Info for Parents: Learning Abroad Center Philosophy

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

Arabic Language and Culture in Morocco

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 Summer students

- Session I or II is 7 credits
- 9 week Intensive is 11 credits
- Arabic language
  - Session I or II: One 6-credit language course
  - 9 week Intensive: Two 5-credit language courses
- Required course
  - Morocco in Context – 1 credit
  - Required for all program participants

Academic Overview for Semester students

- 14-19 credits
- Arabic language – 12 credits
  (2 courses, Modern Standard or Colloquial Moroccan, various levels)
- Topics courses
  Select one of the following–3 credits:
  - Morocco: Changes and Cultural Identities
  - Islam: Past & Present
- Topics course in Arabic for advanced students instead of one of the language courses (5 credits)
- Optional: Directed Research or Internship
Academic Overview for Academic Year students

• Fall semester: 14-19 credits
• Winter course: 5-6 credits
• Spring semester: 14-19 credits
• Arabic language – 12 credits each semester (2 courses, Modern Standard or Colloquial Moroccan, various levels)
• Topics courses
  o Required Morocco in Context: 1-3 credits in fall, optional for spring
  o Research project or internship in spring (3 credits).
  o Select one of the following each semester (3 credits):
    o Morocco: Changes and Cultural Identities
    o Islam: Past & Present
• Topics course in Arabic for advanced students instead of one of the language courses (5 credits)

Registration information

• The Learning Abroad Center will register non-UofM students for study abroad; UofM 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 2019 Summer Session I

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Arrival in Fez, beginning of on-site orientation</td>
<td>May 22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>First day of classes</td>
<td>May 27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final exams, program ends</td>
<td>July 8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Depart Morocco</td>
<td>July 9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

• Students are responsible for arriving on time. Late arrival is not allowed.
Program Dates for 2019 Summer 9-week Intensive

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Arrival in Fez, beginning of on-site orientation</td>
<td>May 22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>First day of classes</td>
<td>May 27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final exams, program ends</td>
<td>July 26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Depart Morocco</td>
<td>July 27</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Students are responsible for arriving on time. Late arrival is not allowed.

Program Dates for Fall 2019

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Depart US for Morocco</td>
<td>Sept 5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arrival in Fez, beginning of on-site orientation</td>
<td>Sept 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>First day of classes</td>
<td>Sept 11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fall Break</td>
<td>Oct 23-28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final exams, program ends</td>
<td>December 13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Depart Morocco</td>
<td>December 14</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Students are responsible for arriving on time. Late arrival is not allowed.
**Cost of Participation**

**Arabic Language & Culture in Morocco**

**9-Week Intensive**

**Summer 2019**

Estimated Additional Expenses (not included in Program Fee)

$2,900

TOTAL Estimated Additional Expenses (without spending money)

$2,900

Program Fees (billed through student’s U of M account)

$7,030

TOTAL Program Fee

$7,530

Program Discount for University of Minnesota & Big Ten Students (if applicable)

$6,530

TOTAL Program Fee with discount (if applicable)

$6,530

Spending Money & Personal Travel (not included in financial aid calculation)

$1,000

Cost of Participation

9-Week Intensive

$350

Housing and/or Meals not included in program fee

$1,370

Housing and/or Meals

2 meals a day included with this housing option

$600

Essential Daily Living Expenses

includes cost of required cell phone

$1,000

Immunizations Note: This estimate is based on approximate cost of travel-related vaccinations and medications required for entry or recommended by the Center for Disease Control and Prevention. Your costs may be higher or lower depending on your travel clinic, the specific immunizations and medications prescribed, and your insurance coverage.

The University of Minnesota requires students to retain U.S. health insurance while abroad. While not a direct cost of learning abroad, students plan and budget to continue their existing U.S. health insurance coverage. More information can be found here: [http://umabroad.umn.edu/students/healthsafety/intlhealthinsurance/ushealthinsurancerequirement](http://umabroad.umn.edu/students/healthsafety/intlhealthinsurance/ushealthinsurancerequirement)

Program fees are based on estimates and may change depending on international economic factors. The above estimated total expenses are used to help plan and prepare for the program, as well as calculate eligibility for financial aid. Not all students will incur all the expenses above. Student expenditures in-country depend greatly on personal spending habits, post- or during program travel, and available funds.

Additional Notes and Information:

- Tuition and educational costs
- International health insurance
- Housing and/or meals
- Transportation of required and included in program fee

TOTAL Program Fee

$7,530

Estimated Additional Expenses (not included in Program Fee)

- Transportation to and from program site
- Tuition and educational costs
- International health insurance
- Housing and/or meals

TOTAL Estimated Additional Expenses (without spending money)

$3,870

Spending Money & Personal Travel (not included in financial aid calculation)

$1,000

Tuition and Educational Costs

$7,030

International Health Insurance

$0

Transportation (if required and included in program fee)

$1,700

Transportation to and from program site

$100

Texts/Materials

$150

Passport/Photos

$0

Visa/Required Documents

$0

Travel Clinic/Immunizations

$0

Visit your travel clinic and consult with your insurance provider. Costs vary. See note below*

Visit [https://umabroad.umn.edu/programs/africa/morocco/fees](https://umabroad.umn.edu/programs/africa/morocco/fees)

On-site Orientation

- Five days prior to the start of classes (shorter for summer programs)
- Crash course in *darija* (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
- On-site orientation with Abdellatif, Liz, and Faical
- Introduction to ALIF staff and services
- Meet homestay family
- Language placement exam for MSA

*Immunizations Note: This estimate is based on approximate cost of travel-related vaccinations and medications required for entry or recommended by the Center for Disease Control and Prevention. Your costs may be higher or lower depending on your travel clinic, the specific immunizations and medications prescribed, and your insurance coverage.

The University of Minnesota requires students to retain U.S. health insurance while abroad. While not a direct cost of learning abroad, students plan and budget to continue their existing U.S. health insurance coverage. More information can be found here: [http://umabroad.umn.edu/students/healthsafety/intlhealthinsurance/ushealthinsurancerequirement](http://umabroad.umn.edu/students/healthsafety/intlhealthinsurance/ushealthinsurancerequirement)

Program fees are based on estimates and may change depending on international economic factors. The above estimated total expenses are used to help plan and prepare for the program, as well as calculate eligibility for financial aid. Not all students will incur all the expenses above. Student expenditures in-country depend greatly on personal spending habits, post- or during program travel, and available funds.
Flight Information

- A group flight has been arranged through Village Travel - book at www.villageinc.com
- If not using the group flight:
  - Be sure to book a round trip flight.
  - E-mail your itinerary to Kate Johnson at foste287@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: Transportation at the end of program is provided to the airport for the 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.moroccanconsulate.com/visa.cfm](http://www.moroccanconsulate.com/visa.cfm)

Housing

- All students stay with a host family.
- The LAC tries 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.
- Students may decide to move out of the homestay after 6 weeks (semester and AY students only), but would be on their own to find accommodations.
- Culturally, ALIF shares only basic details and you need to inform the family of your daily schedule.
Living with a Host Family

- Remember that 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 out 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.
- Some families consider body towels and soap very personal items. On-site staff will assist you in making these purchases, if needed.

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/or hotels.
- 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 have a working cell phone.
- The onsite staff will provide students with an inexpensive local phone.
- Do not walk with your smartphone or computer visible.

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 held there.
ALIF Riad

• The ALIF Riad in the Medina has wireless (WI-FI) and is a good place to study in the evenings.
• Cultural events - concerts
• Kitchen, cooking club
• Lounge areas
• ALIF security guards are available to walk students home after dark

Onsite Staff

• David Amster, ALIF Director
• Abdellatif Jai, LAC Coordinator (RD)
• Liz Yaslik, 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 semester/year of medication
- Keep in mind the limited nature of health care facilities, particularly in rural areas.
- Check the Program Handbook for more information.
- Keep in mind the month long Ramadan religious period

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 warnings/safety if visiting other countries/regions.
Safety in Morocco

- A certain level of harassment/catcalls is to be expected – 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.
- See Program Handbook and ALIF handbook for other tips.

Safety in Morocco

- GLBTQ considerations
- Students of color
- Women
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 guide book can be helpful for picking out riads (guest houses) and finding fun things to do.
• Going out of the country is expensive but an option during official school breaks.
• Flights to other major cities can be purchased online or through a travel agency.

Excursions

• Overnight trip to Saharan resort
• Visits to other major Moroccan cities
Packing

- Cool but conservative in style clothing
- Lightweight Jacket - evenings can be cool & the desert excursion. See the packing list in the Onsite Guide.
- Short skirts and shorts are not worn by local women, skirts and shorts if worn, should fall well below the knee.
- Pack clothing that can be worn more than once without washing. Your host family will probably only let you do laundry every two weeks.
- Solid light colors are best, name brands displayed on clothes make you an easy target for pick-pocketing.
- Wear long pants while exercising.
- Don’t over pack!

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

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

نتمنى لكم رحلة طيبة