



Australian  
National  
University

# Arabic



**1st**  
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 2026

Arabic is the native language of over 380 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:

- as a major or minor in the Bachelor of Arts degree,
- within the Bachelor of Languages or combined BA degree options,
- as an elective or minor within other Bachelor degrees offered by ANU such as the Bachelor of Security Studies, Asian Studies or International Relations
- as a specialisation in the Master of Linguistics,
- as part of the Diploma of Languages.

Arabic courses can also be included in postgraduate 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 Centre for Arab and Islamic Studies (CAIS) courses in Middle Eastern



## 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.

and Central Asian politics or Islamic Studies, as well as relevant courses in the School of Culture, History & Language (ANU College of Asia and 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 seven-week immersion program organized by CAIS.

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.

#### Prior knowledge:

For students with prior knowledge of Arabic, a placement test will need to be undertaken online. The Centre then determines the suitable level in which a student is to enrol.

#### 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

Arabic courses can be taken at undergraduate or graduate level.

## Further information

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