

AUB libraries partnership with the Graduate Council, Writing Center and other departments on campus

AMICAL 2019

29 March, 2019 – 1 April, 2019
American University in Cairo



American University of Beirut

- ✓ Established in 1866
- ✓ More than 9,000 students (AY: 2018-19)
- ✓ 1596 graduate students in (AY: 2018-19)
- ✓ 50% females; 50% males / 86 nationalities
- ✓ Over 90 master's and doctoral programs
- ✓ 850 FT faculty members (PhD holders from leading universities) / More than 30 nationalities
- ✓ 64,000 alumni in over 120 countries / Holding key positions





- *University Libraries* have a very active instruction program;
- *Writing Center* regularly **offers workshops** on a wide range of academic writing topics and was looking for ways to help students find relevant and reliable resources for their papers;
- *Graduate Council* is looking for a proactive role in graduate students' academic life.


✓ *Prior to Spring 2014 each units worked individually on supporting research at the university.*

University Libraries is Holding a Workshop On

Thesis Writing Services

 **Discover** library resources in your subject area

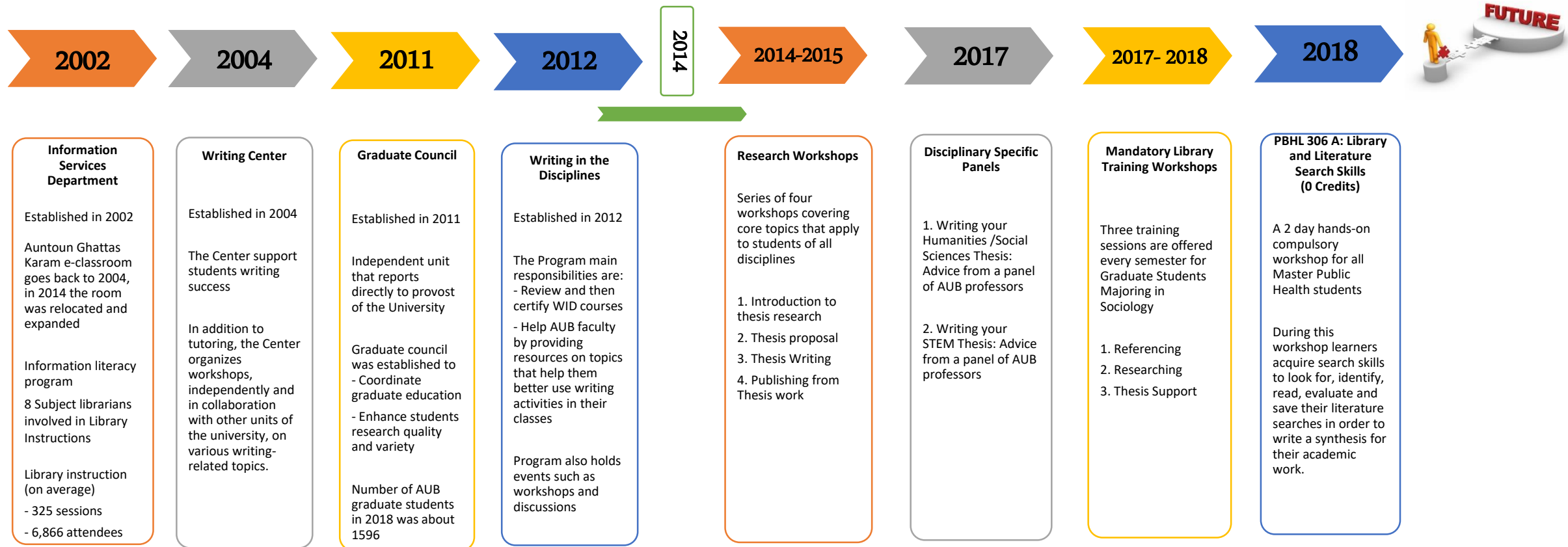
 Use **RefWorks** to: Import, organize and generate citations for your papers

 **Learn** about AUB thesis formatting and submission to the libraries

To register for one of the sessions, visit this link:
<http://aub.edu.lb.libcal.com>

Wednesday, April 16, 2014 / 11:00am - 12:00pm
Thursday, April 17, 2014 / 3:00pm - 4:00pm
Antoun Ghattas Karam E-Classroom - Jafet Library

TimeLine



Collaborative work

The presentation will summarize the collaborative work between the University Libraries, Graduate Council and Writing Center at AUB. Joining efforts started with a series of four core graduate workshops to all graduate students at AUB and expanded to two disciplinary specific workshops.

- ✓ *How we started this initiative*
- ✓ *What we learned from this experience*
- ✓ *How we expanded this collaboration to other departments on campus*

AUB
American University of Beirut
Graduate Council
University Libraries
The Writing Center

Workshop 3 in the Graduate Research, Thesis, and Publishing Series:
Writing the Thesis: Breaking it Down

- What is the structure of a thesis and how do you break down the work to make it manageable?
- What tools and resources are available at AUB to help you?
- What can you do to prepare yourself to write and research your thesis?

2018
TUESDAY
March, 6
2:00pm - 3:30pm

College Hall,
Auditorium B1

Thesis workshop series

- 1 Introduction to Graduate-Level Writing: Research & Writing
- 2 Before the Thesis: Preparing your Literature Review and Proposal
- 3 **Writing the Thesis: Breaking it Down**
- 4 After the Thesis: Getting Published

Specialized workshops ▼

- 1 Writing Your Humanities/Social Sciences Thesis: Advice from a Panel of Professors
- 2 Writing Your STEM Thesis: Advice from a Panel of Professors

How this Collaboration Started

2014

University Libraries

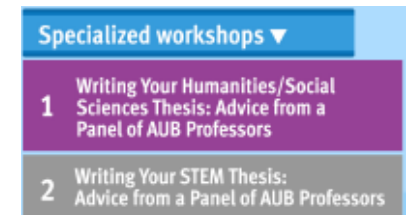
Graduate Council
Advance | Discover | Impact

The Writing Center

Worked together to co-develop a **yearlong program** for graduate students in research, thesis and publishing.

In Fall 2014–2015 they initiated the “*Research and Thesis Writing Workshop Series*” catered for AUB Graduate Students.

Currently the workshop series consists of six workshops



Research and Thesis Writing Core Workshops re-run

The program started with a series of four core workshops offered through out the year: 2 in each semester

GradEx Explore | Experience | Excel

Graduate Council
Student Wellness Outreach
University Libraries
The Writing Center

Workshop 1 in the Graduate Research, Thesis, and Publishing Series:

Introduction to Graduate-Level Writing: Researching and Writing

- What are the expectations of writing and research at the graduate level?
- What tools and resources are available at AUB to help you?
- What can you do to prepare yourself to write and research in graduate school?

2018
Thursday, October 11
11:30am - 1:00pm

West Hall, Auditorium A

Thesis workshop series ▾

- Introduction to Graduate-Level Writing: Research & Writing**
- Before the Thesis: Preparing your Proposal
- Writing the Thesis: Breaking it Down
- Designing and Delivering Research Presentations
- After the Thesis: Getting Published

Specialized workshops(TBA) ▾

- Writing Your Humanities/Social Sciences Thesis: Advice from a Panel of Professors
- Writing Your STEM Thesis: Advice from a Panel of Professors

To register for the first workshop in the series: www.tiny.cc/gradexGRTPS1
For more info: email us at jftref@aub.edu.lb, or call the ext. 2621/29

GradEx Explore | Experience | Excel

Graduate Council
Institutional Review Board
University Libraries
The Writing Center

Workshop 2 in the Graduate Research, Thesis, and Publishing Series:

Before the Thesis: Preparing your Literature Review and Proposal

- What do you have to do to write a proposal?
- What tools and resources are available at AUB to help you write and research ethically?
- What can you do to prepare yourself to write and research the literature review section of your proposal?

2018
WEDNESDAY, November, 14
1:00pm - 2:30pm

West Hall, Auditorium A

Thesis workshop series ▾

- Introduction to Graduate-Level Writing: Research & Writing
- Before the Thesis: Preparing your Proposal**
- Writing the Thesis: Breaking it Down
- Designing and Delivering Research Presentations
- After the Thesis: Getting Published

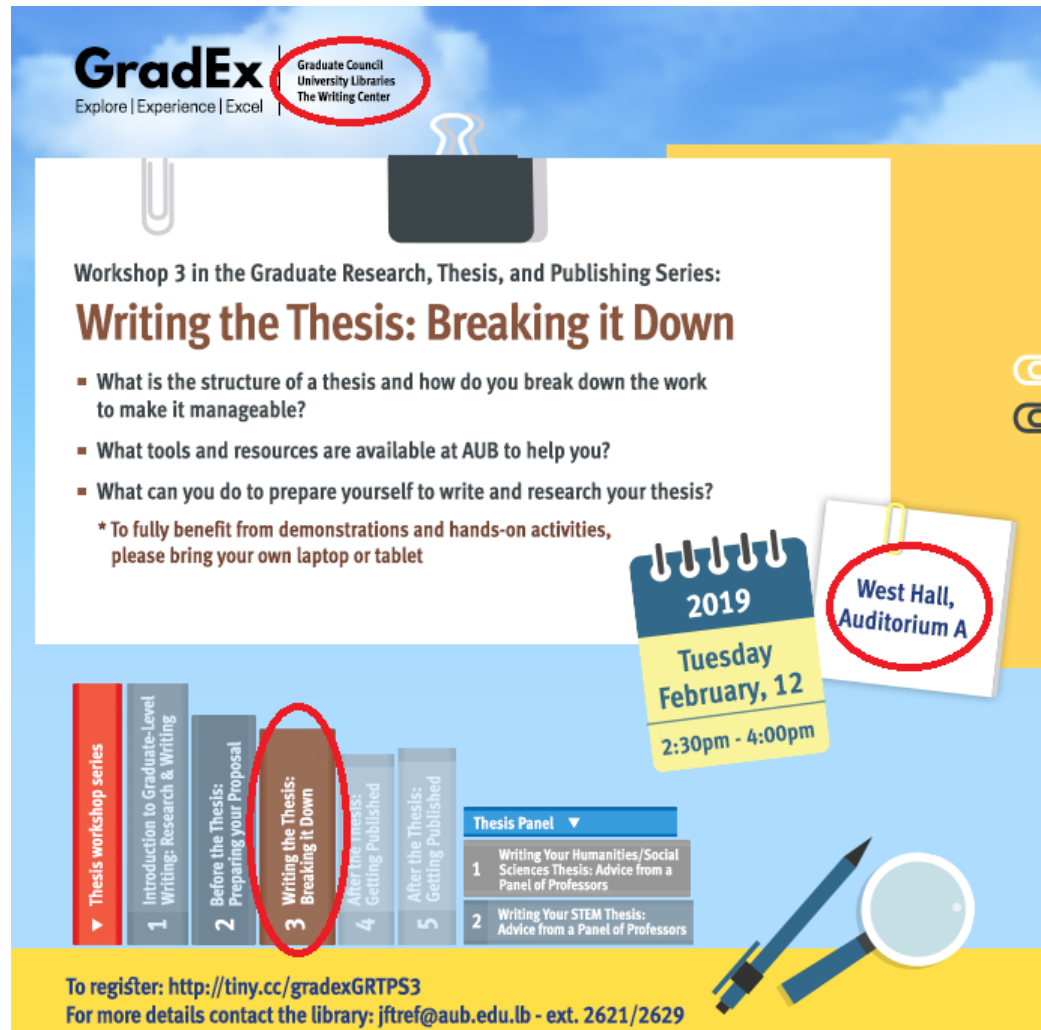
Thesis Panels ▾

- Writing Your Humanities/Social Sciences Thesis: Advice from a Panel of Professors
- Writing Your STEM Thesis: Advice from a Panel of Professors

To register: www.tiny.cc/gradexGRTPS2
For more information: email: jftref@aub.edu.lb or call ext. 2621/29

Research and Thesis Writing Core Workshops

The program started in fall 2014 –2015 with a series of four core workshops – 2 workshops per semester



GradEx Graduate Council University Libraries The Writing Center
Explore | Experience | Excel

Workshop 3 in the Graduate Research, Thesis, and Publishing Series:
Writing the Thesis: Breaking it Down

- What is the structure of a thesis and how do you break down the work to make it manageable?
- What tools and resources are available at AUB to help you?
- What can you do to prepare yourself to write and research your thesis?

* To fully benefit from demonstrations and hands-on activities, please bring your own laptop or tablet

2019
Tuesday
February, 12
2:30pm - 4:00pm
West Hall, Auditorium A

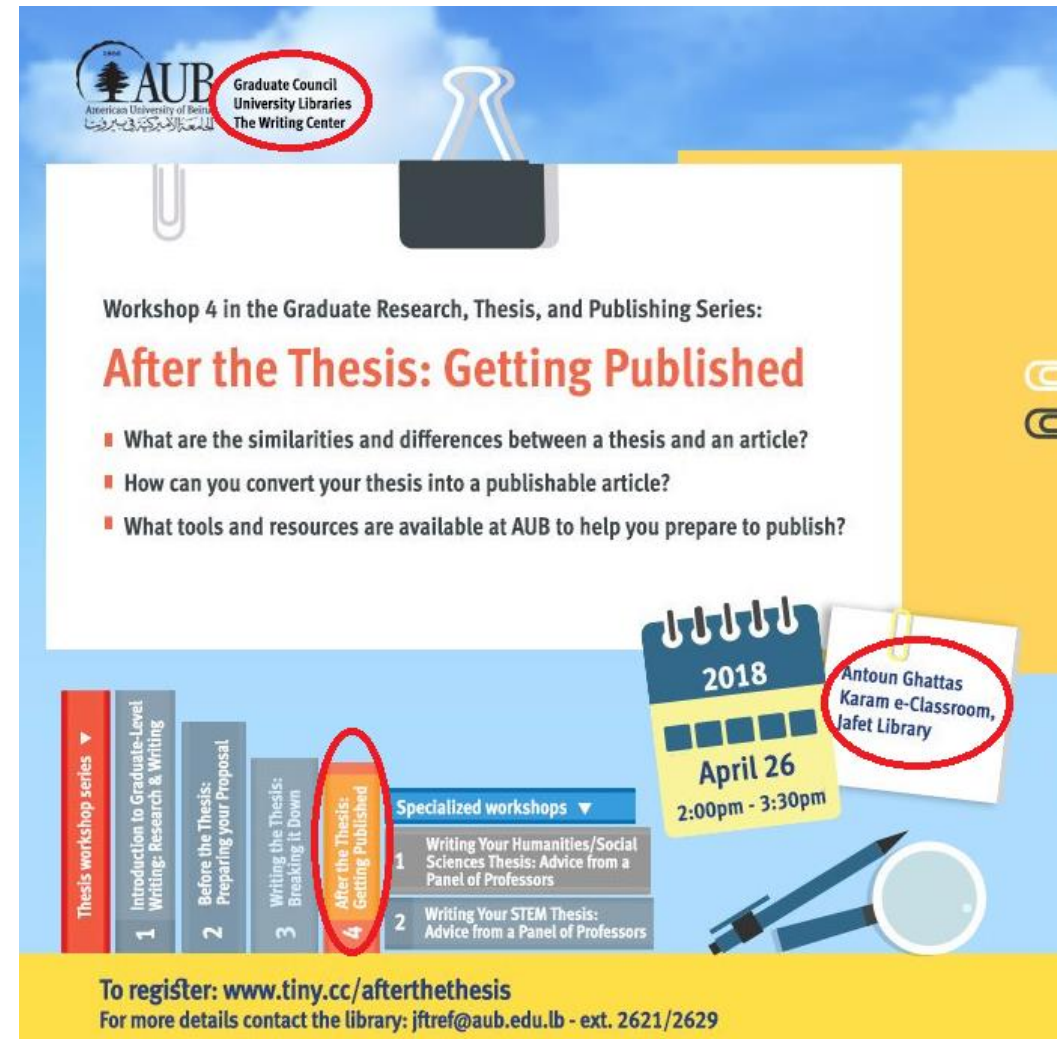
Thesis workshop series

- 1 Introduction to Graduate-Level Writing: Research & Writing
- 2 Before the Thesis: Preparing your Proposal
- 3 Writing the Thesis: Breaking it Down
- 4 After the Thesis: Getting Published
- 5 After the Thesis: Getting Published

Thesis Panel

- 1 Writing Your Humanities/Social Sciences Thesis: Advice from a Panel of Professors
- 2 Writing Your STEM Thesis: Advice from a Panel of Professors

To register: <http://tiny.cc/gradexGRTPS3>
For more details contact the library: jftref@aub.edu.lb - ext. 2621/2629



AUB American University of Beirut Graduate Council University Libraries The Writing Center

Workshop 4 in the Graduate Research, Thesis, and Publishing Series:
After the Thesis: Getting Published

- What are the similarities and differences between a thesis and an article?
- How can you convert your thesis into a publishable article?
- What tools and resources are available at AUB to help you prepare to publish?

2018
April 26
2:00pm - 3:30pm
Antoun Ghattas Karam e-Classroom, Jafet Library

Thesis workshop series

- 1 Introduction to Graduate-Level Writing: Research & Writing
- 2 Before the Thesis: Preparing your Proposal
- 3 Writing the Thesis: Breaking it Down
- 4 After the Thesis: Getting Published

Specialized workshops

- 1 Writing Your Humanities/Social Sciences Thesis: Advice from a Panel of Professors
- 2 Writing Your STEM Thesis: Advice from a Panel of Professors

To register: www.tiny.cc/afterthethesis
For more details contact the library: jftref@aub.edu.lb - ext. 2621/2629

Specialized Workshops– Thesis Panels

GradEx Graduate Council University Libraries The Writing Center
Explore | Experience | Excel

Specialized workshop 1: Graduate Research, Thesis, and Publishing Series

Writing Your Humanities/Social Sciences Thesis: Advice from a Panel of AUB Professors

Hoda Baytiyeh (Education, FAS)
Kirsten Scheid (Anthropology, FAS)
Marco Bardus (Health Promotion and Community Health, FHS)
Raymond Brassier, (Philosophy, FAS)
Rana Issa (English, FAS)
Moderator: Dr. Erin Zimmerman (Director of the Writing Center)

2018
Wednesday,
October 24th
1:00pm - 2:30pm

College Hall-
Auditorium B1

Thesis Panels

- 1 Writing Your Humanities/Social Sciences Thesis: Advice from a Panel of Professors
- 2 Writing Your STEM Thesis: Advice from a Panel of Professors

Thesis workshop series

- 1 Introduction to Graduate-Level Writing: Research & Writing
- 2 Before the Thesis: Preparing your Proposal
- 3 Writing the Thesis: Breaking it Down
- 4 Designing and Delivering Research Presentations
- 5 After the Thesis: Getting Published

To register: www.tiny.cc/gradexHSSTPanel
For additional information, call extensions 2621/2629 or email: jftref@aub.edu.lb

GradEx Graduate Council University Libraries The Writing Center
Explore | Experience | Excel

Specialized workshop 2: Graduate Research, Thesis, and Publishing Series

Writing Your STEM Thesis: Advice from a Panel of AUB Professors

Maya Abou Zeid (Civil Engineering, MSFEA)
Fatima Abu Salem (Computer Science, FAS)
Ali Bazzi (Electrical and Computer Engineering, MSFEA)
Hiba El-Hajj (Microbiology and Immunology, FM)
Lara Halaoui (Chemistry, FAS)
Mike Osta (Biology, FAS)
Moderator: Dr. Amy Zenger (Acting Director of the Writing Center)

2019
Tuesday,
March 5
2:30pm - 4:00pm

MSFEA,
Masri Building,
ELH

Thesis Panels

- 1 Writing Your Humanities/Social Sciences Thesis: Advice from a Panel of Professors
- 2 Writing Your STEM Thesis: Advice from a Panel of Professors

Thesis workshop series

- 1 Introduction to Graduate-Level Writing: Research & Writing
- 2 Before the Thesis: Preparing your Proposal
- 3 Writing the Thesis: Breaking it Down
- 4 Designing and Delivering Research Presentations
- 5 After the Thesis: Getting Published

To register: <http://tiny.cc/gradexSTEMPanel>
For additional information, call extensions 2621/2629 or email: jftref@aub.edu.lb

Research and Thesis Writing Workshop Series

Currently the workshop series consists of six workshops and was established to introduce continuing graduate students to key concepts in research and academic writing, and to inform them about academic support available at AUB.

Meet every summer to assess the whole program



Content of each workshop



Surveys



Announcement designs



Dates, Times and Venues



Possibility of collaborating with other units as needed

Tasks distribution

Graduate Council

- ✓ Contact AUB professors for panel discussion
- ✓ Invite other contributors
- ✓ Email announcement to graduate students

University Libraries

- ✓ Announcement designs
- ✓ Online registration forms
- ✓ Survey forms

Writing Center

- ✓ Monitor of Panel discussions

Before the Thesis: Preparing your Literature Review and Proposal

Major (required)

At what stage are you in your graduate research and writing process? (required)

Make a selection ▼

How did you find out about this workshop? (select all that apply) (required)

- Email from Graduate Council
- From a faculty member
- From a friend
- Poster on campus
- Social media
- Other

Q1

Which of the presented concepts did you find most helpful to your literature review and proposal? (required)

Q2

How helpful was the presentation by the Graduate Council to your graduate work? (required)

Not Helpful Somewhat Helpful Extremely Helpful

How helpful was the presentation by the Institutional Review Board to your graduate work? (required)

Not Helpful Somewhat Helpful Extremely Helpful

How helpful was the presentation by the University Libraries to your graduate work? (required)

Not Helpful Somewhat Helpful Extremely Helpful

How helpful was the presentation by the Writing Center to your graduate work? (required)

Not Helpful Somewhat Helpful Extremely Helpful

Q3

How likely are you to approach the Graduate Council in the future for help? (required)

Not Likely Uncertain Very Likely

How likely are you to approach the Institutional Review Board in the future for help? (required)

Not Likely Uncertain Very Likely

How likely are you to approach the University Libraries in the future for help? (required)

Not Likely Uncertain Very Likely

How likely are you to approach the Writing Center in the future for help? (required)

Not Likely Uncertain Very Likely

Q4

Based on the information presented today, what will be your next step in the project(s) you are currently working on? (required)

Additional comments or suggestions

Majority knew about workshops through email from Graduate Council

Q2. Majority found that presentations by the different units were helpful

Q3. Majority will very likely approach the Library and the Writing Center



Assessments done after the session have shown a high percentage of satisfaction

Students comments and suggestions

My project does not involve human subject so I didn't need all the IRB presentation

Overall very helpful presentations. Thank you !

More careful explanation of the stages of thesis proposal

Please Keep These workshops On

Elaborate more about searching techniques for relevant articles using library database

Thank you for organizing workshops like this and showing your care for the graduate students who need guidance.

Though I see the graduate council has split thesis writing for Humanities and STEM fields, having a person from each field to explain proposal writing for each domain might be helpful. Though, for proposal writing, which is very early, this might not be essential. Thank you for the presentation and guidance. This is very beneficial.



Collaborations with Department of Sociology, Anthropology & Media Studies

How it started?

**Librarians contacted the
Graduate Student coordinator**
(Department of Sociology, Anthropology and Media Studies)

Proposed a workshop series

**Proposal approved
and made compulsory**

Implementation

Twice a year (Fall & Spring)

Three training sessions
Once a week over three consecutive weeks

Receive a certificate of completion
(after attending all three sessions)

How to make better use of the this opportunity?

*Program was run for three consecutive semesters
(Spring 2018, Fall 2018-2019, and Spring 2019)*



*Reach out to all students and
enhance students research skills*

*Some students did not attend all
recommended training workshops*

Program assessed and reviewed (Spring 2019)

- **Once a year (Spring semester)**
- **Run in conjunctions with the graduate
research methods course**

Certificate of Completion – Sample

Certificate of Completion

This is to certify that

Nabila Shehabeddine

Has attended the three library training sessions
Referencing and Documentation (February 16, 2018)
Researching the Library (February 23, 2018)

Thesis Support (March 2, 2018)
Held in Antoun Ghattas Karam E-Classroom – Jafet Library

March 16, 2018



Nabila Shehabeddine
Research and Instruction Librarian
University Libraries

Collaborations with Faculty of Health Sciences

Long history of collaboration between librarians and faculty of health sciences. Faculty member from the working group contacted the library and the writing center to discuss the possibility of developing workshops on library research skills, literature review and writing proposal.

2 day hands-on compulsory workshop
along with *Research Methods* course

Faculty of Health Sciences	University Libraries	Writing Center
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Center for Public Health Practice
Faculty of Health Sciences

PBHL 306 A: Library and Literature Search Skills (0 Credits)
Syllabus

A variety of learning methods used and hands on applications, group work, homework, as well as individual appointments with a librarian

Exercise:

- Define search terms
- Use search terms to find 2-3 sources of different material types

HW: Schedule an appointment with a librarian



University Libraries SearchALL: books, journals, articles, course reserves, and more...

Collaborations with Faculty of Health Sciences

HW: Schedule an appointment with a librarian

PBHL 306 A: LIBRARY AND LITERATURE SEARCH SKILLS – LIBRARY VISIT

49 students scheduled an appointment with a librarian

Questions received	Students
APA citations and EndNote	32
Researching / Finding articles on a topic or on Lebanon	15
Find synonyms and related terms	7
Brain storm and Narrow topic	5
Subject vs Keyword (Boolean)/ Basic vs Advanced searches	3
Search All vs Google scholar	1

What we learned from Joining Efforts

Accomplish common goals

- Enhance students search and writing skills
- Help eliminate confusion and create better connection between writing and research for students

Increase attendance

- Choose the right promotion channel
- Cross-publicize events (*email, social media, posters, word-of-mouth ...*)

Provide mutual benefits

- Increase awareness of partners work in other departments or units
- Partners teach and learn from each others
- Partners test ideas and get feedback from one another
- Present to a larger audience



Encourage the Expansion of the program

- Plan and organize additional specialized workshops
- Increase openness to other potential collaborations with other campus units and departments

What Next?

Expand these activities to other potential collaborations with other departments

In Fall 2019 – 2020 the library is initiating /organizing a series of specialized workshops with

- ✓ Education Department
- ✓ Psychology Department

Prepared by

Nabila Shehabeddine

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Research and Academic Collaboration Services Department
Jafet Library – American University of Beirut

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