huge burden from me and my family, because attending AUB, which has always been a dream, would simply not have been possible for me without this support. This scholarship gave me peace of mind and allowed me to fully dedicate myself to both my studies and my training. As an athlete, it means so much to know that my university believes in me and stands behind me as I represent both AUB and Lebanon at the highest level. Academically, it motivates me everyday to stay disciplined and keep pushing through all the challenges and balancing sports and university life. I could not thank AUB enough for the incredible support along the way. And more than anything this scholarship is a reminder that hard work, sacrifice, and perseverance do matter, and it inspires me to continue giving everything I have, both in the pool and in the classroom, in order to honor this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity."



KEY LEADERSHIP MOVES



MAZEN FATHALLA
AUB VARSITY SWIMMING

Coach Mazen Fathallah played a pivotal role in AUB Swimming's achievements this season. Through consistent leadership and dedication, the team secured 1st place at the Lebanese Federation of University Sport (LFUS) Championship and multiple podium finishes at the ACG International Sports Festival in Greece, reflecting their exceptional contribution to the program's sustained success.

"My experience with the AUB swimming team has been an incredible journey of growth, teamwork, and perseverance. From intense training sessions to nail-biting competitions, we've formed an unbreakable bond as a team. As I look to the future, I'm excited to see the team continue to thrive and dominate in the pool. With talented athletes and a supportive community, I have no doubt that the AUB swimming team will keep dominating the championships."



RIMA AZAB
AUB ATHLETICS SUPERVISOR

An Athletic Supervisor at the AUB Charles Hostler Student Center and a cornerstone of AUB's varsity program. Rima works closely with athletes, coaches, and the Lebanese Sports Federation to ensure every season runs seamlessly, from setting training schedules to coordinating tournaments, managing travel logistics, and coordinating international championship participation.

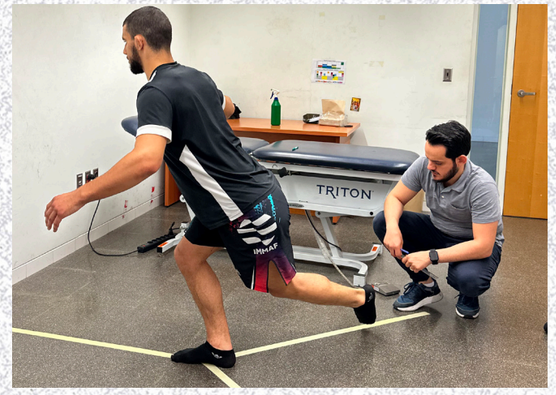
"My experience at AUB as a sports coordinator has been both enriching and transformative. It has allowed me to develop strong organizational and communication skills while working closely with students, coaches, and various departments. Through managing events, coordinating teams, and handling daily operations, I have gained valuable experience in leadership, problem-solving, and teamwork. Additionally, my role has provided me with the opportunity to communicate and coordinate with both national and international universities and organizations, which has broadened my professional perspective and strengthened my cross-cultural communication skills. Overall, this experience has significantly contributed to my professional growth and enhanced my ability to work under pressure and deliver results efficiently"

CULTURE OF EXCELLENCE

C. WELLNESS AND ATHLETE SUPPORT

The Hidden Engine Behind Success

AUB strengthened its holistic wellness model, integrating personalized nutrition plans through the Diet Clinic and evidence-based treatment and recovery protocols with the in-house physiotherapist, recognizing that wellness is the foundation of success.























ATHLETICS FACILITY PROJECTS

COMPLETED IN 2024-25

This year, we made a strategic investment in infrastructure renewal and environmental sustainability, enhancing the quality and global standard of our facilities while driving down long-term operational costs and strengthening our commitment to responsible stewardship of resources.

» Energy Independence
Completed the installation of a comprehensive Solar Photovoltaic System on the roofs of both the Gym and Pool buildings, significantly reducing reliance on diesel generators as well as the national grid and lowering the university's carbon footprint.

» Water Sustainability: Integrated a new Reverse Osmosis (RO) System, successfully weaning the Hostler Center from external water purchases and ensuring a self-sufficient, high-quality water supply for the center.

» Nadim Khalaf Tennis Courts
Fully restored the playing experience through surface repainting and fence reinforcement.

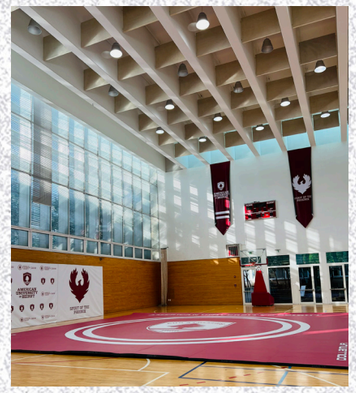


» Greenfield and Track
Enhanced the varsity experience with a new score-board and team shelters. Critical infrastructure work included building a retaining wall and replacing drainage canal systems to prevent future water damage, alongside a full professional brushing and rubber infill for the turf



» Pool building and Pool deck
Modernized the swimmer experience by replacing locker area ventilation and installing splash guards and individual mixers for showers. Aesthetic and functional upgrades include a full repaint and the installation of high-impact branding visuals

» Fitness & Indoor Courts
Conducted a comprehensive renovation of all shower rooms and lockers. Replaced the main scoreboard to maintain a premium training environ-ment.



FINANCIAL OUTCOMES

FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP: RESILIENCE AMID GLOBAL VOLATILITY

The 2024-2025 fiscal year focused on maintaining continuity of our athletic programs amid significant regional and economic headwinds. While our teams compete well within the local and regional context, the financial pressure to sustain this level of activity is substantial.
The current economic environment, characterized by high inflation and fluctuating costs for travel, equipment, and specialized personnel, has made budget management a primary challenge. Our goal this year was not just growth, but the protection of our current standards. We focused on maximizing our limited resources to ensure that our student-athletes have the equipment and coaching necessary to remain competitive in the leagues where we currently participate.

The Paradox of Success

Our recent national and international victories have solidified AUB's "Culture of Excellence." However, global success brings localized financial pressures. To maintain our status as a premier athletic hub, we are focused on three strategic investment pillars:
1. Talent Retention: Ensuring our specialized coaching staff - the architects of our success-are supported in a hyper-inflationary environment.
2. Modern Infrastructure: Procuring high-performance equipment to remain competitive with international standards.
3. Global Presence: Funding the logistics of international competition, which remains a vital component of the AUB student-athlete experience.

Navigating Operational Instability

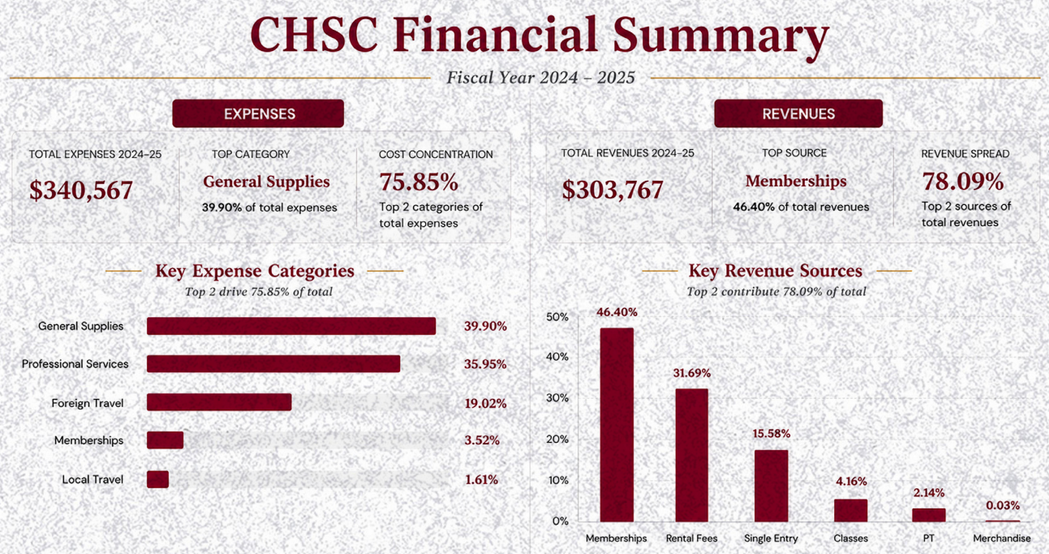
Standard year-over-year comparisons (2024 vs. 2025) do not tell the full story. External interruptions - ranging from league suspensions to regional conflict - have created a volatile expenditure map.
» The Inflationary Challenge: We have faced soaring costs in travel, customs, and athletic supplies.
» Strategic Efficiency: Despite these hurdles, our focus has remained on operational continuity, ensuring that the "business of sport" never slows down, even when the environment becomes unpredictable.

A Call for Strategic Investment

To safeguard AUB's competitive future, the budget must evolve alongside the market. Supporting AUB Athletics is no longer just about "maintenance"; it is about strategic defense. Investing in our athletic budget today is a direct investment in the university's global reputation. By addressing the rising costs of competition and talent retention now, we ensure that AUB continues to lead, compete, and win, regardless of the external climate.

ANNUAL OPERATING REVENUES,
(includes total operating revenues, CHSC)
FY24-25
» **$303,767**

ANNUAL OPERATING EXPENSES,
(includes total operating expenses, Athletics)
FY24-25
» **$340,567**





“OUR FOCUS IS NOT ON HAVING WINNING PROGRAMS, WE ARE WINNING BIG ALREADY AND MOST OF IT WILL COME IN INDIVIDUAL SPORTS AS WELL AS TEAM SPORTS. IT IS ON BUILDING SUCCESSFUL PROGRAMS, AS THE LEGENDARY COACH, JOHN WOODEN ONCE SAID: WINNING IS LIKE YOUR REPUTATION SUCCESS IS LIKE YOUR CHARACTER...”

Dr. Tarek Abou Omar, Athletics Director





AMERICAN UNIVERSITY OF BEIRUT