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.

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.

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.
# MIDDLE EASTERN LANGUAGES AND CULTURES

**Bachelor of Arts**

## Explore your major

**FIRST YEAR**
- 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 and Intermediate Arabic Intensive (ARABIC 10 and 30). Consider a summer course such as: Elementary and Intermediate Arabic Intensive (ARABIC 10 and 30) or Introduction to Ancient Egypt (MELC 18).
- Reflect on your education so far and continue to set new goals.
- Begin the study of a foreign language for the major or minor.

**SECOND YEAR**
- Complete lower division prerequisites and declare the major.
- Review major guidelines for study abroad courses.
- Consider a summer course such as: Elementary and Intermediate Arabic Intensive (ARABIC 10 and 30) or Introduction to Ancient Egypt (MELC 18).
- Explore study, internship, and research abroad opportunities.
- Enroll in a Sophomore Seminar, Big Ideas Course or Discovery Course.
- Attend the Calapaloosa student activities and get involved with a student organization. Find service opportunities through the Public Service Center.
- Explore study, internship, and research abroad opportunities with Berkeley Study Abroad. See the major advisor for other study abroad opportunities.

## Connect and build community

**FIRST YEAR**
- Attend the Undergraduate Research and Mentorship Program.
- Find study groups, tutoring, and academic support at the Student Learning Center.
- Enroll in UGIS 98: College Success in L&S.

**SECOND YEAR**
- Follow the department on Facebook.
- Attend department events.
- Get to know professors and graduate student instructors during their office hours.
- Work with a community organization in an internship.
- Enroll in a Sophomore Seminar, Big Ideas Course or Discovery Course.
- Assist faculty and graduate students in their research through URAP and SURF-SMART.
- Build your research skills in HUM W20: Research Bootcamp.
- Enroll in a Sophomore Seminar, Big Ideas Course or Discovery Course.
- Apply for a FLAS award or American Cultures Engaged Scholarship course.
- Work with a community organization in an internship.
- Explore study, internship, and research abroad opportunities with Berkeley Study Abroad.
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## Discover your passions

**FIRST YEAR**
- Discover new interests in a Freshman Seminar, L&S or a student-run DeCal course.
- Attend the Undergraduate Research and Scholarships Fair in October.
- Get inspired by the Phoebe Hearst Museum collection of ancient Egyptian objects.
- Get introduced to research via the Center for Middle Eastern Studies.
- Visit the Career Center and Career Counseling Library.
- Sign up for Handshake and CareerMail.

**SECOND YEAR**
- Attend the Calapaloosa student activities and get involved with a student organization. Find service opportunities through the Public Service Center.
- Explore study, internship, and research abroad opportunities with Berkeley Study Abroad. See the major advisor for other study abroad opportunities.
- 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 new goals.
- Meet with a Career Center counselor to discuss your career options and goals.
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## Engage locally and globally

**FIRST YEAR**
- Attend the Calapaloosa student activities and get involved with a student organization. Find service opportunities through the Public Service Center.
- Explore study, internship, and research abroad opportunities with Berkeley Study Abroad. See the major advisor for other study abroad opportunities.
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## Reflect and plan your future

**FIRST YEAR**
- Attend the Calapaloosa student activities and get involved with a student organization. Find service opportunities through the Public Service Center.
- Explore study, internship, and research abroad opportunities with Berkeley Study Abroad. See the major advisor for other study abroad opportunities.
- Meet with a Career Center counselor to discuss your career options and goals.
- Think about doing an internship and attend an internship fair.
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## Design Your Journey

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>YEAR</th>
<th>DESCRIPTION</th>
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<td><strong>SECOND YEAR</strong></td>
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<td><strong>THIRD YEAR</strong></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>
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<td><strong>FOURTH YEAR</strong></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. Interests in graduate study? Challenge yourself with a graduate course in the department.</td>
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## 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 Program Coordinator, TechWomen Project Manager, Gott 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.

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