Arabic

Learning Goals

1. To achieve advanced language proficiency in the four areas of language performance: speaking, listening, reading, and writing.
2. To study colloquial Arabic while abroad, since course work takes place in Modern Standard Arabic, and develop competence in the appropriate use of both language registers.
3. To pursue work in one of two academic disciplines, literature or linguistics, in order to develop the communicative skills and intellectual background necessary for a meaningful engagement with the Arab world and a critical appreciation of its cultural and intellectual traditions.

About the major

To approach fluency in Arabic, one must become conversant in at least one of its dialects, and this cannot be achieved without study abroad. This can currently be undertaken at the C.V. Starr-Middlebury School in the Middle East, located in Amman, Jordan. Students at the school in the Middle East study Jordanian Arabic, as well as take courses on Modern Standard Arabic, Media Arabic, and a variety of other content courses. Living abroad is an invaluable cultural experience, as well as the best way to learn to speak and comprehend the language as it is spoken by native speakers.

At Middlebury, we firmly believe in the bond between language and culture. Thus, we always strive to expose students to the cultural side of the Arab world in our language classes, in extracurricular activities, and in culture courses offered in English. We like to consider culture a fifth skill in addition to the four language skills. One reflection of this belief is the structure of our first-year winter term course in which the instruction of language and culture both receive equal time and attention. Outside the class we expose our students to culture through musical, filmic, and gastronomic activities.

Reasons you might choose this major

• You want to master Arabic to an advanced proficiency level.
• You would like to attain a deeper understanding of the rich literary and linguistic aspects of Arabic.
• You want to learn about the humanistic traditions of the Arab world, from pre-Islamic times to the contemporary era.
• You are fascinated by the historical, sociocultural, and linguistic diversity of the Arab world, as manifested across different modern Arab nations as well as in Arabic-speaking communities in the diaspora.
• You want to learn a critical global language, highly valued in an ever-globalizing world.
• You would like to travel abroad to any number of historic sites and destinations in the Arab world.
• You would like to attain a solid foreign language edge in the global markets anchored in a strong base of a liberal arts education.
**Translating Learning into Professional Competencies**

Throughout your time at Middlebury, you will develop and enhance the following core professional competencies, skills, and dispositions highly valued by employers that will prepare you for leadership and success in any given field:

**Critical Thinking:** Exercise sound reasoning to analyze issues, make decisions, and overcome problems.

**Oral/Written Communications:** Articulate thoughts and ideas clearly and effectively in written and oral forms.

**Teamwork/Collaboration:** Build collaborative relationships with colleagues and customers from diverse backgrounds.

**Leadership:** Leverage the strengths of others to achieve common goals, and use interpersonal skills to coach and develop others.

**Professionalism/Work Ethic:** Demonstrate personal accountability and effective work habits.

**Global/Intercultural Fluency:** Value, respect, and learn from diverse cultures, races, ages, genders, sexual orientations, and religions.

**Digital Technology:** Leverage existing digital technologies ethically and efficiently to solve problems, complete tasks, and accomplish goals.

**Career Management:** Identify and articulate one’s skills, strengths, knowledge, and experiences relevant to career goals, and identify areas necessary for professional development.

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**Where Arabic majors go**

**Applying your learning through internships . . .**

Students pursue internships and research in a variety of fields, enabling them to apply their liberal arts learning in real-world settings. Internships, research, and self-directed projects enrich your academic experience and help prepare you for life after Middlebury. Students have interned or done research at the following:

- The Middle East Institute
- The Arab American Association of New York
- Globo Esporte
- NBC Universal
- Brooklyn District Attorney's Office
- National Council on U.S.-Arab Relations
- Thinking Beyond Borders
- U.S. Department of Education
- Inter-American Development Bank
- State Street Media
- Hearst Corporation
- Arab Renaissance for Democracy and Development
- City Hall of New York City
- U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom
- The James Martin Center for Nonproliferation Studies
- National Security Investigation Division
- Akhbarek.com
- U.S. Department of Homeland Security
- House of Representatives Committee on Foreign Affairs
- Council on Hemispheric Affairs

. . . leading to meaningful, dynamic, and engaging career paths.

See just some of the many interesting ways our graduates have applied their liberal arts learning to engage the world. If you want to see what other Middlebury alumni are doing now, log into Midd2Midd and search by major. [go/midd2midd](go/midd2midd)

- Naval Postgraduate School (NPS), Civil Military Relations Program Analyst
- The Atlantic, Associate Producer
- 350.org, Policy Director
- StoryCorps, Associate Editor, Print
- Apex Foundation, President
- CBS News, Assistant to the President
- Integral GIS, Geospatial Developer
- School of Leadership, Afghanistan, Managing Director and Acting Head of School
- CyberSource, Director, Marketing Operations
- Rolling Stone, Managing Editor
- Columbia University, Arabic Bibliographic Assistant
- Thrive Foundation for Youth, Executive Director
- Hackensack University Medical Center, Pediatrician
- TerraCore, President
- BBC Worldwide, Regional Manager
- MapLight, Political Writer
- Condé Nast Publications, Senior Fashion Editor
- Intrado Inc., Corporate Counsel
- TCR Capital, Partner (France)
- U.S. Government, Political Analyst