

# The Impact and Legacy of U.S. Government Shutdowns:

## Navigating Fiscal Turbulence

**How to cite:** Badawi, H. (2024). *The Impact and Legacy of U.S. Government Shutdowns: Navigating Fiscal Turbulence* Indian Strategic Studies Forum (ISSF). <https://issf.org.in/2024/03/the-impact-and-legacy-of-u-s-government-shutdowns-navigating-fiscal-turbulence/>

The United States has recently found itself grappling with its 22nd government shutdown in the past 50 years, a disconcerting trend that is escalating in frequency. This latest crisis emerged just four months after the nation narrowly avoided a catastrophic default on its financial obligations. As the world's largest economy teeters on the brink of yet another crisis, the repercussions of this federal government shutdown are expected to reverberate across a multitude of sectors. This comprehensive analysis endeavors to explore in depth the implications and consequences of U.S. government shutdowns, drawing insights from historical data and a meticulous examination of the current situation.

### *I. The Essence of a U.S. Government Shutdown*

A U.S. government shutdown is not synonymous with the abrupt cessation of all federal operations. Instead, it primarily targets non-essential government institutions, allowing essential services pertaining to law enforcement and public safety to continue unabated. Nevertheless, the shutdown has profound implications across a spectrum of sectors, including:

**1. Federal Employees:** The deleterious effects of a government shutdown are acutely felt by hundreds of thousands of federal employees. The specter of delayed paychecks and potential furloughs looms ominously, exacerbating financial hardship during a time when

many already grapple with soaring prices due to inflation and the burdens of student loans.

- 2. Military:** Amidst the turmoil of a government shutdown, active military personnel persist in their duties, albeit with a poignant caveat: some soldiers may find themselves temporarily without pay during this period. Civilian employees of the Pentagon, comprising contractors, share in this unfortunate predicament, as they are furloughed and forced to halt their work.
- 3. National Parks and Museums:** The doors to non-essential institutions such as national parks, museums, and zoos are sealed shut during a government shutdown, entailing consequences that reach both the resolute workers and the financial resources allocated to sustain these sites.

### *II. Detailed Examination of Sector-Specific Impacts*

- 4. Army:** As the government stops slowly, half of the Pentagon's civilian staff are placed on involuntary leave. The ramifications extend to new contracts, which may encounter delays, thereby disrupting critical operations. Payments to defense contractors, such as Raytheon, could face significant delays, precipitating a ripple effect in the defense sector.
- 5. Border Security:** Vital elements of border security, including Border Patrol,

immigration enforcement, customs officers, the Secret Service, and Coast Guard operations, continue undeterred, ensuring the nation's safety amidst the turmoil.

- 6. Economic Data:** The publication of critical U.S. economic data, including employment and inflation reports that serve as linchpins for policymakers and investors, is suspended during a government shutdown. This informational vacuum can exacerbate uncertainty and hinder informed decision-making.
- 7. Education:** Educational institutions and programs face the looming specter of funding cuts as the U.S. Department of Education suggests that a prolonged government shutdown could “severely curtail” aid to schools, universities, and other educational institutions. The repercussions may extend to the delayed disbursement of funds later in the fiscal year.
- 8. Emergency Management:** The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), tasked with responding to disasters, may find itself perilously close to exhausting its disaster relief funds. This potentially leaves the nation vulnerable in the event of a catastrophic natural disaster or emergency.
- 9. Federal Courts:** Federal courts manage to stay afloat until at least October 13, although the extent of their functionality is inevitably curtailed. The Supreme Court, an embodiment of judicial continuity, remains resolute.
- 10. Financial Sector:** In the financial sector, the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) faces the daunting prospect of furloughing 90 percent of its 4,600 employees, suspending most of its regulatory activities. The Commodity Futures Trading Commission (CFTC) follows suit by granting leave to all its

employees, effectively ceasing its supervisory, enforcement, and regulatory functions in accordance with its 2021 plan. Nevertheless, the Federal Reserve and the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) continue to operate as usual, funded by industry fees rather than congressional appropriations, anchoring financial stability during turbulent times.

- 11. Food Safety:** The safety of the nation's food supply may be compromised as FDA food safety inspections face potential delays during a government shutdown, underscoring concerns over public health.
- 12. Foreign Affairs:** Amidst the chaos of a government shutdown, U.S. embassies and consulates abroad remain open, adhering to the State Department's carefully outlined closure plan. However, non-essential official travel, speeches, and other diplomatic events are curtailed, reflecting the impacts of political turbulence on international engagement.
- 13. Healthcare:** The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), tasked with monitoring disease outbreaks, strives to maintain its vigilance during a government shutdown. However, a substantial portion of the agency's staff is on leave, potentially impacting its public health initiatives. Similarly, the NIH grapples with the necessity of furloughing a sizable portion of its staff, leading to delays in new clinical trials for vital medical treatments.
- 14. Law Enforcement:** In the realm of law enforcement, the FBI, DEA, and prison staff remain steadfast in their duties. However, the wheels of justice slow considerably as most civil lawsuits are postponed, casting an uncertain shadow over the progress of antitrust lawsuits during these trying times.

**15. National Parks:** The fate of national parks, national monuments, and other recreational sites during a government shutdown remains uncertain. Past shutdowns have seen various degrees of operation, with amenities like bathrooms and information offices shuttered and waste disposal services halted. Yet the specific contours of closures often depend on the exigencies of the moment.

**16. Scientific Research:** The vital realm of scientific research witnesses' significant disruptions as agencies like the National Institutes of Health (NIH), the National Science Foundation (NSF), and the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) furlough most of their workforce. This upheaval threatens the progression of critical research endeavors.

**17. Social Security and Benefits:** Crucially, amidst the tumult, the Social Security Administration continues to issue retirement and disability benefits, ensuring that vulnerable segments of the population remain supported. Additionally, payments under health care and medical assistance programs persist, offering a lifeline to those in need. Nonetheless, nutrition regimens provided to 7 million mothers through the Women, Infants, and Children Program face imminent reduction within days, as Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack warns, setting the stage for potential hardships. Food assistance through the supplementary food assistance program may also be imperiled.

**18. Tax Collection:** Amidst the governmental impasse, the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) continues to operate remarkably without interruption. Its 83,000 employees diligently fulfill their responsibilities, ensuring the smooth functioning of tax collection processes.

**19. Transportation:** Critical components of transportation infrastructure, such as airport security screeners and air traffic control workers, must press on despite the shutdown. However, concerns arise with the discontinuation of the training of new air traffic controllers, a development that Transportation Minister Pete Buttigieg has vehemently warned could exacerbate the shortage of qualified personnel in this critical sector. Furthermore, some major infrastructure projects may grapple with delays stemming from disruptions in environmental reviews and permitting processes, according to insights emanating from the White House.

### *III. Scrutinizing the Origins of Government Shutdowns*

Government shutdowns in the United States manifest when legislative bodies, including the executive branch's legislative veto power, fail to grant approval for the government's program budget for the impending fiscal year. These fiscal showdowns are often characterized by confrontational brinkmanship, with one party exploiting the looming threat of a shutdown as leverage to extract concessions from its political adversaries. Regrettably, these political gambits frequently yield limited success.

In the absence of adequate funding, the government is compelled to cease providing non-essential services, a delineation that is shaped by the parameters of the law. The Disability Act and legal opinions, notably those authored by Attorney General Benjamin Sevilla in 1981, play pivotal roles in delineating what is permissible and what is proscribed in the absence of government allocations.

In the present context, the genesis of the current crisis lies in the inability of House Republicans, who hold a majority in the House of Representatives, to usher in the customary suite of bills that delineate departmental budgets for the forthcoming fiscal year. This breakdown in the legislative machinery is attributed to the insistence of party extremists demanding profound spending reductions.

The party's leadership, finding itself bereft of the requisite votes to advance a short-term funding bill anchored in 2023 spending levels, confronts the disconcerting reality that continued funding for federal institutions hangs precariously in the balance as the midnight hour approaches on the cusp of the new fiscal year.

#### ***I.V. A Historical Perspective on Government Shutdowns***

Government shutdowns have unfortunately metamorphosed into recurrent episodes in recent decades, offering a disquieting reflection of the challenges inherent in achieving consensus and securing funding agreements. Several prominent government shutdowns underscore the gravity of this recurring issue:

- 1. The 1990 Shutdown:** Taking place under the presidency of George H.W. Bush, this shutdown unfolded amidst the backdrop of Democratic control of the Senate and House of Representatives. The president's vow to veto a short-term funding measure bereft of a deficit reduction plan set the stage for this dramatic episode. Congress passed a joint budget resolution outlining a deficit reduction plan, which the president endorsed through his signature, thus reopening the government's doors.
- 2. The 1995 Shutdown:** During President Bill Clinton's tenure, government operations came to a screeching halt as Republicans, who controlled both chambers of Congress, clashed

vehemently with the administration. The impasse stemmed from the Republicans' commitment to balancing the budget and reversing tax increases implemented by the president in 1993. The Republican-led Congress adopted a resolution advocating increased Medicare premiums and called on the president to devise a balanced budget within a seven-year period. However, President Clinton wielded his veto power, resulting in the shutdown. Eventually, both sides reached an accord that temporarily funded the government while negotiations persisted.

- 3. The 2013 Shutdown:** This shutdown, lasting 16 days, inflicted profound economic consequences, exacting a cost of approximately \$24 billion on the U.S. economy. The plight of more than 800,000 federal employees, who found themselves unemployed for over two weeks, underscores the human toll of such crises. Furthermore, the National Park Service estimated the losses incurred through reduced visitor spending nationwide to reach a staggering \$500 million, as reported by *The Times*.
- 4. The 2018 Shutdown:** This episode etched itself into the annals of history as the longest government shutdown in modern times, stretching over a protracted 34-day period. Its pernicious effects left an indelible mark, inflicting permanent losses estimated at a staggering \$3 billion, as posted by the Congressional Budget Office.

#### ***V. The Ongoing Crisis: A Precarious Balancing Act***

The enduring saga of U.S. government shutdowns bears the hallmarks of recurring crises that exhibit the nation's vulnerabilities and the extent to which political maneuvering can

disrupt the functioning of the federal government. The current crisis finds its roots in House Republicans' inability to usher in bills that allocate departmental budgets for the new fiscal year. This obstacle arises from the vociferous demands of party extremists clamoring for substantial spending reductions.

A contentious issue exacerbating the imbroglio is the call for additional aid to Ukraine. This matter came to the fore following Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky's appeal to the Congress, during which he implored lawmakers to provide more weapons for Ukraine's ongoing 18-month war against Russian forces. Remarkably, both parties in the Senate support a \$24 billion aid bill, highlighting the bipartisan consensus. Nevertheless, a contingent of hardline Republicans in the House of Representatives poses a significant threat to any funding measures, including the crucial aid package.

In response to the looming crisis, the U.S. president has underscored the fundamental responsibility of Congress to fund the government. He has issued a stark warning: if House Republicans fail to execute their duty, they must be held accountable through the electoral process.

## *VI. The Enduring Legacy of Government Shutdowns*

Before delving into the current crisis's implications, it is instructive to reflect on the lasting consequences of previous government shutdowns. These historical episodes have left an indelible mark on the nation's psyche and its institutions:

- 1. The 1995 Shutdown:** Occurring during President Bill Clinton's tenure, this government shutdown unfolded against the backdrop of Republican control over

both the Senate and the House of Representatives. The showdown emanated from the Republicans' resolute commitment to balancing the budget and rescinding tax increases implemented by the president in 1993. The Republican-led Congress passed a resolution that sought to heighten Medicare premiums and called upon President Clinton to craft a balanced budget within a seven-year time limit, among other measures. President Clinton exercised his veto prerogative, triggering the government shutdown. Subsequently, President Clinton and Republican congressional leaders forged an agreement that temporarily funded the government while negotiations continued. Notably, the second shutdown during the Clinton era unfolded post-1995, with funding lapsing again in mid-December and extending into early January 1996.

- 2. The 2013 Shutdown:** Taking place under the administration of former President Barack Obama, this 16-day government shutdown was sparked by disputes over the Affordable Care Act, commonly known as Obamacare. The Republican-led House of Representatives passed two spending bills during this period. One sought to delay the implementation of Obamacare, while the other aimed to defend key aspects of the health care law. Both bills faced resounding rejection in the Democratic-led Senate. Despite President Obama's plea for an unconditional spending bill, the Republicans opted to shut down the government due to their opposition to the landmark health care legislation. The consequences were profound, with 800,000 federal employees placed on unpaid furlough for more than two weeks. The U.S. economy suffered direct material losses estimated at a staggering \$24 billion, accompanied by a 0.6

percent decline in economic growth. Furthermore, the National Park Service estimated that the 2013 government shutdown translated into a \$500 million loss in visitor spending nationwide.

3. **The 2018 Shutdown:** Occurring under the leadership of former President Donald Trump, this government shutdown lasted a staggering 34 days, earning the dubious distinction of being the longest in modern history. Its root cause lay in a fierce battle over immigration policy, specifically the Democrats' impassioned plea to protect "Dreamers," undocumented immigrants who had arrived in the United States as children. The shutdown cast a long shadow over the nation, with the Congressional Budget Office estimating permanent losses of \$3 billion.
4. **The 2019 Shutdown:** Following the 2018 shutdown, the nation once again found itself plunged into crisis in January 2019, as immigration issues returned to the forefront of the government funding battle. This time, the shutdown unfolded over 34 days and encompassed President Trump's demand for \$5.7 billion to fund a wall along the U.S.-Mexico border. As the shutdown extended into an unprecedented duration, with the Democrats gaining control of the House of Representatives, the former president relented, signing a three-week agency reopening bill that conspicuously lacked funding for the border wall. In the ensuing weeks, Congress averted another shutdown by passing a measure that allocated a mere \$1.375 billion for the border wall, falling significantly short of the \$5.7 billion initially requested by President Trump.

## ***VII. Government Shutdowns: A Recurring American Challenge***

Government shutdowns have become a recurring and impactful feature in the landscape of American politics, leaving an indelible mark on the nation's history. These periodic episodes of political turmoil not only highlight the difficulties in achieving consensus and securing funding agreements but also underscore the lasting consequences of such crises. As the latest government shutdown unfolds, the world watches with keen interest, aware of its potential implications for essential services, federal employees, and the broader economy. The pressing need for effective and lasting solutions to prevent the recurrence of such shutdowns remains a significant priority on the nation's agenda.

The recurrence of government shutdowns is deeply embedded in the historical fabric of American governance. Over the years, these episodes have served as stark reminders of the challenges inherent in the democratic process, particularly when it comes to reaching agreements on crucial funding issues. From budgetary disputes to political maneuvering, these shutdowns reflect the complex interplay of forces that shape the nation's fiscal policies and priorities.

As the latest government shutdown unfolds, concerns about its implications for essential services, federal employees, and the broader economy take center stage. The disruption of government operations can have far-reaching consequences, affecting everything from public services to the livelihoods of countless federal workers. The ripple effects of such disruptions are felt not only domestically but can reverberate globally, impacting international perceptions of the United States' political stability and economic reliability.

One of the most immediate and tangible impacts of a government shutdown is felt by federal employees and their families. Furloughs and uncertainty about job security create a

stressful environment for these individuals, who play crucial roles in maintaining the functioning of government agencies. Moreover, the disruption of essential services can directly impact citizens, further magnifying the human toll of these political standoffs.

Beyond the immediate human impact, the economic consequences of a government shutdown are a cause for concern. The interruption of government services can lead to financial hardships for businesses that rely on government contracts, disrupting supply chains and creating a ripple effect throughout the broader economy. Furthermore, the uncertainty generated by these shutdowns can dampen consumer confidence and investor sentiment, potentially stalling economic growth.

In an interconnected world, the repercussions of a government shutdown extend beyond national borders. International allies and trading partners closely monitor the situation, assessing the United States' ability to effectively govern and fulfill its international obligations. Persistent government shutdowns can erode confidence in the reliability of the U.S. as a global economic and political leader, potentially influencing diplomatic relationships and trade dynamics.

As the current government shutdown unfolds, the urgent need for long-term solutions to prevent the recurrence of such crises becomes increasingly evident. The cyclical nature of these disruptions highlights a systemic issue within the American political framework that demands thoughtful and sustainable resolutions. Addressing the root causes, such as budgetary disagreements and partisan brinkmanship, is crucial to establishing a more stable and resilient governance system.

Efforts to prevent future government shutdowns must involve bipartisan cooperation and a commitment to fiscal responsibility. Creating mechanisms that facilitate timely

budget approvals, enforcing consequences for failing to meet funding deadlines, and fostering a culture of collaboration are essential steps. Additionally, exploring alternatives such as automatic continuing resolutions or multi-year budgeting could contribute to a more stable and predictable fiscal environment.

## *Conclusion*

Government shutdowns in the United States have regrettably become an unsettling pattern, with the current crisis marking the 22nd occurrence in the past half-century. This latest episode, much like its predecessors, is characterized by a complex interplay of political maneuvering, budgetary disputes, and deeply entrenched divisions. As the nation teeters on the brink of another shutdown, negotiators in Congress find themselves in a race against time to finalize a federal spending plan, all while international allies closely observe the unfolding drama. However, the political landscape is rife with challenges for House Speaker Mike Johnson, the new Republican leader, who is now facing the most significant test of his career.

The recurring cycle of threatened shutdowns and disruptions serves as a barometer for the challenging dynamics within Congress. Johnson's faction of hard-right Republicans, advocating for steep spending reductions, introduces a significant hurdle to negotiations. This delicate balance is set to become even more precarious as Johnson's majority further shrinks, leaving him with little room for dissent.

With the midnight deadline looming, negotiators are contemplating a temporary extension of funding for specific agencies through March 8 and others through March 22. However, the viability of this plan hinges on the broader agreement to fund the government until the end of the fiscal year, thereby avoiding the need for further short-term measures. The evolving nature of these negotiations

underscores the complexity of reaching consensus in the current polarized political climate.

The delay in passing a 2024 budget has repercussions for the military's ability to respond to crises. Top military officials expressed concern about the significant costs incurred during this period of uncertainty. Additionally, the impasse on emergency funding for Ukraine, Israel, and Indo-Pacific allies adds urgency to the situation, with Western allies closely monitoring developments. This funding deadlock threatens to compromise the readiness and effectiveness of the U.S. military in addressing global challenges.

The \$95 billion supplemental request, including a crucial \$60 billion for Ukraine, faces resistance from Johnson and his faction. Despite the Senate's approval, the leader's reluctance places the funding in limbo, exacerbating tensions within Congress. A recent meeting between President Joe Biden and congressional leaders underscored the intensity of negotiations, particularly concerning aid for Ukraine, a nation facing a dire military situation.

Johnson remains steadfast in linking Ukraine's aid to border security, rejecting the Senate's package as insufficient for securing the U.S.-Mexico border. This stance further exposes the deep-seated divisions within Congress, where conflicting priorities vie for attention and resources. The imminent expiration of funding for critical sectors intensifies the pressure to find a resolution that satisfies the diverse demands of lawmakers.

As the deadline approaches, concerns about the potential economic fallout from a government shutdown take center stage. Thousands of government employees could face furloughs, and essential services may be disrupted. President Biden underscores Congress' responsibility to fund the government,

urging a bipartisan solution to avert significant economic repercussions. The impact on the economy becomes a critical factor in the ongoing negotiations, emphasizing the need for a swift and effective resolution.

The recurring nature of government shutdowns underscores their toll on federal employees, essential services, and the broader economy. Despite the resilience of American institutions, the crisis at hand underscores the imperative of seeking long-term solutions beyond the cycle of political brinkmanship. The ongoing shutdown serves as a sobering reminder of the crucial elements required in American governance—leadership, compromise, and an unwavering commitment to the greater good.

As the world watches the latest government shutdown drama unfold, the United States stands at a critical juncture. The need for fiscal responsibility, consensus-building, and an end to the cycle of political brinkmanship is paramount. The stability, well-being, and future of the nation hinge on charting a course that avoids the treacherous waters of government shutdowns. It is incumbent upon leaders to rise above partisan divides, prioritize the nation's interests, and work toward sustainable solutions that prevent the recurrence of such crises.

Finally, the current government shutdown saga represents more than just another episode in a long history of political turmoil. It encapsulates the challenges inherent in the current political landscape and underscores the urgent need for leaders to transcend partisan divides. The impact on national security, military readiness, and the economy necessitates a swift and comprehensive resolution. The lessons learned from this recurring crisis should catalyze meaningful change, pushing the United States towards a governance model that prioritizes stability, compromise, and the overall well-being of its citizens. The eyes of the nation and the



world are fixed on Capitol Hill, awaiting the outcome of these critical negotiations.

## References

1. Associated Press. (February 28, 2024). *Days from a government shutdown Congress is racing to strike a deal. But aid for Ukraine is stalled.* Retrieved from <https://apnews.com/article/house-speaker-johnson-government-shutdown-biden-ukraine-05afe588d798717a74b93af0e2a82e6c>
2. The Washington Post. (2024, February 28). *Leaders in Congress strike deal to delay government shutdown deadlines.* Retrieved from <https://www.washingtonpost.com/business/2024/02/28/government-shutdown-deadline-extension-congress/>
3. National Public Radio (NPR). (2024, February 28). *Congressional leaders reach a deal to avoid a government shutdown.* Retrieved from <https://www.npr.org/2024/02/28/1234679367/congress-spending-deal-government-shutdown>
4. The Guardian. (2024, February 28). *House and Senate negotiators reach agreement to prevent shutdown.* Retrieved from <https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2024/feb/28/house-senate-deal-avoid-government-shutdown>
5. Brookings Institution. (January 18, 2024). *What is a government shutdown?* Retrieved from <https://www.brookings.edu/articles/what-is-a-government-shutdown-and-why-are-we-likely-to-have-another-one/>
6. Cable News Network (CNN). (2023, September 29). *Countdown to U.S. Government Shutdown Begins Amid Talk of Possible Paralysis. Live updates: Government shutdown nears as Congress continues negotiations.* Retrieved from <https://edition.cnn.com/politics/live-news/government-shutdown-deadline-09-29-23/index.html>
7. Reuters. (2023, September 29). *Hardline Republicans reject own funding bill, US government shutdown imminent. Republicans reject own funding bill, US government shutdown imminent.* Retrieved from <https://www.reuters.com/world/us/hardline-republican-holdouts-push-us-government-closer-shutdown-2023-09-29/>
8. American Progress. (Sep 29, 2023). *5 Immediate Shutdown Effects. Five things that happen right away when the federal government shuts down.* Retrieved from <https://www.americanprogress.org/article/5-immediate-shutdown-effects/>
9. Bloomberg. (2023, September 29). *Here's What Stops — And What Doesn't — If the US Government Shuts Down. Longer lines at airports, missed paychecks, shuttered national parks and delayed economic data — those are some of the potential impacts of a looming federal government shutdown.* Retrieved from <https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2023-09-29/here-s-what-stops-and-what-doesn-t-if-the-us-government-shuts-down>
10. Cable News Network (CNN). (2023, September 29). *What happens if the government shuts down: An illustrated guide. What to expect and what it means for the economy with Congress barreling toward a government shutdown.* Retrieved from <https://edition.cnn.com/2023/09/29/politics/what-happens-government-shutdown-dg/index.html>
11. The New York Times. (2023, September 27). *U.S. Government Shutdown Is Unlikely to Cause an Immediate Recession. White House and Wall Street*

*estimates suggested the economy could withstand a brief shutdown, with risks mounting the longer it lasts.* Retrieved from

<https://www.nytimes.com/2023/09/27/us/politics/us-government-shutdown-recession.html>

12. Financial Times. (2023). *US on brink of shutdown as Republicans defeat last-minute funding bill. Dissidents' vote against their party's own stop-gap measure is blow to House Speaker McCarthy as Saturday budget deadline looms.* Retrieved from <https://www.ft.com/content/0cc78adc-3f62-4ddd-a7a7-4ab86b45dbe9>

**Bio:**

Prof. Habib Badawi

Lebanese University – Beirut - Lebanon

([habib.badawi@ul.edu.lb](mailto:habib.badawi@ul.edu.lb)  
[habib.badawi@gmail.com](mailto:habib.badawi@gmail.com))

<https://orcid.org/0000-0002-6452-8379>

Habib Badawi has been a scholar of Japanese studies since 2005. His M.A. thesis and Ph.D. dissertation covered the modern history of Japan (*Meiji-tenno, Taisho-tenno, and Showa-tenno*). Dr. Badawi is currently a professor at Lebanese University and a freelance researcher in international relations. In 2016, he became the coordinator of the “United States of America - History and Civilization” course at the History Department for the university's five branches. Dr. Badawi earned the “Academic Excellence Award in the Arab World” in the category of “Academic Personality of the Year 2018” for his role in introducing “Japanese studies” to the Arab world as a stand-alone academic field of “Human Sciences.”

<https://www.ul.edu.lb/common/news.aspx?newsId=1683&lang=2>