MIDDLE EAST AND ISLAMIC STUDIES, MA

Banner Code: LA-MA-MEIS

Academic Advising
D215 Buchanan Hall
Fairfax Campus
Email: meis@gmu.edu
Website: meis.gmu.edu/programs/la-ma-meis

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 AP6 Graduate Policies.

Requirements

Degree Requirements
Total credits: 30

Core Courses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MEIS 500</td>
<td>Critical Issues and Debates in Middle East and Islamic Studies</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HIST 575</td>
<td>Approaches to Middle East and Islamic History</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RELI 644</td>
<td>Islamic Texts and Contexts</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GOVT 632</td>
<td>Politics and Societies of the Middle East</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ANTH 650</td>
<td>Methods in Anthropology</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GLOA 605</td>
<td>Interdisciplinary Research Methods</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GOVT 500</td>
<td>The Scientific Method and Research Design</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HIST 610</td>
<td>The Study and Writing of History</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Select one methods course from the following:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SOCI 620</td>
<td>Methods and Logic of Social Inquiry</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RELI 630</td>
<td>Approaches to the Study of Religion</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ANTH 635</td>
<td>Regional Ethnography (when topic is Middle East and North Africa)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ARTH 599</td>
<td>Special Topics in Art History and the Decorative Arts (when topic is Middle Eastern or Islamic art)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ARTH 699</td>
<td>Topics in Art History (when topic is Middle East or Islamic art)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CONF 653</td>
<td>World Religions, Diplomacy, and Conflict Resolution</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CONF 722</td>
<td>Conflict and Religion</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENGH 591</td>
<td>Topics in Folklore Studies</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENGH 665</td>
<td>Seminar in Global Culture (when topic is Middle East or Muslim world)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FREN 553</td>
<td>Topics in North African Francophone Literature and Culture</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FRLN 550</td>
<td>Special Topics (when topic is a language of the Middle East or Muslim world)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GOVT 731</td>
<td>Advanced Seminar in Comparative Politics (when topic is the Middle East or a Muslim world region)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GOVT 733</td>
<td>Islam and Politics</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HIST 535</td>
<td>Problems in Comparative World History</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HIST 585</td>
<td>Problems in Middle Eastern History</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MEIS 794</td>
<td>Graduate Internship in Middle East and Islamic Studies</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>GOVT 798</td>
<td>Political Science Research Project</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HIST 798</td>
<td>Directed Research and Writing in History</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOCI 696</td>
<td>Independent Study</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ANTH 796</td>
<td>Master’s Research Project</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MEIS 798</td>
<td>Research Project in Middle East and Islamic Studies</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total Credits 3

Thesis
Students who choose to write a thesis should be aware of the policies governing theses as stated in AP6.9.3 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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Six credits of</td>
<td>Thesis Research and Writing in Middle East and Islamic Studies</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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 AP6.7 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 AP6 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.

<table>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Select two courses from the following:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MEIS 500</td>
<td>Critical Issues and Debates in Middle East and Islamic Studies</td>
<td></td>
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<td>Islamic Texts and Contexts</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

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.

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<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Select up to 6 additional graduate credits from the following:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MEIS 500</td>
<td>Critical Issues and Debates in Middle East and Islamic Studies</td>
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</tr>
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<td>Advanced Seminar in Comparative Politics (when content focus is the Middle East)</td>
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</table>

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.