

Arabic Studies

Arabic is spoken by more than 200 million people around the world. The increasing trade and diplomatic exchanges between Australia and the Arabic-speaking world makes it important for students wishing to pursue a career in these areas to acquire the language and understand the culture. The acquisition of Arabic language is also highly desirable for a general understanding of the Islamic world.

Arabic studies is one of six programs that constitute the Melbourne Institute of Asian Languages and Societies (MIALS). The Institute was established in 1998 as a major teaching and research initiative of the University of Melbourne. MIALS serves to strengthen the University's role as a major international centre for the development of studies in Asian languages and societies. Students who specialise in Arabic studies develop transferable skills that will enhance their career options. Alternatively, they are able to expand on their interest and knowledge through an articulated structure of higher degree study options at the University of Melbourne.

Arabic language classes cater for a range of competencies, from beginners level, for students with little or no knowledge of Arabic to more advanced levels, for students with some prior knowledge of the language. Students of Arabic studies will receive a comprehensive grounding in important areas of Arabic language, society and culture.

Time commitment to study

As well as scheduled contact hours for lectures, tutorial and seminars a considerable additional time commitment is needed to complete the academic requirements of each subject.

A subject-specific time commitment to study will be provided by your lecturer or tutor at the beginning of semester to help you schedule your workload and successfully manage your time during the semester. In addition, general estimates of the total time commitment required to study a 12.5-point single semester subject in the Faculty of Arts can be found on page 1.

Language study streams

The Institute offers two streams of Arabic language study:

Beginners

The beginners stream is available to students who have little or no knowledge of Arabic. It is available at both first and second year although students intending to complete a major will need to commence their language study in their first year.

Post-VCE

The post-VCE stream is usually only available to students who have obtained a pass in VCE Arabic, or its equivalent.

The Institute determines the language stream in which a student is to enrol. Placement is based on VCE results, other language study, other language study record, or a placement test.

Stream enrolment remains provisional until confirmed or, alternatively, altered according to the student's needs as determined by the Institute during the first two weeks of teaching. As far as possible, the Institute will notify students of any changes to their stream during the first two weeks of semester. Where a change is made in the third or fourth week of semester it will be reported to the Associate Dean (Academic Programs).

Diploma of Modern Languages (Arabic)

The Diploma of Modern Languages (DML) enables students to gain a diploma in language study in the course of completing an undergraduate degree at the University of Melbourne.

The DML involves a three-year sequence of language study, totalling a minimum of 100 points. It adds one year to the duration of an ordinary degree course.

The DML (Arabic) is offered in the beginners and post-VCE streams. Arabic subjects are taken alongside degree subjects in an integrated sequence of study. This must be approved by the home faculty course adviser. The student may be required to sit a placement test. See *Diploma in Modern Languages* (p.14).

Requirements for a language major

A major in Arabic studies usually consists of 125 points comprising:

- two first-year subjects in Arabic (37.5 points); and
- two second-year subjects in Arabic (37.5 points); and
- four third-year subjects in Arabic (50 points).

A major must include either:

- 110-010 Arabic 3A (p.3); and
- 110-011 Arabic 3B (p.3).

or

- 110-410 Arabic 4A (p.3); and
- 110-411 Arabic 4B (p.3).

Structuring a major

A major in Arabic studies usually takes one of the following forms:

Beginners stream

First year	Points
110-170 Arabic 1A (p.2)	12.5
110-171 Arabic 1A-Conversation (p.2)	6.25
110-172 Arabic 1B (p.2)	12.5
110-173 Arabic 1B-Conversation (p.2)	6.25
Second year	Points
110-006 Arabic 2A (p.2)	12.5
110-007 Arabic 2A-Conversation (p.3)	6.25
110-008 Arabic 2B (p.3)	12.5
110-009 Arabic 2B-Conversation (p.3)	6.25
Third year	Points
110-010 Arabic 3A (p.3)	12.5
110-011 Arabic 3B (p.3)	12.5
Two optional subjects	25

Post-VCE stream

First year	Points
110-010 Arabic 3A (p.3)	12.5
110-011 Arabic 3B (p.3)	12.5
One optional subject	12.5
Second year	Points
110-410 Arabic 4A (p.3)	12.5
110-411 Arabic 4B (p.3)	12.5
One optional subject	12.5
Third year	Points
110-412 Arabic 5A (p.4)	12.5
110-413 Arabic 5B (p.4)	12.5
Two optional subjects	25
Optional subjects	Sem.
110-414 Research Essay (Arabic) (p.4)	1 rep 2
110-415 Directed Study Project (p.4)	1 rep 2
110-089 Understanding the Muslim World (p.1)	1
110-091 Islamic Political Movements (p.2)	2
110-210 Muslim Philosophy and Thought (p.2)	1
110-211 Introduction to the Qur'an (p.2)	2
110-222 Islam and Human Rights (p.2)	N/A
110-223 Islam in the West (p.2)	N/A
110-224 Islamic Mysticism (Sufism) (p.2)	N/A
131-066 The Modern Middle East (p.10)	N/A
131-211 The History of the Arab-Israeli Conflict (p.12)	2

Honours entry

Honours coordinator: Dr Carolyn Stevens

The prerequisites for entry to fourth-year honours in Arabic studies are:

- completion of all the requirements for the BA; and
- completion of a major in Arabic studies; and
- an average grade of H2B or higher over the second/third-year subjects within the major; and
- for combined honours, admission to honours in another area of study within the Faculty of Arts.

For information on how to apply see *Applying for Honours* (p.13).

Pure honours

Honours coordinator: Dr Carolyn Stevens

Students undertaking pure honours in Arabic studies must complete:

- 110-531 Arabic Studies Thesis (p.4) (37.5 points); and

Normally at least two subjects must be completed from the following unless completed earlier:

- 110-410 Arabic 4A (p.3)
- 110-411 Arabic 4B (p.3)
- 110-412 Arabic 5A (p.4)
- 110-413 Arabic 5B (p.4)

Normally no more than three subjects from the following:

- 110-414 Research Essay (Arabic) (p.4)
- 110-415 Directed Study Project (p.4)
- 175-507 Quantitative Methods in Language Studies (p.7)

Combined honours

Honours coordinator: Dr Carolyn Stevens

Students undertaking combined honours must have admission to honours in another area of study within the Faculty of Arts. Students undertaking combined honours in Arabic studies and another area of study must complete:

- 110-531 Arabic Studies Thesis (p.4) (37.5 points); and
- two honours subjects in Arabic studies (25 points); and
- three honours subjects in the combined area of study (37.5 points).

or

- honours thesis in the combined area of study (37.5 points); and
- two honours subjects in the combined area of study (25 points); and
- three honours subjects in Arabic studies (37.5 points).

In either case the following two subjects must be included in the Arabic studies component of the combined honours year, unless they have been completed earlier:

- 110-410 Arabic 4A (p.3)
- 110-411 Arabic 4B (p.3)

or

- 110-412 Arabic 5A (p.4)
- 110-413 Arabic 5B (p.4)

Further study

An honours degree in Arabic studies can lead to MA or PhD degrees.

Career opportunities

Graduates majoring in Arabic studies have found employment in teaching, translation, journalism, research and in various areas of the public service, commerce and in professions serving the large Arab community in Australia.

For more information

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Language subjects

110-170 Arabic 1A

Note: Formerly available as 110-002. Students who have completed 110-002 are not eligible to enrol in this subject.

Availability: 1st and 2nd year

Credit points: 12.5

Coordinator: Dr A S Abdullah

Contact: Four hours of language classes per week (*Semester 1*).

Description: This subject is an introduction to spoken and written Arabic language as well as culture for students with little or no knowledge of Arabic. On completion of the subject students should have acquired a spoken facility at a basic level in Modern Standard Arabic; the ability to read and understand a range of simple Arabic texts and stories within a vocabulary range of 200-400 most commonly used words; some basic grammatical structures of Arabic language; the ability to write simple journal entries relating to the themes focused on in the semester; and a familiarity with some Arab cultural practices and traditions.

Assessment: Regular homework 10%, a language laboratory class test 10% (due mid-semester), a class test 20% (due mid-semester), a 15-minute aural/oral test 10% (due at the end of semester) and a final 2-hour written examination 50% (due during the examination period).

Prescribed texts: Saeed, Mayer and Raheem, *Modern Standard Arabic Beginners: Book 1*, MIALS. • Saeed, Mayer and Raheem, *Modern Standard Arabic: Introduction*, MIALS.

110-171 Arabic 1A-Conversation

Note: Formerly available as 110-003. Students who have completed 110-003 are not eligible to enrol in this subject.

Availability: 1st and 2nd year

Credit points: 6.25

Coordinator: Dr M Kamal

Contact: Two hours of tutorials per week (*Semester 1*).

Description: In this subject students will learn to interact and express themselves in spoken Arabic, both in formal and informal situations. A range of topics appropriate for day-to-day conversation in Arabic will be covered. This subject complements work in 110-170 Arabic 1A (p.2). It reinforces grammar and vocabulary learned in that subject.

Assessment: A 15-minute aural/oral test 25% (due mid-semester), a 15-minute aural/oral test 25% (due in week 9) and a 30 minute aural/oral test 50% (due during the examination period).

Prescribed texts: Saeed, Mayer and Raheem, *Modern Standard Arabic Beginners: Book 1*, MIALS. • Saeed, Mayer and Raheem, *Modern Standard Arabic: Introduction*, MIALS.

110-172 Arabic 1B

Note: Formerly available as 110-004. Students who have completed 110-004 are not eligible to enrol in this subject.

Availability: 1st and 2nd year

Credit points: 12.5

Coordinator: Dr A S Abdullah

Prerequisites: 110-170 Arabic 1A (p.2) or equivalent.

Contact: Four hours of language classes per week (*Semester 2*).

Description: This subject forms a thorough introduction to spoken and written Arabic language and culture for students with some knowledge of Arabic. On completion of the subject students will have acquired a clear spoken facility at a basic level in Modern Standard Arabic; the ability to read and understand a variety of Arabic texts within a vocabulary range of 500-1000 most commonly used words; basic grammatical structures of Arabic language, and attained the capacity to apply them in speech and writing; have the ability to write simple letters to friends, and make journal entries relating to everyday activities; and a familiarity with a number of important Arab cultural habits and traditions.

Assessment: Regular homework 10%, a language laboratory class test 10% (due mid-semester), a class test 20% (mid-semester), a 15-minute aural/oral test 10% (due at the end of semester) and a final 2-hour written examination 50% due during the examination period).

Prescribed texts: Saeed, Mayer and Raheem, *Modern Standard Arabic Beginners: Book 2*, MIALS.

110-173 Arabic 1B-Conversation

Note: Formerly available as 110-005. Students who have completed 110-005 are not eligible to enrol in this subject.

Availability: 1st and 2nd year

Credit points: 6.25

Coordinator: Dr M Kamal

Contact: Two hours of tutorials per week (*Semester 2*).

Description: In this subject students will learn to interact and express themselves in spoken Arabic, both in formal and informal situations. A wide range of topics appropriate for day-to-day conversation in Arabic will be covered. This subject complements work in 110-172 Arabic 1B (p.2). It reinforces grammar and vocabulary learned in that subject.

Assessment: A 15-minute aural/oral test 25% (due mid-semester), a 15 minute aural/oral test 25% (due in week 9) and a 30-minute aural/oral test 50% (due during the examination period).

Prescribed texts: Saeed, Mayer and Raheem, *Modern Standard Arabic Beginners: Book 2*, MIALS.

110-006 Arabic 2A

Availability: 1st, 2nd and 3rd year

Credit points: 12.5

Coordinator: Dr A S Abdullah

Prerequisites: 110-172 Arabic 1B (p.2) or equivalent.

Corequisites: 110-007 Arabic 2A-Conversation (p.3).

Contact: Four hours of language classes per week (*Semester 1*).

Description: This subject involves a more detailed presentation of functions of the language; oral and aural practice; reading of texts; and the writing of compositions that incorporate features of the language already presented through some important cultural issues. On completion of this subject students should have acquired a level of proficiency in basic Arabic conversa-

tional forms; a level of proficiency in simple written structures and an ability to formulate such structures; an understanding of some of the commonly used grammatical structures of Arabic and the ability to apply them in speech and writing; the ability to interpret messages of a low level of complexity occurring in some audio-visual media and in individual and group spoken forms; and familiarity with some of the dominant cultural ideas and forms in the Arab Middle East.

Assessment: A language laboratory class test 10% (due mid-semester), a class test 20% (due mid-semester), a 15-minute aural/oral test 10% (due at the end of semester), regular homework 10% (the best 8 pieces of the semester) and a final 2-hour written examination 50% (due during the examination period).

Prescribed texts: Saeed, Mayer and Raheem, *Modern Standard Arabic Intermediate: Book 1*, MIALS.

110-007 Arabic 2A-Conversation

Availability: 1st, 2nd and 3rd year

Credit points: 6.25

Coordinator: Dr A S Abdullah

Corequisites: 110-006 Arabic 2A (p.2).

Contact: Two hours of tutorials per week (*Semester 1*).

Description: In this subject students will learn to interact and express themselves in spoken Arabic, both in formal and informal situations. A wide range of topics appropriate for day-to-day conversation in Arabic will be covered. This subject complements work in 110-006 Arabic 2A (p.2). It reinforces grammar and vocabulary learned in that subject.

Assessment: A 15 minute aural/oral test 25% (due mid-semester), a 15 minute aural/oral test 25% (due in week 9) and a 30 minute aural/oral test 50% (due during the examination period).

Prescribed texts: Saeed, Mayer and Raheem, *Modern Standard Arabic Intermediate: Book 1*, MIALS.

110-008 Arabic 2B

Availability: 1st, 2nd and 3rd year

Credit points: 12.5

Coordinator: Dr A S Abdullah

Prerequisites: 110-006 Arabic 2A (p.2) or equivalent.

Corequisites: 110-009 Arabic 2B-Conversation (p.3).

Contact: Four hours per week (*Semester 2*).

Description: This subject is a more detailed presentation of functions of the language; oral and aural practice; syntax and morphology; reading of texts and writing compositions. It also deals with some important cultural issues, including modern Arabic literary movements and ideas. On completion of this subject students should have acquired proficiency in basic idiomatic and conversational forms and ability to converse freely using these forms; written structures of moderate complexity and an ability to formulate such structures clearly and accurately; a grounding in commonly used grammatical structures of Arabic and an ability to apply them in speech and writing; the ability to interpret messages at an intermediate level of complexity; and familiarity with major cultural issues and modern literary movements and ideas in the 20th century in the Arab Middle East.

Assessment: A language laboratory class test 10% (due mid-semester), class test 20% (due mid-semester), a 15-minute aural/oral test 10% (due at the end of semester), regular homework 10% (the best 8 pieces of the semester) and a final 2-hour written examination 50% (due during the examination period).

Prescribed texts: Saeed, Mayer and Raheem, *Modern Standard Arabic Intermediate: Book 2*, MIALS.

110-009 Arabic 2B-Conversation

Availability: 1st, 2nd and 3rd year

Credit points: 6.25

Coordinator: Dr A S Abdullah

Corequisites: 110-008 Arabic 2B (p.3).

Contact: Two hours of tutorials per week (*Semester 2*).

Description: In this subject students will learn to interact and express themselves in spoken Arabic, both in formal and informal situations. A wide range of topics appropriate for day-to-day conversation in Arabic will be covered. This subject complements work in 110-008 Arabic 2B (p.3). It reinforces grammar and vocabulary learned in that subject.

Assessment: A 15-minute aural/oral test 25% (due mid-semester), a 15-minute aural/oral test 25% (due in week 9) and a 30-minute aural/oral test 50% (due during the semester).

Prescribed texts: Saeed, Mayer and Raheem, *Modern Standard Arabic Intermediate: Book 2*, MIALS.

110-010 Arabic 3A

Availability: 1st, 2nd and 3rd year

Credit points: 12.5

Coordinator: Dr A S Abdullah

Prerequisites: 110-008 Arabic 2B (p.3) or equivalent.

Contact: Four hours of language classes per week (*Semester 1*).

Description: This subject will develop students' skills such as the capacity to use some basic idiomatic and conversational forms and ability to use them freely in speech; proficiency in written structures of moderate complexity and the capacity to use such structures clearly and accurately; interpreting messages of a medium level of complexity occurring in a variety of audio-visual media and individual and group spoken forms. Students should become conversant in some aspects of advanced Arabic syntax and morphology, the historical development of Arabic language and literature up to the modern period including some examples of literary writing in the modern period, and translation of texts of moderate difficulty from Arabic to English and English to Arabic.

Assessment: Homework 10% (ongoing), oral assessment 10% (ongoing), a 10-minute aural/oral test 10% (due mid-semester), a final oral examination 20% (due at the end of semester) and a final 2-hour written examination 50% (due during the examination period).

Prescribed texts: Materials supplied by the Institute.

110-011 Arabic 3B

Availability: 1st, 2nd and 3rd year

Credit points: 12.5

Coordinator: Dr A S Abdullah

Prerequisites: 110-010 Arabic 3A (p.3) or equivalent.

Contact: Four hours of language classes per week (*Semester 2*).

Description: This subject will develop students' skills such as using idiomatic and conversational forms freely in speech; proficiency in written structures of moderate complexity and the capacity to use such structures clearly and accurately; interpreting messages of a medium level of complexity occurring in a variety of audio-visual media and individual and group spoken forms. It will also cover the role and function of stylistic complexity in Arabic, the development of Arabic literature in the modern period including some examples of writing in the period and translation of texts of moderate difficulty in non-technical language from Arabic to English and vice versa using dictionaries.

Assessment: Homework 10% (ongoing), continuous assessment 10%, a 10-minute aural/oral test 10% (due mid-semester), an oral examination 20% (due at the end of semester) and a 2-hour written examination 50% (due during the examination period).

Prescribed texts: Materials supplied by the Institute.

110-410 Arabic 4A

Note: Formerly available as 110-012. Students who have completed 110-012 are not eligible to enrol in this subject.

Availability: 2nd, 3rd and 4th year

Credit points: 12.5

Coordinator: Dr M Gully

Prerequisites: 110-011 Arabic 3B (p.3) or equivalent.

Contact: Four hours of language classes per week or regular meetings with the Supervisor (*Semester 1*).

Description: This subject is for students who have completed 110-011 Arabic 3B or equivalent and want to continue Arabic at advanced level. Students read and translate selected texts in modern standard Arabic such as short stories, newspaper articles, essays, travel literature, biographies, novels, and short plays. This subject will develop skills such as: a refined use of idiomatic forms; a level of proficiency in written structures of sophisticated complexity and the capacity to command their use freely; and an independent style in written language use.

Assessment: Regular homework 10%, continuous oral assessment 10%, a 10-minute aural/oral test 10% (due mid-semester), a final oral examination 20% (due at the end of semester) and a final 2-hour written examination 50% (due during the examination period).

Prescribed texts: Dickins and Watson, *Standard Arabic*, Cambridge University Press 1999.

110-411 Arabic 4B

Note: Formerly available as 110-013. Students who have completed 110-013 are not eligible to enrol in this subject.

Availability: 2nd, 3rd and 4th year

Credit points: 12.5

Coordinator: Dr A Gully

Prerequisites: 110-410 Arabic 4A (p.3) or equivalent.

Contact: Four hours of language classes per week or regular meeting with the Supervisor (*Semester 2*).

Description: This subject is for students who have satisfactorily completed 110-410 Arabic 4A or equivalent. It aims to further enhance students' proficiency of Arabic language through reading in modern standard Arabic and understanding and application of grammatical and stylistic rules. Students read and analyse selected texts in modern standard Arabic such as short stories, newspaper articles, novels, plays and poems. This subject will develop students' skills such as proficiency in written structures of sophisticated complexity and the capacity to understand and evaluate specialist and technical language use as well as Arabic grammar.

Assessment: Regular homework 10%, continuous oral assessment 10%, a 10-minute aural/oral test 10% (due mid-semester), a final oral examination 20% and a final 2-hour written examination 50% (due during the examination period).

Prescribed texts: Dickins and Watson, *Standard Arabic*, Cambridge University Press 1999.

110-412 Arabic 5A

Note: Formerly available as 110-021. Students who have completed 110-021 are not eligible to enrol in this subject.

Availability: 4th year

Credit points: 12.5

Coordinator: Dr A S Abdullah

Prerequisites: 110-410 Arabic 4A (p.3) or 110-411 Arabic 4B (p.3) or equivalent.

Contact: Regular meetings with the supervisor (*Semester 1*).

Description: This is a reading subject for students who have completed 110-410 Arabic 4A (p.3) or 110-411 Arabic 4B (p.3) or equivalent. Readings will be selected in consultation with the student in the first week of the semester and should be completed in line with the guidelines provided to the student. Focus will be on one area of Arabic studies: literature. Students enrolling in this subject should be able to undertake a small-scale research project in Arabic literature and present the findings in a scholarly manner.

Assessment: An essay of 5000 words 100% (due at the end of semester).

Prescribed texts: Readings are selected in consultation with the student.

110-413 Arabic 5B

Note: Formerly available as 110-022. Students who have completed 110-022 are not eligible to enrol in this subject.

Availability: 4th year

Credit points: 12.5

Coordinator: Dr A S Abdullah

Prerequisites: Completion of 110-411 Arabic 4B (p.3) or equivalent.

Contact: Regular meetings with the supervisor (*Semester 2*).

Description: This is a reading subject for students who have completed 110-410 Arabic 4A (p.3) or 110-411 Arabic 4B (p.3) or equivalent. Readings will be selected in consultation with the student in the first week of the semester and should be completed in line with the guidelines provided to the student. Focus will be on one area of Arabic studies: linguistics. Students enrolling in this subject should be able to undertake a small-scale research project in Arabic linguistics and present the findings in a scholarly manner.

Assessment: An essay of 5000 words 100% (due at the end of semester).

Prescribed texts: Readings are selected in consultation with the student.

Optional subjects

First-year subject

110-118 Language and Power in Asian Societies

See full subject details on page 2.

Second/third-year subjects

110-089 Understanding the Muslim World

See full subject details on page 1.

110-091 Islamic Political Movements

See full subject details on page 2.

110-210 Muslim Philosophy and Thought

See full subject details on page 2.

110-211 Introduction to the Qur'an

See full subject details on page 2.

131-066 The Modern Middle East

See full subject details on page 10.

131-211 The History of the Arab-Israeli Conflict

See full subject details on page 12.

Third/fourth-year subjects

110-414 Research Essay (Arabic)

Note: Formerly available as 110-016. Students who have completed 110-016 are not eligible to enrol in this subject.

Availability: 3rd and 4th year

Credit points: 12.5

Coordinator: Dr M Kamal

Prerequisites: 37.5 points at second/third year in Arabic or a related area, for further information contact the subject coordinator.

Contact: Regular meetings with the supervisor (*Semester 1, repeat 2*).

Description: A research essay on a topic related to Arabic studies or Islamic studies. The essay may be written in English or in Arabic.

Assessment: A 4000 word essay for 3rd year, 5000 words for 4th year in English or in Arabic 100% (due at the end of semester).

110-415 Directed Study Project

Note: Formerly available as 110-017. Students who have completed 110-017 are not eligible to enrol in this subject.

Availability: 3rd and 4th year

Credit points: 12.5

Coordinator: Dr A Gully & Dr M Kamal

Prerequisites: Students must be enrolled in another Islamic studies subject or Arabic studies subject.

Contact: Regular meetings with the Supervisor (*Semester 1, repeat 2*).

Description: This subject involves a special study based on the student's other subjects taken previously or concurrently. Readings can be in any of the following two main areas: Arabic literature or Islamic studies. Students completing this subject should be able to undertake a small scale research project in Arabic studies or Islamic studies in an area of interest to them and consistent with the aim of the subject; and present the findings of their research in a scholarly manner. This subject may be taken more than once in consultation with the Head of Arabic Studies.

Assessment: An essay of 4000 words for 3rd year, 5000 words for 4th year and Master students 100% (due at the end of semester).

Prescribed texts: Selected texts will be based on the student's research project.

Fourth-year subjects

110-531 Arabic Studies Thesis

Availability: 4th year and postgraduate

Credit points: 37.5

Coordinator: Dr C Stevens & Dr A S Abdullah

Prerequisites: Admission to the postgraduate diploma or fourth-year honours in Arabic studies.

Contact: Regular meetings with the supervisor over two consecutive semesters of enrolment (*Semester 1, repeat 2*).

Description: Students will be required to write a thesis of 12,000 words on a topic approved by the supervisor. They will also be required to present a seminar paper on the results of their research.

Assessment: A thesis of 12,000 words on Arabic language, linguistics, literature, or another appropriate topic in Arabic studies 100% (due at the end of the second semester of enrolment).