Intensive Arabic in Morocco

Location: Rabat, Morocco

Credits: 6

Hosted by: AMIDEAST/Morocco, and Mohammed V University – Agdal.

Rabat is one of Morocco’s “imperial cities,” and its modern capital. It is home to the leading educational institutions in the country and offers students opportunities to move from the shops and cafes of the “European” city to the winding alleys and exciting markets of the old “medina” in a few minutes’ walk.

The Program in Rabat offers an Intensive Arabic Program that focuses on Modern Standard Arabic at the beginning, intermediate and advanced levels.

Students in the program live with Arabic-speaking Moroccan families and attend classes at AMIDEAST’s facilities in the bustling Agdal area of the city.

Academic Information

The Intensive Arabic Program in Rabat, Morocco, offers Modern Standard Arabic instruction in 5 week session. Classes meet 5 hours per day, 5 days per week. The session therefore includes 125 hours of instruction in Modern Standard Arabic.

Students are given placement tests on arrival and placed in the level appropriate for their Arabic language proficiency. The following levels are offered:

Beginning Modern Standard Arabic I (Arabic 101; 5 credits)

Beginning Modern Standard Arabic II (Arabic 102; 5 credits)

Intermediate Modern Standard Arabic I (Arabic 201; 5 credits)

Intermediate Modern Standard Arabic II (Arabic 202; 5 credits)
Advanced Modern Standard Arabic I  (Arabic 301; 5 credits)

Advanced Modern Standard Arabic II  (Arabic 302; 5 credits)

For students whose proficiency is beyond the advanced level, a tutorial program will be arranged to address their specific interests (Media Arabic; Arabic literature; Classical Arabic texts, etc.

Course Descriptions

Arabic (Modern Standard, 5 credits; Moroccan, 1 credit)

All students enroll in Modern Standard Arabic and in Moroccan Arabic (Darija) at a level appropriate to their proficiency. MSA meets for 4 hours a day and Moroccan Arabic for 1 hour a day.

Modern Standard Arabic I (Arabic 101; 5 credits)

This course introduces the Arabic alphabet and sound system forms. Students will be given ample opportunity to practice and produce both the alphabet and the sound system; they will start developing their vocabulary via specific structures presented in the textbook. Students will learn simple grammatical structures and gradually listen to authentic and instructional materials that come with the textbook. Most of the exercises and the activities are task-based and student-centered.

The course will cover the material in Alif Baa and Al-Kitaab, Part One, Chapters 1-5. By the end of this course, students will be able to

• Distinguish and pronounce all Arabic sounds;

• Write accurately from dictation;

• Initiate social interactions, ask for basic information, and be aware of basic cultural aspects of social interaction in the Arab world;
• Talk about themselves, their education, and their family with native speakers of Arabic;
• Comprehend simple written texts on familiar topics;
• Comprehend simple audio/video texts on familiar topics;
• Compose simple paragraphs about themselves; and
• Be familiar with some of the differences between formal and spoken Arabic.

Modern Standard Arabic II (Arabic 102; 5 credits)

This course consolidates material learned in Arabic 101, and introduces students to more advanced and more challenging linguistic and cultural material from AlKitaab, Part One, Chapters 6-15 as well as locally produced authentic materials. By the end of this course, students will be able to
• Activate the learned vocabulary through interactive activities;
• Understand basic grammatical structures in Arabic;
• Produce a lengthy descriptive and narrative discourse in speaking;
• Express their opinions and show their preferences using structured language;
• Follow and understand short written and spoken texts in the news in the TV;
• Read mid-size texts, using skimming techniques appropriate for their level;
and
• Learn more aspects of Arabic culture.

Primary textbooks for Arabic 101 and Arabic 102:
• Alif Baa Introduction to Arabic Letters and Sounds by Kristin Brustad, Mahmoud Al-Batal and Abbas Al-Tonsi

• Al-Kitaab fi Ta’allum Al Arabiya with DVDs A Textbook for Beginning Arabic: Part One, second edition by Kristin Brustad, Mahmoud Al-Batal and Abbas Al-Tonsi.

• Hans Wehr Dictionary of Modern Written Arabic edited by J.M. Cowan

• Locally produced materials, selected by program faculty.

Moroccan Arabic I (Arabic 111; 1 credit)

Students are introduced to words, expressions, and structures used frequently in everyday life. Students practice them in class before they are given assignments to carry out with native speakers in real situations. Evaluation combines performance in class and successful interaction with Moroccans. By the end of the course, students are able to ask essential questions and understand the responses, express basic facts and opinions in simple sentences, and engage in basic conversations in Moroccan Arabic with native speakers. Living with a Moroccan family or in a student residence hall with Moroccan students provides daily opportunity for practice.

Moroccan Arabic II (Arabic 211; 1 credit)

Students who have already studied Modern Standard Arabic are introduced to words, expressions, and structures used frequently in everyday life in Morocco. Students practice them in class before they are given assignments to carry out with native speakers in real situations. Evaluation combines performance in class and successful interaction with Moroccans. By the end of the course, students are able to ask essential questions and understand the responses, express facts
and opinions in simple as well as complex sentences, and engage in conversations in Moroccan Arabic with native speakers about non-academic topics. Living with a Moroccan family or in a student residence hall with Moroccan students provides daily opportunity for practice.

Eligible applicants:

• Have completed one year of post-secondary study
• Have a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.0 (on a 4.0 scale); however, applications will be considered holistically
• Are physically and emotionally prepared to spend 1-3 months in Morocco
• Are willing to adapt to a new, potentially challenging environment