

Learn Arabic in Morocco at the Arabic Language Institute in Fez (/)

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General Information about ALIF



ALIF Facilities

Classes at ALIF are conducted in a large Moorish-style villa surrounded by an oasis-like setting of date palms, olive trees and rosemary shrubs. The tranquil residential neighborhood is away from the hubbub of downtown but within easy walking distance of a variety of restaurants and cafes. The ALIF Riad, located in the Batha area of the Fes medina, is a beautiful traditional courtyard house and garden. The Riad is a student study center and and a setting for ALIF cultural activities.

ALIF has a specialized library focusing on Arabic, North African, and Islamic studies, as well as a large collection of DVDs in Arabic, Darija, and English. The ALIF kiosk offers inexpensive meals and various refreshments, such as traditional Moroccan mint tea.

ALIF shares its classrooms and grounds with a large, well-established English language school, the American Language Center (ALC-Fez). This provides an ideal environment for interacting with Moroccan university students. ALIF's facilities include a computer lab equipped with Arabic word-processing software, and a satellite television that receives over fifteen Arabic stations from across the Arab World. The ALIF garden, residence, and Riad have high-speed Wi-Fi internet access for students to use.

Instructors

The Moroccan faculty at ALIF teaches both Modern Standard Arabic (MSA) and Colloquial Moroccan Arabic (CMA). ALIF's MSA instructors hail from prestigious modern state universities in Morocco, like Mohammed V in Rabat, and traditional institutions such as the Qarawiyyin University, an Islamic institution of higher learning in Fez which ranks with Al-Azhar in Cairo as one of the oldest universities in the world. The rigorous grammatical training imparted at the Qarawiyyin University produces MSA instructors of exceptional caliber whose grasp of the structure and vocabulary of the Arabic language would be hard to duplicate even in the foremost western universities.

In teaching CMA, ALIF's instructors have developed a highly interactive teaching approach designed to get students conversing almost immediately with native speakers in a variety of increasingly challenging topics of discussion. ALIF's language coordinator is also one of the few CMA experts worldwide certified by the Educational Testing Service of Princeton to administer oral examinations in Moroccan Arabic.

Cultural Activities (<http://www.alcfeszbook.com/>)

In addition to our courses, ALIF offers a range of optional outside activities to enhance the experience of learning Arabic in Morocco. Throughout the year, students may attend bi-weekly showings of films in both Modern Standard Arabic (MSA) and Colloquial Moroccan Arabic (CMA). Once or twice a month, students are invited to attend lectures on various aspects of Moroccan or Arab culture. Please see our Facebook page and blog for more information.

Students undertaking specific research projects in Morocco are also welcome to give presentations on their own work to other ALIF students and their Moroccan peers as a means of gaining response and input from others who may have similar interests. Also, throughout the year, ALIF offers a series of tours and cultural excursions (in the past these have included tours of Fez and nearby sites such as the Taza caves and the carpet souks of Khenifra). The cultural activities calendar regularly includes extracurricular courses in Oriental Dancing, Arabic calligraphy, Moroccan cooking and traditional music.

Transfer Credits

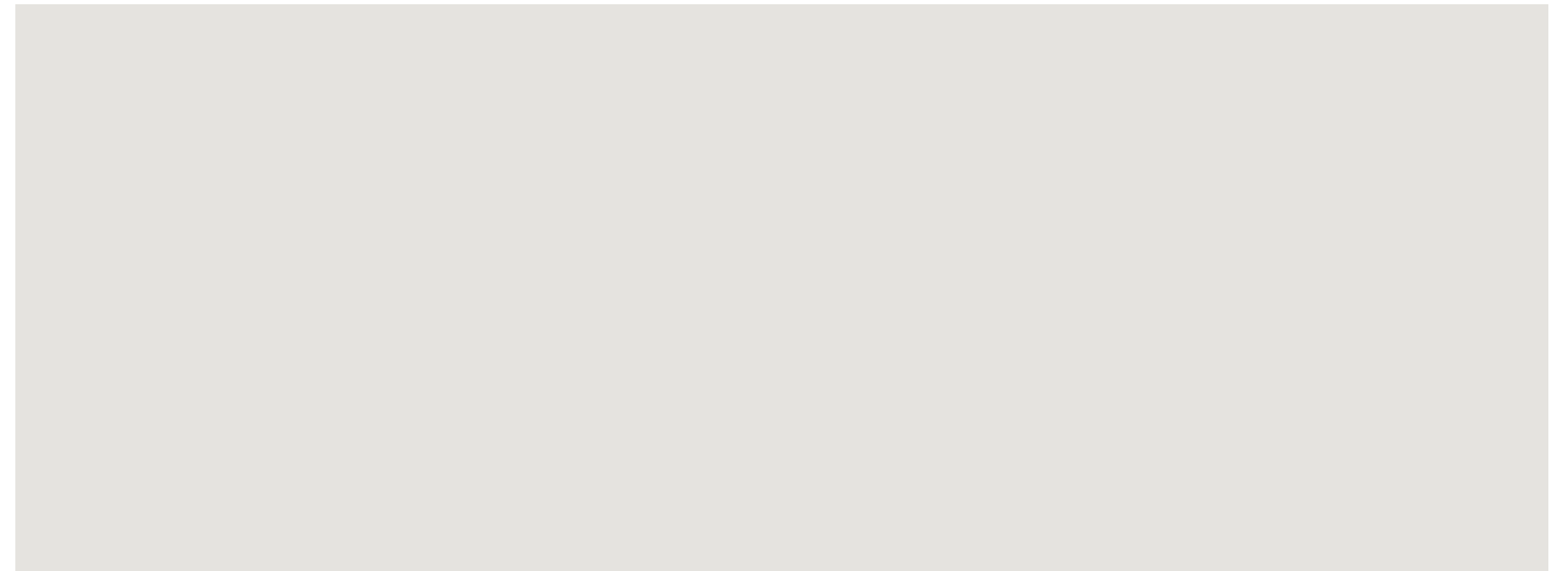
For transfer purposes, ALIF can provide credit recommendations and any other relevant information needed by the student's home institution; however, that institution determines the final allocation of credits for ALIF course-work. Whether a student applies directly to ALIF or indirectly through a university with which ALIF maintains an overseas study partnership (see *Jointly-Sponsored Programs (/study-abroad-programs.html)*), it is the student's responsibility to negotiate with his/her home institution the appropriate number of credits to be awarded.

Visas

Residency procedures vary depending on nationality. Most students automatically obtain a three-month tourist visa upon entering Morocco. Students who plan to enroll full-time can obtain a one-year residency visa. Students wishing to apply for residency should inform the administration as soon as possible after their arrival.

One residency condition is a bank statement from a local account showing that the applicant has adequate resources; therefore, be sure you are in a position to open a "convertible dirham" account with the equivalency of at least 20,000 Dh (\$1 = 8 Dh) in foreign currency (in cash or travelers checks), or are able to have this amount wired to you after your arrival. (This amount is in addition to funds required for tuition, immediate living expenses, and two to three months advance housing costs, as it should remain untouched in the bank for at least the first month.)

Where is ALIF?



ALIF is affiliated with the American Language Center in Fez and a part of the American Cultural Association, (<http://aca.org.ma>) a Moroccan non-profit cultural and educational institution.

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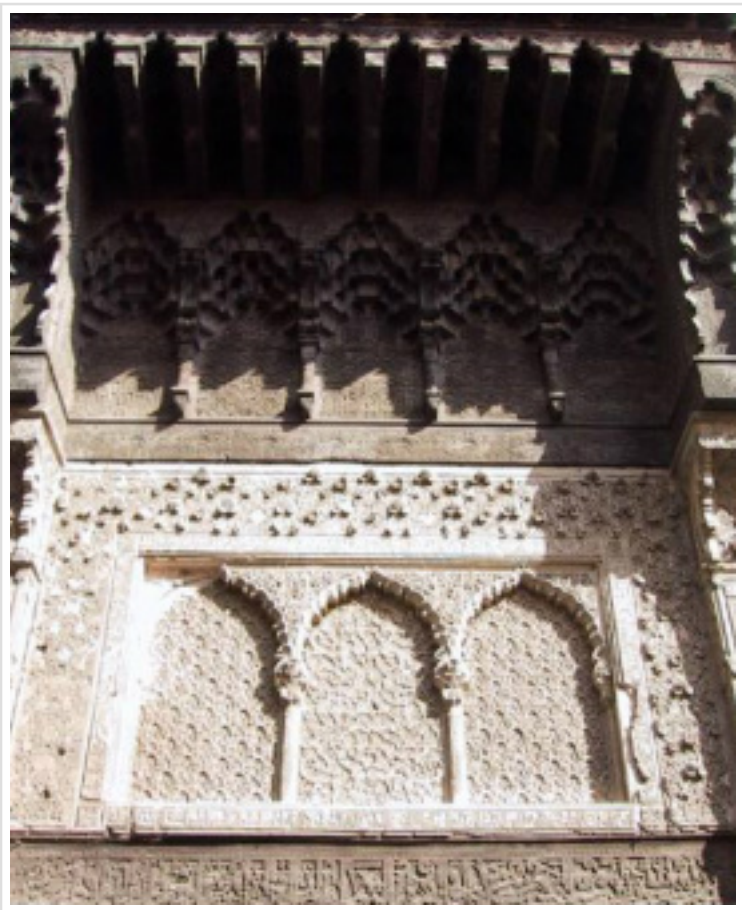
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Course Descriptions at ALIF



ALIF offers intensive Modern Standard Arabic (MSA) and Colloquial Moroccan Arabic (CMA) courses throughout the year. To ensure that every student gets individual attention, all ALIF courses are kept small, generally no more than eight students per class. In the summer the there may be up to twelve students per class. Most courses consist of six-week sessions (120 hours of classroom instruction given four hours per day). Special content-based courses are six weeks in length (three hours of instruction per day). Private or specialized lessons can also be arranged. Students may enroll for the first three weeks of any six-week course, but must indicate this clearly on their application forms. The language of instruction is Arabic in all but the most elementary

courses, where the use of English is kept to a minimum.

The core textbooks for regular six-week MSA courses are *Alif Baa (3rd edition) & Al-Kitaab fii Ta'allum al-'Arabiyya, Volumes I (3rd edition), II and III (2nd edition, Georgetown University Press)*. All course materials for CMA are ALIF publications.

Enrollment & Placement

Students are requested to indicate their preferred course and level on their application, but are required to complete the ALIF Placement Test before arrival. The Arabic language coordinator may adjust placement according to the student's Arabic ability. The language coordinator may also conduct an oral interview for placement purposes upon arrival.

Click here to see course descriptions for Modern Standard Arabic (/modern-standard-arabic.html) or Colloquial Moroccan Arabic (/moroccan-arabic.html).

Private/specialized lessons

Any student studying either CMA or MSA outside the framework of the scheduled ALIF courses is considered a private student and may study between two and twenty hours/week. Private students may select from regular ALIF course offerings or request a tailor-made tutorial in a specialized field, such as Arabic Poetry, Advanced Grammar, Islamic Law, Commerce, etc. Advanced students or researchers may request to read specific texts with a private teacher. Private courses are available throughout the year but depend on teacher availability, so it is important for students to submit requests for private study as early as possible. Private instruction is not available during June and July, with the exception of FLAS scholars.

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Modern Standard Arabic Courses at ALIF



MSA 050 (Introductory Course): An entry-level course that employs student-centered methods to teach mastery of script, pronunciation and the nominal sentence. No prior background in Arabic required. Text: Alif Baa, 3rd edition, Al-Kitaab I 3rd edition unit 1 plus additional materials (Three weeks, 60 hours)

MSA 100 (Beginning Level): An entry-level course which uses a student-centered approach to introduce basic grammatical structures & sound patterns of Arabic, with attention to mastery of script, pronunciation and listening comprehension. No prior background in Arabic required. Text: Alif Baa 3rd edition, Al-Kitaab I 3rd edition units 1-4 plus additional materials (Six weeks, 120 hours)

MSA 200 (Lower Intermediate Level): Aims to expand vocabulary and to further develop the four skills: listening, reading, writing and speaking. Lessons focus on reading comprehension and introducing more complex grammatical structures. Prerequisite: MSA 100 or Language Coordinator's approval. Text: Al-Kitaab I 3rd edition units 5-9 plus additional materials (Six weeks, 120 hours)

MSA 250 (Introduction to the Arabic Newspaper): Exposes students to basic newspaper vocabulary and structure starting with analysis of headlines. Prerequisite: MSA 200 or Language Coordinator's approval. (Six weeks, 90 hours)

MSA 300 (Lower Intermediate Level): Further expands students' vocabulary base to permit reading of increasingly authentic texts from newspapers, journals, and other sources such as Al-Kitaab Al-Assasi, while introducing controlled writing assignments. Focuses on listening comprehension and reading to facilitate interactive conversations on complex subjects. Prerequisite: MSA 200 or Language Coordinator's approval. Text: Al-Kitaab I 3rd edition units 10-13, plus preparatory materials for Al-Kitaab II (Six weeks, 120 hours)

MSA 350 (Media Arabic): Seeks to build a media vocabulary sufficient for students to grasp the gist of a newspaper article or news broadcast with minimal intervention of the dictionary. Includes graded newspaper readings from Middle Eastern dailies & taped material from Moroccan television and radio. Prerequisite: MSA 300 or Language Coordinator's approval. (Six weeks, 90 hours)

MSA 400 (Intermediate Level): Prepares students for independent study in MSA focusing on stylistic devices, vocabulary refinement, and communicative skills. This course also makes use of additional texts from various sources in order to reinforce the student's ability to read and comprehend complex writings. Prerequisite: MSA 300 or Language Coordinator's approval. Text: Al-Kitaab II units 1-5, plus supplementary materials (Six weeks, 120 hours)

MSA 450 (Readings in Contemporary Maghrebi Literature): Survey of modern Arabic literature by major North African authors focusing on the short story genre with discussion of the cultural underpinnings of this literature as well as schools of criticism dealing with the authors in question. Knowledge of French and Maghrebi dialect(s) is helpful but not obligatory. Prerequisite: MSA 400 or Language Coordinator's approval. (Six weeks, 90 hours)

MSA 460A (Readings in Islamic Texts I): An introduction to the Quran and the sciences related to it. Includes a survey of the history of the revelation (asbâb at-tanzîl), compilation (tadwîn) of the Quran, principles of correct recitation (tajwîd) and discussion of exegesis (tafsîr). Prerequisite: MSA 400 or Language Coordinator's approval. (Six weeks, 90 hours)

MSA 460B (Readings in Islamic Texts II): This course consists of a broad introduction to the study of hadîth, including historical background on the major compilations, and a broad overview of Islamic jurisprudence (fiqh) focusing on the 4 main schools (madhâhib) of Sunni law. Authentic Islamic manuscripts are used as central texts and emphasis is placed on stylistic aspects and essential terminology. Prerequisite: MSA 500 or 460A. (Six weeks, 90 hours)

MSA 500 (Upper Intermediate Level): Further develops students' skills learned in MSA 400. Ideal for scholars wishing to hone their ability to comprehend Arabic university lectures and to express themselves on technical subjects in speech and in writing. Prerequisite: MSA 400 or Language Coordinator's approval. Text: Al-Kitaab II units 6-10, plus supplementary materials (Six weeks, 120 hours)

MSA 600 (Advanced Level): Focusing on stylistic aspects of different literary genres, this course uses a sampling of authentic texts drawn from both contemporary and classical sources, and involves substantial writing assignments. While Al-Kitaab fii Ta'allum al-'Arabiyya, Volume III is used as the central text, course materials may be adjusted according to student interests. Prerequisite: MSA 500 or Language Coordinator's approval. (Six weeks, 120 hours)

MSA 700 (Upper Advanced Level): A continuation of the skills learned in MSA 600. Text: Al-Kitaab fii Ta'allum al-'Arabiyya, Volume III and additional materials based on student interests. Prerequisite: MSA 600 or Language Coordinator's approval. (Six weeks, 120 hours)

Colloquial Moroccan Arabic course descriptions (/moroccan-arabic.html)

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Colloquial Moroccan Arabic Courses at ALIF



CMA 050 (Basic Moroccan Arabic): Presents the rudiments of the spoken dialect in a three-week format with an emphasis on functional aspects of the dialect in day-to-day interactions with Moroccans. Emphasis on drilling important phrases. No prior background in either CMA or MSA is assumed. May be taught with or without recourse to the Arabic script depending on student interest. (Three weeks, 60 hours)

CMA 050X (Basic Moroccan Arabic Accelerated): Presents rudiments of the spoken dialect in a three-week, crash-course format with an emphasis on the functional aspects of the dialect in day-to-day interactions with Moroccans. Emphasis on drilling important phrases. Taught using Arabic script; Minimal prior background in MSA required. (Three weeks, 60 hours)

CMA 100 (Elementary Level): Provides a sound basis for the development of oral/aural skills in CMA for students with no prior background in Arabic. Curriculum includes training in Arabic script. Empowers students to function in a wide variety of day-to-day situations with Moroccans. (Six weeks, 120 hours)

CMA 100X (Elementary Level Accelerated): Provides a basis for rapid acquisition of the capacity to engage in complex discussions by harnessing students' existing MSA vocabulary and knowledge. Intensive oral drills are supplemented by vocabulary exercises designed to delineate distinctions between CMA and MSA usage and vocabulary. Prior background in MSA assumed. (Six weeks, 120 hours)

CMA 200 (Intermediate Level): Covers complex grammatical structures with further expansion of students' vocabulary mastery. Prerequisite: CMA 100 or language coordinator's approval. (Six weeks, 120 hours)

CMA 250 (Proverbs and Stories): Exposes the post-elementary CMA student to a wide range of the rich, traditional lore of Moroccan culture. Prerequisite: CMA 200 or language coordinator's approval. (90 hours, by special request)

Modern Standard Arabic course descriptions (/modern-standard-arabic.html)

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Housing Options at ALIF

ALIF students may choose from the housing options detailed below:

- the ALIF Residence
- a Homestay with a Moroccan family
- a hotel
- an apartment or house

The ALIF Residence

The ALIF student residence is located in a villa across the street from the language center. With a large garden and a splendid view of the old medina of Fez, the residence provides a peaceful setting for studying and relaxing. Students living in the residence have either private or shared rooms and common kitchen and bath facilities. All rooms are furnished, have high ceilings, and many open out onto private balconies.

Costs: Depending on size and time of year, rooms range from 80-160 Dhs/night.

Payment procedures: Residents must pay the ALIF secretary upon receipt of their housing invoice. Due to a limited number of rooms in the residence, ALIF **does not accept reservations for this housing option**. Students are given rooms on a first-come, first-served basis.

Homestay

A unique feature of ALIF's programs is our Moroccan homestay service. Homestays with Moroccan families entail room and board for a fixed fee and provide the student with a window into family life in Morocco.

Costs: 840 Dhs/week for a single, private room with meals, plus a one-time 350 Dh service fee to ALIF. For stays of less than 3 weeks, the cost is 1120 Dhs per week, plus the service fee.

Payment procedures: The service fee of 350 Dhs and at least three weeks of homestay payment must be paid in advance upon receipt of your homestay invoice. While the service fee and first night of homestay are not refundable, the balance may be refunded following a one-night trial period. Participants subsequently pay for their homestay on a three or six-week basis in advance to the ALIF secretary.

Students desiring homestay should meet with the housing coordinator upon arrival to discuss their specific needs before being placed with a family. Students with specific preferences, such as dietary restrictions, allergies, or the family's distance from ALIF, should indicate these on their application forms. It may not always be possible to provide a homestay within walking distance of ALIF. Please note that our number of homestay families is limited, and that during busy times you may need to be placed on a waiting list.

Other concerns: Students who feel they may have difficulties adapting to life with a Moroccan family should consider other housing options. Among the difficulties experienced by past participants: (1) Lack of privacy (2) Noise from television and radio (3) Unfamiliar meal times and dietary habits (4) Unavailability of study space (5) Unfamiliar sanitary fixtures (in some cases, "traditional" toilets) (6) Location of host family (in some cases involving a bus ride to ALIF). For the overwhelming number of past participants such inconveniences were far outweighed by the positive experience of living with a Moroccan family, whose hospitality is legendary for good reason.

Hotels

ALIF students may receive discounted rates at select hotels in Fez.

Costs: 160 Dhs/night and up.

Reservation procedures: Students wishing to have hotel reservations made prior to their arrival should request this by separate email.

Apartments

For longer stays, apartments can usually be found for ALIF students. Please ask ALIF staff for our list of available apartments and houses.

Costs: 2500 Dhs/month and up.

Other concerns: Students should be aware that there is not a wide selection of apartments in Fez and that looking for an appropriate apartment may take several days. Not all apartments are furnished, so students should factor the cost of furnishing an apartment into rental costs.

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Course Fees at ALIF

Tuition for 6-week courses: 10,900 Dh
Tuition for 3-week courses: 6,300 Dh

**The above rates are valid through Winter 1, 2015*

(10,900 dh = **approximately** \$1,200, £750, €1,100; please note that your actual tuition will be based on the current exchange rate [Currency Converter](http://www.aquariussoft.com/currency-converter/) (<http://www.aquariussoft.com/currency-converter/>))

Rates for private study:
Individual: 300 Dhs/hour; Group Rate (divided by number of students): 2 students: 350 Dhs/hour; 3 students: 400 Dhs/hour; 4 students: 450 Dhs/hour.

In addition to tuition:
Tuition does not include the cost of course materials (ranging from 75-840 Dhs), a 300 Dh refundable library book borrowing deposit, housing fees, or any living expenses.

Fees are to be paid on or before the first day of classes. Fees may be paid by bank check, wire transfer, credit card (2% fee), travelers' checks, or cash. We cannot accept personal checks.

A late-registration fee of 150 Dhs will be assessed for students who do not meet the 3-week deadline for receipt of applications. Summer applications are due one month in advance.

Financial aid:
ALIF does not offer any direct financial aid. U.S. federal government and other scholarship funds, including but not limited to FLAS, SSRC and NSEP grants, can be applied to the cost of study at ALIF. For Fulbright, FLAS, SSRC and NSEP funds, students must apply through the university at which they are matriculated. For further information on these and other funding options, please consult your university department or financial aid office. For funds to be available before study at ALIF, students should commence the paperwork for funding at least 6 months before the date of anticipated enrollment.

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