



THE UNIVERSITY
of NORTH CAROLINA
at CHAPEL HILL

COLLEGE OF ARTS & SCIENCES

STUDY ABROAD OFFICE

FedEx GLOBAL EDUCATION CENTER
CAMPUS BOX 3130
CHAPEL HILL, NC 27599-3130

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studyabroad.unc.edu

January 15, 2019

Administrative Board of the College of Arts & Sciences

Dear Colleagues:

The Study Abroad Office submits for your approval a proposal for the establishment of a new program, **Al-Quds University - Center for Jerusalem Studies (Summer Arabic program)**, to be offered beginning **Summer 2019** and continuing annually.

PROGRAM INFORMATION

Host Organization/University: Al-Quds University - Center for Jerusalem Studies

Host Organization/University Website: <http://www.jerusalem-studies.alquds.edu/en/>

Proposed Program Type: Direct enrollment

Program Terms Available: Summer (nine-week, 10-credits program)

Rationale: Studying Arabic in Jerusalem will allow UNC students to experience the rich Palestinian culture and history, be it the Palestinian dialect unique to that area of the Middle East, the wonderful food, or the various sites in the Old City shared with Judaism, Islam, and Christianity. In fact, some of the Arabic classes will take place in the Old City. None of these experiences could be gained in a classroom on our campus.

Currently most Arabic students at UNC who are interested in studying abroad for the summer generally have been limited to Morocco and Jordan. And while we should continue supporting those programs, it is important that we expand the options available to our students.

In March 2018, Shai Tamari, Associate Director of the Center, traveled to Jerusalem and met with Arnan Bashir, the general director of The Center for Jerusalem Studies at Al-Quds University (under which the Arabic program sits), Lana Toukan, the language program coordinator, and one of the language instructors. Mr. Tamari was impressed with the facilities and the language program offered, as well as the above individuals' desire to collaborate with UNC. It is important to note that Mr. Tamari is a native of Jerusalem and knows the city well.

Target Audience/Major & Discipline: This program would be an excellent fit for students who are wanting to pursue Arabic language development. It has been reviewed by the Asian Studies Department and has been approved to fit into their curriculum. There are not many Arabic language programs and this would provide a good option to students seeking Arabic language.

Class Standing Eligibility: Senior, Junior, Sophomore



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Anticipated Number of Students: 5 - 10 per term

PROGRAM ACADEMICS

Minimum GPA Requirement: 3.0

Learning Objectives: By the end of the nine-week intensive Arabic language program, students will:

- Obtain a full-year's worth of Arabic instruction (which corresponds to the second-year Arabic instruction at UNC). (through Ch. 8 of *Al-Kitaab Part Two, 3rd Ed.*), as accredited by major American universities
- consolidate a strong core vocabulary related to the local environment, enabling students to discuss cultural, social, and political issues in a range of contexts, and
- acquire competency in the Levantine colloquial dialect of Jerusalem

Academic Options Available: Arabic Language

Host Institution/Organization Courses & Faculty:

Dr. Elizabeth Saylor is leading the 9-week Intensive Arabic Language program at Al Quds University.

Elizabeth Saylor is currently Assistant Professor of Arabic at Middlebury College. She holds a Ph.D. in Arabic Literature from the University of California, Berkeley (2015), was a Fellow at the Center for Arabic Study Abroad (CASA) (Cairo, 2006-7), and earned a B.A. in Comparative Literature and Society from Columbia University (2005), where she studied Arabic, French, German, and Italian literatures. Her teaching and research interests include the Arabic language, Arab women's literature, the Arabic novel, mahjar (émigré) literature, and Arab music, film, and cultural arts. Her current book project examines the work of a neglected pioneer of the Arabic novel, the Lebanese immigrant writer, journalist, and feminist, 'Afifa Karam (1883-1924). Dr. Saylor has taught Arabic language and literature at Columbia University, UC Berkeley, Bard College, and NC State. She co-directed the Critical Language Scholarships (CLS) program in Sidi Bou Said, Tunisia for two summers (2011-12) and was Director of the Al-Quds Bard Summer Language Intensive in Abu Dis, on the outskirts of Jerusalem (2016). Dr. Saylor serves on the Board of Trustees of the Kahlil Gibran Memorial Foundation and is also Secretary of the Board of the Washington Street Historical Society, which promotes the legacy of New York City's "Little Syria" neighborhood, fostering awareness about Arab immigration and culture in America

Academic Instruction: The main method of instruction will be classroom based. Secondary method will be short field trips, guest lectures, conferences and tours. Students will be asked to present on these activities. Usually the split is about 80/20, which Al-Quds find is useful to break the monotony of being in the classroom in intensive programs.

In addition to classroom instruction, weekly guest lecturers provide valuable information and real-life insights into the local environment, while post-lecture discussions offer students dynamic



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opportunities to practice Arabic skills and to build a network of connections with Jerusalem-based artists, activists, and academics.

Transcripts & Credit Transfer: Al-Quds will issue the transcript to the UNC Study Abroad Office. Students should follow UNC transfer credit procedures and all courses will be transferred as TREQ credits.

PROGRAM LOGISTICS:

Services Provided: Al-Quds University provides all services for students on the program. There will be 24/7 emergency contacts for our students. This is one of Al-Quds priorities. They want to make sure that our students feel safe and comfortable, so students can devote their time and energy to their Arabic studies. To ensure this, all students will be supplied with telephones and local numbers.

Excursions/Activities Available: Weekly faculty-led "Al-Quds Tours From A Palestinian Perspective" explore the heart of the Old City of Jerusalem and surrounding areas to activate language skills learned in the classroom while enabling students to experience diverse aspects of cultural, historical, political, and social life in Palestine.

Orientation Activities: There is a program orientation as well as a cultural orientation as a part of the wider program orientation. They offer a "Street-Wise in Jerusalem" Power Point, presented by local Palestinian staff/students, which will inform students of best practices for safety and comfort in a new environment, including information on modes of transportation, asking for directions, signs of unrest, harassment, greetings, clothing, tipping, body language, and other cultural. As part of the orientation, students will also attend dialect sessions in survival Palestinian Arabic, so they can immediately begin to understand and navigate their new surroundings.

Anticipated Accommodations: Housing will be arranged by Al-Quds University at a hotel nearby - 5 minute walk from the classrooms in the Old City.

HEALTH & SAFETY INFORMATION

Health Insurance: The Study Abroad Office coordinates with the Office of Risk Management Services to enroll student and faculty participants in international accident and health insurance through GeoBlue for the duration of the program.

Safety & Risk Information: According to the US Department of State, Israel is listed as Level 2: Exercise Increased Caution

Terrorist groups and lone-wolf terrorists continue plotting possible attacks in Israel, the West Bank, and Gaza. Terrorists may attack with little or no warning, targeting tourist locations, transportation hubs, markets/shopping malls, and local government facilities. Violence can occur in Jerusalem and



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the West Bank without warning.

Jerusalem: Violent clashes and terror attacks have occurred throughout the city, including in the Old City. Acts of terrorism have resulted in death and injury to bystanders, including U.S. citizens. During periods of unrest, the Government of Israel may restrict access to and within portions of Jerusalem.

Health Information: Food-borne illnesses are the primary health risks for traveling to Israel.

Required Vaccinations (if applicable):

All travelers should be up to date on routine vaccinations while traveling to any destination. Some vaccines may also be required for travel. These vaccines include measles-mumps-rubella (MMR) vaccine, diphtheria-tetanus-pertussis vaccine, varicella (chickenpox) vaccine, polio vaccine, and a yearly flu shot.

The CDC recommends Hepatitis A because it can be contracted through contaminated food or water in Israel, including the West Bank and Gaza, regardless of where they are eating or staying.

Travelers are encouraged to ask their doctor what vaccines and medicines you need based on where you are going, how long you are staying, what you will be doing, and if you are traveling from a country other than the US.

Hepatitis B can be contracted through sexual contact, contaminated needles, and blood products, so CDC recommends this vaccine if students might have sex with a new partner, get a tattoo or piercing, or have any medical procedures.

Local Medical Facilities: According to GeoBlue there are 20 hospitals and clinics in a 25 mile radius from Jerusalem.

Health, safety, and security information will be presented to students during the required UNC pre-departure orientation.



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CONCLUSION

A letter of support from a campus academic department in support of this program is included in as an addendum to this proposal.

We are happy to provide any additional information necessary for your review of this program. Thank you for your time and your support of global opportunities for Carolina students.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jason Kinnear".

Jason A. Kinnear
Assistant Dean of Study Abroad



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DEPARTMENT OF ASIAN STUDIES

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October 18, 2018

Study Abroad Advisory Board
Study Abroad Office
UNC-CH

Dear Colleagues,

I am writing to you to support Al-Quds University in Jerusalem as a UNC-approved study abroad site for our students. Many students of Arabic at Carolina are keenly interested in Israel-Palestine, and approval of this program will allow them to further those interests while developing their Arabic language skills. Al-Quds will also offer students an alternative to Jordan for advancing their skills in Levantine spoken Arabic, the most popular form of spoken Arabic among our students. Given that Lebanon and Syria are not viable options for study abroad for security reasons, and given recent restrictions on our students' travel within Jordan in recent years for the same reason, a program in Palestine is a very welcome addition to our Arabic language study abroad options.

Please let me know if I can be of further assistance.

Sincerely,

Nadia Yaqub
Professor and Chair
Department of Asian Studies