Going through the training was very beneficial as it allowed us to acquire new skills and to be introduced to the Ministry of Finance. In addition, it created an opportunity to familiarize ourselves with the work environment, the needed skills and the expected behavior for our future professional career.

George and Fadia, Internship Program 2007

The training program was exceptional. My perception of the Ministry of Finance and especially its staff was transformed as we sensed the youthful spirit and disciplined work at the ministry.

Maher and Marilyn, Internship Program 2007
Empowering Youth

Recognizing the importance of empowering youth to be informed future leaders, the Ministry of Finance has led a number of initiatives aimed at engaging youth in economic decision making and raising awareness of the role and functions of the ministry.

**BADER**

BADER Young Entrepreneurs Program is a community of inspired and committed young business leaders engaged in supporting young entrepreneurs and promoting small businesses. BADER works nationwide with several partners to provide training and support to the next generation of young entrepreneurial leaders, and introduce new financial tools to encourage Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs). BADER Young Entrepreneurs Program is a joint initiative of the Ministry of Finance and forty young Lebanese business leaders.

**Objectives**

- Reduce brain drain
- Lower unemployment
- Promote excellence
- Foster entrepreneurial spirit

**Year of launch** 2005

**Achievements**

- Closed the Building Block Equity Fund, focusing on Lebanese and Lebanese related SMEs in July 2007 at $17 million
- Participated in the MIT Arab Business Plan Competition (2006-2007)
- Launched a mentoring contest in fashion, technology, agro-food and design

**YOUTH ECONOMIC FORUM**

The Youth Economic Forum is a partnership of youth student groups and NGOs creating a platform for dialogue on economic and social issues among youth, experts and policymakers from various backgrounds. The forum was based on an initiative spearheaded by the Ministry of Finance and forty young Lebanese business leaders.

**Objectives**

- Teach students about Lebanese tax system and debt management processes
- Inform students about reform and modernization projects at the Ministry of Finance
- Attract qualified young candidates to the Ministry

**Join the Team!**

The Ministry of Finance launched a communication campaign for the 2006/2007 recruitment session by the Civil Service Board to attract the brightest candidates. The communication campaign included the issuance of a guide entitled “Join the Ministry of Finance Team,” which addresses the key role played by the Ministry of Finance in the national economy, as well as the ministry’s internal organisation and recruitment system.

**Objectives**

- Attract qualified young candidates to the Ministry

**Year of campaign** 2006/2007

**Achievements**

The 2007 cohort of new recruits was competitively selected. They were welcomed into the Ministry of Finance team on August 27th, 2007 with a reception hosted by Minister Jihad Azour, with Carlos Ghosn, President and CEO of Nissan and Renault as the keynote speaker.

**GET TO KNOW THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE**

“Yourth: Get to Know the Ministry of Finance” is a one-day orientation program aimed at introducing university students to the role and functions of the Ministry of Finance. The program includes training on the functions of the Ministry of Finance, its vision, the Lebanese tax system, and the Ministry’s debt management policy. The orientation also includes field visits.

**Dialogues with the Ministry of Finance**

The Minister of Finance has been accessible to youth through dialogue in partnership with LebYouth (an inter-university group), and the American University of Beirut’s Economic Students Society.

The Minister met with students on several occasions in Question & Answer sessions based on the government’s reform program and the role of youth in this regard.

LebYouth has been appointed as a Junior Advisory Board to the Ministry of Finance, with the objective of providing the Ministry with feedback on Lebanese economic issues, and the youth’s concerns and aspirations.

**Objectives**

- Facilitate dialogue between youth and the Ministry of Finance
- Discuss the role of youth in the reform program

**Year of launch** 2001

**Number of participants in 2006** 253 students from six Lebanese universities

**Number of participants in 2007** 38 selected; 28 completed internship

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