

MIDDLE EAST AND ISLAMIC STUDIES, MA

Banner Code: LA-MA-MEIS

Academic Advising

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The master of arts in Middle East and Islamic Studies introduces students to the major methodological and theoretical issues and debates in the study of the Islamic tradition and of Middle Eastern societies. The program situates the study of the Middle East and Islam within a globalized world. The curriculum covers topics of recent scholarly significance including political Islam, the political economy of business-government networks, the relationship between "resource wars" and the "war on terrorism," new diasporas and transnational Muslim communities in the "West," and the changed geopolitical environments of Muslim and Middle Eastern countries. The degree prepares students for a variety of post-graduate opportunities in academia, government, and an expanding job market for people with this expertise.

Admissions & Policies

Admissions

Applicants to all graduate programs at George Mason University must meet the admission standards and application requirements for graduate study as specified in Graduate Admissions. For specific information, see Application Requirements and Deadlines (<https://meis.gmu.edu/programs/la-ma-meis/application>) on the departmental website.

Policies

For policies governing all graduate degrees, see AP.6 Graduate Policies.

Requirements

Degree Requirements

Total credits: 30

Core Courses

Code	Title	Credits
MEIS 500	Critical Issues and Debates in Middle East and Islamic Studies	3
HIST 575	Approaches to Middle East and Islamic History	3
RELI 644	Islamic Texts and Contexts	3
GOVT 632	Politics and Societies of the Middle East	3
Select one methods course from the following:		3
ANTH 650	Methods in Anthropology	
GLOA 605	Interdisciplinary Research Methods	
GOVT 500	The Scientific Method and Research Design	
HIST 610	The Study and Writing of History	

SOCI 620	Methods and Logic of Social Inquiry	
RELI 630	Theories and Methods in the Study of Religion	
Total Credits		15

Language Proficiency

Prior to graduating, students must demonstrate professional competency in one of five major languages of the Middle East and Muslim world: Arabic, Persian, Turkish, Hebrew, or Urdu.

A waiver for this requirement may be received either through 1) documentation verifying primary language of instruction at either the high school or university level in respective foreign language; transcripts showing coursework at the advanced level in respective foreign language or 2) an examination with an appropriate faculty/examiner designated by the director in consultation with the program's steering committee.

Electives

In addition to the following list, electives may include special topics courses when relevant, directed readings and research, study abroad courses, internships, and other courses with the approval of the program director. Students who choose to complete a research project or write a thesis take 3 or 6 fewer elective credits.

Code	Title	Credits
Select five electives from the following:		
ANTH 635	Regional Ethnography (when topic is Middle East and North Africa)	15
ARTH 599	Special Topics in Art History and the Decorative Arts (when topic is Middle Eastern or Islamic art)	
ARTH 699	Topics in Art History (when topic is Middle East or Islamic art)	
CONF 653	World Religions, Diplomacy, and Conflict Resolution	
CONF 722	Conflict and Religion	
ENGH 591	Topics in Folklore Studies	
ENGH 665	Seminar in Global Culture (when topic is Middle East or Muslim world)	
FREN 553	Topics in North African Francophone Literature and Culture	
FRLN 550	Special Topics (when topic is a language of the Middle East or Muslim world)	
FRLN 551	Special Topics (when topic is a language of the Middle East or Muslim world)	
GGG 533	Issues in Regional Geography (when topic is Middle East)	
GOVT 731	Advanced Seminar in Comparative Politics (when topic is the Middle East or a Muslim world region)	
GOVT 733	Islam and Politics	
HIST 535	Problems in Comparative World History	
HIST 585	Problems in Middle Eastern History	
MEIS 794	Graduate Internship in Middle East and Islamic Studies	

MEIS 796	Directed Readings in Middle East and Islamic Studies	
MEIS 599	Issues in Middle East and Islamic Studies	
RELI 591	Special Topics in Religious Studies (when topic is Islam or Muslim communities)	
RELI 645	Muslim Comparative Theologies: Sunni-Shi'i Religious Thought	
RELI 646	Islam and Human Rights	
RELI 660	Islamic Biomedical Ethics	
Total Credits		15

Optional Research Project or Thesis

Research Project

Students choosing to complete a research project take one of the following courses, and one less elective.

Code	Title	Credits
Select one from the following:		3
GOVT 798	Political Science Research Project	
HIST 798	Directed Research and Writing in History	
SOCI 696	Independent Study	
ANTH 796	Master's Research Project	
MEIS 798	Research Project in Middle East and Islamic Studies	
Total Credits		3

Thesis

Students who choose to write a thesis should be aware of the policies governing theses as stated in AP.6.9.3 Master's Thesis. They must follow the thesis enrollment policy of the university and once enrolled in MEIS 799 Thesis Research and Writing in Middle East and Islamic Studies, maintain continuous enrollment.

Students choosing to complete a thesis take 6 fewer credits of electives.

Code	Title	Credits
Six credits of		6
MEIS 799	Thesis Research and Writing in Middle East and Islamic Studies	
Total Credits		6

Accelerated Master's

Bachelor's Degree (any)/Middle East and Islamic Studies, Accelerated MA

Overview

Highly-qualified undergraduates pursuing a BA may apply to the accelerated master's degree in Middle East and Islamic studies. If accepted, and depending on their undergraduate major, students will be able to earn a bachelor's degree in their chosen major and a master's degree in Middle East and Islamic studies after satisfactory completion of 144 credits, sometimes within five years. See AP.6.7 Bachelor's/Accelerated Master's Degrees.

Students in an accelerated degree program must fulfill all university requirements for the master's degree. For policies governing all graduate degrees, see AP.6 Graduate Policies.

Application Requirements

Applicants to all graduate programs at George Mason University must meet the admission standards and application requirements for graduate study as specified in Graduate Admissions. For information specific to the accelerated MA in Middle East and Islamic studies, see Application Requirements and Deadlines (<http://meis.gmu.edu/programs/la-ma-acel-meis>).

Accelerated Option Requirements

While undergraduate students, accelerated master's students complete two graduate courses as indicated on their Accelerated Master's Program Application with a minimum grade of B in each course. Once admitted to the accelerated master's pathway, students must maintain a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.25 in all course work. Upon completion and conferral of the undergraduate degree in the semester indicated in the application, they submit the Bachelor's/Accelerated Master's Transition Form and are admitted to graduate status.

Code	Title	Credits
Select two courses from the following:		6
MEIS 500	Critical Issues and Debates in Middle East and Islamic Studies	
HIST 575	Approaches to Middle East and Islamic History	
GOVT 632	Politics and Societies of the Middle East	
RELI 644	Islamic Texts and Contexts	
Total Credits		6

As graduate students, accelerated master's students have an advanced standing. They must meet all master's degree requirements except for the two courses (6 credits) they completed as undergraduates. Students must begin their master's program the semester immediately following conferral of the undergraduate degree.

Reserve Graduate Credit

Students may take up to 6 additional graduate credits as reserve graduate credit. These credits do not apply to the undergraduate degree. To apply these credits to the master's degree, students should use the Bachelor's/Accelerated Master's Transition Form.

Code	Title	Credits
Select up to 6 additional graduate credits from the following:		6
MEIS 500	Critical Issues and Debates in Middle East and Islamic Studies	
HIST 575	Approaches to Middle East and Islamic History	
GOVT 731	Advanced Seminar in Comparative Politics (when content focus is the Middle East)	
GOVT 733	Islam and Politics	
MEIS 599	Issues in Middle East and Islamic Studies	
RELI 644	Islamic Texts and Contexts	
Total Credits		6

The ability to take courses, including ones not listed above, for reserve graduate credit is available to all high achieving undergraduates with the permission of the department. Permission is normally granted only to qualified Mason seniors within 15 hours of graduation. Permission is normally granted only to qualified Mason seniors within 15 hours of graduation. See AP.1.4.4 Graduate Course Enrollment by Undergraduates.