



Master's

in Middle Eastern Studies

Center for Middle Eastern Studies
Harvard University

www.cmes.hmdc.harvard.edu

CENTER OVERVIEW

Harvard's Center for Middle Eastern Studies (CMES) seeks to foster knowledge of Middle Eastern and Islamic societies and cultures worldwide. Founded in 1954, the Center supports contemporary and historical research through outstanding instruction of undergraduate and graduate students in courses and workshops and the dissemination of knowledge in the form of publications, outreach to the New England area, and critical discussion of current issues with the international media.

CMES functions as the coordinating body for academic departments, professional schools, and policy institutes at Harvard as well as for visiting faculty and research scholars, all of whose teaching and research touches upon this important region and beyond. It welcomes interdisciplinary perspectives ranging from the humanities to the social sciences. In its efforts to impart knowledge of the region, CMES is firmly committed to values of openness, tolerance, fairness, and cooperation.



The Academic Program

The Center for Middle Eastern Studies offers a two-year graduate program in Middle Eastern Studies leading to a master's degree in Regional Studies—Middle East. The program provides rigorous training in foreign language study as well as intensive emphasis on academic research and writing. Graduates of the program pursue careers in business consulting, foreign service, journalism, non-governmental organizations and other areas; some apply for further graduate study at Harvard or other universities, though there is no formal link between the master's program and Harvard PhD programs.

Language Requirement

Intensive language study is an integral part of the program. Students are required to take four semesters of coursework in their chosen Middle Eastern language:

Arabic | Hebrew | Persian | Turkish

Students who are native speakers will be required to study a second language.

Course Requirements

Sixteen courses are required to complete the degree. Academic research and writing skills are emphasized in both the students' elective and required coursework. Students may choose to write a master's thesis, but a thesis is not required to complete the degree; those considering further graduate study are strongly encouraged to write a master's thesis. In their first semester, all students are required to take the CMES proseminar NEC 200a "Approaches to Middle Eastern Studies," a writing-intensive course on notable books in Middle Eastern studies. Students intending to write a thesis must take NEC 200b, "Middle East Studies Research Seminar," a course in research methods during the spring semester of their first year.

Additional Course Requirements Include:

- One course in medieval (pre-1500) Middle Eastern history
- One course in modern Middle Eastern history



- One course related to the Middle East in anthropology, economics, history of art and architecture, government, law, or religion
- Seven elective courses, one of which must be a seminar

The flexibility of the course requirements is one of the program's core strengths. It allows students with a range of different interests to tailor a degree program best suited to their own professional goals. Students are encouraged to take courses in different departments at the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences and to cross-register at the other Harvard graduate schools (Law, Business, Education, Government, etc.)

Applications

The deadline for applications is generally the first week of January. Please check our website for this year's due dates:

<http://cmes.hmdc.harvard.edu/audience/prospective>

For complete information about admissions, please see:

www.gsas.harvard.edu/prospective_students/admissions.php

Online submission of the application for admission is encouraged. To start the application process, visit: <https://apply.embark.com/grad/Harvard/GSAS/>

GRE scores are required for admission to the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences at Harvard. Please make sure to take the GRE in a timely manner prior to application.

For further information about the master's program, please contact:

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