



Institute of Arab & Islamic Studies

The Prince Alwaleed Award



University
of Exeter

About the Prince Alwaleed Award

Who can apply & what is it for?

The Prince Alwaleed Award is a prestigious scholarship available to students who take at least 60 credits a year from modules hosted by the Institute of Arab & Islamic Studies (IAIS) at the University of Exeter.

This award provides students with the unique opportunity to deepen their understanding of the Arabic-speaking world through immersive experiences that extend beyond their designated time 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:

1. **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 practice their language skills in real-life situations, engage with native speakers, and gain a deeper understanding of the cultural nuances that cannot be fully grasped in a classroom setting. If circumstances prevent travel, students may use the funds to study Arabic online through reputable institutions, ensuring that their language education continues uninterrupted.
2. **Travel to the MENA Region for Dissertation Research:** The second option supports students who need to conduct research in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region for their dissertations. This funding enables students to gather primary data, access resources that are not available outside the region, and conduct interviews or fieldwork that are critical for their research projects. This hand-on experience is crucial for producing high-quality, original research that contributes to the academic field of Arab and Islamic Studies.

The award is named in honour of HRH Prince Alwaleed bin Talal Al Saud, a businessman and philanthropist known for his contributions to education and cultural exchange. His support has been instrumental in fostering better understanding and cooperation between the Arab world and the West. The reward reflects his commitment to education and intercultural dialogue, providing students with the means to pursue their academic and professional goals in the field of Arab and Islamic Studies.

What are the benefits of the Award?

Students who receive the Prince Alwaleed Award benefit in several significant ways:

1. **Enhanced Language Skills:** Immersive experiences are among the most effective methods for language learning. By spending time in Arabic-speaking environments, students can practice and refine their Arabic language skills, achieving a higher level of proficiency that can greatly benefit their future careers.
2. **Cultural Competence:** Living and studying in Arabic-speaking countries helps students develop a deeper cultural awareness and global sensitivity. This experience is invaluable for those who aspire to work in international fields such as diplomacy, international business, or global non-profits.
3. **Research Opportunities:** For those conducting research, the ability to travel to the MENA region and access local resources can be a game-changer. It allows for the collection of first-hand data, the ability to engage with local scholars and experts, and a richer, more nuanced understanding of the research topic.
4. **Professional Development:** The experiences and skills gained through this award can enhance a student's resumé and make them more competitive in the job market. Employers often value the kind of international experience and language proficiency that recipients of the Prince Alwaleed Award can demonstrate.

Student Testimonials

To appreciate the profound impact of the Prince Alwaleed Award, we invite you to view testimonials of current and previous students who have benefited from this incredible opportunity. Their stories vividly illustrate the award's transformative power and the unparalleled advantages it provides:

"I would never have thought to have gone to Lebanon had I not had access to the funding from the Alwaleed scholarship. Without it, the trip would simply not have been an option for me. Had it not been for Alwaleed, not only would I have missed out on some very memorable experiences and relationships but my understanding of the region would be much impoverished. It is vital for students of Arabic to be able to visit as many Arabic speaking countries as possible, and Alwaleed is incredibly important for ensuring that students' knowledge and experiences of the Middle East isn't limited to just one country alone."

Harry Long, MArabic (Lebanon)

"During my two-week programme, I studied MSA to help bridge the gap between first and second year. It was hugely beneficial and definitely put me in a better position to start my studies in Amman. Alwaleed was extremely helpful as it funded the whole trip and gave me the opportunity to study in a MENA region country, that I otherwise wouldn't be able to visit as I don't have the means to do so."

Gethin Marshall, MArabic (Morocco)

"My classmates and I enrolled in a month-long programme at Taa Marbouta which is a Tunisian organisation that has strong links to Exeter University. We had lessons from 1pm to 5pm every weekday in Standard Arabic and also lessons in Tunisian Dialect... Without the Alwaleed grant, I would not have been able to go and would have missed out on an experience which I will covet for life"

Dawood Khan, BA Middle East Studies (Tunisia)

“Two of my peers and I studied a media translation course at the ALIF language school in Fes for a month which was an amazing opportunity to both put our language to the test but also pick up essential local dialect which without the support of the Alwaleed Fund would have been impossible. Beyond the classroom, we were also able to take part in cultural activities and learn more about the rich culture and history of Morocco, which is very distinct to the rest of the MENA region in which I have previously studied and lived.

I will always be grateful for the opportunity this award presented me and certainly helped me beyond my studies. Because of the course I studied using the funds, I was then able to secure a 2-year translation internship with ‘The Center for Arab-West Understanding’ (CAWU), an Egyptian NGO based in Cairo which covers and presents findings regarding political, religious and socio-economic relations between the Middle East and the Western World. None of this would have been possible without the generosity and support the award provided.”

Luke Noble, MArabic (Morocco)

Award Conditions and Criteria

The award is for IAIS students who are citizens of countries outside the Arab world. 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).

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 annually 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, or online where circumstances demand it.
- Travel to the Arabic-speaking world to undertake research for a dissertation (prior to final examinations).

University of Exeter undergraduate students studying Arabic at IAIS as an optional module

Students currently registered on an Arabic module at IAIS **who have also previously successfully completed an IAIS Arabic module** may apply for the award for up to £1,000 for the study of Arabic at an appropriate institution in an Arabic-speaking country, or online where circumstances demand it.

Undergraduate students from Flexible Combined Honours or Liberal Arts

Students who are studying at least 60 credits of modules at IAIS 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.

IAIS MA Programmes (1-Year)

Students undertaking any of the following 1-year IAIS MA Programme 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 online where circumstances demand it) or to travel to the Arabic-speaking world to undertake research for their dissertation.

- MA Gender Studies (Middle East & Islamic World)
- MA Gulf Studies
- MA Islamic Studies
- MA Middle East Politics
- MA Middle East Studies
- MA Palestine Studies
- MRes Middle East Studies

MArabic in Arabic and Islamic Studies

£1,500 (Stage 4) 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 Easter vacation prior to final examinations.

IAIS MA Programmes (2-Year)

£1,500 for additional Arabic studying or research 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), Alwaleed funded flights could be used to cover both. In the second year of study, £1,500 is available also for Arabic language study and dissertation fieldwork.

IAIS MA Programmes (2-Year)

Funding of up to £2,000 is available to support PhD students in Arabic language studies or fieldwork/research in an Arabic-speaking country. Awards are made on the basis of academic excellence.

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

Applications must be submitted at least 6 weeks in advance of travel and no later. Any applications which attempt to claim the award as a reimbursement for previous travel will be rejected.

In order to apply for this award, students must complete the application form (found at the end of this document) in its entirety. Students must also provide copies of:

- **A word-processed rationale for the intended trip** (of 800-1,000 words), detailing where you wish to go abroad and the benefits this will have on your study. This document must also include some reference that you have considered and evaluated any significant risks and/or recommendations by the UK government for your intended country of travel.
- **Complete Prince Alwaleed Award Application Form** (found at end of booklet)
- **A signed academic reference** from your language tutor, general academic tutor and/or dissertation supervisor following their evaluation of the above noted rationale, including a statement that they are in agreement with your travel plans and the intended benefits.

On approval of the above documentation, students must submit:

- **Full and completed Risk Assessment (In Country)**
<https://universityofexeteruk.sharepoint.com/sites/Travel/SitePages/Risk-Assessments.aspx>
- **Proof of purchase of insurance**
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: [_Fieldwork Risk Assessment Template \(In Country\) December 2021 \(2\).docx](#)

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 totaling 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.

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

- 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
- Purchasing of live animals
- Assistant fees

Only one scholarship may be awarded per student academic year (October to September). If your application is unsuccessful, you are welcome to submit a revised application. If you are successful, you may not apply again until the following October.

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:

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.

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.

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.

Understanding Dialectical Differences

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 dialectical 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 across the MENA region. These recommendations are based on years of firsthand experience, ensuring high-quality education and a supportive environment for foreign students.

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/arabic-schools/cairo-egypt/>
- **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/comes/Pages/Non-degree-program.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-%20darabe/#/?establishmentBranchIds=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 programmes. Moroccan Arabic, or Darija, differs significantly from other dialects but provides a fascinating linguistic challenge. Additionally, students can learn Modern Standard Arabic. Vibrant souks, historic medinas, and stunning landscapes, from the Sahara Desert to the Atlas Mountains, offer 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/>
- **AlAkhawayn University Arabic Language Institute** – Ifrane <https://aui.ma/language-center>
- **Arabic Language Institute in Fez (ALIF)** – Fez <https://www.alif-fes.com/>
- **American Language Center** – Rabat <https://alcrabat.org/>

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 <https://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/department-of-arabic-%20and-translation-studies/summer-intensive-arabic-program>
- **Berlitz Language Center Khalidiya** – Abu Dhabi <https://www.berlitz.com/en-ae/language-schools/abu-dhabi>

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%20establishe d%20%20%20%20%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/>

Qatar

Qatar 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>

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/>

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>

Prince Alwaleed Award Application Form

Personal Details	
Family Name:	
Other Names:	
Date of Birth:	
Place of Birth:	
Nationality:	
Address for Correspondence:	
E-mail Address (Student):	
Telephone:	
Programme of Study Details	
Programme of Study:	
Full/Part-time:	
Year of Study:	
Student number:	
Travel Details	
Destination:	
Exact Dates of Travel (outbound and inbound):	
Reason (Dissertation/ Arabic etc):	
Insurance Provider:	
Proposed Budget	
Travel Fares :	
Visa:	
Tuition:	
Accommodation :	
TOTAL:	
STUDENT SIGNATURE:	
DATE:	

This form must be completed with a rationale, agenda and academic reference attached. You must also complete the International Travel, Risk Assessment and Undergraduate Insurance forms available here <http://www.exeter.ac.uk/staff/internationaltravel/> which must be forwarded to insurance@exeter.ac.uk with iais-info@exeter.ac.uk copied in. Applications should be submitted at least 4 weeks in advance of travel. Should your application be successful, upon return to the UK you will need to provide all receipts totalling the amount awarded you, including proof of insurance.

Director of Institute Approved:

Date: