



Institute of Arab & Islamic Studies (IAIS)

HRH Prince Alwaleed Al Saud Award



University
of Exeter

About the Prince Alwaleed Award

Who Can Apply & What Is It For?

The Prince Alwaleed Award is a prestigious scholarship providing students with the unique opportunity to deepen their understanding of the Arabic-speaking world through immersive experiences that extend beyond their designated Study Abroad, which is typically a part of their degree programmes. It aims to enhance their Arabic language proficiency and cultural knowledge, offering a significant advantage that is not commonly available to many students.

In brief, the funding can be used for one of two primary purposes:

- **Study of Arabic at an Appropriate Institution in Arabic-speaking Countries:** Such an immersive environment is invaluable for language acquisition, providing students with the chance to practise their language skills in real-life situations and gain a deeper understanding of the cultural nuances that cannot be fully grasped in a classroom setting.
- **Travel to the MENA Region for Dissertation Fieldwork:** The second option supports students who need to conduct fieldwork in Arabic-speaking countries in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region for their dissertation. This funding enables students to gather primary data, access resources that are not available outside the region, and conduct interviews that are critical for their research projects. This hands-on experience is helpful in producing high-quality, original research that contributes to the academic field of Arab and Islamic Studies.

Award Conditions and Criteria:

The award is for IAIS students for travel to Arabic-speaking countries in the MENA region, defined as countries where Arabic is an official language. Students may apply for one Alwaleed Award in any 12-month period with a maximum of 2 Alwaleed Awards per student over the course of their programme.

The award cannot contribute to the costs of visiting an Arab country to gain work experience, participate in unpaid or voluntary work, visit friends or family, or assist with writing an essay for a module (except the dissertation or other theses).

Applications cannot be made retrospectively as a reimbursement for travel already undertaken.

The amount awarded varies according to the programme of study you are currently undertaking; please see below details of the programmes which are eligible for this studentship and the amount awarded:

IAIS Undergraduate Students

Undergraduates on IAIS single or combined honours programmes may apply for funding of up to £1,000 for one of the following purposes:

- Study of Arabic at an appropriate institution in an Arabic-speaking country.
- Travel to the Arabic-speaking world to undertake fieldwork for a dissertation (prior to final examinations).

Undergraduate students from Flexible Combined Honours or Liberal Arts

Students with Arabic in their degree title are eligible to apply for an award of up to £1,000 for the same purposes as IAIS Undergraduate students. The student must be studying at least 60 credits of modules at IAIS in each year they apply.

MArabic in Arabic and Islamic Studies

Students (Stage 4) can apply for up to £1,500 for additional Arabic study or research for dissertation (minimum of two weeks) in an Arabic speaking country following the compulsory Study Abroad placement in term 1 or in the Easter vacation prior to final examinations.

IAIS MA Programmes (1-Year)

Students undertaking any of the following 1-year IAIS MA Programmes are eligible to apply for the award for up to £1,500 to either study Arabic at an appropriate institution in an Arabic-speaking country or to travel to the Arabic-speaking world to undertake fieldwork for their dissertation.

- MA Islamic Studies
- MA Kurdish Studies
- MA Magic & Occult Science
- MA Middle East Politics
- MA Middle East Studies
- MA Palestine Studies
- MA Politics of Energy, Infrastructure and Environment
- MRes Middle East Studies

IAIS MA Programmes (2-Year)

Students undertaking any of the following 2-year IAIS MA Programmes are eligible to apply for the award for up to £1,500 for additional Arabic studying or fieldwork for dissertation (minimum of two weeks) in an Arabic-speaking country. The award is not to be used to pay for flights for the compulsory Study Abroad placement alone. However, if students wish to extend their compulsory period of study with an additional course of study (minimum of two weeks), Al Waleed funded flights could be used to cover both.

Alternatively, in the second year of study, £1,500 is available for Arabic language study and dissertation fieldwork.

- MA International Relations and Arabic
- MA Middle East Politics and International Relations

IAIS PhD Programmes

Awards of up to £2,000 are available to support PhD students for Arabic language study or fieldwork in an Arabic-speaking country attached to an Arab educational and/or research institution. Awards are made based on ethics approval and academic excellence of the candidate.

Please note:

- The amounts listed above are for full-time IAIS students only. Part-time (50%) students may apply for up to half of these amounts dependent on their programme of study.

Application Process & Required Documentation

To apply for this award, students must complete the **online [application form](#)** in its entirety. The submitted application must include the following attachments by the deadlines noted below:

- **A rationale for the intended trip** (of up to 500 words), detailing where you wish to go abroad and the benefits this will have on your study.
- Evidence that you have signed up for **email alerts from the Foreign Office** regarding your intended country of travel (<https://www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice>).
- **Approval from your language tutor, general academic tutor and/or dissertation supervisor** following their evaluation of the above-mentioned rationale
- **Full and completed Travel Risk Assessment (In Country)** signed by your tutor or academic supervisor (<https://universityofexeteruk.sharepoint.com/sites/Travel/SitePages/Risk-Assessments.aspx>)

Applications will be reviewed in three rounds per year by a panel convened by the UG Coordinator and will include a language tutor and the PGR Coordinator.

Term 1: Deadline end of week 6 (Term 1 reading week); result by the end of week 9

Term 2: Deadline end of week 3 result by the end of week 6

Term 3: Deadline end of week 2; result by the end of week 4

Term dates for 2025/26 can be found [here](#).

Applications received after the deadline will be considered at the next deadline in the following term. Incomplete applications will be returned to you for completion.

On approval of your application for an Alwaleed Award, students must submit:

- **Proof of purchase of insurance**
 - o In order to receive this award, students **must** purchase travel insurance through the university's own insurance provider

For undergraduate students:

<https://universityofexeteruk.sharepoint.com/sites/Travel/SitePages/Undergraduate-Travel-Insurance.aspx>

For postgraduate/doctoral students:

[https://universityofexeteruk.sharepoint.com/:w:/r/sites/Travel/_layouts/15/Doc.aspx?sourcedoc=%7B555ADC97-266D-4447-9054-E5A10DFEBDAF%7D&file=Fieldwork_Risk_Assessment_Template_\(In_Country\)_De](https://universityofexeteruk.sharepoint.com/:w:/r/sites/Travel/_layouts/15/Doc.aspx?sourcedoc=%7B555ADC97-266D-4447-9054-E5A10DFEBDAF%7D&file=Fieldwork_Risk_Assessment_Template_(In_Country)_De)

[cember_2021%20\(2\).docx&action=default&mobileredirect=true&wdOrigin=TEAMS-MAGLEV.p2p_ns.rwc&wdExp=TEAMS-TREATMENT&wdhostclicktime=1721207465767&web=1](#)

Forward applications to insurance@exeter.ac.uk with alwaleedawards@exeter.ac.uk in copy.

Successful applicants will be able to [apply for an advance](#) of the money before travelling.

Successful applicants will be required to submit a report (of up to 250 words) within 2 weeks after they return from their trip. In the report include details of your name, destination, dates of travel, how you have benefitted from the award both in terms of your programme of study and cultural experience (and feedback on the language school, where relevant). Please submit your report to alwaleedawards@exeter.ac.uk. Failure to do so will affect your ability to apply for further funding.

We'd love you to share your experience and photos via our social media channels! If you're happy to do so, please forward your contribution to alwaleedawards@exeter.ac.uk.

Terms and Conditions

The Award Committee may not approve awards intended for travel to areas when Foreign Office alerts are given, or where there may be particular concern for your safety. Recipients of the reward must also show evidence that they have signed up for daily or weekly updates from gov.uk regarding their intended country of travel (<https://www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice>).

Should your application be successful, within two weeks of your return to the UK you **must** submit your expenses, accompanied by **all receipts totalling the amount awarded to you**. We accept that in certain regions/countries formal receipts are harder to come by, therefore we accept signed and dated records of amounts in handwritten format or email.

Please note that the amounts listed are ceilings, and receipts **must** be submitted to justify expenditure. If not done, students will be liable to return unreconciled funds back to the university.

Reconciliation of Advances must be completed within two weeks of your return to the UK. Failure to do so may result in no further Advances being made to you.

Acceptable expenses with received funds include, but not limited not:

- Food
- Non-alcoholic beverages
- Translation services

- Transport (Car Hire (including insurance), taxi fares, airport transfer(s), coach, bus, aeroplane, water ferry, etc.)
- Accommodation
- Course/Programme costs
- Conference Fees
- Insurance costs
- Inoculation/Vaccination fees
- Study materials
- Guided tours

Unacceptable expenses with received funds include, but not limited to:

- Clothing
- Toys
- Electrical goods
- Souvenirs
- General/non-cultural leisure activities (eg. Cinema tickets, shisha, etc.)
- Alcoholic beverages
- Assistant fees

General Travel Advice

As you prepare for your journey to study Arabic abroad, it's essential to understand that cultural nuances and differences will significantly shape your experience. Mastering the language is just one part of the adventure; immersing yourself in the local culture is equally important, and it is important to remember certain things:

1. Embracing Local Hospitality

Hospitality is a cornerstone of many cultures in the MENA region. As a guest, you will often be treated with exceptional kindness and generosity, which can sometimes be overwhelming if you're not accustomed to it. Embrace this hospitality by accepting invitations, participating in communal meals, and learning the etiquette around gift-giving.

2. Respecting Social Hierarchies

Understanding and respecting social hierarchy and the importance of elders is crucial. In many Arabic-speaking countries showing deference to older individuals and those in authority is highly valued. This respect is demonstrated through the use of formal titles, respectful language, and certain behaviours. Adhering to these norms will help you build positive relationships and avoid misunderstandings.

3. Navigating Dress Codes

Dress codes in the MENA region generally emphasise modesty and therefore be mindful of local expectations. Dress codes can vary significantly between urban and rural areas, and between more conservative and liberal countries. Researching and respecting these norms before you arrive will prevent discomfort and ensure smoother integration into the community.

4. Understanding Dialectical Difference

While Modern Standard Arabic (MSA) is taught in most formal education settings, spoken Arabic varies widely across the region. Each country – and even regions within countries – has its own dialect, which can be both a challenge and an opportunity. While you may initially struggle with dialectal differences, mastering the local dialect will greatly enhance your ability to communicate effectively and form deeper connections with native speakers.

Recommended Institutions & Language Schools

Drawing on the extensive travel and study experiences of IAIS students, we have compiled recommendations for language schools and institutions in countries where Arabic is an official language. These recommendations are based on years of firsthand experience, ensuring high-quality education and a supportive environment for foreign students.

The Award Committee may not approve awards intended for travel to areas when Foreign Office alerts are given, or where there may be particular concern for your safety.

Bahrain

Bahrain, a small yet culturally rich island nation in the Gulf, offers a welcoming environment for Arabic language studies. Manama, the capital, hosts institutions such as the University of Bahrain and the Berlitz Language Center. Students can learn Modern Standard Arabic and the Bahraini dialect, part of the Gulf Arabic family. Bahrain's blend of ancient history and modernity, evident in its archaeological sites and contemporary developments, provides a unique learning context. The country's multicultural society, vibrant arts scene, and historic landmarks offer students numerous opportunities to practice Arabic and experience Bahrain's rich cultural heritage.

Recommended Arabic Language Institutions include:

- **Berlitz Language Center** – Manama (<https://www.berlitz-bahrain.com/en/languages/arabic>)
- **Eton Institute** – Manama (<https://courses.etoninstitute.com/>)
- **Teach Bahrain** – Manama (<https://teachbahrain.com/arabic>)

Egypt

Egypt is renowned for its vibrant culture and rich history, making it a prime destination for studying Arabic. Cairo, the bustling capital, is home to numerous language schools such as Al Diwan Center and the International Language Institute (ILI). Students benefit from immersion in both Modern Standard Arabic and Egyptian Arabic, a widely understood dialect in the Arab world due to Egypt's influential media industry. Beyond the classroom, Egypt's diverse cultural heritage, including iconic landmarks like the Pyramids and the Sphinx, offers students a chance to explore and practice the language in real-world contexts. Alexandria, with its historic library and Mediterranean charm, also provides a unique learning environment.

Recommended Language Learning institutions include:

- **Ahlan Egypt** – Alexandria and Cairo (<https://www.ahlan-world.org/>)

- **Arabeya Arabic Language Center** – Cairo and Giza (<https://www.oneworld365.org/company/arabeya-arabic-language-center>)
- **Kalimat Language & Cultural Center** – Cairo (<https://kalimategypt.com/>)

Jordan

Jordan, with its stable political environment and rich cultural history, is an excellent destination for Arabic language learners. Amman, the capital, offers top institutions like the Qasid Arabic Institute and the Sijal Institute for Arabic Language and Culture. Jordanian Arabic, a Levantine dialect, is highly useful for communication across the Levant region. The country's diverse landscapes, from the ancient city of Petra to the vast deserts of Wadi Rum, provide students with varied experiences outside the classroom. The welcoming nature of Jordanians and the country's blend of traditional and modern lifestyles make it an engaging place to learn and practice Arabic.

Recommended Language Learning institutions include:

- **Qasid Arabic Institute** – Amman (<https://www.qasid.com/>)
- **Ali Baba International Center** – Amman (<https://www.alibaba.edu.jo/>)
- **Sijal Institute for Arabic Language and Culture** – Amman (<https://www.sijal.org/>)
- **Modern Language Center** – Amman (<https://mlc.edu.jo/en/home-page/>)

Lebanon

Lebanon, known for its multilingual society and cultural diversity, offers a dynamic environment for studying Arabic. Beirut, the cosmopolitan capital, hosts esteemed institutions like the Saifi Institute for Arabic Language and the American University of Beirut. Students can learn both Modern Standard Arabic and the Lebanese dialect, which is widely understood in the Levant region. Lebanon's rich history, stunning landscapes, and vibrant arts scene provide ample opportunities for cultural immersion. From the bustling streets of Beirut to the historic ruins of Baalbek, learners can engage with the language in varied settings, enhancing their linguistic and cultural understanding.

Recommended Language Learning Institutions include:

- **Saifi Institute for Arabic Language** – Beirut (<https://saifiarabic.com/>)
- **American University of Beirut (AUB) Arabic Program** – Beirut (<https://www.aub.edu.lb/fas/cames/sap/Pages/default.aspx>)
- **Lebanese American University (LAU) Arabic Program** – Beirut (<https://sinarc.lau.edu.lb/>)
- **Institut Français du Liban** – Beirut (<https://institutfrancais-liban.com/offre-cours/cours-darabe/#/?etablismentBranchIds=2&classificationIds=8>)

Morocco

Morocco, with its rich cultural heritage and linguistic diversity, is a popular destination for Arabic learners. Cities like Rabat, home to the Qalam wa Lawh Center, and Fez, where the Arabic Language Institute in Fez (ALIF) is located, offer immersive language programs. Moroccan Arabic, or Darija, differs significantly from other dialects but provides a fascinating linguistic challenge. Additionally, students can learn Modern Standard Arabic. The country's vibrant souks, historic medinas, and stunning landscapes, from the Sahara Desert to the Atlas Mountains, offer students numerous opportunities to practice Arabic in authentic settings and experience Moroccan hospitality.

Recommended Language Learning Institutions include:

- **Qalam wa Lawh Center** – Rabat (<https://www.qalamcenter.com/>)
- **Al Akhawayn University Arabic Language Institute** – Ifrane (<https://au.ma/language-center>)
- **Arabic Language Institute in Fez (ALIF)** – Fez (<https://www.alif-fes.com/>)
- **American Language Center** – Rabat (<https://alcrabat.org/index.html>)

Oman

Oman, known for its stunning natural beauty and preserved cultural heritage, is an excellent destination for Arabic learners. Institutions such as the Sultan Qaboos College for Teaching Arabic to Non-Native Speakers in Manah offer comprehensive language programs. Students can learn both Modern Standard Arabic and Omani Arabic, a dialect that reflects the country's diverse influences. Oman's warm hospitality, historic forts, and breathtaking landscapes, from desert dunes to coastal shores, provide an immersive backdrop for language practice and cultural exploration.

Recommended Arabic Language Institutions include:

- **Sultan Qaboos College for Teaching Arabic to Non-Native Speakers** – Manah (<https://www.sqca.edu.om/>)
- **Noor Majan Arabic Institute** – Muscat (<https://noormajan-institute.com/>)

Qatar

Qatar, a rapidly developing Gulf state, provides a dynamic setting for Arabic language studies. Doha, the capital, is home to institutions like Qatar University's Arabic for Non-Native Speakers Center and Georgetown University in Qatar. Students can learn Modern Standard Arabic as well as the Gulf dialect. Qatar's blend of tradition and modernity, exemplified by its futuristic skyline and cultural landmarks such as the Museum of Islamic Art, offers an enriching environment for language learners.

The country's commitment to education and international collaboration makes it a welcoming and supportive place for students to immerse themselves in Arabic language and culture.

Recommended Language Learning Institutions include:

- **Doha Institute for Graduate Studies** – Doha (<https://www.dohainstitute.edu.qa/en/Centers/Language-Center/Pages/Arabic-Program.aspx>)
- **Georgetown University in Qatar Arabic Program** – Doha (<https://www.qatar.georgetown.edu/academics/programs/majors-minors-and-certificates/minors/arabic-language-program-and-arabic-minor/>)
- **Hamad Bin Khalifa University** – Doha (<https://tii.qa/en/tii-arabic-language-program-0>)

Saudi Arabia

Saudi Arabia, the heartland of the Muslim world, offers an authentic environment for studying Arabic. Major cities like Riyadh and Jeddah host top language institutions such as the King Saud University Arabic Language Institute and the Arabic Language Institute at Umm Al-Qura University. Students can immerse themselves in both Modern Standard Arabic and the Saudi dialect. The country's profound cultural and religious significance, with sites like Mecca and Medina, provides a unique context for learning. Additionally, Saudi Arabia's recent cultural and social reforms are creating new opportunities for international students to explore and engage with its rich heritage and traditions.

Recommended Language Learning Institutions include:

- **King Saud University Arabic Language Institute** – Riyadh (<https://ali.ksu.edu.sa/en>)
- **Arabic Language Institute for Non-Native Speakers (ALI) at Umm Al-Qura University** – Mecca (<https://uqu.edu.sa/en/instarab/AboutUs#:~:text=The%20institute%20was%20established%20in,for%20Non%2Dnative%20Speakers%E2%80%9D.>)
- **King Abdulaziz University Arabic Language Institute** – Jeddah (<https://ali.kau.edu.sa/Default-973-EN>)
- **Arabic Language Academy in Riyadh** – Riyadh (<https://clarityarl.com/>)

Tunisia

Tunisia, with its strategic location in North Africa and rich cultural tapestry, offers a unique environment for studying Arabic. The capital, Tunis, hosts prominent institutions like the Institut Bourguiba des Langues Vivantes and AMIDEAST Tunisia. Learners can study both Modern Standard Arabic and Tunisian Arabic, a Maghrebi dialect. Tunisia's blend of Arab, Berber, and French influences

provides a multifaceted cultural experience. The country's well-preserved archaeological sites, Mediterranean beaches, and vibrant arts scene offer students ample opportunities to immerse themselves in the language and culture, enhancing their overall learning experience.

Recommended Language Learning Institutions include:

- **Institut Bourguiba des Langues Vivantes** – Tunis (www.iblv.rnu.tn)
- **Taa Marbouta** – Tunis (<https://www.taamarbouta.com/>)
- **Institut Français de Tunisie** – Tunis (<https://www.institutfrancais-tunisie.com/>)

United Arab Emirates

The United Arab Emirates (UAE) offers a modern and cosmopolitan environment for Arabic language learners. Cities like Dubai and Abu Dhabi host prestigious institutions such as the Eton Institute and the Arabic Language Centre. Students can learn both Modern Standard Arabic and the Gulf dialect. The UAE's rapid development and multicultural society provide a unique context for language practice and cultural exchange. Beyond the classroom, learners can experience the UAE's rich blend of tradition and modernity, from exploring bustling souks and historic districts to visiting iconic skyscrapers and engaging in a variety of cultural events and activities.

Recommended Language Learning Institutions include:

- **Eton Institute** – Dubai (<https://www.etoninstitute.com/>)
- **Abu Dhabi Language Centre** – Abu Dhabi (<https://alc.ae/en/>)
- **American University of Sharjah** – Sharjah (<https://www.aus.edu/cas/departments-of-arabic-and-translation-studies/summer-intensive-arabic-program>)
- **Berlitz Language Center Khalidiya** – Abu Dhabi (<https://www.berlitz.com/en-ae/language-schools/abu-dhabi/khalidiya>)