INTRODUCTION TO THE MAJOR

The Middle Eastern Languages and Cultures (MELC) major is the study of the languages, literature, history, and cultures of the Middle East from antiquity to modern times. MELC offers language programs in Arabic, Hebrew, Persian, and Turkish, and in the ancient languages of Egyptian, Sumerian, Akkadian, Aramaic, and Iranian. Students can explore the interconnected worlds of ancient Egypt, Mesopotamia, and their neighbors, as well as the modern literatures and diverse cultures of the modern Middle East. The major also offers study in pre-modern and modern Jewish, Christian, and Islamic traditions. Students will have an opportunity to participate in a discovery experience that is innovative, collaborative, transdisciplinary, and features digital research.

AMPLIFY YOUR MAJOR

• Pursue study abroad opportunities through Berkeley Study Abroad.
• Join a professional association such as the Middle East Studies Association.
• Support your language study with a FLAS award, Boren Scholarship or Critical Language Scholarship, and the Ambassador Stevens Scholars Project.
• Consider doing an honors thesis in Middle Eastern Languages and Culture.

MAJOR SPECIALIZATIONS

The major in Middle Eastern Language and Cultures offers two specializations: 1) Languages and Literature and 2) Middle Eastern Worlds. Students in the Languages and Literature specialization study the modern Middle Eastern languages of Arabic, Persian, and Hebrew. The Middle Eastern Worlds specialization focuses on the material, intellectual, and religious histories and cultures of the region from ancient to modern times.

In addition to the major program, the department offers a minor in MELC, as well as minors in Arabic, Hebrew, Persian, and Turkish.

"Graduates can go on to study languages, literature, and policy at the graduate level, but they are also particularly well equipped for careers in law and international business."

— Alex George, Arabic Major, Class of 2017
MIDDLE EASTERN LANGUAGES AND CULTURES
Bachelor of Arts

DESIGN YOUR JOURNEY

FIRST YEAR

Explore your major:
- Meet with your major and college advisor to discuss your academic plan.
- Review major and college requirements.
- Enroll in the lower division core courses—MELC 10: Ancient Egypt & Mesopotamia and MELC 11: The Modern Middle East.
- Begin the study of a foreign language for the major or minor.

Connect and build community:
- Get 1:1 mentoring with Berkeley Connect and L&S Mentors Program.
- Find study groups, tutoring, and academic support at the Student Learning Center.
- Enroll in UGS 98: College Success in L&S.

Discover your passions:
- Discover new interests in a Freshman Seminar, L&S 1, or a student-run DeCal course.
- Attend the Undergraduate Research and Scholarships Fair in October.
- Get inspired by the Phoebe Hearst Museum collection of ancient Egyptian objects.
- Get introduced to research via UC Berkeley Undergraduate Laboratory.

Engage locally and globally:
- Attend the Calapalooza student activities fair and get involved with a student organization.
- Find service opportunities through the Public Service Center.
- Explore study, internship, and research abroad options with Berkeley Study Abroad. See the major advisor for other study abroad opportunities.

Reflect and plan your future:
- Visit Berkeley Career Engagement and the Career Counseling Library.
- Sign up for Handshake and CareerMail.
- Explore career fields in the Career Connections Networking Series or a winter externship.
- Explore career resources on the Arts and Humanities website.

SECOND YEAR

Complete lower division prerequisites and declare the major:
- Complete lower division prerequisites and declare the major.
- Review major guidelines for study abroad courses.
- Consider a summer course such as: Elementary and Intermediate Arabic Intensive (ARABIC 10 and 50) and Introduction to Ancient Egypt (MELC 18).

Reflect and plan your future:
- Discuss career options and goals with a Career Educator.
- Think about doing an internship and attend an internship fair.
- Learn about graduate and professional school.
- Read Step-by-Step for planning help.
- Reflect on your education so far and continue to set goals for yourself.

THIRD YEAR

Focus on upper division language courses and electives:
- Focus on upper division language courses and electives.
- Review your degree progress with your major and college advisor.
- Visit the library collections related to Middle Eastern Languages and Literatures.
- Ask your major advisor about the MELC honors program.

Reflect and plan your future:
- Update your resume and LinkedIn profile.
- Discuss post-graduate options with advisors and professors.
- Attend career and graduate school fairs.
- Ask professors and graduate student instructors for recommendation letters.

FOURTH YEAR

Do a degree check to ensure you are on track to graduate:
- Do a degree check to ensure you are on track to graduate.
- Complete any "bucket list" courses and remaining major, college, and campus requirements.
- Interested in graduate study? Challenge yourself with a graduate course in the department.

Reflect and plan your future:
- Utilize job board tools in your job search.
- Meet employers at Employer Info Sessions and On-Campus Recruiting.
- Apply to jobs, graduate school, and other opportunities.

WHAT CAN I DO WITH MY MAJOR?

The Middle Eastern Languages and Cultures major prepares students for a variety of fields, including archaeology, translation, international relations, diplomacy, journalism, law and legal studies, museum studies, and teaching, as well as further study for graduate programs in literary studies, linguistics, religion, philosophy, and history.

Jobs and Employers:
- Actor & Comedian
- Administrative Coordinator
- Freedom Education Project
- Asst. Program Coordinator
- Bay Area Community Resources
- Copy Editor
- Oxford Middle Eastern Review
- Director of Operations
- SF Energy Cooperative
- Interns, City of Los Angeles
- Lieutenant Junior Grade
- U.S. Navy Paralegal Specialist
- US Dept of Justice
- Project Specialist
- Cisco Systems Product Associate
- Adcoce Verily Program Coordinator
- TechWomen Project Manager
- Gelt Advertising Senior Analyst
- London Politica Training Coordinator
- SF Mayor’s Office

Graduate Programs:
- Recent students have enrolled in graduate and professional programs at Oxford, Harvard, UCLA, Berkeley Law, Johns Hopkins, George Washington, and Georgetown.

Examples gathered from the First Destination Survey of recent Berkeley graduates.