

MIDDLE EAST STUDIES

This interdisciplinary major, offered through the Department of Middle East Studies (MDES), highlights the department's focus on economic sustainability and global cultural flows. It offers students interested in exploring the richness and complexity of the Middle East a framework for developing expertise and understanding wide-ranging critical perspectives.

BACHELOR OF ARTS (BA) GENERAL OVERVIEW

Three core courses:

- **The Middle East**
or **The Middle East: Global and Environmental Perspectives**
- **The Global Middle East**
- **Seminar in Middle East Studies**

Foreign language requirement:

- **Four semesters of either Arabic, Persian, or Hebrew**

Five elective courses. Examples include:

- **Traveling Genres: Politics/Poetics of Modern Arabic Prose**
- **International Relations of the Contemporary Middle East**
- **Modern Arab Culture and Literature**
- **Modern Iran**
- **Environment and Politics in the Middle East**
- **Archaeology of Egypt and the Near East**

ACADEMIC OPPORTUNITIES

The Middle East Studies Program: There are many ways for students to get involved with the Middle East Studies Department. Schedule a meeting with the department's Undergraduate Studies Director about coursework, research opportunities, and awards.

Study Abroad: Students are strongly recommended to study in or about the Middle East in one of USC's study abroad programs, and/or to take on an intensive summer language course. Deepen your understanding of issues and improve your grasp of a foreign language by studying for a semester or year in Israel, Jordan, or Morocco.

World-Class Speakers and Seminars: USC's location and the prominence of the Middle East Studies Department give students access to networks of scholars, activists, and experts on campus. The Middle East Studies Department hosts numerous events throughout the year including our popular "Spotlight Series," lectures, discussions, a film series, and social events.