



Australian  
National  
University

# Middle East Politics & Security



Ranked

#1

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

To what extent is the Middle East tied to global politics and great powers? What drives instability and insecurity in the region? This minor enables you to grasp the complexity of the region's politics and its place in regional and world politics from multiple perspectives. It allows you to understand the role of internal actors and external factors in shaping the political environments and movements of the region. It centralises the role of political economy, societal changes and popular protests in shaping the region's security dilemmas and aspirations. Students completing this minor will gain insightful knowledge of a region that continues to profoundly shape global dynamics.

Analyse global politics and great powers at The Australian National University (ANU) through this new program enabling students to critically engage in understanding the complexity of a region that profoundly influences the world.

Students undertaking this minor have the opportunity to learn from the expert multilingual teaching staff at the Centre for Arab and Islamic Studies (CAIS) with their in-depth in-country knowledge.

## Career Opportunities

Security issues underpin much of Australia's national interests in the Middle East in addition to trade and our involvement in humanitarian programs. Graduates completing this minor are equipped to pursue multiple career pathways including in foreign affairs and diplomacy, defence, international organisations including the UN & EU, international think-tanks, international NGOs and private business.

## Middle East Politics and Security at ANU

This minor is offered by CAIS. It is designed for students interested in:

- international relations
- Asian studies
- international affairs
- Middle Eastern studies
- global politics

There is a dual emphasis on historical and current events, including how current events impact both the region and global dynamics, such as the 2026 war involving Israel, the US and Iran, Russia's protracted invasion of Ukraine, the on-going conflict in Palestine, the aftermath of the War on Terror in Iraq, Turkey's role in NATO, and the nuclear ambitions of the region.

Courses also consider the climate change and environmental security challenges faced by the region, including global warming, water scarcity, decarbonisation and their impacts on societies, as well as how continuous wars within the region have impacted the environment through the destruction of natural habitats.

The minor requires the completion of 18 units from the following courses:

- Politics in the Middle East
- Turkish Politics and Foreign Policy
- Modern Arabian Peninsula

In addition to these required courses, you can choose 6 units from the following courses strategically designed to enhance your understanding of a historically complex region undergoing significant social, political and economic change:

- The Political Economy of the Middle East
- Iran in World Politics
- Modern Iraq: State, Politics and Society
- Syria in the Levant: State, Society and the Current Turmoil
- Egypt: Social and Political Dynamics in a Changing Middle East

## Further Study

CAIS offers an Honours program, a Graduate Certificate program, and postgraduate options including Masters, Masters Advanced and higher degree research (PhD).

The Centre has one of the highest rates of completion for PhD studies in the Research School of Social Sciences.

CAIS also offers the following majors/minors:

- Major in Middle Eastern and Central Asian Studies
- Minor in Middle Eastern and Central Asia Studies
- Minor in Russian and Central Asian Studies
- Major in Arabic
- Minor in Arabic
- Major in Persian
- Minor in Persian

Alumni from CAIS are currently employed in senior positions including with:

- Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT)
- Department of Defense
- Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet (PM&C)
- The embassies of high-profile nations

## Further information

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