

Why study here?

Arabic Studies at Freie Universität Berlin is not only involved in numerous ongoing research projects such as the *Corpus Coranicum* project at Berlin-Brandenburgische Akademie der Wissenschaften as well as the collaborative research centre *Episteme in Motion*, but also in *Berlin Graduate School Muslim Cultures and Societies*, *Friedrich Schlegel Graduierten-schule für literaturwissenschaftliche Studien*, *Dahlem Humanities Center* as well as *Dahlem Research School*. There are co-operations with other disciplines of Freie Universität Berlin, Humboldt Universität zu Berlin and Universität Potsdam in the field of the modern Middle East, with *Zentrum Moderner Orient*, the interdisciplinary centre „Bausteine zu einer Gesellschaftsgeschichte des Vorderen Orients“ as well as various liaison offices of Freie Universität Berlin, in particular in Cairo. Another unique advantage is the unique network of scientific and cultural institutions with reference to the Arabic-speaking world such as *Museum für Islamische Kunst*, the Oriental Department of *Staatsbibliothek zu Berlin* (it offers the largest collection of Arabic manuscripts in Germany), *Haus der Kulturen der Welt* as well as *Wissenschaftskolleg zu Berlin*.

Career opportunities

The master's degree in Arabic Studies qualifies to take up doctoral studies in the same respectively neighbouring fields such as Semitic Studies, Oriental Philology, Oriental Studies, Middle East Studies, Islamic Studies. The acquired knowledge and skills qualify for activities in state institutions and non-governmental organisations dealing with the Arabic-speaking world and with Arabic-speaking population groups. Amongst others, the following professional fields can be considered: international organisations, non-governmental organisations, German branches of companies in the Near and Middle East, public authorities, policy counselling, media, publishing, museums, adult education and training, institutions and organisations caring for migrants and refugees, tourism.

Contact

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M.A.

Arabic Studies



Note regarding publication

The Seminar for Semitic and Arabic Studies is responsible for the content of this flyer. It is for information purposes only and has no status in terms of study and examination regulations.

As of 05/2018



Subject

The master's programme provides an in-depth insight into contemporary and classic research questions and enables students to participate in discussions on a wide range of topics in the field of Arabic Studies.

On the one hand, the students take an exemplary look at selected texts of classical and modern Arabic literature, as well as essential texts of Arabic-Islamic culture such as Qur'an, Tafsir and Hadith. Subjects of study are the reflection of social phenomena in literature (e.g. with regard to gender, religion, social and political experiences), the contribution of literature to social debates (e.g. constructions of identity, gender models, utopias or social criticism), but also questions of genre and literary form as well as questions of symbolism, intertextuality and intermediality.

On the other hand, the focus of study is on the cultural and intellectual history of the Arab world, especially with regard to its pluriculturalism and religious diversity. The students deal with the reception and development of the ancient heritage in the field of Arab sciences and humanities as well as the field of secular Arabic literature, such as classical *adab* literature, geographical literature, travelogues or the reception and development of Hellenistic traditions in Islamic times, e.g. philosophy, logic and mysticism.

Furthermore, students apply and extend their competence in the Arabic language with a view to linguistic and literary topics such as lexicography, grammar and rhetoric, idioms and stylistics or jargon (e.g. medical, scientific, theological, philosophical language) as well as regional varieties.

The interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary area offers students the opportunity to approach neighbouring disciplines.

Research areas of Arabic Studies @ FU Berlin

- Classical Arabic literature in its social environment
- History of the Arabic language
- Arabic palaeography and book culture
- Applying modern literary theory to Arabic literature
- Transmissions of knowledge in Arabic literature
- Arabic scholarship
- Literature from al-Andalus
- Folklore and traditions of the Arabic-speaking world
- Contemporary and popular Arabic culture
- Modern Arabic prose and poetry
- Literature of the Arabic diaspora

Admission requirements

- Bachelor's degree in history and culture of the Near East from the Freie Universität Berlin or its equivalent from a programme similar in terms of content and structure.
- Proof of written Arabic language skills (level B1 CEFR).
- Proof of language skills in one of the following languages: Ancient Greek, French, Hebrew, Italian, Latin, Modern Persian, Russian, Spanish, Syriac-Aramaic or Turkish (level B1 CEFR), or oral skills in a modern Arabic dialect (level C2 CEFR).

The DSH - or German Language University Entrance Exam for Foreign Students - is obligatory for all applicants whose first language is not German and who have earned their initial degree from a university (or equivalent institution) where the language of instruction is not German.

Structure

Programme start: Winter semester

Duration: 4 semesters

Languages of instruction: German, English, Arabic

The master's programme (120 ECTS) is divided into four areas: basic area (50 ECTS), specialisation area (20 ECTS), the interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary area (20 ECTS), and the master's thesis (30 ECTS).

Basic area (50 ECTS)	
1 st semester	Arabic literature and its social dimensions (10 ECTS)
1 st semester	Cultural and intellectual history of the Arabic-speaking world (10 ECTS)
2 nd semester	Arabic literature and its aesthetic dimensions (10 ECTS)
2 nd semester	Qur'an, Tafsir, Hadith (10 ECTS)
2 nd semester	Advanced Arabic (10 ECTS)
Specialisation area (20 ECTS)	
3 rd semester	Arabic literature specialisation OR Qur'an, Tafsir, Hadith specialisation (10 ECTS)
3 rd semester	Research perspectives of Arabic Studies OR Arabic linguistics and dialectology (10 ECTS)

Interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary area (20 ECTS)

The students choose modules of neighbouring subjects and disciplines which expand their own spectrum of knowledge and provides them with an expanded qualification profile. Courses from the following master's programmes are especially recommended: Iranian studies, Islamic studies, Islam in Europe, Jewish Studies, Semitic studies and Turkish studies; furthermore: general and comparative literary studies, applied literary studies – contemporary literature, classical philologies, philosophy, religious studies, social and cultural anthropology, and linguistics.

Master's thesis (30 ECTS)

The master's thesis (15,000 to 18,000 words), written in the fourth semester, is intended to demonstrate that the students are able to handle a research question from the field of Arabic studies independently on an advanced scientific level, to present the results appropriately in writing, to classify and to document them scientifically.

Degree

Master of Arts (M.A.) „Arabistik“