

# Carleton

The Arabic Language Program

507-222-5437

Hello Future Carl,

أهلاً وسهلاً ومرحباً بكم في كلية كارلتن!

Many congratulations on being accepted to Carleton!

I am thrilled to hear about your interest in studying Arabic. When you choose to study Arabic at Carleton, along with learning the language, you will also be part of a community of students and faculty who value learning and studying about one of the most fascinating parts of our world, who embrace and seek to understand cultures deeply, and who have experienced the rewards that can only come when you learn to address people on their own terms, and in their own language.

Most of our Arabic students have no prior experience with the Arabic language when they enroll in our courses, yet by the end of their time at Carleton, the language has become integral to their liberal arts education. There are a number of reasons why Carleton students may choose to study Arabic. Many begin their study of the language because of an interest in politics and international relations, given Arabic's incredible importance in global affairs. For others, their interest in Arabic arises from the language's centrality in the Islamic tradition--Arabic is the language of the Quran, Muslim prayer and religious literature. For yet other students, they choose Arabic as a means of connecting to another culture and to communicate with the peoples of the Middle East and North Africa, and proudly take their language skills with them as they explore that part of the world in a study abroad or other experience. If you see yourself in one of these categories, or if you are just interested in challenging yourself and delving into the tremendously rich language of Arabic, then we would love to see you in one of our language courses this coming fall.

Like most departments at Carleton, the Arabic program is small, which provides students and faculty extra opportunities to work and learn together. We are two full-time faculty members and a Fulbright language associate, meaning that all of our students build connections to four dedicated Arabic teachers, and vice versa. Beyond the active learning community that we nurture in the classroom, the Arabic department works to build community among students and links to the wider world through regular extra-curricular events, organized by faculty, the language associate, and students. Whether through film nights, field trips to the Twin Cities, our Arabic lunch table, or the "Arabic Nights," the academic term is filled with opportunities to connect our classroom learning to culture in fun and meaningful ways.

We also encourage our students to study abroad, and many of our students who complete the first two years of Arabic at Carleton choose to continue their experience at an off-campus Arabic language program during the following year, in countries as diverse as Jordan, Morocco, Lebanon, Oman, and Egypt. Upon their return to Carleton, they are able to put those skills to work and share their insights, as they take advanced courses on topics like the 1001 Nights, Arabic Media, or Spoken Arabic.

In addition to our language courses at all levels, we also offer a variety of courses in translation on both pre-modern and modern Arabic literature and Arab music, including opportunities for students to participate in making Arab music in oud workshops and a [Middle Eastern Music Chamber Group](#).

You can find more about our program on the Arabic [Program's website](#), as well as on the page of our department, [Middle Eastern Languages](#). We are also part of the [interdisciplinary Middle Eastern Studies](#) program that connects Middle Eastern studies experts from Carleton's different departments. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to email me at [yklein@carleton.edu](mailto:yklein@carleton.edu).

I look forward to seeing you in the Fall!

With best wishes,



Yaron Klein

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Director, The Arabic Language Program

