



## MIDDLE EAST STUDIES PROGRAMME

FALL SEMESTER  
(4 September – 22 December)

### 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. Modules will be tailored to suit requirements of MA level study.

The programme consists of the following courses:

<i>Course module</i>	<i>Hours/week</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
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>30</b>

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 various narratives that have appeared since the revolution in 2011, and will frame these within their historical, colonial and postcolonial contexts. The course will help students historicize current developments. Theoretically, the course tackles questions of representation and the transformation of identity politics to subjectivities, nationalities, and the politics of popular culture. Nationalism and National Identity are the main themes.

#### **Development and Egypt: 5 ECTS**

This course focuses on the interplay between current postcolonial development politics and their histories. We use the work of Timothy Mitchell as a starting off point to explore various questions of political economy. The module will examine contemporary examples and case studies that can help us better understand the politics of development in Egypt.

#### **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 (mahraganat pop), 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 students 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 the written permission (on the registration form) of a lecturer at the home university to join the programme;
- The student is registered at one of the affiliated universities during her/his stay in Cairo

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

**Semester Dates**

**(4 September – 22 December)**

**4 September:** Orientation Day

**5 September:** Classes begin

**16-20 October:** Mid-term exams

**23-27 October:** Break

**30 October:** Classes resume

**11-17 December:** Study Vacation STUVAC (please note that ECA oral exams may take place this week. A schedule will be given to students during the semester)

**18-22 December:** Final exam week

**(Resits will be determined on a case by case basis)**



NEDERLANDS-VLAAMS INSTITUUT IN CAIRO  
المعهد الهولندي الفلمنكي بالقاهرة  
NETHERLANDS-FLEMISH INSTITUTE IN 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 as well as Egyptology & Archaeology. For more information on NVIC, its staff, its activities, and its teaching programmes, visit <http://www.institutes.leiden.edu/nvic/>

### **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 challenges they may face 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**

Application forms must reach the institute ([info@nvic.leidenuniv.nl](mailto:info@nvic.leidenuniv.nl)) by 1 June