INTRODUCTION TO THE MAJOR

The Middle Eastern Languages and Cultures (MELC) major is the study of the languages, literature, history, and cultures of the Middle East from antiquity to modern times. MELC offers language programs in Arabic, Hebrew, Persian, and Turkish, and in the ancient languages of Egyptian, Sumerian, Akkadian, Aramaic, and Iranian. Students can explore the interconnected worlds of ancient Egypt, Mesopotamia, and their neighbors, as well as the modern literatures and diverse cultures of the modern Middle East. The major also offers study in pre-modern and modern Jewish, Christian, and Islamic traditions. Students will have an opportunity to participate in a discovery experience that is innovative, collaborative, transdisciplinary, and features digital research.

MAJOR SPECIALIZATIONS

The major in Middle Eastern Language and Cultures offers two specializations: 1) Languages and Literature and 2) Middle Eastern Worlds. Students in the Languages and Literature specialization study the modern Middle Eastern languages of Arabic, Persian, and Hebrew. The Middle Eastern Worlds specialization focuses on the material, intellectual, and religious histories and cultures of the region from ancient to modern times. In addition to the major program, the department offers a minor in MELC, as well as minors in Arabic, Hebrew, Persian, and Turkish.

Graduates can go on to study languages, literature, and policy at the graduate level, but they are also particularly well equipped for careers in law and international business.

— Alex George, Arabic Major, Class of 2017

ADVISORY COUNSELING

The Undergraduate Advisor is available to assist with declaring a major or minor, course planning and registration, study abroad, and other academic matters. Contact Rania Shah at rania.shah@berkeley.edu or in person at 250 Social Sciences Building.

AMPLIFY YOUR MAJOR

- Pursue study abroad opportunities through Berkeley Study Abroad.
- Join a professional association such as the Middle East Studies Association.
- Support your language study with a FLAS award, Boren Scholarship or Critical Language Scholarship, and the Ambassador Stevens Scholars Project.
- Consider doing an honors thesis in Middle Eastern Languages and Culture.
## MIDDLE EASTERN LANGUAGES AND CULTURES

Bachelor of Arts

### DESIGN YOUR JOURNEY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FIRST YEAR</th>
<th>SECOND YEAR</th>
<th>THIRD YEAR</th>
<th>FOURTH YEAR</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Explore your major</strong></td>
<td><strong>Connect and build community</strong></td>
<td><strong>Discover your passions</strong></td>
<td><strong>Engage locally and globally</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meet with your major and college advisor to discuss your academic plan. Review major and college requirements. Enroll in the lower division core courses—MELC 10: Middle Eastern Worlds: Ancient Egypt &amp; Mesopotamia and MELC 11: The Modern Middle East.</td>
<td>Meet at your major and college advisor to discuss your academic plan. Review major and college requirements. Enroll in the lower division core courses and declare the major. Review major guidelines for study abroad. Consider taking a summer course in the department such as Elementary and Intermediate Arabic Intensive (ARABIC 10 and 30), Introduction to Ancient Egypt (MEIC 18), or Study Abroad courses.</td>
<td>Focus on upper division language courses and electives. Review your degree progress with your major and college advisor. Visit the library collections related to Middle Eastern Languages and Literatures. Ask your major advisor about the MELC honors program.</td>
<td>Do a degree check to ensure you are on track to graduate. Complete any “bucket list” courses and remaining major, college, and campus requirements. Interested in graduate study? Challenge yourself with a graduate course in the department.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>State your plans.</strong></td>
<td><strong>Find study groups, tutoring, and academic support at the Student Learning Center.</strong></td>
<td><strong>Check out events and activities at the Center for Middle Eastern Studies.</strong></td>
<td><strong>Meet with your college advisor.</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meet with your college advisor.</td>
<td>Complete lower division prerequisites and declare the major.</td>
<td>Welcome new students to UC Berkeley as a Golden Bear Orientation Leader. Support your study of Arabic by visiting the Arabic library collection.</td>
<td>Complete lower division prerequisites and declare the major.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Reflect and plan your future</strong></td>
<td><strong>Enroll in the Undergraduate Research Laboratory at Berkeley.</strong></td>
<td><strong>Complete lower division prerequisites and declare the major.</strong></td>
<td><strong>Hone your leadership skills with the Peter E. Haas Public Service Leaders program.</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Visit the Career Center and Career Counseling Library. Sign up for Handshake and CareerMail. Explore career fields in the Career Connections Networking Series or a winter internship. Explore career resources on the Arts and Humanities website.</td>
<td>Follow the department on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter. Start attending department events. Get to know professors and graduate student instructors during their office hours.</td>
<td>Apply to the Undergraduate Research &amp; Travel Grant for funding support. Curious about entrepreneurship? Enroll in HUM 120: Entrepreneurship for All. Planning a senior thesis or project? Apply to the Haas Scholars Program or SURF. Enrich your studies with a certificate, course thread, or summer minor.</td>
<td>hone your leadership skills with the Peter E. Haas Public Service Leaders program. Interested in a public service career? Apply for the John Gardner Fellowship. Explore service opportunities after graduation, such as Peace Corps. Teach for America, or U.S. Department of State.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Goals and strategies.</strong></td>
<td><strong>Enroll in a Sophomore Seminar. Big Ideas Course or Discovery Course.</strong></td>
<td><strong>Get involved with the Center for Middle Eastern Studies Student Advisory Committee. Study and intern in Washington D.C. with UCDC or Cal in the Capital.</strong></td>
<td><strong>Utilize job search tools from the Career Center. Meet employers at Employer Info Sessions and On-Campus Recruiting. Apply to jobs, graduate school, and other opportunities.</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meet with a Career Center counselor to discuss your career options and goals. Think about doing an internship and attend an internship fair. Learn about graduate and professional school. See Step-by-Step for planning help. Reflect on your education so far and continue to set goals for yourself.</td>
<td>Assist faculty and graduate students in their research through URAP and SURF-SMART. Build your research skills in HUM 80m: Research Bootcamp. Browse funding opportunities from the Center for Middle Eastern Studies.</td>
<td>Get involved with the Center for Middle Eastern Studies Student Advisory Committee. Study and intern in Washington D.C. with UCDC or Cal in the Capital. Apply to the Ambassador Stevens Scholars Project for travel and research support on Middle Eastern languages and topics.</td>
<td>Explore study, internship, and research abroad. Service Center. Explore career resources on the Arts and Humanities website.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Goals and strategies.</strong></td>
<td><strong>Have a mentor.</strong></td>
<td><strong>Have a mentor.</strong></td>
<td><strong>Goals and strategies.</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Goals and strategies.</strong></td>
<td><strong>Have a mentor.</strong></td>
<td><strong>Have a mentor.</strong></td>
<td><strong>Goals and strategies.</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### WHAT CAN I DO WITH MY MAJOR?

The Middle Eastern Languages and Cultures major prepares students for a variety of fields, including archaeology, translation, international relations, diplomacy, journalism, law and legal studies, museum studies, and teaching, as well as further study for graduate programs in literary studies, linguistics, religion, philosophy, and history.

### Jobs and Employers

- Actor & Comedian Administrative Coordinator, Freedom Education Project
- Asst. Program Coordinator, Bay Area Community Resources
- Copy Editor, Oxford Middle Eastern Review
- Director of Operations, SF Energy Cooperative
- Intern, City of Los Angeles
- Lieutenant, Junior Grade, U.S. Navy
- Paralegal Specialist, US Dept of Justice
- Project Specialist, Cisco Systems
- Product Associate, Adecco Verily
- Training Coordinator, SF Mayor’s Office
- Ambassador Stevens Scholars
- Haas Scholars Program
- Peter E. Haas Public Service Leaders program
- Townsend Young Scholars

### Graduate Programs

Recent students have enrolled in graduate and professional programs at Oxford, Harvard, UCLA, Berkeley Law, Johns Hopkins, George Washington, and Georgetown.

Examples gathered from the First Destination Survey of recent Berkeley graduates.

---

**Updated Last: 11/19/20**