



PHOTOGRAPH BY DANNI XIE



MASTER'S IN MIDDLE EASTERN STUDIES

Harvard University's master's program in Regional Studies—Middle East is an intensive two-year academic program designed for students who wish to develop academic interests or to pursue professional skills. Students have diverse profiles and come from across the United States and around the world. They share a capacity for rigorous, scholarly exploration of the Middle East region in all its richness and complexity.

Master's students are immersed in the languages, cultures, and history of the Middle East. Critical reading and academic research and writing skills are emphasized in both elective and required coursework.

In consultation with program advisors, students utilize elective courses to plan individual academic programs that draw on the breadth of course offerings at Harvard and neighboring institutions. The flexibility of the course requirements is one of the program's core strengths. It allows students with a range of different interests to tailor a degree program to their own goals.

Students enrolled in the master's program may choose to write a master's thesis, but a

thesis is not required to complete the degree. Those considering further graduate study are strongly encouraged to write a master's thesis.

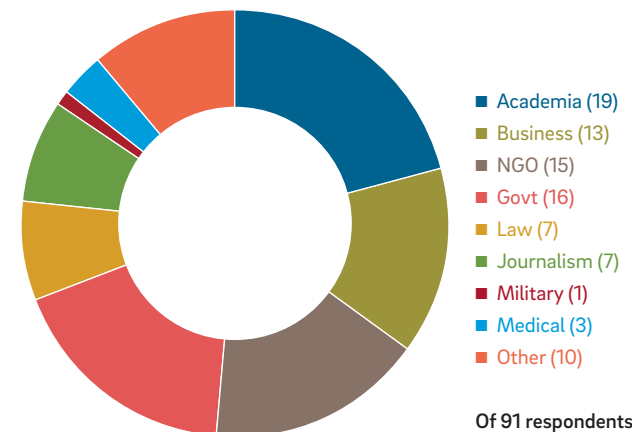
Master's students make valuable contributions to the intellectual community at Harvard's Center for Middle Eastern Studies (CMES), their academic home while in the program, and are encouraged to participate in a range of CMES activities, programs, and workshops.

Graduates of the program pursue careers in diplomacy, business, media, human rights, or non-governmental work. Many continue on to further graduate study at Harvard or other universities, though there is no formal link between the master's program and Harvard PhD programs.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

- Two consecutive years of full-time study (eight courses per year)
- The Graduate Proseminar in Middle Eastern Studies
- One course in medieval Middle Eastern history (600–1500 CE)
- One course in modern Middle Eastern history (1798–present)
- Three additional courses related to the Middle East, two of which must be graduate seminars
- Four consecutive courses in one of the major Middle Eastern languages: Arabic, Armenian, Hebrew, Persian, or Turkish
- Eight additional elective courses

CMES AM GRADUATES 2004–19 CAREER PATHS



ADMISSIONS

For complete information about admissions, including application deadlines (generally the first week of January), please visit the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences website: <https://gsas.harvard.edu/admissions>. Applications are accepted online only. GRE scores from a test taken in the last five years are required for admission.

CONTACT

For further information please contact:
 cmes@fas.harvard.edu
 617.495.4055

THE CENTER FOR MIDDLE EASTERN STUDIES

Established in 1954, Harvard University's Center for Middle Eastern Studies supports research and teaching on a broad range of topics related to the region. At the core of the Center's mandate is the pursuit of firsthand knowledge about the Middle East based on literacy in its languages and understanding of its diverse politics, cultures, and histories. Generations of scholars have graduated from our degree programs, bringing a deepened understanding of the Middle East to careers that include academia, government, business, journalism, and law. Our broad, interdisciplinary approach encompasses the humanities and social sciences as well as the arts and natural sciences, and CMES engages with faculty from Harvard University's many departments, professional schools, and other regional studies centers. Graduate students at CMES benefit from the vast holdings of Harvard's libraries and museums, which include exceptional collections related to Middle Eastern and Islamic studies. Our dynamic academic community includes over forty faculty, a diverse cohort of more than fifty graduate students, and an annual contingent of twelve to fifteen visiting researchers.

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