Welcome to Arabic, Islamic and Middle Eastern Studies (AIMES)

مرحبا بكم

Congratulations!

Well done on obtaining a place to study at University of Leeds! We hope you find your time with us inspiring in all sorts of ways, and look forward to helping you fulfil your potential both professionally and personally.

We are here to help you when you first arrive. If you need any help, you can contact our Student Support Office, G27 Michael Sadler Building, phone 0113 343 3669 or email lcsstudentoffice@leeds.ac.uk. The Student Support Office is open 9am-5pm Monday-Friday.

IntroWeek Meetings
You are required to attend a School meeting on Monday 19th September. Please attend the meeting indicated on your electronic timetable.

Please also attend the AIMES Intro Meeting at 10am on Tuesday 20th September in Baines Wing SR (4.12).

Arabic, Islamic and Middle Eastern Studies (AIMES) at Leeds is one of the most recognized academic institutions in the UK for offering taught degree programmes in a wide range of areas within the field of Arabic, Middle Eastern and Islamic Studies. We offer four distinguished programmes: Arabic and Middle Eastern Studies; Arabic and Islamic Studies; Islamic Studies, and Middle Eastern Studies. Our programmes are unique in their scope, as they offer modules exploring various aspects of Arabic language, culture and literature, Arab media, and the modern history, politics and religions of the region.

Welcome Pack
You will shortly receive (or may have already received) a Welcome Pack from the University. Please study this carefully. It contains very important information about registration, payment of fees, how to obtain your University email address, and much more. Registration is done online, and you are strongly advised to do this before you arrive in Leeds for Intro Week. Full instructions are given in the Welcome Pack, but you can also find further details at www.leeds.ac.uk/studentguide.

‘Flying Start’
Hints and tips from members of staff and students in AIMES about matters such as how to become an independent learner, and links to further study resources, will be made available to you over the next few weeks on the Flying Start website: http://flyingstart.leeds.ac.uk/arabic

We strongly recommend you become familiar with these learning materials as they will be essential to successful study with us from now until graduation.
Where are we?
All the AIMES Staff offices are located on the 4th floor of the Michael Sadler Building. We would like to draw your attention to the fact that we are fully committed to research and members of staff have research days when they are not available for students.

Full-Time Staff Names and Offices

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
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Year Abroad

The Year Abroad component of our undergraduate degree undertaken in an Arabic speaking country provides an unforgettable experience for you, not only enhancing your language skills but also giving you a greater understanding of the Arab World. Many students say that it is a wonderfully exciting and interesting experience from which they have gained a great deal.

It is designed to introduce you to an Arabic and Islamic culture while strengthening your language skills both in terms of greater literacy and in the vernacular Arabic of the country of study. Our chosen institutions have been carefully selected for their high quality experience methods of teaching and success in running TAFL (Teaching Arabic as a Foreign Language) courses. You are provided with the essential skills needed to communicate in Arabic effectively and clearly, and these language skills will be built on and taken further in the third and fourth years of your degree.

Aims & Objectives

During this part of your degree programme, you will be expected to:

- make substantial linguistic progress, over a wide range of registers, in respect of the target language;
- face the linguistic, intellectual and psychological challenges of living in an Arabic-speaking country;
- acquire a deeper knowledge and appreciation of the Arabic and Islamic culture;
- strive to develop the social/personal/transferable skills necessary for gaining maximum benefit from living in a different community;
- seek to enhance your future employability by familiarizing yourself, when appropriate, with the world of work within the Arabic culture, or by reflecting on the utility of skills that you are acquiring while living abroad for their future employment.

The Year Abroad is a compulsory component of our Single Honours BA degrees in Arabic and Islamic Studies and Arabic and Middle Eastern Studies, as well as all Arabic language Joint Honours degree programmes offered.
Students can only proceed to the year abroad if they successfully pass their core Level 1 modules and achieve a minimum of 100 credits. At the end of the year abroad, you are expected to develop your Arabic language skills further and widen your knowledge of Arab culture.

Students who do not pass the year abroad core modules will be advised to resit the modules they have failed in order to proceed to Level 2 of their programme. Failure to do so will result in the student being advised to repeat the year abroad or transfer into a non-language programme (Islamic Studies and Middle Eastern Studies).

**Discovery Modules**

As part of your program you may have the opportunity to take modules outside of your main area of study. These are called Discovery Modules (formerly Electives) and they are grouped within ten different Discovery Themes. Within the School you can take modules to learn a new language, study world cinemas, learn about a different culture or understand more about linguistics. Around the University, you could take a careers module to develop your CV, learn a new skill to enhance your employability, study a new subject area you haven't tried before, or continue a subject you studied at school.

Below are some of the discovery modules available within AIMES:

**Arabic for Beginners (ARAB 1015)**

This module is designed to provide the principles of phonology, script, basic grammar and syntax of modern standard Arabic, and oral and aural skills.

**Persian for Beginners (ARAB1003)**

This module is designed to provide the principles of phonology, script, basic grammar and syntax of modern standard Persian, and oral and aural skills.

**Turkish for Beginners (ARAB1006)**

This module is designed to provide the principles of phonology, script, basic grammar and syntax of modern standard Turkish, and oral and aural skills.

**Introduction to Arab and Islamic Civilisation (ARAB1030)**

This module is designed to give students a basic grounding in some of the key classical aspects of Arab-Islamic culture as it has developed since the seventh century.

**Early and Medieval Islamic History (ARAB1150)**

The aim of this module is to present an analysis of Arab and Islamic History from the 6th century to the rise of the Ottoman Empire.

**Introduction to Middle Eastern Studies: Politics, Culture and Religion (ARAB1160)**

This module will provide an in-depth understanding of the elements that go to define the Middle East not only as a geopolitical entity, but also as a multi-cultural, multi-religious, multi-linguistic and multi-ethnic region.

**Introduction to Islamic Theology (ARAB1100)**

This module traces the historical development of Islamic theology from its earliest formulations up until the pre-modern era. Particular attention is given to early theological disputes, the development of kalam, the interaction between kalam and falsafa and Theosophical Sufism.