Careers for Arabic Majors/Diploma of Languages in Arabic

There are a great many career fields which relate to Arabic studies. In choosing your career path, it is important to reflect on the skills you have learned through your major, the ones you prefer using and the careers which are most strongly related.

Skills, knowledge and abilities acquired in the Arabic major

- Skills to communicate effectively in Arabic in various social and professional contexts
- Skills to communicate appropriately with people with various cultural backgrounds which enable balanced interpretation of various social and professional practices in the global scene

Career fields which build on the skills and knowledge acquired through an Arabic major

The table below lists a range of careers which make use of Arabic Studies. The list is not definitive; language skills can complement almost any occupational field and create specific opportunities.

| More information on many of these career fields is available at: [https://careersonline.unimelb.edu.au/students/login?ReturnUrl=%2f](https://careersonline.unimelb.edu.au/students/login?ReturnUrl=%2f) (Career Research - Career Links - Arts) |

The table also provides some information about ‘next steps’ i.e. what you might need to do to start a career in the particular field, specifically whether the career field can be entered directly following Bachelor studies, or whether graduate study is required.

A word about post-Bachelor employment

There are two employment types for post-Bachelor graduates:

- General employment positions suitable for new graduates
- Graduate Employment Programs

Graduate Employment Programs are offered by some employers – generally large commercial organisations and government. Graduate Employment Program positions are jobs that include a substantial component of training and development. Recruitment for these programs takes place early in the year (around March-May). Final year tertiary students and recent grads can apply. For some of the career areas discussed, Graduate Employment programs are available. Where this is the case, graduate study may not be required.

For more information on Graduate Employment Programs: [www.careers.unimelb.edu.au](http://www.careers.unimelb.edu.au)

Career options generally fall into two categories – those where language is the core activity, and those where language skill is paired with another skill.

‘A knowledge of one or more foreign languages can be useful in a wide range of careers. For some jobs, such as translating, interpreting and language teaching, language skills are the main requirement. For other jobs a combination of languages and other qualifications, knowledge or skills may be needed. For example, people with languages plus IT, law, finance or sales skills are much sought-after.’

**Language as ‘core business’ – specialist language occupations**

These options would be available to advanced stream students.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Role</th>
<th>Employers</th>
<th>Next Steps</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Translating</td>
<td>Business/multinational companies Media Government Freelance Translating &amp; Interpreting Services (e.g. Victorian Interpreting &amp; Translating Service/VITS, Translating &amp; Interpreting Service/TIS, All Graduates Interpreting &amp; Translating, ONCALL Interpreters &amp; Translators) NGO/NPO</td>
<td>MA in Translation NAATI accreditation by passing the NAATI accreditation test or by completing a course of studies in translation at an Australian institution approved by NAATI Training in programs provided by private institutions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interpreting</td>
<td>Business/multinational Companies Media Freelance Government Translating &amp; Interpreting Services (e.g. Victorian Interpreting &amp; Translating Service/VITS, Translating &amp; Interpreting Service/TIS, All Graduates Interpreting &amp; Translating, ONCALL Interpreters &amp; Translators) Hospital Interpreter Services Community Health Services Courts of Law Police Corrections Victoria Victoria Legal Aid Community Legal Centres Community Migrant Resource Centres NGO/NPO</td>
<td>MA in Translation NAATI accreditation by passing the NAATI accreditation test or by completing a course of studies in interpreting at an Australian institution approved by NAATI Training in programs provided by private institutions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teaching Arabic</td>
<td>Private institutions Primary/Secondary schools Higher Education</td>
<td>No specific requirements, though qualifications assist Graduate Diploma in Arabic as a Second/Foreign Language OR Master of Teaching MA Applied Linguistics MA or PhD Arabic Studies</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**Careers which make use of language in conjunction with another skill**

Note that language skill can be used to complement almost any other skill to suggest career possibilities. Below are some examples only.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Role</th>
<th>Companion studies</th>
<th>Employers</th>
<th>Next Steps</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Diplomacy/international relations</strong></td>
<td>Politics and International studies / Master of International Relations (MC-IR) / Islamic Studies</td>
<td>Government Intergovernmental bodies, NGO/NPO Business/multinational companies</td>
<td>Graduate Employment Programs (mainly Australian Government) OR Graduate Studies - International Relations</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Beginners to advanced</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Academia/research</strong></td>
<td>Any field</td>
<td>University Research Centres</td>
<td>Honours Masters by research PhD</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Advanced</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>International business, import-export in Australia</strong></td>
<td>Business Marketing Commerce Economics</td>
<td>Commercial businesses (e.g. fashion, food, manufacturing, agriculture, petroleum) Trading companies</td>
<td>Graduate employment OR Graduate Studies - International Business</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Beginners to advanced</strong></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Translation software, language engineering</strong></td>
<td>IT/Computer Science Linguistics</td>
<td>Software companies IT Venture business</td>
<td>Degree in Computational Linguistics or Computer Science</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Advanced</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Tourism – in Australia, in the Arab World</strong></td>
<td>Arts Commerce</td>
<td>Tourism operators Hotels Restaurants Transport (e.g. Airline industry)</td>
<td>Graduate employment OR Graduate Studies - International Business</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Intermediate to Advanced</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>TESOL</strong></td>
<td>English Applied Linguistics Education CELTA/DELTA (Certificate in Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages and Diploma in Teaching ...)</td>
<td>Teaching in the Arab World (private colleges schools universities) Teaching at Australian universities, colleges and language schools &amp; the Adult Migrant English Program (AMEP)</td>
<td>Some may require CELTA MA in TESOL Master of Education in TESOL (generally required but some private colleges may not require)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Beginners to Advanced</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Cultural exchange</strong> (project and program management roles)**</td>
<td>Arts</td>
<td>Cultural exchange associations, industry groups</td>
<td>Graduate study in various areas may be appropriate e.g. Marketing, Arts Management, Master of Art Curatorship</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Beginners to advanced</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Archaeology</td>
<td>Archaeology &amp; Classics</td>
<td>Archaeological contractors, Universities &amp; Colleges, National / government / private organisations working in the Middle East &amp; North Africa</td>
<td>Master of Arts in Classics &amp; Archaeology, PhD</td>
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<tr>
<td>Beginners to advanced</td>
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<tr>
<td>Law</td>
<td>Law</td>
<td>Law firms, Companies, Victoria Legal Aid, Community Legal Centres</td>
<td>Graduate studies in Law – JD, OR Graduate entry to undergraduate Law courses</td>
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<tr>
<td>Advanced</td>
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<tr>
<td>Policy and Public sector Administration</td>
<td>Law, Political Science</td>
<td>Consulate and embassy, Government Consultant</td>
<td>Graduate Employment Programs (mainly Australian Government), OR Graduate Studies – Public Policy, EMA, Law</td>
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<td>Beginners to advanced</td>
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<tr>
<td>Defence and National Security</td>
<td></td>
<td>Defence force</td>
<td>Defence Academy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Intermediate to advanced</td>
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<tr>
<td>Social work</td>
<td>Arts</td>
<td>Government, Community Migrant Resource Centres, Community Services, Community Care, NGOs, The Victorian Foundation for Survivors of Torture (Foundation House), Action on Disability within Ethnic Communities (ADEC), Child Protection, Youth Work</td>
<td>Graduate/Postgraduate Studies in Social Work (e.g. Master of Advanced Social Work)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Beginners to advanced</td>
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<tr>
<td>Police</td>
<td>Any field</td>
<td>Victoria Police, Australian Federal Police</td>
<td>Australian Federal Police College, ACT Policing and Federal Agent recruit training</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Community policing, international liaison, international deployment group, counter terrorism, intelligence, specialist and non-policing roles, etc.)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Intermediate to advanced</td>
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<tr>
<td>Medicine, Dentistry, Nursing, Midwifery, Mental health professional, Physiotherapy</td>
<td>Biomedicine Science Oral health Nursing Physiotherapy</td>
<td>In Australia &amp; in the Middle East &amp; North Africa: Hospitals Medical centres Dental surgeries Mental health services Maternal &amp; Child Health Services</td>
<td>Graduate/Postgraduate courses in medicine, with specialisation Doctor of Dental Science Doctor of Dental Surgery Master of Advanced Nursing Practice (with specialisation) Graduate Certificate in Mental Health Science</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Journalism</td>
<td>Arts E.g.: Journalism Travel writing</td>
<td>National &amp; international news agencies or individual newspapers/magazines TV channels &amp; networks Radio channels (e.g. SBS)</td>
<td>Graduate/Postgraduate courses in media &amp; communication, journalism, global crisis reporting, video &amp; audio journalism, etc.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Links**

**Careers in Languages (other discussions)**  
Careers in Languages: [http://lrc.wfu.edu/careersinlanguages/](http://lrc.wfu.edu/careersinlanguages/)


**Working in the Arab World**

Arab World Careers  

UN Jobs Vacancies for ‘Arab Countries’  
[http://unjobs.org/themes/arab-countries](http://unjobs.org/themes/arab-countries)

Bayt The Middle East #1 Job Site  

Aljazeera Network  
[http://recruitment.aljazeera.net/en](http://recruitment.aljazeera.net/en) (Human Resources Division)  

**Organisations**
Asia Institute, The University of Melbourne
http://asiainstitute.unimelb.edu.au/research


The Australian Institute of Interpreters and Translators Inc. (AUSIT): www.ausit.org

Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade:
http://aid.dfat.gov.au
(See all the different Arab countries under Countries and regions.)

Council of Australian-Arab Relations

Australian Trade Commission (AUSTRADE)

United Nations:
http://unjobs.org/duty_stations/amman (Jordan)
http://unjobs.org/duty_stations/lebanon (Lebanon)
http://unjobs.org/duty_stations/tripoli (Libya)
http://unjobs.org/duty_stations/rabat (Morocco)
http://unjobs.org/duty_stations/ramallah (Palestinian Territory)
http://unjobs.org/duty_stations/qatar (Qatar)
http://unjobs.org/duty_stations/jeddah (Saudi Arabia)
http://unjobs.org/duty_stations/tunis (Tunisia)
http://unjobs.org/duty_stations/yemen (Yemen)

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP):
http://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/operations/jobs/internships.html
http://www.eg.undp.org/content/egypt/en/home/operations/jobs.html
http://www.jo.undp.org/content/jordan/en/home/operations/jobs.html
http://www.undp.org.lb/jobs/Index.cfm

Embassy of the People’s Democratic Republic of Algeria, Canberra

Embassy of the Arab Republic of Egypt, Canberra:
http://www.embassypages.com/missions/embassy8624/

Consulate General of the Arab Republic of Egypt, Sydney:

Embassy of the State of Kuwait
http://www.kuwaitemb-australia.com/ContactUs.html

Embassy of the Kingdom of Morocco, Canberra:

Consulate General of the Sultanate of Oman, Melbourne:
http://www.oman.org.au

Embassy of the State of Qatar, Canberra:
http://www.embassypages.com/missions/embassy24185/

Royal Embassy of Saudi Arabia, Canberra
http://embassies.mofa.gov.sa/sites/Australia/EN/Pages/default.aspx
Embassy of the Republic of Tunisia, Canberra
http://www.embassypages.com/missions/embassy24183/

Embassy of the United Arab Emirates, Canberra
http://uae-embassy.ae/embassies/au

The Victorian Arabic Language Teachers’ Association (VALTA)
http://www.mltav.asn.au/arabic/

Tourism Australia:
http://www.tourism.australia.com/

SBS Arabic service:

Australia Arab Chamber of Commerce and Industry

The Australian Lebanese Chamber of Commerce

Australian Arab Business Network

Arab Council Australia

Australian Arabic Council

The Victorian Foundation for Survivors of Torture (Foundation House)

Arabic Jobs in Australia

Language Proficiency tests
LOTE (Language Other Than English):
http://asiainstitute.unimelb.edu.au/help/undergraduate_students/lote_accreditation_exams

NAATI (National Accreditation Authority for Translators and Interpreters) Accreditation Test (Translator & Interpreter Testing)