

North Africa/Middle East

ACTIVITY SUMMARY



There are many who say it's better to keep justice and love separate. For me, these two issues are one. If one loves and respects his fellow humans, then he will wish for them whatever he wishes for himself. One could say that the work I do with the Duke Islamic Studies Center is about these discussions of justice and love and how to unite the two.

— Omid Safi, Duke University

QUICK FACTS:

20	Undergraduate students from this region currently enrolled at Duke	87	Graduate and professional students from this region currently enrolled at Duke
07	Duke majors, minors and certificates related to North Africa and the Middle East	200	Courses related to the Middle East and North Africa offered at Duke
40	Duke scholars with expertise related to North Africa and the Middle East	45	Current faculty research projects in or related to this region
350	Alumni currently living in North Africa/Middle East	16	Duke scholars with teaching experience in the Middle East and North Africa

DUKE IN THE WORLD

Duke is home to literary critics, archaeologists, historians, diplomats and hundreds of others whose studies and research topics related to North Africa and the Middle East range from Islamic feminism to representational politics to the modernization of the Middle East.

EDUCATION THROUGH PARTNERSHIP

Duke's partners in the Middle East and North Africa come from universities, research institutes and other organizations across the region. Current partnerships explore research collaborations and academic exchange opportunities focusing on law, business and management studies and other academic disciplines.

The Duke Law School partners with **Tel Aviv University** to provide Duke students with an opportunity to study in Israel and to gain exposure to the Israeli culture and legal environment. In this program, students connect with peers from Israel and around the world. Law courses at Tel Aviv University cover everything from comparative U.S. and Israeli law to international law. Students from Tel Aviv University also study at Duke each fall semester.



The Fuqua School of Business has an exchange program with Tel Aviv University for graduate students.

It also collaborates with **Koç University Graduate School of Business** in Istanbul, Turkey for a semester-long graduate student exchange program. A shared commitment to training global leaders who create value for society makes Koç and Duke University fitting partners for student exchange.

In addition to working with partners in the region, Duke collaborates with nearby University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill for the **Duke-UNC Consortium for Middle East Studies**. The consortium encourages collaboration and cooperation in all aspects of Middle Eastern studies across the two campuses, provides research and training opportunities for faculty and students, and stimulates institutional and public awareness of the importance and richness of Middle Eastern people and cultures.

EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING

In addition to the above partnerships, Duke sponsors a number of trips for students to experience the cultures and customs of North Africa and the Middle East.

DukeEngage Jordan focuses on supporting local development in and around Amman. Students work with NGOs to support local education, human health, the environment, and refugee and social issues.

DukeEngage Lebanon students work with the Unite Lebanon Youth Project, a local organization that counsels high school students and leads them to a path of higher education.



Duke in the Arab World students spend six weeks in Morocco, where they improve their Arabic language skills and study religious citizenship and Moroccan Culture.

The Global Education Office for Undergraduates coordinates a student program called **Duke in the Arab World** based in Morocco. This program provides students with the opportunity to explore the socio-political development and intricacies of the Arab world while gaining real life experiences through interaction, observation, field visits and homestays.



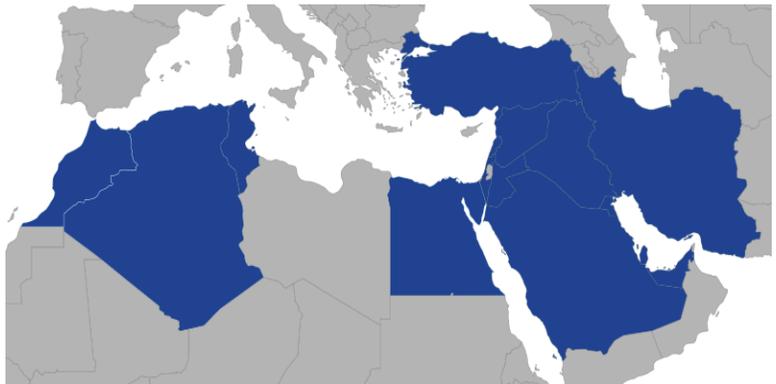
Duke Immerse, a program in which all courses are built on a single theme, offers a program called **Uprooted/Rerouted: The Ethical Challenges of Displacement**. As part of the program, Duke students and faculty collaborate with NGOs and travel abroad to conduct life story interviews in refugee communities. Past cohorts have

visited Syrian refugee camps in Jordan and Nepal and have worked with Iraqi refugees who have resettled in Durham.

The Duke Immerse program is part of a larger **Refugee Resettlement Project**, which, along with a Duke Bass Connections project on displacement, focuses on building refugee narratives and studying the resettlement of the Bhutanese, Iraqi and Syrian refugee communities, among others.

RESEARCH

Duke faculty members conduct research in or related to **16 North African and Middle Eastern countries**. This research spans eight of Duke's ten schools and many of its institutes and centers.



Among Duke's researchers exploring topics related to North Africa and the Middle East are:

- **Negar Mottahedeh**—on the history of revolution and the uses of social media in protests in Iran

- **miriam cooke**—on the intersection of gender and war in modern Arabic literature and the literary constructions of Islamic feminism
- **Mustafa Tuna**—on social and cultural change among the Muslim communities of Central Eurasia
- **Omid Safi**—on Islam and social justice, gender equality and religious and ethnic pluralism
- **Frances Hasso**—on the intersections between states, social movements and individual identities in the Arab world
- **Timur Kuran**—on markets and Islamic law, and the economic roots of political underdevelopment in the Middle East

Professor **Erdağ Gökna**r brings his family's own refugee story and his translation work with Nobel Prize winning novelist Orhan Pamuk to his work at Duke, where he teaches Turkish and Middle Eastern studies. In his courses, he uses language as a vehicle into cultural and global contexts.



Graduate and undergraduate students are also involved in research in the region. Students involved with the **Kenan Institute for Ethics** have taken part in ongoing fieldwork in Nepal and Egypt on displacement issues and the well-being of refugees. As part of this research, students work with local NGOs, including the Azraq Catch-Up School for refugees and the Mercy Corps humanitarian organization in Jordan.

To find more Duke experts, visit global.duke.edu/regions and search our Global Activities Map by school and country of interest.

MENA AT DUKE

The MENA region is represented at Duke through a number of nationally recognized centers and programs, including the **Duke Middle East Studies Center**. The center:

- Builds connections between academic departments and disciplines
- Supports research, education and outreach on Middle East studies
- Takes a transregional and interdisciplinary approach to the study of Middle Eastern countries and cultures

The **Duke Islamic Studies Center** is one of the leading institutions in North America for the study of Islam and Muslims. Its comparative, cross-cultural approach to Islamic studies fosters new interpretations of Islam and encourages creative solutions to the economic, political and social challenges involving Muslims.

The **Duke Africa Initiative** not only highlights the work of Sub-Saharan and Atlantic Africanist scholars, but also encompasses many faculty members with expertise on North African topics, including the Arab Spring and the politics of climate change adaptation in the region.

Duke students also run organizations focused on this part of the world, including the **Student Organization for Legal Issues in the Middle East and North Africa (SOLIMENA)**. SOLIMENA provides educational,



INJAZ aims to create a sustainable link between Duke students interested in Arabic and/or the Middle East and native Arabic speakers and refugees living in the Triangle area.

“Language is a unifying force,” the organization writes. “[INJAZ] strives to achieve a partnership that creates an exciting environment for cultural and Arabic/English language exchange.”

research and professional development opportunities for students with an interest in the region.

These initiatives help students build upon knowledge gained in **more than 200 MENA-related courses offered at Duke**, across a number of departments, including:

- Duke Arabic Program
- Turkish culture and language minor
- International Comparative Studies: Middle East track
- Jewish studies major
- Hebrew minor
- Certificate program in Jewish Studies
- The Middle East & Islam in Global Context FOCUS Program
- Duke-UNC Middle East Studies Certificate