



Australian  
National  
University

# Arabic



**1<sup>st</sup>**  
in Australia

ANU is ranked #1 in Australia  
(and in the top-30 in the world) for  
7 disciplines across humanities,  
arts and social sciences.

\*QS World University Rankings by Subject 2025

Arabic is the native language of over 250 million people in the Middle East, West Asia and North Africa, and one of the six official languages of the United Nations.

Arabic is the language of an ancient civilisation which has contributed greatly to human knowledge. Its influence is strongly felt on such languages as Persian, Turkish, Urdu, Indonesian and Malay, among others.

Many European languages still preserve hundreds of words from Arabic origin in various fields of knowledge. Arabic is also the living medium of a contemporary dynamic literature and culture. Its rich and magnificent poetry, classical and modern, is especially captivating.

## How can I study Arabic?

Arabic courses at The Australian National University (ANU) can be undertaken as:

- single courses,
- as a major or minor in the Bachelor of Arts degree,
- within the Bachelor of Languages or combined BA degree options,
- as a specialisation in the Master of Linguistics,
- as part of the Diploma of Languages.

Arabic courses can also be included in post-graduate coursework, and as an adjunct to research for MPhil and PhD.

Students may take a language sequence of eight courses which provides the language core for the major in Arabic and complements CAIS courses in Middle Eastern and Central Asian politics or Islamic Studies as well as relevant courses in the School of Culture, History & Language (ANU College of Asia and



## Alia

### Bachelor of Arts

**Majors - International Security and Arabic,  
Minors – Indonesian and Persian**

I chose to come to ANU because I knew it was the best university in Australia for the study of languages and the best university in the world for the study of security issues in the Indo-Pacific.

Arabic at ANU is a very holistic course, covering not only language proficiency but also conversance in politics, media and culture across one of the world's most fascinating regions. The teaching staff go the extra mile to provide students with a myriad of opportunities outside of class hours, including optional debating, conversation and reading classes as well as excursions, film nights and traditional meals.

I received an ANU scholarship to study Arabic for six weeks in Jordan. I made long-lasting friendships with students in my cohort and Jordanian university students whom we met; I improved my functional Arabic and gained conversational practice; and direct exposure to cultural and political factors in the Middle East and the impacts of geopolitical shifts on the region.

the Pacific), and the School of Literature, Languages and Linguistics (ANU College of Arts & Social Sciences).

First year Arabic assumes no previous knowledge of the language. It covers the Arabic script and sound system, and basic grammar rules. The method of teaching is based on an audio-visual and audio-lingual approach, which is designed to develop the four skills of listening, speaking, reading and writing in an integrated way through the use of dialogues in realistic situations, class interaction and oral and written drills. Grammar is explained in its functional aspect using basic structures of Arabic.

Later courses cover more detailed presentation of functions of the language; oral syntax and morphology, reading of texts and writing compositions.

Students completing second year may have the opportunity to study Arabic abroad in a six week program under the supervision of CAIS (subject to the the opening of borders due to COVID-19).

In third year, students will have the opportunity to develop a number of conversational and written skills including proficiency in written structures of moderate complexity.

Students who successfully complete their third year of Arabic may then undertake further Arabic studies which includes modern literary genres, classical poetry, religious and historical texts.

## Bachelor of Asian Studies

Students enrolled in a Bachelor of Asian Studies can take Arabic.

### Administration:

Centre for Arab & Islamic Studies in collaboration with the ANU College of Asia and the Pacific.

Students taking Arabic as an Asian language major must complete an agreed sequence of eight courses (48 units). Students taking a minor must complete 4 courses (24 units).

### Requirements:

The Arabic major in the Bachelor of Asia Studies consists of the same three streams and courses as those of explained above.

Please note: The Centre determines the language stream in which a student is to enrol, regardless of whether the Arabic major is within the Bachelor of Arts or the Bachelor of Asian Studies. Placement is based on HSC results or equivalent, an evaluation of students' prior exposure to Arabic, academic transcripts, or a placement test.

Stream enrolment remains provisional until confirmed or, alternatively, altered according to the student's needs as determined by the Centre during the first two weeks of teaching.

### Courses on offer:

Arabic courses on offer:

- Introductory Arabic 1/2
- Intermediate Arabic 1/2
- Advanced Arabic 1/2
- Applied Arabic (in country)
- Media Arabic 1
- Media Arabic 2
- Special Topics in Arabic

Arabic courses can be taken at undergraduate or graduate level.

## Further information

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