



Address of Rev. Fr. Prof. George Hobeika

**For the Signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between USEK and
Cambridge Assessment English**

November 21, 2017

Distinguished audience,

It is such a pleasure to be having you all here today at the Holy Spirit University of Kaslik (USEK) for the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between USEK and Cambridge Assessment English.

Towards Excellence... is the moto chosen for this event today.

By signing this pioneering MOU between USEK and the renowned Cambridge Assessment English, USEK establishes itself one more time as a hub for continuous efforts and endeavors that aim at combining what would sharpen the skills of its students and what would promote their **excellence** when they leave the walls of the University and explore the wonders of the employability world.

In the last few years, excellence has been the end as well as the driving force at USEK. And as it is widely said “excellence is the gradual result of always striving to do better”. Here, at USEK, we have been striving throughout the years to provide our learning community, and namely our students, with what would mark their university journey and distinguish them later on as people of cultural, communicative and linguistic diversity. In order to do so, “and to do better”, USEK relies mainly on two pillars of strength:

First, **anticipation** – USEK is keen to anticipate what would be most beneficial for its students, and would find joy **and challenge** in planning for their future by adopting **cutting-edge teaching methods and techniques** and by adhering to any needed change, that sometimes might require another change, and the list would go on.

Second, **commitment** – “Commitment is an act, not a word” as per the famous philosopher Jean Paul Sartre and the MOU we are signing today is not limited to academic exchange and cooperation, but it is rather **a signature** of our commitment towards our students; our commitment to join hands with local and international entities, institutions, universities... to help our students pursue knowledge and personal advancement that would be later on translated into long-lasting learning, intellectual curiosity and top-notch performance wherever they are.

These are the key factors that would lead us **towards excellence while having excellence as the starting point all the way!** And here I cannot but think of Aristotle's famous saying: "We are what we repeatedly do. Excellence, then, is not an act, but a habit."

I would like to close my remarks by expressing a heartfelt word of thanks to our partner Cambridge Assessment English, represented today by its Regional Commercial Head, Mr. Ramiz Haddadin and the accompanying delegation; our collaboration will be but a move forward in the "doing better" process and in bringing our students to the vanguard of English teaching. I would like also to thank Professor Nicole Chalhoub, Dean of our Faculty of Letters, and her team, for being committed to excellence and for working tirelessly to promote it on campus.

Distinguished audience,

Our students are front and central at USEK, and I believe they will see fruition of USEK and Cambridge Assessment English efforts in the results that the MOU we are signing today will achieve in the years to come.

Thank you!