

Amman/Paris

Summer Program in Middle Eastern and North African Studies (MENA)



Amman, Jordan

Excursions and Activities

In Amman, students visit important cultural and historical sites including Petra and Wadi Rum.

In Paris, students participate in field trips to key institutions such as the Institut du Monde Arabe.

Housing

In Amman, students choose between living with a host family and sharing double/triple rooms in furnished apartments.

In Paris, students will choose between living in a student residence hall, being placed in Arabic-speaking homestays, or finding their own accommodations.

Faculty

The program is directed by Taoufiq Ben-Amor, Gordon Gray Senior Lecturer in Arabic and the seminar is taught by Madeleine Dobie, Associate Professor, French and Comparative Literature.



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Academic Program

The MENA program focuses on the languages, history and culture of the Maghreb region and its relations with the Middle East and Europe. The theme for 2016 is Migration, Displacement, and Diaspora in the North African context. The program is open to qualified undergraduates and graduate students. Linking disciplines, the program gives students the opportunity to develop the linguistic skills and background knowledge necessary to conduct cross-regional projects and interrogate geo-cultural boundaries.

Based in both Amman (June) and Paris (July), students on the program take the equivalent of one year of a **Modern Standard Arabic language** course (first through fourth year levels available). In addition, they receive **dialect training** in the Jordanian Mashreqi dialect in Amman and their choice of Moroccan, Tunisian or Algerian dialect in Paris. The language program is complemented by a **cultural and historical seminar** taught by Columbia faculty in conjunction with specialists from Jordan and France. The course provides a cross-disciplinary approach to relations and exchanges between East and West in the Arab/Muslim world and across the Mediterranean. Topics range from the history of migration in, to, and from the Maghreb to the current refugee crisis.



MENA students and teachers enjoy a meal together in Paris