The Master of Arts in 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 will develop 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.

**REQUIREMENTS**

Specific admission requirements are shown on the Graduate Program Finder.[http://www.gwu.edu/all-graduate-programs](http://www.gwu.edu/all-graduate-programs)

Prerequisite: a bachelor’s degree in a related field with at least two years of study of an appropriate language of the region

The following requirements must be fulfilled:

**Cornerstone (1 credit):**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>IAFF 6361</td>
<td>Middle East Studies Cornerstone</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Core Courses (12 credits):**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HIST 6801</td>
<td>Topics in Middle Eastern History</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IAFF 6378</td>
<td>Special Topics in Middle East Studies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSC 6377</td>
<td>Comparative Politics of the Middle East</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSC 6478</td>
<td>International Relations of the Middle East</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IAFF 6364</td>
<td>Religion and Society in the Modern Middle East</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ANTH 6707</td>
<td>Issues in Middle East Anthropology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GEOG 6262</td>
<td>Geographical Perspectives on the Middle East</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Professional specialization field (12 credits):**

Available fields include:
- Conflict and Conflict Resolution
- Global Health
- International Affairs and Development
- International Business
- International Economic Affairs
- International Law and Organizations
- International Security Studies
- Management
- Technology Policy and International Affairs
- U.S. Foreign Policy

**Middle East electives (9 credits):**

Three courses related to the Middle East, selected in consultation with the program director. At least three (3) credits must have a language or humanities aspect. May include only three (3) credits of language study, which must be an advanced, content-based course.

**Capstone (3 credits):**

IAFF 6379 Middle East Studies Capstone

**Skills courses (3 credits):**

IAFF 6502 Professional Skills I

or IAFF 6503 Professional Skills II

**Foreign Language Proficiency**

Students must pass a proficiency examination in a major modern Middle Eastern language (listed below) at a level of Advanced or higher on the ACTFL scale.

- Arabic [Modern Standard Arabic] (taught at GW)
- Persian
- Hebrew (taught at GW)
- Kurdish, or
- Turkish

For more information on professional specializations [http://elliott.gwu.edu/middle-east-studies/professional-specialization](http://elliott.gwu.edu/middle-east-studies/professional-specialization), Middle East electives [http://elliott.gwu.edu/middle-east-studies/electives](http://elliott.gwu.edu/middle-east-studies/electives), or foreign language proficiency [http://elliott.gwu.edu/academics/grad/nes/language.cfm](http://elliott.gwu.edu/academics/grad/nes/language.cfm) visit the program website [http://elliott.gwu.edu/middle-east-studies](http://elliott.gwu.edu/middle-east-studies).