

University of Jordan

colloquial jordanian arabic language / modern standard arabic language



program snapshot

- Intensive Arabic language training in Modern Standard Arabic and Colloquial Jordanian Arabic
- Excursions to local and regional historical places of interest, including Jordan's biblical sites, Roman heritage sites, and desert castles
- Target Language Clubs to further language acquisition and help students develop core vocabulary and colloquial conversation skills
- Peer Language Tutors to enhance language skills and offer insight into campus life

what you'll learn

The Arabic Language program in Amman provides a rigorous and intensive program, combined with a rewarding in-country cultural experience. Students develop a strong basic foundation in Modern Standard Arabic and have the opportunity to attain conversational skills in the Jordanian dialect.

thoughts from abroad

Positioned at the crossroads of globalization and ancient tradition, Jordan is a textbook example of the challenges a society faces as it endeavors to modernize without losing its own cultural heritage. In the past two decades, Jordan has undergone rapid socialization, and economic and political change, evident in the ever-expanding boundaries of Amman, its capital city. Where else in the world can you surf the Internet at a mall wireless hot spot next to a fully veiled woman using her laptop to study the Koran? What is so amazing about Jordan, however, is that this rapid change and melding of cultures and civilizations is actually a continuation of its own history. One needs only to visit the complex ruins of the Jerash metropolis or Petra—an ancient capital of global trade—to recognize that the transition Jordan is going through today is a continuation of its own heritage. By coming to Jordan, you will actually become part of Jordan's legacy of both continuity and change.

— Allison Hodgkins, Resident Director

About the Resident Director

A native of Maine, Allison Hodgkins has more than 10 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 is currently a Ph.D. candidate (ABD) in The Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy at Tufts University, and holds 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 Other CIEE Staff

Dr. Najeh Abu-Orabi, CIEE Director of Arabic Instruction, 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.

Rana Masri, Resident Coordinator, has five years of experience working with U.S. students and international programs in Jordan and 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. Ahmad Abu-Shaikha, Student Activities Coordinator, provides support to students on extra-curricular activities, such as excursions, peer tutors, clubs, volunteer opportunities, and University activities. Stewart Pierce-Gardner, Resident Coordinator-Student Services, received his B.A. in International Political Economy from Davidson College. As part of his academic focus on Middle Eastern and Development Studies, Stewart participated in the CIEE Amman Language and Culture program. Prior to joining CIEE, Pierce-Gardner served as Assistant to the Dean at the Yemen College of Middle Eastern Studies in Sana'a, Yemen. 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 CIEE Arabic Language summer program is designed for intensive language acquisition. The Arabic language skills of participants will greatly improve through their required courses, interaction with Peer Language Tutors, and participation in Target Language Clubs.

Academic Culture

This is a rigorous program for focused students seeking the opportunity to begin learning Arabic or to continue their studies. The number of daily contact hours is high, and attendance is required. Instructors are natives of Jordan and reflect local cultural norms in their classroom demeanor and pedagogy. Students must expect a more formal classroom environment and take initiative in understanding instructors' expectations. Language classes are held five days a week for four hours daily. Instructors have office hours for students with questions and in need of extra help.

Nature of Classes

Participants take classes with other CIEE students only.

Language Environment

As students gain proficiency in Arabic, resident staff encourage them to use their language skills in everyday settings. This

fosters a learning community that contributes to both Arabic language proficiency and understanding of Jordanian society.

Grading System

Grades (A–F with pluses and minuses on a scale of 100) are assigned based on midterm 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. Attendance is mandatory in all 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. CIEE has an additional office in the University of Jordan's Language Center. CIEE students have access to all major campus facilities, including the library and campus computer labs. Classes are held throughout the University Campus.

living

Housing and Meals

Participants live with other CIEE students in local apartments. Students need to budget for all meals as they are not included in the program fee. However, lunch is provided for students during orientation and CIEE-sponsored excursions. Students receive a stipend to be used for transportation to and from campus.

Orientation

The program begins with a mandatory two-day orientation program that introduces students to the academic program, to the fundamentals of intercultural communication, and to practical information about living in Jordan. Orientation also includes a health and safety component. Ongoing support is provided on an individual and group basis throughout the program.

Internet

Students have full access to the computer and Internet facilities at the University of Jordan, which includes several wireless areas. Internet cafés are also a convenient and inexpensive option. The Internet is not as fast or readily accessible as in the United States. Students do not have access to the Internet in their apartments.



eligibility

- Overall GPA 2.75
- 0–3 semesters of college-level Arabic or equivalent

duration

5 weeks: early June–mid-July

culture

Cultural Activities and Field Trips

The academic program is supplemented with excursions to Jordan's archaeological, historical, and natural wonders. Students have the option of attending a day trip every weekend to Jordan's biblical sites, Roman heritage sites, and desert castles. The program also includes one overnight trip to Petra. Resident staff keep students up to date on local cultural events, including films, concerts, and conferences.

Independent Travel

Students are encouraged to travel independently throughout Jordan on weekends. Any travel outside of Jordan is only permitted after students complete the CIEE Amman Independent Travel form, sign a CIEE independent travel waiver, and review potential security or safety concerns with the CIEE Resident Director. Students are also expected to consult their home institution and emergency contacts about their plans for independent travel outside of Jordan.

Peer Language Tutors

CIEE recruits University of Jordan students from the faculty of Foreign Languages to serve as Peer Language Tutors. Students are matched according to language ability and interests when possible. Students are briefed on expectations and are expected to commit up to three hours a week to meet

with their Peer Language Tutor on campus for conversation and assistance with their Arabic. This program facilitates interaction with local peers and offers students insights into campus life.

Target Language Clubs

Each weekday, students have the opportunity to attend a Target Language Club. These clubs allow students to work on specific skills or explore cultural or artistic aspects of the language in a non-graded, non-credit setting. Clubs may include core vocabulary (building word families), colloquial conversation, calligraphy, and culture.

costs

CIEE Fees

Summer 2009: \$6,300
Summer 2010: available 12/15/09

The CIEE fees for 2010 include an optional on-site airport meet and greet, full-time leadership and support, tuition, housing, local transportation stipend, orientation, cultural activities, field trips, an overnight trip to Petra, host institution identity card, comprehensive student handbook, pre-departure advising, and a CIEE iNext travel card, which provides insurance and other travel benefits.

Estimated Additional Costs (Summer 2009)

Transportation (round-trip based on U.S. East Coast departure)	\$ 1,500
Personal Expenses	\$ 500
Meals	\$ 600
Books and Supplies	\$ 100
Visa Fee	\$ 45
Total Estimated Additional Costs	\$ 2,745

Check our website for current fees.

coursework

Program Requirements

All students are required to take Modern Standard Arabic and Jordanian Colloquial Arabic. Students with no background in Arabic are automatically enrolled in Beginning I. All other students are assigned based on the results of a placement exam taken upon arrival. The CIEE Language Coordinator makes the final determination of which level is most appropriate in consultation with the instructors and the student.

Credit

Total recommended credit for the summer program is 7 semester/10.5 quarter hours.

Contact hours are 90 for the Modern Standard Arabic course and 45 for the Colloquial Jordanian Arabic course.

Languages of Instruction

Arabic, English

Faculty

All courses are taught under the direction of Dr. Najeh Abu-Orabi and by instructors hired by the University of Jordan.

courses

Required CIEE Courses

ARAB 1001 AMSU/ARAB 1002 AMSU

Arabic Language, Beginning Arabic I and II

ARAB 2001 AMSU/ARAB 2002 AMSU

Arabic Language, Intermediate Arabic I and II

Students are placed into the appropriate Modern Standard Arabic (MSA) level based on the results of a language exam taken during orientation. In addition to the regular classroom and lab sessions, students also have supplementary small group sessions. Contact hours: 90. Recommended credit: 4 semester/6 quarter hours.

ARAB 1003 AMSU

Colloquial Jordanian Arabic, Beginning I

Essential for functioning in everyday life, Colloquial Jordanian Arabic is the language of spoken communication and is used in domestic, intimate, and informal settings in the home, the workplace, and among friends and acquaintances. This course introduces students to the grammar and vocabulary of the Jordanian dialect and builds on the instruction provided in the Modern Standard Arabic language course. Contact hours: 45. Recommended credit: 3 semester/4.5 quarter hours.

ARAB 2003 AMSU

Colloquial Jordanian Arabic, Intermediate I

This course offers an opportunity for students with prior knowledge of colloquial dialect to continue expanding their communicative abilities. It focuses on the grammar and vocabulary of the Jordanian dialect and builds on the instruction in the Modern Standard Arabic course. Contact hours: 45. Recommended credit: 3 semester/4.5 quarter hours.

