

Study Abroad: Intensive Arabic and Middle East Studies Programs



مركز الدراسات الدولية
CENTER FOR INTERNATIONAL LEARNING

In partnership with
**National Council on
U.S.-Arab Relations**



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Stunning architecture lines the corniche in Muttrah, its skyline dominated by the mosaic-covered dome and minaret of the Al-Lawatiya Mosque. Muttrah was the center of commerce in Oman before the discovery of oil in the 1960s.

About the National Council on U.S.-Arab Relations



Organizational Profile

Founded in 1983, the National Council on U.S.-Arab Relations is an American non-profit, non-governmental, educational organization dedicated to improving American knowledge and understanding of the Arab world. The Council has been granted public charity status in accordance with Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. All contributions are tax-deductible to the fullest extent allowed by law.

The National Council is not a membership organization. Its supporters are primarily philanthropists, individuals, and institutions in the United States and the Arab world that have hosted or participated in one or more of the Council's programs. Their involvement with the National Council often begins with a single event or activity and then, based on that experience, grows into a broader and lasting relationship based on a shared commitment to the Council's vision and mission. By following up with programmatic alumni, facilitators, hosts, sponsors, friends, and supporters, and continuously reaching out to others, the Council has steadily increased the number of people who are better informed and more actively involved in and supportive of the national dialogue on U.S.-Arab relations.

Vision

The National Council's vision is a relationship between the United States and its Arab partners, friends, and allies that rests on as solid and enduring a foundation as possible. Such a foundation, viewed from both ends of the spectrum, is one that would be characterized by strengthened and expanded strategic, economic, political, commercial, and defense cooperation ties; increased joint ventures; a mutuality of benefit; reciprocal respect for each other's heritage and values; and overall acceptance of each other's legitimate needs, concerns, interests, and objectives.

Mission

The National Council's mission is educational. It seeks to enhance American awareness, knowledge, and understanding of the Arab countries, the Mideast, and the Islamic world. Its means for doing so encompass but are not limited to programs for leadership development, people-to-people exchanges, lectures, publications, an annual Arab-U.S. policymakers conference, and the participation of American students and faculty in Arab world study experiences. As a public service, the Council also serves as an information clearinghouse and participant in national, state, and local grassroots outreach to media, think tanks, and select community, civic, educational, business, and professional associations. In these ways the Council helps strengthen and expand the overall Arab-U.S. relationship.

National Council on U.S.-Arab Relations



and



مركز الدراسات الدولية
CENTER FOR INTERNATIONAL LEARNING

Dear Friends and Colleagues:

In my role as National Council on U.S.-Arab Relations Founding President and CEO, and on behalf of the Council's Board, I would like to extend an exciting opportunity to you, your students, your colleagues, and any person interested in expanding and deepening their understanding of the Arab world.

As many are aware, the National Council has long been associated with and a strong supporter of the Arabic language and study abroad programs in several Arab countries with which it is and has been associated since the Council's establishment in 1983. One of these programs with which many are far less familiar than others is the [Center for International Learning \(CIL\)](#) in Muscat, Oman. For that reason, I would like to share with you some important information about CIL of which you may have previously been unaware.

CIL is an internationally recognized and renowned institution lauded for its proficiency in teaching the Arabic language to non-native speakers. Its capacity for doing so and track record to date is so impressive that several years ago, the U.S. Department of State's Foreign Service Institute recognized CIL as one of its officially approved Arabic language centers, as has the U.S. Embassy in Muscat, whose Immediate Past American Ambassador, The Hon. Greta Holtz, informed me of this designation. The embassies and foreign ministries of other countries such as Singapore and the United Kingdom have also recognized CIL and have sent their diplomats there to be trained in Arabic.

Moreover, for most of the past decade, the National Council has helped send more than half a dozen American students to study Arabic at CIL. One of them, I am proud to say, is my granddaughter, Autumn Hazel Anthony, now completing her sophomore year at CU – Boulder, Colorado, where she is continuing her Arabic. Autumn has already spent two summers studying at CIL. In doing so, she had the added joy of privileged home stays with two different Omani families. Thus far, she's reached Proficiency Level Seven – she's still

going! During my most recent visit to CIL with a delegation of U.S. Central Command officers this past March, there were several U.S. government foreign affairs practitioners-in-training studying at CIL.



The waterfront of Muscat, capital of Oman and one of Arabia's most historically fabled ports.

I am happy to share with you the fact that CIL has a brand new Dean, Dr. Elias Samo. For many years previously Aleppo University President Dr. Muhammad Ali Hourieh's Office of International Affairs Director, Dr. Samo is a longtime friend of mine. For nearly a decade and a half, prior to relocating to Muscat, Dr. Samo headed all of the National Council on U.S.-Arab Relations' Arabic language, Country and Area Studies Program, and Malone Faculty Fellows in Arab and Islamic Studies Programs in Syria.

Indeed, the Council entrusted to Dr. Samo's teaching and administrative care the entirety of its 400 American university and secondary school students, faculty, and Congressional staffers who participated in the Council's Syria Study Visit Programs. Overall, under Dr. Samo's new and dynamic leadership, CIL offers an impressive package.

All of this is by way not only of an introduction to you of Dr. Samo – and to CIL if you are only recently aware of its position and role as the leading Arabic language training center in eastern Arabia. It is also an invitation to any professor, student, or would-be professional, together with the directors of academic programs at institutions of higher education interested in CIL's first-rate program of Arabic language instruction. The invitation is to whomever would benefit from attending, affiliating, or otherwise opening a dialogue with

CIL for the purpose of registering, obtaining more information, and/or launching a conversation to explore the possibilities of cooperation.

A summary of CIL's range of benefits:

- Access to an exceptional, immersive Arabic language program as well as its additional academic offerings.
- Favorable consideration from CIL for the students of any organization wishing to cultivate a formal partnership of any kind.
- Opportunity for your institution to broaden its study abroad offerings while extending a particular thematic and/or regional reach.

To this end, please find enclosed a selection of information pertaining to the substance, logistics, and costs of the programs offered by CIL. Additional information regarding its programming can be found at <http://www.ciloman.org/programs>.



Middle East Studies Program students enjoying a traditional dhow cruise in Musandam, Oman's northernmost tip that juts into the Strait of Hormuz.

Dr. Samo and the National Council ask that you, your colleagues, and/or students give serious and favorable consideration either to registering or encouraging interested parties to participate in one of CIL's programs, which are diverse and flexible in their scope. Applications to its programs are accepted on a rolling basis, and the deadline to submit is three days before the program begins.



A CIL student exploring Dhofar, Oman's southernmost region

Having had the extraordinary privilege and pleasure of visiting Oman more than forty times over the course of the past forty five years in every season, and traveled the length and breadth of the country on multiple occasions, there is no doubt in my mind that any CIL program participant would return from Muscat with an improved and renewed understanding of Arabic, Oman, and the Arab world as a whole.

In considering my personal and the National Council's institutional endorsement of the Center for International Learning's merits and benefits, National Council staff will be pleased to assist CIL Dr. Samo. He joins me in sending warmest regards, and thanking you for your consideration.

With appreciation for what in the furtherance of education we mutually seek to achieve,

John Duke Anthony, PhD
Founding President and CEO, National Council on U.S.-Arab Relations



*End Pictures: inlaid Islamic niches at the Grand Mosque in Oman's Capital Territory;
Middle Pictures: Bedouin Omani girls in the Sharqiyyah Sands.*



A panoramic view from atop the centuries-old fort adjacent to the Grand Mosque in Nizwa, historical capital of the former Imamate of Oman located deep in the Sultanate's interior.

Center for International Learning Programs Offered

CIL offers three program options:

1. Intensive Arabic
2. Middle East Studies
3. Study Tours/ Cultural Excursions

1) Intensive Arabic Program (IAP)

The Intensive Arabic Program at CIL consists of 20 classroom hours per week of instruction in conversation (Modern Standard Arabic), grammar, media, and reading/writing. Our curriculum is based on the *Al-Kitaab* series. We combine this formal classroom instruction with 6 hours per week of conversation practice with an Omani language partner or Peer Facilitator (PF). In addition to these, students participate in weekly extra-curricular activities that include academic lectures, seminars, review sessions and cultural activities which enhance the Arabic curriculum. All students will be assessed prior to the start of classes for placement and at the end of their program.

CIL offers all three levels of Modern Standard Arabic (Beginner, Intermediate, and Advanced), as well as Omani dialect. We utilize the textbook *Al Kitaab fi Talum Al-Arabiya*, Parts 1, 2 and 3, which we find facilitates a smooth transition between home universities and studies at CIL. In addition to the *Al Kitaab* textbook, we also use materials developed by our teaching faculty. Arabic instruction at CIL covers reading, writing, vocabulary, media literacy, comprehension and active use of *lughat-al-muthaqqafeen* ("educated speech"), as heard on Al Jazeera.



CIL student walking along a beach in Sur, located in Oman's Ash Sharqiyah region

2) Middle East Studies Program (MESP)

The MESP consists of:

1. MES 360: The Contemporary Arab Middle East (3 credits)

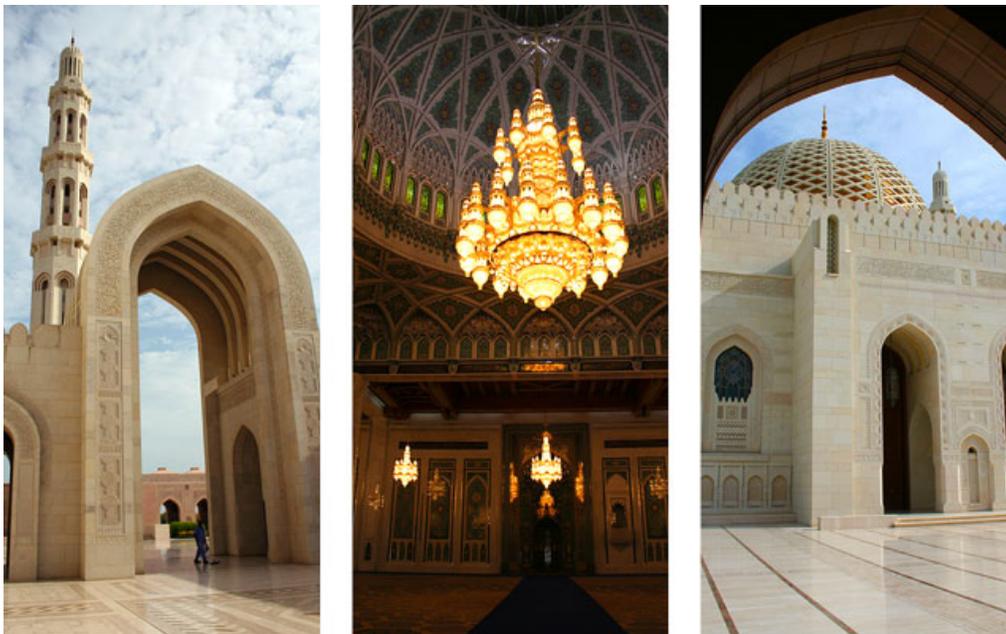
The semester course begins with a historical overview of the contemporary Middle East, exploring the complexities of the region. The course continues to investigate and analyze the dynamic issues and forces in the region and their interactions, such as Arabism and ethnic diversity, Islam and sectarian diversity, the West and the Arab World, the Arab-Israeli conflict and finally, the Arab Uprisings also known as the Arab Spring.

2. MES 370: Independent Study (3 credits)

This course is designed to enable the student to integrate the various components of the other semester-long courses. Each student, in consultation with the instructor, decides on an area of substantive focus for his or her research. It is required that the topic focuses on the Arab World. Throughout the semester, each student will meet regularly with the instructor for consultations as he or she conceives and develops the overall research project.

3. Arabic Language (300 hours)

The study of Arabic language grounds your understanding of the Arab world, and forms a big part of your study in Oman. You are placed into one of nine levels in Arabic and will in four different classes: conversation, reading/writing, media Arabic (Beginner High level and above) and grammar. MESP students will have 240 hours of classroom instruction and 60 hours of conversation practice.



The Sultan Qaboos Grand Mosque in Oman's Capital Territory.

3) Study Tours/ Cultural Excursions

CIL regularly hosts undergraduate and graduate students, military personnel, diplomats, and professors from universities around the world who seek a specialized program of study related to their particular field of interest. This has ranged from geology to Oman-Zanzibar relations. These programs tend to be short-term programs (four weeks or less), and do not follow the Al-Kitaab curriculum. If you have a particular interest in this kind of program, we're confident that we'll be able to work out an arrangement that suits you. For more information about designing your own program, contact info@ciloman.org.



Center for International Learning students sail aboard a dhow, a traditional wooden handmade Arab vessel to which modern day sailors familiar with the history of navigation and nautical sciences acknowledge an enormous debt.

Center for International Learning Program Cost

INTENSIVE ARABIC PROGRAMS

Semester-Long Program (15 weeks):

**Spring (full semester): January 29-May 11
(15 weeks):**

US \$13,440.00

Includes Tuition, Room, Board,
Transportation, and Lunch

**Fall (full semester): September 10-
December 21 (15 weeks):**

US \$13,440.00

Includes Tuition, Room, Board,
Transportation, and Lunch

Winter Program (4 weeks):

January 2 – 25 (4 weeks)

US \$ 3,584

Includes Tuition, Room, Board, Transportation, and Lunch

Full Academic Year Program (30 weeks):

After 10% discount: US \$24,192.00

Includes Tuition, Room, Board, Transportation, and Lunch

Arabic Language in Muscat (ALIM) Summer Programs:

ALIM 1: May 14 - June 7 (4 weeks)

US \$4,608.00

Before Feb 1: \$3,608

Before March 15: \$4,108

ALIM 2: June 11 – July 12 (5 weeks)

US \$4,877.00

Before March 1: \$3,877

Before April 15: \$4,377

ALIM 3 : July 16 – August 9 (4 weeks)

US \$4,608.00

Before April 1: \$3,608

Before May 15: \$4,108

ALIM 1, 2, 3

May 14- August 9 (13
weeks)

US \$13,806

Before April 1: \$11,045

ALIM 4

August 13-August 30 (3
weeks)

US \$2,930.00

All ALIM program fees include tuition, room, board, transportation, and lunch. Scholarships available.

Weekly Short Term Intensive Arabic Programs:

Tuition Fees
US \$627.00

Costs assessed on individual basis:
Room and Board
US \$203.00

Single Accommodation:
US \$406.00

Transportation
US \$40.00

Daily Breakfast program
US \$22/week

Lunch
US \$26.00

MIDDLE EAST STUDIES PROGRAM

Semester-Long Program (15 weeks):

Spring Semester: January 29-May 11 (15 weeks):
US \$15,700
Includes Arabic lessons, MES courses, room, board, transportation and lunch

Fall Semester: September 10- December 21 (15 weeks):
US \$15,700
Includes Arabic lessons, MES courses, room, board, transportation and lunch

Summer MESP (8 weeks)
May 14- July 12
May 20 – June 18
US \$11,693

MESP Summer Scholarships Available

Pay Before March 1: (less \$2,000)- Net \$9,693
Pay Before April 15: (less \$1,000)- Net \$10, 693

Peer Facilitator (PF) and Private Tutoring (PT) Program

CIL's highly flexible Private Tutoring (PT) program teaches reading, writing, speaking and listening Arabic at the beginners/intermediate/advanced level.

Students are free to choose what days they want to start and finish, what times, durations per class, content (if they want to focus on particular topics and/or have special emphasis on reading/writing/listening/speaking). If a student wants to learn how to speak in a specific dialect (Omani/Levantine/Standard), we can make arrangements for that too.

Classes are conducted on a one-on-one basis. If lessons are conducted off-campus, a transportation fee for the teacher will be included. Day sessions can be held between 8:30 am-2 pm and afternoon sessions between 2-4 pm. Kindly register at least five working days before your desired start date.

PEER FACILITATOR (PF) PROGRAM

Covers only speaking and can have up to two students per teacher. Rest of the program is the same as the PT option.

NOTE: We strongly recommend complete beginners to take minimum three hours per week and at least a total of 18 hours within their desired duration to grasp the basics of Arabic.

For more information, please email register@ciloman.org.

PT: US \$52/hr

PF: US \$39/hr

Evening Program (3 hours per week for 6 weeks)

US \$476.00



Students at the Center for International Learning display certificates marking completion of their term of study.

For more information:

If you have questions or need more information the Center for International Learning, please contact info@ciloman.org.