

AU Abroad

Arabic Speaking Countries: Courses and Arabic Language Acquisition

Currently AU Abroad offers programs in the following three Arabic speaking countries: *Egypt, Morocco and the United Arab Emirates*. Each program site has a unique structure in terms of the language courses offered and the type of students with you in the classroom. Please see the information below to guide you to the most appropriate program based on your goals in advancing your Arabic language skills. Most programs are available to students with all levels of Arabic instructions. If a program has prerequisites they are noted in the program description.

Updated: January 2009

Programs designed for Arabic language acquisition

- **Egypt: American University in Cairo**
 - Modern Standard Arabic courses available: Standard and accelerated MSA courses available at all levels; Arabic literature and media courses available for advanced students
 - Colloquial Arabic courses available: Yes
 - Terms available: Fall, Spring, Full year, Summer
 - Program structure: Students directly enroll in American University in Cairo as an international student. Students can choose from a wide range of content courses in English and a wide variety of Arabic language courses. Students take a placement exam for placement in language courses at AUC. While the university does accept a large number (300-400) of international students who mostly speak English, the majority of the degree-seeking student population (3500 students) is from Egypt (70%) or the Middle East, who generally speak Arabic outside of class. AUC also offers an entire semester of intensive language study through the Arabic Language Institute for students completely focused on learning Arabic. *Please note the application deadlines for AUC are far in advance of the regular AU Abroad deadlines.*

- **Egypt: Cairo (AMIDEAST)**
 - Modern Standard Arabic courses available: Students are required to enroll in a 3 credit MSA course.
 - Colloquial Arabic courses available: Students are required to enroll in a 3 credit colloquial Egyptian Arabic course
 - Terms available: Fall, Spring, Full year
 - Program structure: This program is offered in coordination with AMIDEAST. Students take courses with other U.S. students at AMIDEAST's center in the Dokki neighborhood of Cairo. Students take a language placement exam on-site. In addition to language courses, students take content courses in English. The program offers two courses of study, (1) Middle East/ North African Studies and (2) Egyptology. AMIDEAST also coordinates student housing (furnished, shared apartments), excursions and cultural activities as part of the program. Please note, this program has an early application deadline and space is limited.

- **Egypt: University of Alexandria (Middlebury)**
 - Modern Standard Arabic courses available: Required
 - Colloquial Arabic courses available: Required
 - Terms available: Fall, Spring, Full year
 - Prerequisites: ARAB 303, or its equivalent
 - Program structure: Students participate in Middlebury College's study abroad program based at the TAFL Center at the University of Alexandria. All coursework and programming is conducted in Arabic. Students commit to a language pledge throughout the program. Students enroll in courses with other students on the program to complete 4 credits of MSA, 4 credits of colloquial instruction, 2 credits of Media Arabic, 2 credits of translation and one content course taught in Arabic each semester. Middlebury organizes housing in homestays or Egyptian student dormitories. Cultural activities and excursions are also provided. Please note: this program has an early application deadline.

- **Egypt: Summer Intensive Arabic Program in Alexandria**
 - Modern Standard Arabic courses available: Required
 - Colloquial Arabic courses available: Required
 - Terms available: Summer, 8 weeks
 - Prerequisites: Level I: ARAB 103; Level 2: ARAB 203, or the equivalent
 - Program structure: Program offered in coordination with the University of Alexandria. This program is designed to allow intermediate level Arabic students to complete one year of Arabic language courses (2 classes) in just eight weeks. Students complete 24 hours of instruction per week including 4 hours of Media Arabic and 4 hours with an Egyptian language partner. Students who will have completed one or two years of Arabic instruction prior to the program are encouraged to apply. Options for advanced students may be available. Housing in University of Alexandria dormitories as well as cultural activities and excursions will be coordinated by the program.

- **Morocco: Rabat Enclave (AMIDEAST)**
 - Modern Standard Arabic courses available: Students are required to enroll in a 3 credit MSA course.
 - Colloquial Arabic courses available: Students are required to enroll in a 3 credit colloquial Moroccan Arabic course
 - Terms available: Fall, Spring, Full year
 - Program structure: This program is offered in coordination with AMIDEAST. Students take courses with other U.S. students. Language courses take place at AMIDEAST's language center in Rabat and the content courses in English take place at Mohammed V University. Students take a language placement exam on-site. Content courses are focused on Moroccan history, politics and culture. AMIDEAST also coordinates student housing (homestay or student dormitory), excursions and cultural activities as part of the program. French language courses are also available. Please note: this program has an early application deadline and space is limited.

Programs NOT designed for Arabic language acquisition

- **United Arab Emirates: American University of Sharjah**
 - Modern Standard Arabic courses available: Yes
 - Colloquial Arabic courses available: No
 - Terms available: Fall, Spring, Full year
 - Program structure: Students directly enroll in American University of Sharjah as an international student. Students can choose from a wide range of content courses in English. Some MSA courses are available depending on enrollment. While study at AUS is a great opportunity to meet students from all of the Middle East, the wide range of dialects spoken makes language acquisition difficult. Also a significant number of students are from the Indian sub-continent and do not speak Arabic. Students focused on learning Arabic are encouraged to hire a tutor in addition to their studies at AUS and at their own cost.

Programs offered in non-Arabic Speaking countries, but which have strong Arabic language departments

- **England: School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS)**
 - Modern Standard Arabic courses available: Yes
 - Colloquial Arabic courses available: Yes
 - Terms available: Fall, Spring, Full year
 - Program Structure: Students directly enroll in the world-renowned School of Oriental and African studies. MSA courses are available at all levels. Students take a placement exam on-site. Intermediate and advanced students can enroll in colloquial language courses. Students interested in Arabic literature (classical and modern) or Middle Eastern studies will be well-served at SOAS.