# MASTER OF ARTS IN THE FIELD OF MIDDLE EAST STUDIES

The master of arts in the field of Middle East studies degree program combines a rigorous academic foundation with a strong professional orientation. Bridging the theory and practice of international affairs, the program prepares students for careers in government, the private sector, and international and nongovernmental organizations.

The curriculum includes a range of courses covering the history, politics, economics, international relations, and cultures of the societies and nations of the Middle East. In consultation with the program director, each student develops a program of study that, through a set of core courses, combines a broad overview of the region along with a more specialized field based on the student’s specific academic and career interests. In addition, completion of the program requires demonstrated oral and reading proficiency in a language of the Middle East region.

Visit the program website (https://elliott.gwu.edu/middle-east-studies/) for additional program information.

## REQUIREMENTS

The following requirements must be fulfilled: 40 credits, including a 3-credit cornerstone course, 9 credits in core field courses, 3 credits in skills courses, a 4-credit capstone sequence, 12 credits in one professional specialization, and 9 credits in elective courses. In addition, students must fulfill a foreign language proficiency requirement (see below).

See note regarding special topics and skills courses, the capstone sequence, and LAW courses*.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Required</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Cornerstone (3 credits)</td>
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<tr>
<td>IAFF 6361</td>
<td>Middle East Studies Cornerstone</td>
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<td>Core field courses (9 credits)</td>
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<td>One course in each of the following disciplines for a total of three courses: ANTH/GEOG, HIST, and PSC.</td>
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<tr>
<td>ANTH 6707</td>
<td>Issues in Middle East Anthropology</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>GEOG 6262</td>
<td>Geographical Perspectives on the Middle East</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>HIST 6801</td>
<td>Topics in Middle Eastern History (History of the Modern Middle East)</td>
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<tr>
<td>HIST 6801</td>
<td>Topics in Middle Eastern History (Middle East in the World)</td>
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<td>Professional specialization (12 credits)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>12 credits in one of the professional specializations listed below. At least one 3-credit course must cover content on the Middle East. Students may construct an individualized professional specialization in consultation with, and with the approval of, the Program Director.</td>
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<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Middle East electives (9 credits)</strong></td>
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<td>Three elective courses (9 credits) related to the Middle East, selected in consultation with the Program Director. Students may include up to 6 credits of content-based language study (i.e. not basic language acquisition) toward this requirement. All offerings under ANTH 6707, IAFF 6378, HIST 6801, and REL 6460 may be used for elective requirements and repeated for credit provided the topic differs.</td>
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<tr>
<td>ANTH 6707</td>
<td>Issues in Middle East Anthropology</td>
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<tr>
<td>ECON 6295</td>
<td>Special Topics *</td>
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<tr>
<td>IAFF 6364</td>
<td>Religion and Society in the Modern Middle East</td>
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<tr>
<td>IAFF 6378</td>
<td>Special Topics in Middle East Studies</td>
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</table>
**Thematic specializations**

**GEOG 6262** Geographical Perspectives on the Middle East

**HIST 6801** Topics in Middle Eastern History

**REL 6401** Islamic Historiographies

**REL 6402** Qur’an and Hadith

**REL 6441** Islamic Law

**REL 6460** Topics in the Study of Islam

*Only specific topics that are determined by the Program Director to be relevant to the student’s program of study may be used to fulfill this requirement. Any topic intended to be used for this requirement must be approved by the Program Director prior to enrollment.*

*Specific subject matter covered in special/selected topics courses varies by semester. Consult the Schedule of Classes for each semester’s offerings. Topics courses not listed here may be used to fulfill program requirements if approved by the Program Director.*

Additional information regarding skills courses (https://elliott.gwu.edu/professional-skills-courses/) and the capstone (https://elliott.gwu.edu/global-capstone/) is available on the Elliott School website.

Law School courses—Students may, with permission of their advisor, include courses in the Law School (http://www.law.gwu.edu/) in their major field. Enrolling in a LAW course also requires permission of the Law School dean of students. Students should consult the Elliott School Office of Academic Advising and Student Services (http://elliott.gwu.edu/graduate-advising/) office before enrolling in LAW courses.

**Specializations**

**Thematic specializations**

- Conflict and Conflict Resolution (http://bulletin.gwu.edu/international-affairs/graduate-programs/specializations/conflict-and-conflict-resolution/)
- Global Energy and Environmental Policy (http://bulletin.gwu.edu/international-affairs/graduate-programs/specializations/global-energy-and-environmental-policy/)
- Global Gender Policy (http://bulletin.gwu.edu/international-affairs/graduate-programs/specializations/global-gender-policy/)
- Global Health (http://bulletin.gwu.edu/international-affairs/graduate-programs/specializations/global-health/)
- International Affairs and Development (http://bulletin.gwu.edu/international-affairs/graduate-programs/specializations/international-affairs-and-development/)
- International Economic Affairs (http://bulletin.gwu.edu/international-affairs/graduate-programs/specializations/international-economic-affairs/)
- International Law and Organizations (http://bulletin.gwu.edu/international-affairs/graduate-programs/specializations/international-law-and-organizations/)
- International Security Studies (http://bulletin.gwu.edu/international-affairs/graduate-programs/specializations/international-security-studies/)
- Nuclear Policy (http://bulletin.gwu.edu/international-affairs/graduate-programs/specializations/nuclear-policy/)
- Technology and International Affairs (http://bulletin.gwu.edu/international-affairs/graduate-programs/specializations/technology-and-international-affairs/)
- U.S. Foreign Policy (http://bulletin.gwu.edu/international-affairs/graduate-programs/specializations/us-foreign-policy/)

**Regional specializations**

- Africa (http://bulletin.gwu.edu/international-affairs/graduate-programs/specializations/africa/)
- Asia (http://bulletin.gwu.edu/international-affairs/graduate-programs/specializations/asia/)
- Europe, Eurasia, and Russia (http://bulletin.gwu.edu/international-affairs/graduate-programs/specializations/europe-eurasia-russia/)
- Latin America (http://bulletin.gwu.edu/international-affairs/graduate-programs/specializations/latin-america/)
- Middle East (http://bulletin.gwu.edu/international-affairs/graduate-programs/specializations/middle-east/)

**Foreign language proficiency requirement**

Students in the Middle East studies program are required to demonstrate the currently-required level of proficiency in one of the following languages by passing a reading and speaking proficiency examination administered by the Elliott School: Modern Standard Arabic (taught at GW); Persian; Hebrew (taught at GW); Kurdish; or Turkish. The Elliott School administers foreign language proficiency examinations (https://elliott.gwu.edu/foreign-language-proficiency-requirement/) once in the fall and once in the spring semesters. Students may take the examination at any point during their academic program. Students have three opportunities to pass the examination. Consult the Program Director for more information.

**SPECIALIZATIONS**

**Specializations**

**Thematic specializations**

- Conflict and Conflict Resolution (http://bulletin.gwu.edu/international-affairs/graduate-programs/specializations/conflict-and-conflict-resolution/)
• Global Energy and Environmental Policy (http://bulletin.gwu.edu/international-affairs/graduate-programs/specializations/global-energy-and-environmental-policy/)
• Global Gender Policy (http://bulletin.gwu.edu/international-affairs/graduate-programs/specializations/global-gender-policy/)
• Global Health (http://bulletin.gwu.edu/international-affairs/graduate-programs/specializations/global-health/)
• International Affairs and Development (http://bulletin.gwu.edu/international-affairs/graduate-programs/specializations/international-affairs-and-development/)
• International Economic Affairs (http://bulletin.gwu.edu/international-affairs/graduate-programs/specializations/international-economic-affairs/)
• International Law and Organizations (http://bulletin.gwu.edu/international-affairs/graduate-programs/specializations/international-law-and-organizations/)
• International Security Studies (http://bulletin.gwu.edu/international-affairs/graduate-programs/specializations/international-security-studies/)
• Nuclear Policy (http://bulletin.gwu.edu/international-affairs/graduate-programs/specializations/nuclear-policy/)
• Technology and International Affairs (http://bulletin.gwu.edu/international-affairs/graduate-programs/specializations/technology-and-international-affairs/)
• U.S. Foreign Policy (http://bulletin.gwu.edu/international-affairs/graduate-programs/specializations/us-foreign-policy/)

Regional specializations

• Africa (http://bulletin.gwu.edu/international-affairs/graduate-programs/specializations/africa/)
• Asia (http://bulletin.gwu.edu/international-affairs/graduate-programs/specializations/asia/)
• Europe, Eurasia, and Russia (http://bulletin.gwu.edu/international-affairs/graduate-programs/specializations/europe-eurasia-russia/)
• Latin America (http://bulletin.gwu.edu/international-affairs/graduate-programs/specializations/latin-america/)
• Middle East (http://bulletin.gwu.edu/international-affairs/graduate-programs/specializations/middle-east/)