



Photo credit: MELC Department

## HOW TO USE THIS MAP

Use this map to help plan and guide your experience at UC Berkeley, including academic, co-curricular, and discovery opportunities. Everyone's Berkeley experience is different and activities in this map are suggestions. Always consult with your advisors whenever possible for new opportunities and updates.

Visit [ue.berkeley.edu/majormaps](https://ue.berkeley.edu/majormaps) for the latest version of this major map.

## CONNECT WITH US

### Cal Day

Come to UC Berkeley's annual **Open House** in April for information sessions, campus tours, special talks, and more.

### Golden Bear Orientation

Join your peers in the campus-wide UC Berkeley **orientation** program for all new students.

### Events

Attend department events with students, faculty, and staff. Visit [melc.berkeley.edu](https://melc.berkeley.edu) for news and updates.

## ADVISING

The Undergraduate Advisor is available to assist with declaring a major or minor, course planning and registration, study abroad, and other academic matters. Contact Rania Shah at [rania.shah@berkeley.edu](mailto:rania.shah@berkeley.edu) or in person at 250 Social Sciences Building.

# MIDDLE EASTERN LANGUAGES AND CULTURES

Bachelor of Arts

Berkeley  
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

## 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.



Photo credit: MELC Department

“ 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

## 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.

## 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.

Berkeley

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## DESIGN YOUR JOURNEY

