



Middle East Studies Programme

Spring 2024

The programme

The Middle East Studies programme at NVIC targets second and third year bachelor students of the humanities, social sciences or related fields. The interdisciplinary programme aims to familiarize students with various topics on the region with a particular focus on Egypt. The programme is made up of 5 modules, three of which explore political, economic, and cultural issues taught in English, and two Arabic language classes at various levels.

Please note: MA students may apply to this programme, but will need permission from their university first. Content modules will be tailored to suit requirements of MA level study.

The programme consists of the following courses:

<i>Course module</i>	<i>Hours/ w</i>	<i>ECTS</i>
1. Contextualising Contemporary Egypt	2	5
2. Development and Egypt	2	5
3. Gender in Egypt	2	5
4. Egyptian Colloquial Arabic	6	10
5. Modern Standard Arabic	2	5
TOTAL	14	30

Important Note: Please be advised that the content courses (1-3) are subject to change. All modules will be based on Middle East politics, history, and culture.

Module Summaries:

Contextualising Contemporary Egypt: 5 ECTS

This course will shed light on the growth and development of national identity and nationalism in Egypt. It places broader ideological shifts in their historical contexts. It will also examine various narratives that have appeared since the revolution in 2011, and will frame these within their historical, colonial and postcolonial contexts. Students will have the opportunity to read widely into the history of Egypt and examine primary source material.



Development and Egypt: 5 ECTS

This course focuses on the interplay between current postcolonial development politics and their histories. We examine issues of political economy, urban projects and relevant historical events. The module will also give students insight into contemporary issues affecting Egypt's economic development by looking closely at case studies.

Gender in Egypt: 5 ECTS

This course explores gender issues in Egypt while taking into account the intersectionality of class, gender, ethnicity and race. Against the backdrop of colonialism (including the West's Orientalizing depiction of local men and women), the state, cultural constructions of gender, and Islamism, the course will look into (Islamic and non-Islamic) women's movements, masculinities, and feminist activism. In order to do so, the course material will consist not only of theoretical texts, but will also look into cultural productions, like films, literature, music, and art. Key concepts from the social sciences, especially critical gender studies, will be introduced to serve as theoretical underpinnings.

Egyptian Colloquial Arabic (three entry levels): 10 ECTS

The focus in this module is to develop the student's spoken Arabic. Egyptian colloquial Arabic is the most widely understood dialect in the Middle East. Students will be placed in classes depending on their individual levels.

Modern Standard Arabic (three entry levels): 5 ECTS

The focus in this module is to develop reading and writing skills. There will be a focus on media Arabic. Students will be placed in classes depending on their individual levels.

Language Level

Students will be placed in classes depending on their level of Arabic. Levels start from beginners.

Admission

Admission to the programme is subject to the following conditions :

- The student has successfully completed at least three semesters of in a relevant programme;
- The student has permission of a lecturer or coordinator at their home university to join the programme;
- The student is registered at one of the affiliated universities during their stay in Cairo

If maximum capacity is reached, an admission test will be organized.



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Spring 2024 dates

4 Feb – 6 June 2024

4 Feb: Orientation Day

5 Feb: Classes begin

3-7 March: Alexandria trip

10 March: Classes recommence

31 March -4 April: Mid-term exams

7-13 April: BREAK EID EL-FITR

14 April: Classes recommence

5-11 May: EASTER/SHAM EL-NESSIM BREAK

12 May: Classes recommence

26-31 May: STUVAC

2-6 June: Final exams

Costs and charges

Participants are charged EUR 180 at the beginning of the programme for course and study materials as well as excursions within Cairo. Additional costs may be incurred for excursions outside of Cairo.

About NVIC

The Netherlands-Flemish Institute in Cairo (NVIC) is an academic institute located on the island of Zamalek, in the heart of Egypt's bustling capital. It is one of five Dutch Scientific Institutes Abroad (NWIB) and is supported by the Research Fund–Flanders (FWO–Vlaanderen). NVIC provides services to six Dutch and two Flemish universities. It offers undergraduate and graduate programmes in Arabic & Islamic Studies, Middle East Studies, and Egyptology & Archaeology. For more information on NVIC, its staff, its activities, and its teaching programmes, visit <http://www.institutes.leiden.edu/nvic/>



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Security and safety in Cairo

In all its activities, NVIC adheres to the security and travel advice of the Dutch and Belgian Embassies in Egypt. We forward any travel or security notice to the students. The student's stay in Cairo is, however, voluntary and their own responsibility. NVIC is not accountable for any harm or damage caused by students to third parties during their stay in Cairo, nor for any physical harm or material loss or damage suffered by the students during their stay. Upon arrival, participants of the programme will be required to sign an indemnification statement. Participants also agree to inform NVIC of any physical or psychological condition that could cause problems during their stay in Cairo or harm NVIC in any way. This information is treated confidentially. Travel and health insurance are not covered by the programme. Please inquire with your public or private insurance provider and take the necessary measures.

Application/registration

You must apply through the form on our website. Application forms must reach the institute (info@nvic.leidenuniv.nl) by 17 November 2023