

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.

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

. . . 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](#)

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