LANGUAGE OF THE MONTH

Arabic

Acing Your Language Class
Tips & Best Practices

Student Spotlight

Language of the Month
Film Discussion

Add to Your Playlist and Watchlist
Songs and Movies

Eating Authentically in Boston
Restaurant recommendations and recipes to try

Literature and Authors

"Be beautiful; see the universe beautiful."
- Elia Abomadi

كن جميلًا ترى الوجود جميلًا .. إيليا أبو ماضي
Arabic speakers are in greater demand than ever. The US State Department has named Arabic a “critical language,” creating scholarships for language study in the US and overseas. At BU, Arabic language enrollment has risen by 68 percent since 2005.

The Arabic program at BU covers four years of modern standard Arabic. We use the most widely taught textbook series, Al-Kitaab, supplemented with a variety of authentic materials to make the cultural context come alive. The program is structured to get you speaking in Arabic as quickly as possible (this is called the communicative method); by the end of the first year, classes are conducted primarily in Arabic.

BU's program emphasizes all four language skills (speaking, listening, reading, and writing). You’ll start by learning to write the letters and distinguish the sounds of the Arabic alphabet. Throughout your study, one class per week will focus on practical vocabulary and commonly discussed topics. As you advance, you’ll learn the grammar and vocabulary you need to maintain an interesting college-level conversation in Arabic.
Looking to improve your Arabic? Join us for an informal Language Link session and meet with a tutor for support in your Arabic classes! Sessions are led by a native speaker at both the novice and intermediate levels. Visit the Language Link [website](#) to learn more.
Meet our Arabic Language Link Leader, Fouz. When she's not leading language discussions or in Art Education classes, Fouz can be found taking long walks, reading & writing poetry, and visiting art museums.
Q: What do you enjoy most about being a Language Link leader?

A: Meeting students who love to learn Arabic and knowing a lot about Middle Eastern culture is what makes me enjoy my work. I have great students who have been coming to my Arabic class for over a year now.

Q: What's a tip/advice you have for people learning either a new language in general or Arabic specifically?

A: Patience and perseverance in learning a language are what make us have progress in learning it. This is what I would recommend most to any learner of Arabic or any other language.

Q: What's your favorite aspect of Arabic culture?

A: Arab culture has gone through many difficult circumstances, wars, and revolutions, and what I love most about it is that we are peoples who do not succumb to these circumstances. The culture of hope for a beautiful future is always present despite all the conflicts that exist in the region.
Ramadan is the holiest season of the Islamic year.

The Islamic holy month of Ramadan is celebrated during the ninth month of the Islamic lunar calendar. The exact start date in any given locality is determined by local officials as the month can only begin with the sighting of the new moon.

According to Islamic tradition, it was during the month of Ramadan that the Prophet Muhammad received the first revelations of the Islamic holy book, the Qur'an.

Except for young children, the elderly, pregnant women, and people with health conditions, Muslims abstain from food, drink, smoking, sex, and gambling during the daylight hours of Ramadan. This fast, called sawm, is one of the five pillars of Islam (BU Libraries).
Featured Recipe

Basbousa Aka Harissa (Coconut Yogurt Semolina Cake)

Check out this sweet recipe, one of Fouz's favorites! Original article here.

Ramadan Recipes

Yvonne Maffei’s Roast Chicken With Couscous, ...
 Julia Moskin, Yvonne Maffei

Sameh Wadi’s Lamb Shanks With Pomegranate...
 Julia Moskin, Sameh Wadi

Watermelon Chaat
 Tejal Rao, Malika Ameen

90 minutes

About 3 hours

15 minutes, plus chilling


During Ramadan, food takes on a special significance, with both suhoor, a hearty breakfast, and iftar, the breaking of the fast. Read more about the history, the nostalgic favorite foods of many, and a compilation of recipes from the New York Times, organized by main dishes, suhoor, iftar, desserts, and more.
Explore: Markets

**Garden Halal Market**

**Address:** 96 Blackstone St, Boston, MA 02109  
**Phone #:** (617) 723-0888  
**Hours:** 10 am - 2 am; 7 days/week

Garden Halal Market, located near Haymarket, is a one-stop shop for all African, Middle Eastern, and Halal food and groceries. Photo and more information available via Yelp.

**International Halal Market**

**Address:** 1433 Tremont Street, Boston, MA 02120  
**Phone #:** (617) 606-7108  
**Hours:** Mon-Sat 9 am - 9 pm; Sun 10 am - 8 pm

International Halal Market, conveniently located right across from the Roxbury Crossing Orange Line MBTA Station, has a wide variety of food, halal meats, home goods, halal beauty products, and more. Photo from Google Images and more information via their website.

**Turkuaz Market**

**Address:** 16 Brighton Ave, Allston, MA 02134  
**Phone #:** (617) 202-6125  
**Hours:** 10 am - 7 pm; 7 days/week

Turkuaz Market, located near Packard's Corner, is a Turkish and Mediterranean grocery store that includes a deli and specializes in olives, jams, cheeses, and homemade baklava. Learn more and view all of their available products on their website.
Watchlist


2. **Fan of Amoory** follows a young boy as he chases his dream of becoming a professional football player, inspired by his idol Omar Abdulrahman. Available via Netflix.

3. **For Sama** unfolds as a love letter from Waad al-Kateab to her daughter, the titular Sama, against the backdrop of the conflict raging in their home of Aleppo, Syria. Available via PBS and Amazon Prime.


For further exploration, check out the Arab films submitted for the 2021 Oscars and a compilation of classic Arab movies via YouTube.
Language of the Month
Film Discussion

In collaboration with CineMAfriq & BU Libraries, the ERC presents Fatima

Wednesday, April 28 at 6:00 PM ET | Register via Zoom

Fatima

Fatima is an Algerian Muslim divorcee living in Lyon, France and raising two daughters. 15-year old Souad is a teenager in revolt, and 18-year old Nesrine is starting medical school. The film is inspired by the true story and the poetry of North African writer, Fatima Elayoubi, who immigrated to France and slowly taught herself the language. A patient, reflective study of a woman pressured by her children and her neighbors to assimilate into a culture of which she's wary.
Literature Recommendations

*Children of the Alley*, by Nobel laureate Naguib Mahfouz, recreates the history of the connections between the big three monotheistic religions, Judaism, Christianity, and Islam. It is available for purchase through Amazon.

Restaurants

- Kareem's Restaurant
- Tarboosh Bakery & Grill
- Noor Mediterranean Grill
- Sarma
- Oleana
- Sofra Bakery & Cafe
- Falafel King
- Shwarma Falafel
- Rami's
- Cafe Jaffa
- Garlic'n Lemons - Mediterranean & Middle Eastern
Activities

Carrom is a traditional Arabic board game that increases in popularity each year during Ramadan and helps foster social interactions and connections. Read more about the game and play it online.

Did You Know?

There are 14 different Arabic words to describe love, ranging from “hawa,” the initial attraction; “huyum,” the loss of reason that follows; and “ishq,” a blind desire (Language Courses UK).

Related words are derived from the same three-letter roots. Arabic has a rich vocabulary, and many related words can be constructed from a single root consisting of three consonants. Other letters and vowels are added around the root to create different words.

Example: The root K-T-B conveys the idea of “writing.” As such, kataba means “he wrote”, katib means “writer”, kutub means “books”, and maktaba means “library”.

Check out our two featured Arabic games, one for pure fun and one designed to help you increase your vocabulary!

These language games, created by Master Any Language, cover a wide variety of vocabulary, ranging from greetings to common phrases.