ARABIC LANGUAGE & CULTURE IN MOROCCO

Info for Parents:
Learning Abroad Center Philosophy

- Student-centered
- Fostering independence
- Learning begins prior to departure

Arabic Language and Culture in Morocco

Location of the Medina of Fez

Arabic Language Institute in Fez

- Courses will be held at the Arabic Language Institute in Fez (ALIF)
- ALIF has a library, study space, a garden, snack bar, and wireless access
- Computers are available for student use
Academic Overview for Semester students

• 16-19 credits
• Arabic language - 12 credits (2 courses, Modern Standard or Colloquial Moroccan, various levels)
• Topics courses
  - Required Morocco in Context: 1-3 credits (photographic research project for additional 2 credits)
  - Select one of the following: 3 credits
    - Morocco: Changes and Cultural Identities
    - Marrakech Past & Present
• Topics course in Arabic for advanced students instead of one of the language courses (2 credits)

Registration information

• The Learning Abroad Center will register non-UCLA students for study abroad. U.S. students will receive registrations instructions.
• All courses must be taken for A/F credit!
• No incompletes will be granted
• Language placement test given at ALIF.

Classes at ALIF

• 2 to 10 students per class
• ALIF hosts students from all over the world – you may be in class with Arabic language students from other countries and other US institutions
• Individual tutoring (1-2 hours per week) is available for students who test lower than expected for MSA
• Consider joining the language buddy program or the volunteer service-learning option

Program Dates for Spring 2019

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Depart US</td>
<td>February 14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arrive in Morocco</td>
<td>February 15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>First Day of Classes</td>
<td>February 21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spring Break</td>
<td>April 27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final exams, program end</td>
<td>May 21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Depart Morocco</td>
<td>May 21</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

• Students are responsible for arriving on time. Late arrival is not permitted.
Cost of Participation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Cost</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Program Fee</td>
<td>$1,200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Group Flight</td>
<td>$500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Housing</td>
<td>$300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Daily Housing</td>
<td>$100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>$2,100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Training: 15-20 average hours per day.

Flight Information

- A group flight has been arranged through Village Travelbook at www.villageinc.com.
- If not using the group flight:
  - Be sure to book a round trip flight.
  - Email your itinerary to Whitney Wesley at west104@umn.edu.
- Housing is not available before or after official program dates.
  - If you plan on arriving early, notify LAC staff, and the on-site staff can reserve a room at the orientation hotel for you to pay upon arrival (credit cards accepted).

Arrival/Departure Logistics

- Group flight will be met at the airport and will be driven to Fez.
- Students not on group flight, but arrive at the same time as group flight, can also use shuttle service.
- Students not on the group flight will need to arrive independently.
- Know how to get to Fez in case you miss the group flight and miss the shuttle. See the Program Handbook.
- All students must arrive by the program start date.
- Note: Group transportation at the end of program will also be provided to students who booked group flight.

Immigration

- US citizens do NOT need a student visa to enter Morocco, even for stays over 90 days.
- Print out information from the Moroccan consulate website and take with you to the US airport, as not all airline agents know this and may not let you check in for your flight:
  - http://www.moroccansconsulate.com/visa.cfm
On-site Orientation

- Five days prior to the start of classes
- Crash course in darja (Colloquial Moroccan - 6 hours)
- Meet with instructors to set course schedule
- Walking tours of medina and Ville Nouvelle
- Special lectures on various aspects of Moroccan customs & culture
- Health & Safety
- On-site orientation with Abdellatif, Liz, and Faical
- Introduction to ALIF staff and services
- Meet homestay family
- Language placement exam for MSA

Housing

- All students stay with a host family.
- The LAC helps to match students with families that meet the characteristics on their forms.
- Keep an open mind and have realistic expectations.
- Two different area choices: Ville Nouvelle and the Medina.
- Independent apartment option available after 6 weeks but not recommended.

Living with a Host Family

- Remember you are a guest in their home and be respectful.
- Greet your family when you come home and say goodbye when you leave.
- Always let your family know when you will be out late or not for program excursions.
- Respect their space but really make an effort to spend time with them; Clean up after yourself.
- Be mindful of electricity and water use; Alcohol use is forbidden by Islam.
- Culturally, ALIF shares only basic details and you need to inform the family of your schedule.

Money

Morocco's currency is the Dirham

- ATMs are good way to get Dirham but might be harder to find in more rural areas.
  - If you are traveling bring enough cash for the whole trip
- Take credit cards but best to use them for large purchases like plane tickets and for cash advance
- Let your bank know that you will be out of the country.
- Keep your money locked in a safe place and avoid carrying large amounts of cash.
Communication: Phones

- All students are required to purchase a cell phone.
- The onsite staff will advise students on how to purchase a phone in Fez.
- Be mindful when displaying your phone in public.

Communication: Internet/Computer

- It is useful to bring a laptop.
- There are computers with internet at ALIF, but they also have wireless.
- Having your own computer can be helpful for working on homework or essays.
- Families may or may not have internet at home.
- The ALIF Riad in the Medina has wireless and is a good place to study in the evenings. There are also cultural events there.

ALIF Riad

- The ALIF Riad in the Medina has wireless (WI-FI) and is a good place to study in the evenings.
- Culture courses
- Cultural events- concerts
- Kitchen
- Lounge areas

Onsite Staff

- David Amster, ALIF Director
- Abdellatif Jai, LAC Coordinator
- Liz Yasilik, Registrar
- Faical Marzouq, Housing Coordinator

* Call/text Abdellatif if you'd like to set up a time to meet with him at any point during the program.
Health and Safety in Morocco

- Go to a Travel Clinic for immunizations and information
- Boynton Health Services Travel Clinic
- Complete all shots in the US
- Check on cost for a full supply/year of medication
- Keep in mind the limited nature of health care facilities, particularly in rural areas.
- Check the Program Handbook for more information on tips for staying healthy.

Health and Safety in Morocco

- Inform yourself about proper safety precautions at night
- Be prepared for a more cautious lifestyle
- Learn about safe public transportation
- Be thoughtful about relationships/friendships
- Be aware of travel warning/safety if visiting other countries/regions.

Safety in Morocco

- A certain level of harassment/cat-calls is to be expected for women – ignoring this behavior is the best strategy.
- Wear Morocco-appropriate clothing – this can be more conservative than in the US.
- Avoid going out alone after dark.
- Understand differences in male-female relationships between US and Morocco – most male-female relationships have marriage as an end goal, platonic friendships are uncommon.
- Do not engage in physical displays of affection in public.
- See Program Handbook and AUP handbook for other tips.

Safety in Morocco, cont.
Excursions

- Overnight trip to Saharan resort
- Visits to other major Moroccan cities

Travel

- Buses and trains are the main mode of transportation while traveling throughout the country. Trains are taken more commonly than buses.
- The Lonely Planet guidebook can be helpful for picking out riads (guest houses) and finding fun things to do.
- Going out of the country is more expensive but an option during official school breaks.
- Flights to other major cities can be purchased online or through a travel agency.

Packing

- Casual but conservative in this clothing
- Lightweight; jackets evenings can be cool on the desert excursion. See the packing list in the Online Guide.
- Skirt, shorts, and shirts are not worn by local women. Skirts and shorts if worn should fall well below the knee.
- Pants clothing that can be worn more than once without washing. You have family will probably offer to do laundry every five weeks.
- Solid light colors are best; some brands of clothing make you an easy target for pickpockets.
- Wear long pants while exercising
- Don’t overpack!

Iceberg Model of Culture

What is culture?

“Culture is defined as the shared patterns of behaviors and interactions, cognitive constructs, and affective understanding that are learned through a process of socialization. These shared patterns identify the members of a culture group while also distinguishing those of another group.” — CARLA UMN
Culture Shock

CULTURAL ADJUSTMENT CURVE

[Diagram showing stages of cultural adjustment]

Your Worldview Shapes How You Interact with the World

Things that shape your worldview:
- Race
- Class
- Gender
- Identity
- Experiences
- Sexuality
- Religion
- Ethnicity
- History
- Cultural
- National
- Personal

Reverse Culture Shock

- Perceived lack of interest by friends and family
- "When I was in Morocco..."
- Disconnect with family and friends
- Depression
- Missing host culture
- Judging the U.S.
- Reevaluate values

تمنى لكم رحلة طيبة