

University of Jordan

fall / spring / academic year



arabic and middle eastern studies / business communication / colloquial jordanian arabic language / communications / history / literature / media studies
modern standard arabic language / religion and sacred texts



program snapshot

- Develop high levels of proficiency in Arabic language
- Enroll in Arabic language electives in history, culture, literature, media, and business communication
- Immerse into Jordanian life through a homestay with a Jordanian family, peer language tutors, and volunteer opportunities
- Visit museums, theaters, and galleries; take day excursions to famous archaeological sites, and an overnight trip to Petra
- Innovative mid-semester Arabic language rural retreat

what you'll learn

The Arabic Language program at the CIEE Study Center at the University of Jordan in Amman provides an opportunity for highly focused students with an advanced background in Modern Standard Arabic to achieve high levels of proficiency in reading, writing, and oral comprehension. Students also have the opportunity to advance their conversation skills in the Jordanian dialect.

thoughts from abroad

To say that Arabic is a critical language is an understatement. There is a push from almost every official direction to encourage young Americans to develop advanced proficiencies in Arabic to improve our understanding of and ability to communicate with the Arab-Muslim world. Efforts to offer quality Arabic programs at American universities are blossoming. However, no classroom experience can compete with the opportunity to be immersed in a foreign language by living and studying in another country, and no language training is complete without culture.

As someone who has spent more than a decade studying Arabic in different venues, I can attest that language is best learned in its native milieu. Jordan offers a welcoming environment for advanced Arabic students to fully immerse themselves in the language and culture of the Middle East.

— Allison Hodgkins, Resident Director

About the Resident Director

A native of Maine, Dr. Allison Hodgkins has more than ten years experience in the Middle East. Her research interests focus on peace and conflict in the region. Allison has lectured in departments of Political Science and International Studies and previously served as Academic Director for a Peace and Conflict study abroad program in Palestine and Jordan. She holds a Ph.D. in International Affairs from The Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy at Tufts University an M.A. in Public Affairs (Lyndon Baines Johnson School), Middle Eastern Studies (University of Texas at Austin), and a B.S. in Political Science (Bates College).

About the Director of Arabic Instruction

Dr. Najeh Abu-Orabi manages the language component of the program in coordination with the University of Jordan. He has a Ph.D. in Arabic Language Curricula and Education Methods and an M.A. in Arabic Language. Dr. Abu-Orabi has also taught Arabic at the University of Virginia and is a certified ACTFL OPI tester.

About Other CIEE Staff

Rana Masri, Resident Coordinator, supports the Resident Director in administrative matters. She brings valuable knowledge about Amman and Jordan to CIEE, having previously worked for a tour company in Jordan. Stephen Bush, Student Services Manager, received his M.A. in Middle Eastern Studies from the University of Texas at Austin. He has lived and studied in various locations in the Middle East. Jennifer Adcox, Resident Coordinator, works on a variety of student services issues. Jennifer is a graduate of the University of Tennessee at Knoxville and has lived in Amman for 12 years. She has worked with various local organizations, publications, and advertising agencies during her time in Jordan. Rasha Mustafa, Program Assistant, is a graduate of the University of Jordan in foreign languages. She has worked with CIEE as a student intern since 2008. CIEE also recruits CIEE Student Program Assistants—University of Jordan undergraduates who offer administrative support, general advice, and assistance to help students acclimate to life at the University of Jordan.

about amman

Amman has a history that reaches back at least 5,000 years. Despite the ancient ruins that dominate the downtown skyline, much of the city only dates back to the 1970s. Draped over several hills, Amman is a study in contrasts. A traditional downtown *souk* (marketplace) is a taxi ride away from massive, American-style shopping malls. It is a very accessible, cosmopolitan city with numerous museums, art galleries, theaters, and cinemas. With its reputation for security and hospitality, Amman is home to inhabitants from all over the Middle East. The city provides a safe and stable environment for students to learn about the region.

academics

Academic Program

The Arabic Language program is designed to give students the opportunity to take a full load of courses taught in Arabic by combining intensive language study with area studies courses. This approach enables students to develop a high level of proficiency in Arabic and a better understanding of important issues facing Jordan and the Middle East today. Students are tested at the beginning of the program, and again at its conclusion, to document their language acquisition during their studies here. Final program eligibility and course placement are determined by the on-site placement exam.

Academic Culture

The program is academically and linguistically challenging and requires a solid commitment on the part of students. Classes are small, often taught tutorial style, and require discipline and sustained effort both in and outside of the classroom. Instructors are native Arabic speakers, who are trained in their fields and in teaching Arabic language.

Nature of Classes

Participants take classes with other CIEE students only.

CIEE Community Language Commitment

Students take part in the CIEE Community Language Commitment by speaking Arabic at all times (except in emergencies). This fosters a learning community that contributes to both Arabic language proficiency and understanding of Jordanian society. Keeping the language commitment is a vital component of student language acquisition during the semester that should be thoroughly considered prior to application.

Grading System

Grades (A–F with pluses and minuses, converted from a 100 point scale) are assigned based on mid-term and final exams, and depending on the course, additional assignments such as a research paper or a class presentation. Attendance and class participation are also incorporated into the final grade for the program courses. Class attendance is mandatory in all CIEE classes.



where you'll study

Founded in 1962, the University of Jordan is the oldest public four-year institution of higher education in Jordan. The University has 13 academic faculties, 65 academic departments, and a diverse student body of nearly 35,000, including 1,800 international students. The CIEE Study Center is located opposite the main gate of the University and offers students a wide range of support, library, and advising services. Participants in the Arabic Language program also have access to the CIEE on-campus office in the University of Jordan's Language Center. CIEE students have access to all major campus facilities, including the library and computer labs.

living

Housing and Meals

Students are housed in Arabic-speaking homestays from a wide spectrum of Jordanian society. Homestays require students to make adjustments in terms of personal privacy, social habits, and other social norms. Students normally have breakfast and a main meal with the families during the week and may have all meals with them on the weekends. Students are responsible for weekday lunches. Meals are provided on excursions.

Online Pre-Departure and On-Site Orientations

Students begin their study abroad experience in Amman before leaving home—by participating in a CIEE Online Pre-Departure Orientation. Meeting with students online, the Resident Director shares information about the program and site, highlighting issues that alumni have said are important, and giving students time to ask questions before leaving home. The online orientation allows students to connect with others in the group, reflect on what they want to get out of the program, and learn what others in the group would like to accomplish. The CIEE goal for the pre-departure orientation is simple: to help students understand more about the program and site, as well as their goals for the program, so that they arrive to the program well-informed and return home having made significant progress toward their goals.

The program begins with a mandatory five-day orientation conducted at the University of Jordan, which introduces students to the academic program and provides practical information about living in Jordan. Orientation also includes a health and safety component conducted in coordination with the U.S. Embassy in Amman. Ongoing support is provided on an individual and group basis throughout the program.

Internet

The University of Jordan library and the Student Center below the CIEE Study Center have wireless Internet access. In addition, program participants are eligible to enroll in the TAGKS, the Talal Abu-Ghazaleh Knowledge Society, a private student center that offers a modern computer lab, wireless, printing, and photocopying services and a small cafeteria to students at the University of Jordan. Internet cafés are also a convenient and inexpensive option. Students are encouraged to bring wireless-enabled laptops.

eligibility

- Overall GPA 3.0
- 3.3 GPA in Modern Standard Arabic
- 5 semesters of college-level Modern Standard Arabic or equivalent

culture

Cultural Activities and Field Trips

The academic program is supplemented with excursions to Jordan's archaeological, historical, and natural wonders, including Petra—all with Arabic speaking guides. Students will have a mid-semester "rural retreat," at a location in the Jordan Valley where students and their instructors will continue classes in addition to community service activities in the local communities. Students also have the opportunity to participate in special outings to social and cultural events in the target language, including films, lectures, and exhibits.

Independent Travel

Students are encouraged to travel independently in Jordan during weekends and scheduled breaks. Any travel outside of Jordan requires the completion of the CIEE Amman Independent Travel Form and review of potential security or safety concerns by the CIEE Resident Director. Students must also sign an independent travel waiver and are expected to consult their home institution and emergency contacts on all independent travel outside of Jordan.

engagement

Volunteering

A range of volunteer options are available to students, many involving helping others with their English language skills. Previously, students have volunteered with NGOs, a women's rights organization, educational institutions, and organizations in the for-profit sector. Volunteer service does not receive academic credit and is subject to availability. Placements are also made based on language skills.

Peer Language Tutors

CIEE recruits peer language tutors from the Department of Arabic at the University of Jordan. Students are encouraged to meet with their language partners for up to three hours per week to practice conversation, explore the University, and expand their understanding of the host culture.

duration

Fall

17 weeks: early September—mid-December

Spring

17 weeks: late January—mid-May

Academic Year

34 weeks: early September—mid-May

costs

CIEE Fees

Fall 2011: \$13,800

Spring 2012: available 8/15/11

Academic Year 2011–12: \$26,300

The CIEE program fees for 2011–12 include tuition, housing, most meals (breakfast on weekends), optional on-site airport meet and greet, full-time leadership and support, comprehensive orientation program, local transportation stipend, cultural activities, a field trip, host institution identity card, admission fees to host university events, immersion activities including language partners, a comprehensive student handbook, pre-departure advising, and a CIEE iNext travel card which includes insurance and other travel benefits.

Estimated Additional Costs (Fall 2011)

Transportation (round-trip based on U.S. East Coast departure)	\$ 1,350
Personal Expenses	\$ 1,000
Additional Meals	\$ 500
Books and Supplies	\$ 300
Visa Fees	\$ 100
Total Estimated Additional Costs	\$ 3,250

Check our website for current fees.



coursework

Program Requirements

Students take Advanced Modern Standard Arabic, Advanced Topics in Arabic Conversation, a one-credit course in Intercultural Communication, and two electives in literature, history, religion, media, or business communication. All elective courses are taught in Arabic.

Academic year students do not repeat the Intercultural Communication course in their second semester.

Students must demonstrate equivalency of Advanced Arabic I in the on-site language placement exam taken during orientation. Students failing to meet the equivalency will have one opportunity to re-take the placement exam. Students failing to demonstrate equivalency on the second re-test can be automatically enrolled in the CIEE Amman Language and Culture program.

Credit

Total recommended credit for the semester is 17 semester/25.5 quarter hours and for the academic year is 33 semester/49.5 quarter hours.

Course contact hours are 42 hours and recommended credit is 3 semester/4.5 quarter hours per course, unless otherwise indicated.

Languages of Instruction

Arabic, English

Faculty

All courses are taught by faculty members from the University of Jordan, unless otherwise indicated.

courses

Required CIEE Language Courses

ARAB 3005 AMAL—Advanced Topics in Arabic Conversation I

ARAB 3006 AMAL—Advanced Topics in Arabic Conversation II

Using popular media such as television and radio, students build their vocabulary and conversation skills by discussing current events relevant to contemporary Jordanian society in colloquial Jordanian Arabic. The course also involves field visits and focus-group style sessions with Jordanians to expand students' ability to converse in the local dialect. The course content changes each semester to accommodate academic year students. Contact hours: 60. Recommended credit: 4 semester/6 quarter hours. *Instructors: University of Jordan Arabic teaching staff under the direction of Dr. Najeh Abu Orabi, CIEE Director of Arabic Instruction*

ARAB 4001 AMAL Advanced Modern Standard Arabic I

ARAB 4002 AMAL Advanced Modern Standard Arabic II

In groups of five or six, students build on their existing foundation in Modern Standard Arabic within a tutorial setting. Instruction focuses on building advanced reading and comprehension skills and finer points of Arabic grammar. Tutorials begin after an intensive orientation. Contact hours: 140. Recommended credit: 6 semester/9 quarter hours. *Instructors: University of Jordan Arabic teaching staff under the direction of Dr. Najeh Abu Orabi, CIEE Director of Arabic Instruction*

COMM 3001 AMAL

Intercultural Communication

The purpose of this course is to help students understand the ways in which culture impacts communication and shapes meaning. Using Arab and American cultures as examples, students explore the way in which culture forms the basis of how communication is formed and interpreted. Special focus is given to the concept of high and low context communication and different concepts of time. Students gain concrete skills and tools that increase their intercultural competencies and improve their ability to communicate across cultural as well as linguistic boundaries. This course is taught in English, with examples from colloquial Levantine Arabic. Contact hours 15. Recommended credit: 1 semester/1.5 quarter hours. *Instructor: Martin Kurani, Komensky Center for Intercultural Communication*

CIEE Electives

BUSI 3001 AMAL/COMM 3002 AMAL/ARAB 4003 AMAL

Business Communication

This course prepares students for different forms of professional communication in the Arab world and emphasizes both technical writing and public speaking. Types of technical writing covered include formal letters of introduction, press statements, product descriptions, project proposals, and government application forms. Students also practice making formal and informal introductions, short presentations, and official addresses.

COMM 3003 AMAL/ARAB 4004 AMAL

Contemporary Arab Media

This course emphasizes reading and critiquing Arab print and broadcast media. Students read daily papers and watch news broadcasts in Arabic. This exposes students to the particular patterns of journalistic Arabic and offers insight into the role of media in the Arab world. The course also includes site visits to Jordanian television and radio stations and to newspaper editorial offices.

HIST 3001 AMAL/ARAB 4006 AMAL

Introduction to the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan

This course provides a general introduction to the history of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan from the period of the Great Arab Revolt to the accession of King Abdullah. The course also covers the geography and demography of the Kingdom, with a special emphasis on the role of the different Bedouin tribes in Jordanian national identity. Placement is by permission of the CIEE Director of Arabic Instruction based on proficiency.

LITT 3001 AMAL/ARAB 4005 AMAL

Readings in Contemporary Arab Literature

This course provides an introduction to contemporary Arabic literature. Students read and critique short stories, novels, and poetry in Arabic. Sample of writers include: Mahmoud Darwish, Fedwa Touqan, Jibran Khalil Jibran, Nequib Mahfouz, Nawal El-Saadawi, and Ghassan Kanafani. This course requires a higher level of reading proficiency; students must obtain the permission of the CIEE Director of Arabic Instruction to enroll in this course.



LITT 3002 AMAL/ARAB 4006/ARAB 4007 AMAL**Arabic Poetry**

Students who have completed LITT 3001 AMAL or have demonstrated high proficiency may enroll in this course, which entails a survey of the major periods and genres of Arabic poetry. This course requires advanced proficiency and enrollment is only at the permission of the CIEE Director of Arabic Instruction.

RELI 3001 AMAL**Introduction to Islam**

This course provides an introduction to history, basic practices, and core principles of the Islamic faith. It includes readings from the Holy Koran as well as the Old and New Testaments.

a student's story

“No, don't speak to her in English! She speaks Arabic.”

I was sitting with Abeer, my CIEE Peer Language Tutor, and a group of young, Jordanian women, fumbling my way through a discussion on a poem I had read in my Arabic literature class. When someone offered an English translation, Abeer admonished them to help me keep my language pledge. Although we had met only a week earlier, she had already become my greatest champion. She had faith in my ability to speak Arabic—far more than I did. And if she could help me understand unfamiliar words without resorting to English, so should everyone else. It never seemed to occur to her that not everyone has the patience to come up with seven or eight synonyms for a word, each one progressively easier, or to launch into a five-minute explanation of a single phrase. Whether she was helping me with my homework or just chatting with me in *amia*—the Jordanian colloquial dialect—Abeer helped me improve my language above and beyond what I was learning in class.

The help I received from Abeer is eclipsed only by that of my homestay mother, Nada. From the day I walked into my new home, frightened because I could only understand one word in ten for all my semesters of studying Arabic, Nada always took the time each day to sit with me and talk. At the beginning we played games of ‘name everything on the table’ since that was about all the Arabic I could handle, moving on to more difficult topics as I acquired more vocabulary, until we could discuss anything from my day's plans to issues in society over breakfast. I began waking up 30 minutes earlier to ensure that I had time to eat a leisurely breakfast with Nada, as that soon became a highlight of my day. These two women, Nada and Abeer, have helped my Arabic more in the short time I've known them, than I could ever learn in years back in the U.S.

The CIEE Arabic Language program—intensive courses combined with total immersion—has brought my Arabic ability to levels I never imagined possible!

— AnneMarie Flood, Bryn Mawr University

