



STUDENT LIFE

# THE CAREER CENTER

## Middle Eastern & North African Studies

### FROM STUDY TO SKILLS

All academic programs offered at the UM help students develop valuable transferable skills. Middle Eastern and North African Studies (MENAS) is concerned with the region from the western coast of Morocco and the southern borders of the Sahara to the eastern end of Afghanistan and Islamic Central Asia. The MENAS concentration is an interdisciplinary program designed to give students a broad background including language, history, and culture to help students understand the development and current issues of this strategically important region.

As a MENAS concentrator, you will develop the ability to understand cultural differences and cultural development. Through language training and study, you will also develop excellent analytical and communication skills.

**Related fields include** Near Eastern Studies, History, Anthropology, Political Science, Philosophy, Judaic Studies, History of Art, Ancient Civilizations and Museum Studies, as well as Russian, East European and Eurasian Studies.

### SKILLS AND ABILITIES

#### Language Skills

- Reading and understanding ideas
- Recognizing word patterns and structures
- Interpreting complex language
- Reading for tone and attitude
- Translating language/ideas
- Evaluating translations and original texts

#### Research/Analytical Skills

- Asking questions
- Generating and developing ideas
- Compiling and organizing information
- Examining evidence
- Evaluating theories
- Solving problems
- Making decisions

#### Interpersonal/ Cross-Cultural Skills

- Teaching
- Understanding and accepting other cultures and beliefs
- Developing sensitivity to other viewpoints
- Appreciating continuity and change within a historical perspective
- Clarifying others' thoughts and ideas

#### Communication Skills

- Writing clearly
- Editing/proofreading materials
- Persuading people/groups
- Presenting and debating arguments
- Listening critically
- Evaluating ideas

### BUILDING YOUR SKILLS OUTSIDE THE CLASSROOM

Employers seek out individuals who can demonstrate excellent verbal and written communication skills, teamwork and interpersonal skills, initiative, and a strong work ethic. Student organizations and campus employment offer valuable opportunities to add to the skills you are developing in your classes. Other options

include off-campus employment or volunteering in the community. Study abroad experiences are particularly helpful to improve language proficiency and gain intercultural skills. Finally, a summer internship may be the best way of all to test out a career field and develop marketable skills.

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## FROM SKILLS TO CAREER

MENAS concentrators develop both general and technical skills applicable to a wide range of careers. For example, cross-cultural sensitivity may be equally useful whether working as a foreign-service officer, an international hotel manager, or a journalist.

Many concentrators go on to graduate or professional school. The list below is a sample of careers undertaken by MENAS graduates.

### Language Skills

United Nations interpreter  
Consular assistant  
Translations specialist  
Foreign affairs journalist

### Research/Analytical Skills

State Department analyst   
International finance analyst   
Immigration inspector  
Congressional staff member  
Foundation researcher  
Intelligence agent  
College professor   
Librarian   
Archaeological Assistant  
Historian 

 = Further Study Required

### Interpersonal/ Cross-Cultural Skills

Affirmative action officer  
Foreign service officer  
Consultant, cross-cultural relations  
Travel agent  
Export import sales manager  
International hotel manager

### Communication Skills

K-12 teacher  
Textbook sales representative  
Advertising copywriter  
Museum exhibit assistant  
Museum curator   
Journalist/writer, all media  
Editor, all media  
Arts reviewer

For more career information, see O\*Net at [online.onetcenter.org](http://online.onetcenter.org)

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## CONCENTRATION REQUIREMENTS

Curriculum requirements include 2 years of Arabic, Armenian, Hebrew, Persian, Turkish, or Uzbek and at least 24 additional credits in upper level courses. We also offer fifteen-credit minors in MENAS and Islamic Studies.

For more information, see the LSA bulletin, the MENAS website, or make an appointment with a MENAS academic advisor.

### Center for Middle Eastern and North African Studies

International Institute, Suite 3603  
1080 S. University Avenue  
734-764-0350  
[ii.umich.edu/cmenas](http://ii.umich.edu/cmenas)

### Newnan Advising Center

1255 Angell Hall  
734-764-0332  
[lsa.umich.edu/advising](http://lsa.umich.edu/advising)

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## NEXT STEPS/RESOURCES

To begin exploring opportunities for overseas study and work, go to: [lsa.umich.edu/cgis](http://lsa.umich.edu/cgis) or [global.umich.edu](http://global.umich.edu)

To begin connecting to professionals in fields that interest you, create your own LinkedIn account: [careercenter.umich.edu/article/getting-started-linkedin](http://careercenter.umich.edu/article/getting-started-linkedin)

To identify internships or job opportunities, visit Career Center Connector: [careercenter.umich.edu/article/c3](http://careercenter.umich.edu/article/c3)

On-campus jobs (work-study and non work-study jobs) are listed at: [studentemployment.umich.edu/JobX\\_Home.aspx](http://studentemployment.umich.edu/JobX_Home.aspx)

The Career Guide series was developed by the University of Michigan Career Center, Division of Student Affairs, in cooperation with the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts. ©2011 Regents of the University of Michigan

Maize Pages list hundreds of organizations for students to get involved in: [maizepages.umich.edu](http://maizepages.umich.edu)

Connect to Community lists volunteer opportunities in local organizations: [connect2community.umich.edu](http://connect2community.umich.edu)

### The Career Center

3200 Student Activities Building  
734-764-7460  
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