Undergraduate Program

The Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilization offers a Bachelor of Arts degree in Near Eastern Studies. Students choose one of four options offered within the major: Languages and Civilization, Culture and Civilization, Comparative Islamic Studies, and Hebrew Bible and the Ancient Near East. Courses are designed for students planning careers in government service, non-governmental organizations, teaching, and in the private sector.

The program focuses on the languages and civilizations of the Islamic Near and Middle East, the Semitic Near East, and Islamic Central Asia, with an emphasis on the ancient and medieval roots of these civilizations as well as more recent cultural developments. Each of the languages offered represents a major literary tradition. Arabic, Persian, Turkish, and Central Eurasian Turkic (such as Uzbek, Kazakh, and Kyrgyz) are the languages of the most significant manifestations of Islamic civilization. Hebrew and Aramaic are languages of the Bible, and central to Judaism and Jewish culture. A rich and vast heritage from other ancient Near Eastern cultures is explored through study of languages and literatures such as Egyptian (Hieroglyphic, Coptic), Akkadian, Ugaritic, and Syriac. The languages are taught in conjunction with their socio-cultural context, so that linguistic skills will be formed and enhanced by a broad and sympathetic understanding, and a firm foundation will be laid for both intellectual exploration and practical experience.

Learn more about our undergraduate degrees and programs:

- Major Requirements & Options
- Minor Requirements
- Senior Essay Guidelines
- Honors Program
- Research Opportunities for Undergraduate students
- Transfer information
- Learning Goals

Department of Near Eastern Languages & Civilization
University of Washington
Denny Hall 220-D
Box 353120
Seattle, WA 98195-3120

Phone: (206) 543-6033
Fax: (206) 685-7936
neareast@uw.edu