MIDDLE EASTERN LANGUAGES AND CULTURES
Bachelor of Arts

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.

CONNECT WITH US
Cal Day
Come to UC Berkeley’s annual Open House in April for information sessions, campus tours, special talks, and more.

Golden Bear Orientation
Join your peers in the campus-wide UC Berkeley orientation program for all new students.

Events
Attend department events with students, faculty, and staff. Visit melc.berkeley.edu for news and updates.

ADVISING
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.

HOW TO USE THIS MAP
Use this map to help plan and guide your experience at UC Berkeley, including academic, co-curricular, and discovery opportunities. Everyone’s Berkeley experience is different and activities in this map are suggestions. Always consult with your advisors whenever possible for new opportunities and updates.

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Visit ue.berkeley.edu/majormaps for the latest version of this major map.

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

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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

#### First Year
- **Explore Your Major**
  - Meet with your major and college advisor to discuss your academic plans.
  - Review major and college requirements.
  - Enroll in the lower division core courses—MELC 10, Ancient Egypt & Mesopotamia, and MELC 15, Modern Middle East.
  - Begin the study of a foreign language for the major or minor.

#### Second Year
- **Connect and Build Community**
  - Get involved with Berkeley Connect and L&S Mentors Program.
  - Find study groups, tutoring, and academic support at Student Learning Center.
  - Enroll in USGS 98: College Success in L&S.

#### Third Year
- **Discover Your Passions**
  - Enroll in a Sophomore Seminar, L&S 9 or a student-run DeCal course.
  - Attend the Undergraduate Research and Scholarships Fair in October.
  - Attend the Phoebe Hearst Museum collection of ancient Egyptian objects.
  - Get introduced to research via Undergraduate Laboratory at Berkeley.

#### Fourth Year
- **Engage Locally and Globally**
  - Attend the Calapalooza student activities fair and get involved with a student organization.
  - Find service opportunities through the Public Service Center.
  - Explore study, internship, and research abroad options with Berkeley Study Abroad. See the major advisor for other study abroad opportunities.
  - Work with a community organization in an American cultures engaged scholarship course.

#### 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
  - Assistant 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, Adobe Venlo Program Coordinator, TechWomen Project Manager, Gatt Advertising Senior Analyst, London Politics Training Coordinator, SF Mayor’s Office

#### 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.