



Middle Eastern and Central Asian Studies



Ranked

#1

ANU is ranked #1 in Australia and in the top 20 globally for 8 disciplines across humanities, arts and social sciences.

QS World University Rankings by Subject 2023

The Centre for Arab and Islamic Studies at The Australian National University (ANU) is uniquely placed to offer students the opportunity to undertake a range of both Majors and Minors specialising in the Middle East and Central Asia.

Why study the Middle East & Central Asia at ANU?

Meet the growing demand for expertise in the Middle East and Central Asia by learning from the expert teaching, language and research staff at the Centre for Arab and Islamic Studies. Graduates specialising in Middle Eastern and Central Asian studies are highly sought after both internationally and domestically, including by the Australian public service.

Students can select from a range of majors and minors offered at an undergraduate level examining socio-political and economic issues relating to a region that continues to profoundly shape global dynamics. The Centre's excellence in languages also allows students the option of studying Arabic, Persian and Turkish at a range of proficiency levels

coupled with opportunities to study the region's cultures and societies.

Students completing both majors and minors offered through the Centre of Arab and Islamic Studies equip themselves with the capacity to analyse important foreign policy announcements and media reports relating to the region as well as global events. From the on-going historic women-led protests in Iran to coverage of Qatar's 2022 FIFA World Cup and Turkey's role in NATO following Russia's invasion of Ukraine; there is immense value in studying the global significance of the Middle East and Central Asia.

Career Opportunities

Australia has a multitude of interests in the Middle East and Central Asia relating to issues of domestic and internal security, trade, tourism and its involvement in humanitarian programs. Graduates completing a major or minor through the Centre for Arab and Islamic Studies can pursue a wide range of career opportunities including roles in foreign affairs, diplomacy, the public service, not-for-profit, journalism, economic development and business.

Languages – Arabic, Persian, Turkish

Studying the native languages of the Middle East and Central Asia provides a powerful entry into the rich and diverse culture of the region. Arabic is spoken by about 500 million people globally and is either the official language or widely spoken in 33 countries. Persian is the native language of more than 150 million people globally and although spoken primarily in Iran, it is also spoken in many parts of Central Asia. Beyond Turkey with its population of 77 million people, Turkish is widely spoken in neighbouring countries and is increasingly recognised as a language of importance given Turkey's status as a member of the G20, NATO and OECD. Given the geo-political and cultural significance of the region, speakers in Turkish, Arabic and Persian are in high demand worldwide.

Study Program

Students studying through the Centre for Arab and Islamic Studies can select from a range of courses offered at an undergraduate level and have the option of undertaking either a major or minor.

Majors include:

- Middle Eastern and Central Asian Studies
- Middle East Politics and Security
- Persian
- Arabic

Minors include:

- Middle Eastern and Central Asian Studies
- Russian and Central Asia Studies
- Advanced Persian
- Persian
- Advanced Arabic
- Arabic

A sample of the courses offered include: The Political Economy of the Middle East, Turkish Politics and Foreign Policy, Politics in Central Asia, Iran in World Politics, Islam: History and Institutions, Politics in Russia and Dynamics of Business in the Middle East.

Honours/ Graduate Certificate

The Centre offers both an Honours in Middle Eastern and Central Asian Studies and a Graduate Certificate in Middle Eastern and Central Asian Studies in addition to postgraduate programs.



Alexander Sukacz

Bachelor of Middle Eastern and Central Asian Studies

As a third-year student, I've really enjoyed studying Middle Eastern and Central Asian studies at ANU. One of the most enjoyable components of the courses is the excellent manner in which theories found in international relations or political science are combined with the practical subject matter. The blend makes for a wonderful classroom experience. During my three years at CAIS, I specifically enjoyed courses focusing on Russian politics and the post-soviet space, as well as courses on Central Asian Islam. I found the course on Russian politics to be one of my favourites at ANU due to the comprehensive insight it offered into now one of the most discussed countries in the world.

Scholarships and Prizes

There are a number of scholarships available to current ANU students to help with the cost of your studies. Donors and benefactors, external organisations and the Australian Government fund many of the scholarships we offer. Visit the ANU scholarships and page to find out more: anu.edu.au/students/scholarships

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