Arabic

The Arabic major is offered by the Department of Near Eastern Languages and Cultures and includes courses in the language, literature and culture of the Arab world. Students studying Arabic progress from an elementary working knowledge of the language toward oral and written proficiency. Once students have mastered the unique writing system of the language, they are gradually introduced to basic patterns of speech and grammar. The rich body of Arabic literature is first studied in English translation; as students progress in the major and develop their language skills, they continue their readings in Arabic.

Pursuing Arabic at Ohio State
All freshman applicants are considered within a competitive admission process; find admissions criteria at go.osu.edu/admissions. Upon admission to the university, students can declare a major in Arabic within the College of Arts and Sciences. Interested students should contact the coordinating advisor in the Department of Near Eastern Languages and Cultures and in Arts and Sciences Advising.

Arabic Requirements
An Arabic major consists of a minimum of 15 hours of prerequisites and 36 hours of Arabic courses selected in consultation with the student’s major advisor. Students majoring in Arabic are required to design their programs from courses in language, culture and literature.

Success in Arabic requires a commitment to daily preparation and a willingness on the part of the student to use the opportunities provided in class to speak the language. In addition, students should begin considering and planning for a study abroad program as soon as they have decided to major in Arabic. Students interested in studying abroad during their junior or senior year can get specific information about various programs from the coordinating advisor in the Department of Near Eastern Languages and Cultures.

Co-Curricular Opportunities
Ohio State offers many opportunities for students to learn and grow outside of the classroom. These range from cooperative education (co-op) and internships to study abroad programs to student organizations. Co-ops and internships place students in professional environments while they are Ohio State students. Ohio State offers more than 100 study abroad programs in 40 countries around the world. In addition, there are hundreds of student organizations on campus to meet the interests of a diverse student population.

These experiences enable students to gain valuable work experience, learn about cultures and take on leadership roles before they enter the workforce. All of these experiences enhance learning and may provide an advantage in the job market.

Honors & Scholars Programs
Ohio State offers the Honors and Scholars Programs to create an environment of intellectual support and stimulation within a close-knit community of high-ability undergraduate students. Through these programs, students have access to smaller classes, undergraduate research opportunities, close working relationships with faculty, priority scheduling and unique housing options.

The Honors and Scholars Programs represent great opportunities to be part of a smaller community within a large university. Learn more at honors-scholars.osu.edu.

Career Prospects in Arabic
Arabic is applicable in a variety of settings in the United States and abroad. Mastery of Arabic allows students to consider careers in such fields as education, government, international trade, banking, print or electronic media, or tourism. Many employers are eager to hire graduates who are fluent in Arabic because their businesses involve Arabic speakers.

Careers in which Arabic is the primary emphasis include teaching Arabic at all levels; interpreting and translating for the United Nations, government, or for private and public organizations; and a variety of positions in the travel and tourism industry at home or abroad such as flight attendant, travel agent and tour guide. Careers in which proficiency in Arabic is a good secondary tool include banking and finance, business, sales, export purchasing, foreign market analysis, journalism, foreign correspondence, science and research, library science, hotel management, publishing, radio broadcasting, and teaching English in the Arab world to employees in corporations abroad. All who study Arabic find that the experience sharpens their understanding of language in general and enables them to use their own language more effectively and thus exercise a greater amount of control over their own lives, no matter what their eventual fields of interest or occupations.

Beginning salaries depend on candidates’ skills and experience, and whether Arabic is of primary or secondary importance in

For more information, check these websites:
Near Eastern Languages and Cultures: nelc.osu.edu
College of Arts and Sciences: artsandsciences.osu.edu
Ohio State: osu.edu
Admissions: undergrad.osu.edu
Multicultural Center: multiculturalcenter.osu.edu
First Year Experience: fye.osu.edu
daily job performance. Arabic language graduates find their marketable skills considerably enriched by their humanities education.

Career Counseling and Job Placement
Students can explore career options in Arabic by utilizing Career Connection as well as the Arts and Sciences Career Services Office. Career Connection focuses on helping students establish a career direction, while the Arts and Sciences Career Services Office assists students with finding internships—experiences that are essential to testing out the suitability of career fields they are considering. Located in 48 Townshend Hall, the Arts and Sciences Career Services Office also assists seniors and recent graduates with finding entry-level career employment.

More information about both offices is found at asccareerservices.osu.edu and careerconnection.osu.edu.

More About Arabic
Many scholarship, internship and study abroad opportunities are available for students majoring in Arabic. Study abroad programs are available at the American University in Cairo, Arabic Language in Fez (ALIF) Program, University of Jordan and Qasid Institute.

For more information regarding any of the programs listed above, refer to the Office of International Affairs at oia.osu.edu.

The Arabic Language and Culture Club brings Arabic students together outside the classroom by offering a number of informal events throughout the year. For more information about this official Ohio State student organization, contact Justin Acome, acome.1@osu.edu.

There are several tracks to study Arabic language at Ohio State, including the regular classroom track and an individualized instruction track. Summer intensive courses are also available.

Revised May 2012. Information subject to change. For the most up-to-date information on the Arabic program, please visit nelc.osu.edu.

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