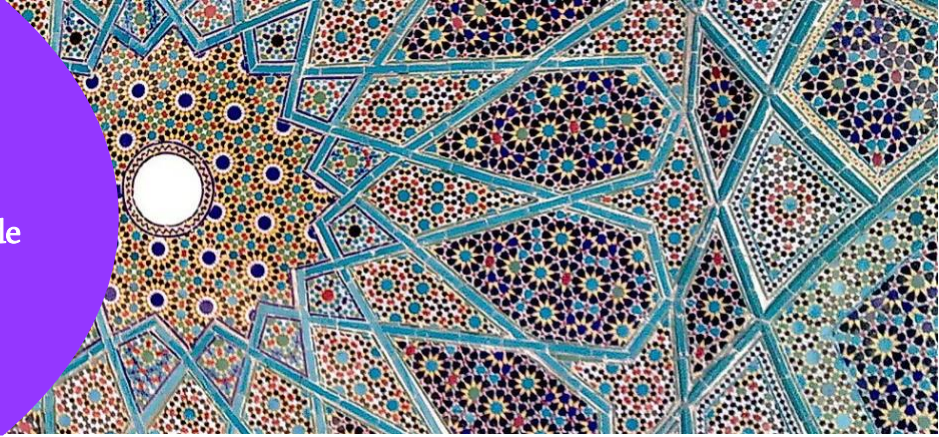


# Arabic Studies at the University of Cambridge

- 4 year course including a year abroad in an Arabic-speaking country
- Intensive language training and a wide range of content courses
- Combine with Persian, Hebrew or a modern European language



## Arabic Studies

Studying Arabic will give you access to one of the world's great languages in the context of the culture and history of its region of origin. Arabic is spoken by over 313 million people 'from the Ocean to the Gulf' as the Arabs say, from Morocco, Mauritania and Western Sahara in the West, to Iraq, the Gulf states and Somalia in the East. It is the official language in 26 countries, and one of the six official languages of the United Nations. It is also the sacred language of around 1.5 billion Muslims globally. Knowing Arabic enables you to communicate with people throughout the Middle East and provides access to the richness and passion of the contemporary Arab world, as well as some of the world's greatest works of literature, science, and history.

At Cambridge you will learn Arabic in a way that mirrors its use across this varied world:

- Standard Arabic for reading and writing: although nobody speaks Standard Arabic, it is learned across the Arab world and gives access to the thought and literature of the region.
- Egyptian Arabic for speaking: Egyptian Arabic is a central dialect with a large number of native speakers and readily understood across the Arab world and a good basis for learning other dialects.
- Other dialects: your year abroad will give you the opportunity to learn the local dialect, giving access to the vitality and warmth of everyday life in the region of your choice.

Staff in Middle Eastern Studies are actively researching in the areas of anthropology, history, manuscript studies, linguistics, cultural history, literature, media and popular culture. Between us we teach and research the Middle East from pre-Islamic times right the way through to the present day.

UCAS Code	Course duration	Typical A Level offer:
TT46 BA/ AMES	Four years (Year 3 spent abroad)	<b>A*AA</b> IB: 40-41 points, with 776 at Higher Level

## Required subjects for entry

No previous knowledge of Arabic is required to study with us. If you want to combine with a modern European language you need to be taking the European language at A-Level/IB Higher Level or equivalent.

Our course is not suitable for native speakers of Arabic.

## Subject combinations

Arabic, Hebrew and Persian can be combined with each other or with modern European language which you have studied to A Level/IB Higher Level or equivalent\*. Arabic and Hebrew can also be taken as single subjects. Persian must be combined with another Middle Eastern or European language in Years 1 and 2. Students taking one of the Middle Eastern languages will have the option to study Hindi from Year 2 or Sanskrit in Year 4. Students take a maximum of two languages in any one year.

Students who combine with a modern European language spend their Year Abroad (8 months) in the Middle East.

\* Modern European language courses are run by the Faculty of Modern and Medieval Languages and Linguistics (MMLL) [www.mml.cam.ac.uk](http://www.mml.cam.ac.uk)

## An overview of our course

Our course ('Tripos') is unique for combining intensive and fast-paced study of the Arabic language with the chance to specialise in specific areas of the Middle East according to your own interests. Lectures and seminars are combined with personalised supervisions to create a catered form of education that empowers each of you as active learners while providing caring support and thoughtful guidance.

### First year (Part IA): Gaining a solid grounding

The focus in the first year is on language learning. If taking single subject Arabic, you will devote over half of your time to the study of all aspects of the language and by the third term you will be able to read real world texts. You will also take 2 content papers on the history and culture of the Middle East. If you combine Arabic with Hebrew or Persian language, you will take 1 history/culture paper. If you combine Arabic with a European language, you will take the Arabic language papers plus Part IA papers in your MMLL language.

### Second year (Part IB): Going deeper and broader

Language classes in the second year take you from intermediate to early-advanced Arabic. You also have the opportunity to take courses in literary Arabic and a variety of other disciplines, including premodern and modern history, anthropology, film and linguistics. If you combine Arabic with Hebrew or Persian you will take papers in that language. You may also commence Hindi. If you combine Arabic with an MMLL language you will select your papers from both faculties. You will also identify a fourth year undergraduate dissertation project with your instructors' help.

### Third year: Year abroad

You develop your Year Abroad with the assistance of the Arabic Year Abroad Co-ordinator. You are able to choose from a selection of Arab destinations and take courses and/or arrange voluntary work placements. This often happens once you arrive in the region and make local contacts. We review FCO travel advice regularly and you may only go to destinations deemed safe for travel. As circumstances can change rapidly, you will prepare a Plan A and a Plan B for the Year Abroad. In recent years, students have gone to Egypt, Jordan, Oman and Morocco.

### Fourth year (Part II): Generating knowledge

Fourth year advanced Arabic language classes prepare you for professional Arabic-speaking environments and you will read, discuss and analyse advanced texts of many kinds. You will also choose from a selection of advanced and specialised courses based on your instructors' research, covering literature, history, linguistics and social science. If you continue to combine Arabic with Hebrew or Persian you will take advanced papers in that language. If you continue to combine Arabic with an MMLL language you will select your papers from both faculties. You will also write your dissertation based on your own independent research and make an original contribution to Middle Eastern Studies.

## The admission process: a few simple steps

Submit your UCAS application by **15 October**, followed by your supplementary questionnaire

Wait to hear if you have been invited for an interview

Interview in Cambridge  
(early **December**)

Wait to hear whether you have a conditional offer (**January**)

Get the necessary grades in your exams