Jordan: At the heart of the Middle East

Amman, capital of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, is a bustling, multicultural metropolis with ancient roots and a central role in today’s Middle East.

Sharing land borders with Iraq, Israel, Palestine, Saudi Arabia, and Syria, and one of only two Arab countries to have open borders with Israel, Jordan is deeply involved in regional politics. In recent decades, Jordanian society has absorbed an influx of refugees from conflicts in the area — most notably in Palestine, Kuwait, and Iraq.

Living in Jordan for a full semester, students can closely study and observe the challenges faced by the people and nations of this important region — ongoing tensions and conflict, lack of natural resources, increasing environmental concerns, the need for economic development, and struggles over the pace and direction of social and political change.

AMIDEAST is ACM’s partner in offering the Jordan: Middle East & Arabic Language Studies program. AMIDEAST Education Abroad Programs in the Arab World help develop mutual understanding through programs for Americans to study the Middle East and North Africa and interact with the peoples and cultures of the region, especially local university faculty members and students. www.amideast.org/abroad
The Arab Spring, with its calls for social and political change, and other recent events in the Middle East have again heightened awareness of that vital region.

On ACM's new fall semester Jordan: Middle East & Arabic Language Studies program, students can focus on the area’s language and culture, arts, history, politics, religion, and social issues.

The program’s multi-faceted approach offers academic breadth and experiential depth, as students live in homes with host families, interact with Jordanian students, and engage with culture at the heart of the Middle East.

Program participants study Arabic language and choose among elective courses ranging across the curriculum, from Development in the Middle East and North Africa to Traditional Islamic Art to Women and Society in the Arab World.

Trips to Roman, Islamic, and Biblical sites, along with options to volunteer in the community, round out the fall semester.

For more details, go to [acm.edu/jordan](http://acm.edu/jordan)

**Host organization** AMIDEAST, ACM’s partner in Jordan, is a leading American non-profit organization engaged in international education, training, and development activities in the Middle East and North Africa.

**Dates** Fall semester (late August - mid-December)

**Courses and credits** Recommended credit is 17 semester credits or the equivalent.

- **Arabic Language** Students take courses in both Modern Standard Arabic (5 credits) and colloquial Jordanian Arabic (3 credits) at levels suited to their individual proficiency.
- **Elective Courses** Students choose two electives from among AMIDEAST’s wide range of courses in Middle Eastern and Jordanian society, politics and history, international relations, religion, culture and the arts, and contemporary issues. (3 credits per course)
- **Independent Study Project** Using interviews, field observation, and other techniques, students can explore topics of individual interest in projects they develop and complete with the supervision of the ACM Visiting Faculty member. (3 credits)

**AMIDEAST faculty** Elective courses are taught by Jordanian professors who have strong experience teaching in English-language environments. The ACM Visiting Faculty member also teaches an elective course.

**ACM Visiting Faculty** A faculty member from an ACM college serves as Visiting Faculty for the program, teaching an elective course in his/her area of expertise, supervising the students’ independent study projects, and helping to mentor students in their studies and immersive experiences.

**Field trips and volunteer activities** AMIDEAST sponsors field trips to significant historical and cultural sites, such as Petra, Wadi Rum, and the Dead Sea.

Volunteer opportunities are also available in community service projects, organized through a 3-credit course in Community-Based Learning.

**Enrollment** Maximum of 20 students

**Eligibility** Sophomores, juniors, and seniors in any major are eligible.

**Language requirement** No prerequisites. Except for the required Arabic language courses, all classes are conducted in English.

**Living arrangements** AMIDEAST arranges for students to live with host families.

**Costs** For information about program costs and an expense budget, go to [acm.edu/jordan](http://acm.edu/jordan). Students also should check with their Off-Campus Study or Financial Aid Office about their college’s pricing policies for off-campus study.

**How to apply**

- Access the ACM application at [acm.edu/apply](http://acm.edu/apply).
- Students should check with their Off-Campus Study Office about their college’s application procedures and deadlines.
- ACM must receive completed applications by March 15.