Persian is a creative and flexible language. Your studies will emphasise modern language, literature, drama, visual culture and cinema, but you will also have the opportunity to familiarise yourself with classical literary and historical texts.

- St Andrews is one of only five universities in the UK to offer degrees in Persian and the most versatile in the study of Persianate societies and Iranian studies.
- St Andrews has the largest range of Persian degrees in Scotland, and is the only university in Scotland in which you can study Persian alongside two other subjects.
- You can begin the study of Persian language with no prior knowledge and choose how far you wish to continue, semester by semester, up to the end of second year.
- You will have access to Persian, Iranian and Middle Eastern related events organised by various research groups across the University as well as by two undergraduate societies.
- You will have the chance to receive The Persian Book Prize (a Persian book or a book related to Persian), an annual prize given to the best student of each year group.

What will I study?
You will study the language, literature and culture of the Persian-speaking world. The topics include classical and modern Persian language and literature, and modern drama, media and film. The building of a high level of competence in language skills is a priority at all levels, and you will be expected to write using correct spelling, grammar and punctuation in both Persian and English. You may also take complementary subjects in Mediaeval or Modern History, Middle East Studies, International Relations, Social Anthropology and modern languages, including Arabic.

First year
You will learn the skills of reception (reading and listening) and production (speaking and writing) in Persian. You will become familiar with the spoken and written forms of Persian, developing your abilities to express yourself orally and in writing, and to read basic texts.

Second year
You will develop skills that enable you to read more sophisticated texts and translate them into English. You will also consolidate your understanding of Persian grammar and learn how to use it in reading, listening, speaking and writing. You will be exposed to some sample texts of modern Persian literature.

Third and fourth years (Honours)
In addition to core language courses, other courses are available, and cover aspects of literature, drama, cinema and gender relations. In the fourth year, you also have the option of doing independent guided research to write a short (one semester) or a long (two semesters) dissertation.

Study abroad
Persian students can participate in the University-wide St Andrews Abroad programme. See page 133 and online.

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.

SQA Highers: AAB
GCE A-Levels: AAB
International Baccalaureate Points: 36

="I chose to study Persian here as I love foreign languages and the culture of the Middle East. The course is fast paced and challenging yet so gratifying once you start being able to write basic sentences within the first few weeks. Our class is fairly small and tight-knit so everyone has the chance to participate and practise orally. Whilst learning grammar and vocabulary in class we are also taught about the culture of the region, crucial when learning such a different language!"

Emily (Staffordshire, England)