Middle East Studies

Available degree options
- Joint Honours: Middle East Studies and one of 16 other subjects
- Triple Honours: Middle East Studies-Arabic-Persian

Previous knowledge of subject required? Yes, History

See also Arabic, History, Persian

Your studies will cover the history, politics, cultures and languages of the Middle East, from pre-Islamic Iran and early mediaeval Armenia through the Byzantine, Seljuk, Mongol, Ottoman and Safavid Empires to twentieth-century Iran and Algeria.

• The opportunity to study the history of the Middle East at undergraduate level is a distinctive aspect of the History programme at this University. You will be equipped with the knowledge and skills to enable you to understand this culturally diverse and strategically important region of the world.
• Middle East Studies is available as a Joint Honours degree in combination with one of many disciplines.
• There is no need to have prior knowledge of Middle Eastern History in order to engage with the subject; however you need to have studied History.
• You may specialise in the mediaeval or modern periods, and choose from a wide range of Middle Eastern topics covering a variety of eras and cultures.

Tiles from the Rum Seljuk palace of Kubadabad, held in the Karatay Museum, Konya, Turkey

MA

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Entry requirements

We consider all aspects of every application, including context, equivalent qualifications and the Personal Statement. Offers may be higher or lower than the grades stated here. See also page 169.

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See also Arts combinations, pages 172-173

What will I study?
You will gain a wide range of disciplinary skills that are of great use in studying and understanding this culturally diverse and strategically important region of the world.

First year
You will normally take one first-year History class (in either Mediaeval or Modern History).

Second year
You will take two History classes, one of which will be the compulsory introduction to Middle Eastern History class.

Third and fourth years (Honours)
You will choose from a variety of options covering a wide chronological and thematic spread. Examples of recent topics include: the collapse of the established political order in the seventh century Middle East, the development of Constantinople from late Roman to Ottoman times, the Crusades from Muslim perspectives, the shaping of the Iranian world by Turkic dynasties from the fourteenth to the eighteenth centuries, and the development of modern Iran since 1834.

Examples of year-long Special Subjects include:
Armenia in the early mediaeval period, politics, society and culture from mediaeval Anatolia and the Fourth Crusade to the definitive establishment of the Ottoman empire, interactions between the Latin west and the powers and cultures of the Near East and beyond during the thirteenth century, and the relationship between Britain and Iran in the modern period.

“I chose Middle East Studies because I love learning about the history and causes that affect current events there today – it also pairs well with my other focus (International Relations). Since so many international students are drawn to St Andrews, the diversity of perspective is valuable to any class discussion.”

Anna (Philadelphia, USA)