

Study Abroad in Middle East Studies

“Study Abroad is a life changing experience, and I encourage all of our students to consider it.”

Majd Al-Mallah, Director

Study abroad can help you...

- Gain confidence in yourself personally and professionally
- Understand the field of sociology from an international perspective
- Expand your cross-cultural communication and problem-solving skills
- Prepare to work in an increasingly diverse and international workplace
- Broaden your academic horizons
- Globalize your world view through direct contact with other cultures
- Experience a foreign culture from the inside.

But what about.....

Do I need to speak a foreign language?

NO! Most study abroad programs offer instruction in English, even in non-English speaking countries.

Can I afford to study abroad?

YES! Early planning for study abroad helps you make cost-effective program decisions, and it also helps you prepare your finances through savings, scholarships, and financial aid. Your financial aid applies to study abroad and, in some cases, your loan eligibility will increase to cover additional expenses. Furthermore, the Padnos International Center offers grants and scholarships specifically for qualified study abroad participants. Visit the Padnos Center to learn more about your options.

Will I take longer to graduate?

With good advance planning, you can take courses that satisfy some requirements in your MES minor or the general education program. Be sure to begin planning at least six months in advance. Prioritize your academic and personal goals. Give yourself time to research and talk to advisers and students who have studied abroad. Study abroad doesn't have to delay completing your degree, but it will enrich your experience.

What are my next steps?

Set goals and plan for results

- Begin at least six months in advance of your study abroad. It is never too early to start planning.
- Set some goals. There is not one program best suited for philosophy students. There are many good study abroad programs, and the best one for you depends on **what you want**.
- Prioritize your goals. Consider your long-term academic and professional goals, as well as your on-campus degree requirements.
- Consider long-term programs.
- Prepare academically. You may need to take language or other prerequisite courses for your chosen program.
- Give yourself time to research and talk to advisers and students who have studied abroad.

With proper planning study abroad can help you prepare for your professional life in today's global context.

Attend a First Step Meeting

Learn about study abroad resources and advising by attending a First Step Meeting at the Padnos International Center. See www.gvsu.edu/studyabroad or call 616-331-3898 for the latest schedule.

Investigate Programs

Use the Study Abroad catalog, the Padnos International Center resource center (130 Lake Ontario Hall), website (www.gvsu.edu/studyabroad), and peer advisors to find a program that fits your goals.

Talk to your advisor

Use a credit transfer form to get approval from the Middle East Studies for minor-specific courses. Keep in mind, students are also able to fulfill general education requirements abroad, including a custom theme. Custom theme information sessions are held every Thursday at 10 am in the Padnos International Center.

Once you have selected a program

MES students planning on studying abroad will need to communicate closely with their academic advisor throughout their planning process. When you decide on the program that will work best for you, you should begin an online study abroad application at www.gvsu.edu/studyabroad. Be sure to pay close attention to application deadlines.

Be sure to meet with your MES advisor **at least three months prior** to departing for your program. Middle East Studies director must approve any MES courses you wish to take to ensure that they will be counted toward your degree requirements

Academic Considerations for Middle East Studies Students

Middle East Studies students can study abroad anytime during their four years.

What classes can I take while studying abroad?

General Education Requirements

Students may take selected general education requirements through study abroad. Many students choose to fulfill foundation requirements, including courses within the World Perspectives category.

Custom Theme Abroad

Another popular option is to fulfill your theme requirement while studying abroad. For information on how to propose a unique study abroad theme, visit the Padnos International Center website at <http://www.gvsu.edu/studyabroad/>. Theme abroad information sessions are offered every Thursday at 10 am in the Padnos International Center.

Cognate Degree Requirement

The B.A. requires third semester proficiency in a foreign language. Consider working on this requirement while studying abroad.

Recommended learning outcomes

- Language and culture competency

Courses

Many study abroad programs offer a wide selection of courses, including Middle East Studies courses that can be approved by the MES program to contribute to your minor.

Living what you are learning

A great advantage of studying abroad is living in the region you are studying. Learning about the history, language, and literature of your home-away-from-home enhances your experiences outside the classroom. Your daily interaction with the local culture also brings the subjects you are learning to life.

Suggested Program Options for Middle East Studies students.

The following list of program options are GVSU and non-GVSU programs that specifically offer MES courses. **YOU ARE NOT LIMITED TO THE PROGRAM OPTIONS LISTED BELOW.** MES faculty encourages you to consider any study abroad program that allows you to meet your individual academic goals (e.g. Major, GenEds, Custom Theme Abroad, language cognate requirement).

Africa & Middle East

Egypt: History and Middle East Studies (summer only, *faculty-led*)

Ahlan Wa Sahlan! Welcome to Cairo! Grand Valley offers you an exciting program of study and travel. From your accommodation in the center of Egypt's bustling capital, walk a few blocks to view the treasures of the pharaohs or stroll along the Nile. Go shopping in the covered market or wander among architectural wonders of Islamic Cairo. A short distance from Cairo lie the pyramids, Coptic Christian monasteries, Alexandria, and the Suez Canal. In addition to these and many other wonders, the warm, friendly people of Egypt will leave a most lasting impression of your visit. Faculty associated with The American University in Cairo (AUC) will teach MES 380. The AUC is one of the region's most prestigious institutions, and its excellent facilities will be available to participants.

What Credits Will I Receive?

You will register for a total of six credits:

HST 380: History of Egypt 380 (three credits)

MES 380: Contemporary Issues in Egyptian Society and Culture (three credits)

Egypt: American University of Cairo (semester or year, *non-GVSU*)

AUC's Study Abroad program is one of direct enrollment, meaning students select courses from general undergraduate listings and are not limited to a fixed set of courses..

Course Descriptions:

Arabic: http://catalog.aucegypt.edu/preview_program.php?catoid=14&poid=1529&bc=1

Middle East Studies: http://catalog.aucegypt.edu/preview_program.php?catoid=14&poid=1606&bc=1

Jordan: CIEE: Language and Culture (summer, semester or year, *non-GVSU*)

The CIEE Study Center at the University of Jordan in Amman offers students a series of specially designed area studies courses in such fields as archaeology, economics, history, international relations, literature, politics, and religion. Area studies courses provide an overview of issues relevant to Jordan and the broader Middle East region. Although there is no language prerequisite, all students are required to take both Modern Standard Arabic and Colloquial Jordanian Arabic while in Amman. The Language and Culture program provides a rigorous and challenging academic program, combined with in-country cultural experiences and intensive Arabic language study. Students gain a greater understanding of the Middle East, with specific emphasis on the Jordanian perspective and experience.

Course Descriptions:

<http://www.ciee.org/study/programAcademics.aspx?plD=132#3courses>

Kuwait: Amideast: Arabic and Gulf Studies (summer, semester or year *non-GVSU*)

Students in AMIDEAST's Education Abroad Program in Kuwait will study at the American University of Kuwait (AUK), a private Kuwaiti liberal arts institution on the American model of higher education that enjoys a close relationship with Dartmouth College. They will live with Arabic speaking Kuwaiti families.

AUK's campus includes modern classroom buildings together with library and IT facilities, including a restaurant – The Diner. It is located in the Salmiya district, in easy walking distance of a vibrant shopping district with theaters, malls and restaurants of all kinds from fast-food to fine dining.

Course Descriptions:

http://www.amideast.org/abroad/programs/kuwait/semester_kuwait.shtm

Morocco: Amideast (summer, semester or year *non-GVSU*)

Set in Africa's northwest corner, Morocco is a bridge between Europe, Africa and the Arab east. Just nine miles separate Tangier, Morocco from the Spanish coast. The only monarchy in Arab North Africa, Morocco's culture is a blending of Amazigh (Berber), Arab, African and European influences. AMIDEAST Education Abroad Programs in the Arab World currently offers two programs in Morocco's capital, Rabat, in partnership with the College of Letters and Humanities of Mohammed V University – Agdal,

Course Descriptions:

Semester/year: http://www.amideast.org/abroad/programs/morocco/semester_rabat.shtm

Summer: http://www.amideast.org/abroad/programs/morocco/summerIntensive_rabat.shtm

Tunisia: Amideast (summer only, *non-GVSU*)

Learn & Serve in Tunisia is a unique summer education abroad opportunity for undergraduate students to study in the Middle East/North Africa region and engage in an intense service learning experience with Tunisian university students. The program, which is run with support from the Public Affairs Section of the American Embassy in Tunis, includes a study component on Tunisian culture and society, a service learning component as native speaker resource persons in an English immersion program for Tunisian university students, and intense and sustained interaction with Tunisian university students

Course Descriptions:

http://www.amideast.org/abroad/programs/tunisia/learn_serve_tunisia.shtm

Turkey: Middle East Technical University (semester, year or summer *partnership*)

Middle East Technical University (METU) is one of Turkey's premier state-financed institutions of higher education. Founded in 1956, METU adopted English as the medium of instruction. METU is home to more than 20,000 students with 800 to 1200 students attending from 50 countries.

Turkey has a unique strategic position at the crossroads of East and West which endows this country with a long history. Turkey is surrounded by seas on three sides and has always been the center of great trade, silk and spice routes. Because of its proximity to not only Europe, but also the Middle East, Turkey enjoys a very vibrant and diverse culture.

Course Descriptions:

Sociology: <http://www.socmetu.edu/tr>

History: https://catalog.metu.edu.tr/prog_courses.php?prog=240

International Relations: <http://www.ir.metu.edu.tr/v2/undergraduate-courses/index.php>