

Christine Tsai samples Arabic immersion programs from both ends of the Mediterranean Sea

Arabic across North Africa

Egypt

On the North coast of Africa with the Sinai Peninsula connecting it to Western Asia, Egypt has more than 82 million inhabitants. Known for its ancient monuments, such as the Giza Pyramids and the Great Sphinx, countless travelers visit Egypt each year to marvel at its history and culture. Whether students visit the ancient artifacts in Luxor, the Royal Library in Alexandria, or the bustling modern capital of Cairo, they will be guaranteed a full cultural Egyptian immersion experience. Following the Arab-Muslim conquest of Egypt in the 7th century AD, Egyptians slowly adopted the Arabic language. Today, Arabic is the official language of the country. The Egyptian Arabic dialect is spoken by 77 million people in Egypt, and is widely understood throughout the Arab world. Nearly all language schools in Egypt will offer courses in Modern Standard Arabic (MSA) and Egyptian Arabic. Students can usually choose one course of study or take a combination of both forms of Arabic.

With programs in Egypt, Morocco, Oman, and Jordan, **AmeriSpan Study Abroad** offers Modern Standard Arabic and Colloquial Arabic programs by the week, month or longer. Lodging at local hotels can be included in all locations while homestays are available at AmeriSpan's three program locations in Morocco (Fez, Tetouan & Rabat). In Cairo, students are taught both MSA and Egyptian

Colloquial Arabic, the most widely understood colloquial Arabic. In addition, Cairo offers special programs for Arabic teachers and journalists. The Amman, Jordan private instructional program can be tailored to all needs including Diplomatic Arabic. For those involved in banking, the petroleum industry or construction, Oman is a great place to learn Gulf Arabic. Finally, AmeriSpan offers a summer program for teenagers in Rabat, Morocco.

Located in one of the oldest and most exciting cities in the world, the **American University in Cairo** was founded 90 years ago to provide a U.S.-style liberal arts education to young Egyptians. The university's Arabic Language Institute (ALI) offers a number of programs, including full-time intensive programs in the fall and spring semester, and an eight-week intensive summer program. The faculty teaches classes in Modern Standard Arabic, classical Arabic, and Colloquial Egyptian Arabic at the elementary, intermediate, and advanced levels. More than 500 students from 70 different countries study at the AUC each year, linking Egypt with the rest of the world through scholarly research, study-abroad programs, and partnerships with academic and research institutions.

Established in 1988, the **Arabic Language Center in Cairo** offers a wide range of courses, from beginners to expert, in single or group classes. The center offers courses in Modern Standard Arabic, Egyptian

dialect, classical Arabic, Arabic journalism, and Islamic religion all taught in Arabic. Situated in a

very quiet area in the Saudiya Buildings near the quarter of Heliopolis, the center guarantees students the right setting for study.

Also in Cairo, the **Drayah Language Center** seeks to give learners an overview of the customs and traditions of Egyptian culture through activities, such as cultural programs, conversation clubs, and entertaining field trips. Small classes enable the teachers to give students the individual attention they need. Drayah offers all levels of Arabic language courses focusing on speaking, listening, reading and writing with a special attention placed on pronunciation, oral communication, and the appropriate usage of the language. The school offers both Colloquial Egyptian Arabic and Modern Standard Arabic in individual or group settings. Other course options include Quranic Arabic, Islamic Studies taught in English, Arabic poetry, Arabic calligraphy classes, and Arabic for Business.

Fajr Center for Arabic Language in Cairo was founded in 1995 with the sole purpose of teaching standard Arabic to non-Arabic speakers. The Fajr Center offers group

