Entrance Requirements

Obtaining the following grades will not guarantee you a place as we consider all aspects of every application, including the Personal Statement.

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

For full Faculty Entrance Requirements, see page 53.

For degrees combining more than one subject, the subject with the higher Entrance Requirements determines the grades you need. You will also need to meet any further subject-specific Entrance Requirements as outlined on their pages.

For further country-specific qualifications and pre-degree foundation programmes see:
www.st-andrews.ac.uk/study/international

Do I need knowledge of this subject? – No.

Subject enquiries

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Features

* The Department of Arabic and Persian also offers Persian language classes at all levels. See page 134.
* Undergraduate societies – the Middle East Society, the Islamic Society and the Middle Eastern Film Group.
* Access to events in the Institute of Middle East, Central Asia and Caucasus Studies, the Institute of Iranian Studies and those organised by Middle Eastern Studies within the School of History.
* An annual prize is awarded to the best student in first and second year Arabic.
* The ground-breaking research project Language – Philology – Culture, Arab Cultural Semantics in Transition is running in the Department until 2018.
* Arabic was ranked first in the UK in the Complete University Guide for 2016.

What will I study?

The topics covered in the modules include the language of the Arabic media, and classical and modern Arabic language and literature. The building of a high level of competence in language skills is a priority in all modules, and you will be expected to write using correct spelling, grammar and punctuation in both Arabic and English.
After completing the first two years, you will be able to read, write and converse in basic Modern Standard Arabic.

**Why is this approach important?**
The Arab world is currently going through a period of radical changes, which will continue to have widespread repercussions for decades to come. The region includes many different countries extending ‘from the Ocean to the Gulf’, as Arabs traditionally refer to it. Modern Standard Arabic is arguably the strongest link uniting countries as diverse as Iraq and Morocco. It is the official language of the twenty-two members of the Arab League and one of the six official languages of the UN. Perhaps more important than all this is the fact that Arabic has been for many centuries the language of thriving literatures (from pre-Islamic poetry to the contemporary novel) and rich and diverse cultures, and it is, of course, the language of Islam.

You can progress to Joint Honours in Arabic from the sub-honours modules in Arabic with a wide range of other subjects, including Persian, Middle East Studies, Modern History, Mediaeval History, International Relations, Modern European Languages, English, Mathematics.

**Indicative programme information**
If you intend to study Arabic language-based courses at Honours, your sub-honours programme will include:

**First Year (2 x 20-credit modules required)**

*Arabic for Beginners 1 and 2*
These modules will enable you to read, write and converse in simple Modern Standard Arabic. The Arabic alphabet, writing system, and basic Arabic grammar are covered. A selection of non-literary modern Arabic texts will be used in class as the basis of language teaching, classroom drills, tests and written assignments and oral class work.

**Second Year (2 x 20-credit modules required)**

*Intermediate Arabic 1 and 2*
These modules will enable you to read and write Modern Standard Arabic to intermediate level with the aid of a dictionary, and to speak in standard Arabic on appropriate topics with a limited vocabulary. Oral work and written class work will be based on a series of texts selected for their relevance to the understanding of contemporary issues and culture.

*Introduction to Classical Arab Culture*
This is an optional module open to any student. It is particularly relevant for any student interested in Arabic or intending to graduate in Arabic.

*Introduction to Middle Eastern History*
This is an optional module open to students who have taken at least three Arabic modules and it is particularly relevant for any student interested in Arabic or intending to graduate in Arabic.

**Honours – Third and Fourth Years**
(Normally 8 x 15 credit modules over two years)
At Honours, in addition to core language modules, you can choose from a range of modern and classical topics. It is also possible to study for a semester in an Arab country as part of your degree, although Arabic study abroad programmes are subject to modification, depending on the security situation in the relevant country.

Topics which can currently be studied in a Joint Honours Arabic degree include: Media Arabic, Advanced Arabic Language, Novellas, Short Stories, Classical Arabic Poetry, Key Texts in Classical Literature and Culture.

**Study abroad**
As a student of Arabic, you may apply to spend a semester in an Arab country. Because of the variable security situation in the Arab world, study abroad options are reviewed annually and students are kept informed of any changes or cancellations of individual programmes as early as possible.

You may also apply to the University’s *St Andrews Abroad* programme. See page 46.

**Typical class sizes and teaching information**

**First Year**: lectures 40 - 80, tutorials 10 - 15

**Second Year**: lectures 20 - 40, tutorials 10 - 15

**Honours**: classes 5 - 20, tutorials 5 - 15

Tutors advise you closely on the preparation of written work and give individual assessments of your performance. Classes in Arabic language will include small group intensive classroom teaching in which students actively participate. Most Honours classes are organised as seminars for which you prepare literary and non-literary texts in English and Arabic for translation, analysis and discussion.

**Typical methods of assessment**
Assessed work may include advanced language exercises, discursive essays in English, oral presentations in Arabic and an Honours dissertation.

**Careers**

Graduates in Arabic go on to a wide range of careers for which an arts degree is a recognised qualification. Graduates of the Department have become academics in international institutions, civil servants in government departments (notably the British Foreign and Commonwealth Office and the US State Department), human rights lawyers, journalists and employees in non-governmental organisations and international companies. For more information: [http://bit.ly/sta-modlangs-careers](http://bit.ly/sta-modlangs-careers)

See also page 36 for details of the University’s Careers Centre.