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 (Career Research - Career Links - Arts)

The table also provides some information about 'next steps' ie. 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: https://careers.unimelb.edu.au/students/jobs-and-opportunities/professional-and-graduate-work

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.’

(Omniglot - Language Learning: https://www.omniglot.com/language/articles/langlearning.htm)
**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>
</table>
| Translating | Business/multinational companies  
Media  
Government  
Freelance  
Translating & Interpreting Services (eg Victorian Interpreting & Translating Service/VITS, Translating & Interpreting Service/TIS, All Graduates Interpreting & Translating, ONCALL Interpreters & Translators)  
NGO/NPO | 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 |
| Interpreting | Business/multinational Companies  
Media  
Freelance  
Government  
Translating & Interpreting Services (eg Victorian Interpreting & Translating Service/VITS, Translating & Interpreting Service/TIS, All Graduates Interpreting & Translating, ONCALL Interpreters & 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 | 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 |
| Teaching Arabic | Private institutions  
Primary/Secondary schools  
Higher Education | 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 |
**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>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Diplomacy/international relations  
**Beginners to advanced** | Politics and International studies / Master of International Relations (MC-IR) / Islamic Studies | Government Intergovernmental bodies  
NGO/NPO  
Business/multinational companies | Graduate Employment Programs (mainly Australian Government)  
OR  
Graduate Studies - International Relations |
| **Academia/research**  
**Advanced** | Any field | University Research Centres | Honours  
Masters by research PhD |
| International business, in-country business, import-export in Australia  
**Beginners to advanced** | Business Marketing  
Commerce Economics | Commercial businesses (eg fashion, food, manufacturing, agriculture, petroleum)  
Trading companies | Graduate employment  
OR  
Graduate Studies - International Business |
| **Translation software, language engineering**  
**Advanced** | IT/Computer Science Linguistics | Software companies  
IT Venture business | Degree in Computational Linguistics  
or Computer Science |
| Tourism - in Australia, in the Arab World  
**Intermediate to Advanced** | Arts Commerce | Tourism operators  
Tour guiding  
Hotels  
Restaurants  
Transport (eg Airline industry) | Graduate employment  
OR  
Graduate Studies - Business, Tourism Management |
| **TESOL**  
**Beginners to Advanced** | English  
Applied Linguistics  
Education CELTA/DELTA (Certificate in Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages and Diploma in Teaching …) | Teaching in the Arab World (private colleges  
schools universities)  
Teaching at Australian universities, colleges and language schools & the Adult Migrant English Program (AMEP) | Some may require CELTA  
MA in TESOL  
Master of Education in TESOL (generally required but some private colleges may not require) |
| Cultural exchange (project and program management roles)  
**Beginners to advanced** | Arts | Cultural exchange associations, industry groups | Graduate study in various areas may be appropriate eg Marketing, Arts Management, Master of Art Curatorship |
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Role</th>
<th>Companion studies</th>
<th>Employers</th>
<th>Next Steps</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<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>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beginners to advanced</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<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>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Advanced</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<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>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beginners to advanced</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Defence and National Security</td>
<td></td>
<td>Defence force</td>
<td>Defence Academy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Intermediate to advanced</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<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 Studies in Social Work (eg Master of Advanced Social Work)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beginners to advanced</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<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>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Intermediate to advanced</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Role</td>
<td>Companion studies</td>
<td>Employers</td>
<td>Next Steps</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>------</td>
<td>-------------------</td>
<td>-----------</td>
<td>------------</td>
</tr>
<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 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 Eg: Journalism Travel writing</td>
<td>National &amp; international news agencies or individual newspapers/magazines TV channels &amp; networks Radio channels (eg SBS)</td>
<td>Graduate 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/)


Career Views - Victoria University of Wellington
Languages and Cultures
Linguistics and Applied Language Studies

**Working in the Arab World**

Academic & University Jobs in the Middle East

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
[https://services.aljazeera.net/Recruitment/Portal/Pages/frmJobList.aspx?lang=en](https://services.aljazeera.net/Recruitment/Portal/Pages/frmJobList.aspx?lang=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/libya (Libya)  
http://unjobs.org/duty_stations/morocco (Morocco)  
http://unjobs.org/duty_stations/palestine (Palestinian Territory)  
http://unjobs.org/duty_stations/qatar (Qatar)  
http://unjobs.org/duty_stations/saudi (Saudi Arabia)  
http://unjobs.org/duty_stations/tunisia (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)