

Why study here?

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



"Holzlaube", Fabeckstr. 23–25, © Victoria Mummelthel

Contact

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M.A.
Arabic
Studies



Note regarding publication

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Subject

The master's programme provides an in-depth insight into contemporary and classic research discussions and enables students to participate in discussions on a wide range of topics in the field of Arabic Studies. 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 the Qur'an, Hadith and Tafsir. Subjects of study include questions of genre and literary form as well as questions of symbolism, intertextuality and intermediality. Various research methods and working techniques from the area of literary and cultural studies are applied and practiced. The interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary area offers students the opportunity to integrate courses of their choice from neighbouring disciplines.

Focus areas of Arabic Studies

- Classical Arabic literature in its social environment
- History of the Arabic language
- Arabic palaeography and book culture
- Application of modern literary theory to classical and modern Arabic literature
- Transfer of knowledge in Arabic literature
- Arabic scholarship and intellectual history
- 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

Degree

Master of Arts (M.A.) "Arabistik"

Admission requirements

For admittance to the master's programme applicants need to fulfil the following 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: each winter term

Duration: 4 semesters

Language of instruction: German

The master's programme (120 credits) consists of four areas: basic area (50 credits), specialisation area (20 credits), interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary area (20 credits) and the master's thesis (30 credits).

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

Master's thesis (30 credits)

With the master's thesis (15,000 to 18,000 words), written in the fourth semester, students demonstrate their ability to conduct independent research in the field of Arabic Studies on an advanced level, to use relevant methods of literary and cultural studies and linguistics, and to present the results appropriately in writing.

Interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary area (20 credits)

The students choose modules of neighbouring subjects and disciplines which expand their own spectrum of knowledge and provide them with a broad qualification profile. Courses from the following master's programmes are especially recommended: Iranian studies, Islamic studies, Islam in Europe, Semitic studies and Turkish studies; furthermore: general and comparative literary studies, German literature, English studies, History, Jewish studies, social and cultural anthropology, comparative religion, Romance sciences as well as theater studies.

Career opportunities

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