Letter to the Student

On behalf of the entire University of Oklahoma Arabic Flagship Partner Program staff, let us begin by welcoming back all of our Arabic Flagship Scholars, and extending our wishes for a year of continued growth and development.

As a Flagship student, you are a part of a cutting-edge, comprehensive language education program. The Language Flagship leads the nation in designing, supporting, and implementing a new paradigm for advanced language education which features periods of rigorous language and cultural immersion at stateside and overseas Flagship centers. Presently, the Language Flagship offers 26 programs at 22 different institutions worldwide, where over 800 students study 10 critical languages.

In spring 2012 Flagship’s parent organization, The National Security Education Program (NSEP) merged with the Defense Language Office (DLO), creating the Defense Language and National Security Education Office (DLNSEO). While the name has changed, the commitment to critical language learning has not.

As you know, Flagship’s ultimate goal is to create highly educated, global professionals. Accordingly, all of our efforts on campus are directed towards this end. Your continued success in learning Arabic is our mutual goal. We strive to attain this by offering specialized Arabic instruction in a supportive learning environment, and fostering an atmosphere of empowerment.

We have updated the student handbook in an effort to remain current. We hope this document will help educate Flagship students about the program structure and expectations so that your Flagship journey can be fruitful and gratifying.

This handbook has been updated 2012-2013 academic year, and it is subject to change should conditions warrant it.
Successful Learning

• Approach language learning as a skill to be cultivated with time and effort (as opposed to an innate talent).
• Create a personalized study routine, devoting time to homework assignments, reviewing class handouts, tutoring, conversations, and viewing/reading authentic Arabic media.
• It goes without saying: make every effort to come to class prepared every time.
• Identify your learning style and develop a repertoire of study tools that work for you. For instance, are you a visual learner? Musically inclined? Prefer studying in groups or alone? Swap ideas with others. Analyze and update your learning tactics each year. You may find that intro-level tactics do not have the same impact later on.
• Be aware of the 6 major groups of second language learning strategies (Oxford 1990):
  1. Cognitive strategies: analyze, examine, take notes, synthesize
  2. Metacognitive strategies: identify your preferences and needs, monitor your mistakes, evaluate yourself
  3. Memory-related strategies: acronyms, sound similarities, images, key words can help you commit words to memory
  4. Compensatory strategies: fill in the gaps of your understanding, guess based on the context, indirectness, and pause words/gestures
  5. Affective strategies: manage your emotions and motivation level in high-anxiety situations by breathing deeply, rewarding yourself, and positive self-talk; this helps you persist in the face of difficulty
  6. Social Strategies: interact: ask questions, ask for help, talk with conversation partners, and explore cultural norms.
• Occasionally reflect on your achievements. Language learning is a lifelong journey consisting of many small steps, and many lose perspective somewhere along the way. Learners often find inspiration to go further by dwelling on their advances, however small. “Since last semester, I have learned…” “Today I succeeded in…” “Now I am able to articulate…”
• Establish short-term goals for yourself. The goals should be specific, distinct, and realistic. Enlist others in your mission. Hold yourself to your goal, and create another goal once you accomplish one.
• Don’t focus on comparing yourself with others. Such comparisons are unproductive and often deceiving.
• Spend as much time as possible immersed in the language. Refer to the section of this handbook titled “Additional Resources for Self-Study”
About the Program

Get Admitted:

Flagship applicants must be full-time OU students having successfully finished at least one semester of Arabic, who commit to complete the entire program, including the capstone year abroad, and achieve superior-level Arabic skills. In addition, applicants must demonstrate that Arabic is a long-term career and/or personal goal, carry a GPA of at least 3.25, and submit the required application materials.

Transfer students are eligible to apply. Transfer students wishing to apply Arabic coursework to the Flagship program requirements should contact a faculty member in the Arabic section. The program sets three recruitment rounds per year: the last day of classes for the Fall semester, the last day of classes for the Spring semester, and one in mid-August.

Flagship students must agree to all of the terms and conditions involved in being a Flagship Undergraduate Student; agree to the use of their personal data and acknowledge that their progress will be tracked for the duration of the Flagship program and beyond; demonstrate substantial progress, by Flagship standards, toward professional level language proficiency in Arabic; commit to completing all components of the domestic Flagship program; and commit to completing the required yearlong overseas program, also known as the capstone year.

Upon admission, students will receive an invitation to create an account and register in the Flagship Certification System (https://students.thelanguageflagship.org/). Registering is mandatory. It is understood that participation is voluntary and students may signal their intention to withdraw from the program by notifying Flagship staff in writing.

Stay In Good Standing:

Flagship students’ academic progress is monitored every semester. Students must maintain a 3.25 OU GPA and earn an A or B in every Arabic course. Outside of the classroom, students are expected to attend and actively participate in Flagship’s extracurricular activities on campus, including the weekly roundtable. Students earning less than a 3.25 GPA will be placed on probation. Probation letters outlining the terms of their status are sent out to students. During the probationary semester, the student must earn a 3.5 GPA or above to continue with the program. Flagship Staff also works with students to identify strategies for success and to offer the support needed to resume the performance level expected. Failure to meet Arabic Flagship Program standards results in consequences, including permanent withdrawal of funding or dismissal from the program.

In order to remain in good standing students are expected to progress towards the goal of achieving an ILR level 3 or above at the end of the program. If a student’s plans change and he/she no longer intends to apply for the capstone year, he or she will be counseled out of the program.

Flagship students are required to maintain an active registration in the Flagship Certification System.

Be Strategic:

It is strongly recommended that all program participants plan to take advantage of Flagship’s summer opportunities. This suggestion is backed by evidence; namely, students who do so experience
About the Program

proficiency boosts and are more qualified to gain admittance to the capstone year. The Flagship’s purpose is to empower students attain Advanced High-Superior fluency in 4-5 years. Taking courses on campus is necessary but not sufficient. Immersing oneself in an authentic Arabic-speaking environment is essential. In addition, participating in summer opportunities can mean earning course credits quickly and efficiently. And to sum it all up, students returning from Flagship’s summer Arabic programs have reported tremendous gains in their speaking abilities and overall confidence.

Here are some tips:

1. It is never too early to start plotting out your Flagship journey. Ask yourself “What do I want to have achieved during my Flagship experience?” and “Which summer program appeals to me most and fits my plans?” Flagship will counsel you.

2. Create a Plan B in case your first choice summer program doesn’t pan out.

3. Research scholarships and apply. Even if your funds are plentiful, receiving awards enriches your résumé and supports your application materials for the capstone year.

4. Stay in touch and keep Flagship staff posted on any changes in your plans.

5. If you are a candidate for the Flagship summer abroad (or capstone year), train yourself for the pre-program exam by participating in the Flagship-sponsored boot camp in January 2013.

6. Use time wisely; make the most of it. During summers at home, create a personalized study routine to maintain your skills while school is not in session.

See the sections below on applying to the study abroad program and UT summer intensive programs for complete details. We hope that this framework is informative and yet general enough to allow for some flexibility. Flagship staff are available at any time to answer your questions and assist you with your path in the Flagship program, and advise on submitting applications, taking courses, and more. Flagship staff cannot provide advice for your major(s) course of study, so be sure to cover those bases as well.
The Roundtable

The weekly roundtable is held on Friday afternoons from 3:30- 4:30 in Hester Hall room 170. *You must attend regularly and sign in, unless you have a class conflict.* The round table is a structured, non-class environment where you are expected to actively participate and demonstrate your evolving knowledge of Arabic, so that your proficiency can grow with time. Passivity is not ideal; being communicative is vital to learning in this setting, even when it is imperfect.

Think of it as an investment toward your Oral Proficiency Interviews (OPIs) later on. During OPIs, you are evaluated based on what you are willing to express. The more you practice and rehearse the more natural and easily it comes later.

Through frequent use of the language, you will gain experience with a variety of registers of spoken Arabic. Ask questions, rephrase what you heard, and interact! Don’t allow fear of making mistakes prevent you from chiming in. Beginners may wonder How do I keep a conversation going, despite my limited abilities? It is indeed possible to convey a great deal drawing on a limited vocabulary. Here are some strategies to keep up the momentum:

- Strive for accuracy, but don’t get held back by fear of mistakes
- Borrow words, insert the English word when you don’t know it in Arabic
- Use the register you feel most comfortable with
- Translate literally
- Use a simple word in place of a more complex one
- Act out or draw the word
- Encourage others’ efforts by providing positive comments

Do recruit the assistance of instructors and tutors in helping you accurately formulate your question or remarks.

Exceptions to the Arabic-only rule are brief and limited to opening announcements and occasional visits.

Prospective Flagship students are welcome to join the round table. We recommend notifying Flagship staff that you intend to being a guest, as well as alerting your guest of the Arabic-only atmosphere.

The calendar of round tables is set at the beginning of the semester and it is subject to change. We welcome students’ feedback and programming ideas at any time. We are open to student ideas for the round table topics.
Introduction to Flagship Experience In Alexandria

This year we are honored to have OU’s Flagship alumnus Chase Smithburg on campus. Having just completed his capstone year at The University of Alexandria, Chase will facilitate a weekly series which focuses on helping students understand and prepare for the most practical and important aspects of the capstone year. Chase developed the content based on his own experience as a member of the Flagship 2011-2012 cohort.

Each seminar will occur Mondays from 10:30- 11:20 in Hester Hall 170. This is a non-graded, non-class activity which is presented in English in an interactive format. Attendance records will be kept and participation is required of Flagship students in the 3000- and 4000- level coursework. Students in 1000- and 2000-level courses are welcome to attend.

Extracurricular Activities

Occasionally we will offer extracurricular activities on campus, sometimes held in English, outside the roundtable. The themes cover a variety of topics, ranging from Career Planning for Flagship students to skype sessions with persons of interest.

Students may be invited to participate in gatherings off-campus sponsored by the Language Flagship. Students are strongly encouraged to attend all Flagship-sponsored activities, especially those that involve guest speakers. For every event, Flagship staff will keep a record of attendance. Maintaining regular presence and actively participating in Flagship events is highly recommended.
Tutoring

You can find tutors in the language learning center, on the second floor of Kaufman Hall. Tutors are available Monday through Friday from 12 noon to 2 PM. The language learning center must balance our needs with others’; therefore we must be sensitive to others’ reservations. Aside from these hours, tutors and students are free to continue their activities by appointment in the library or student union.

You are required to spend time each week in the language lab, and do not forget to swipe in and swipe out with your Student ID! Weekly reports of students’ presence in the language lab are submitted to the Program Director and it is likely that a Flagship staff member will stop by the lab every now and then. We recommend that students in their first year of Arabic spend at least 3 hours in the language lab each week, working with tutors. This is the suggested weekly minimal time commitment, given the goal of acquiring superior-level proficiency. And as a general rule of thumb, for every hour in class students are expected to spend at least 2 hours of focused review time outside of the classroom.

Tutors are comprised of advanced-level Flagship students, plus native speakers. The tutors who are Flagship students are great assets for students in the beginner and intermediate stages, having already struggled with and grasped beginner and intermediate material. Native speaker tutors are better equipped to assist students with conversation, natural ways of formulating speech, and colloquial varieties of Arabic. Tutors are assigned to work with Arabic faculty members, and follow courses taught by their mentors, in order to understand skill set development. In essence, tutors play a supporting role in helping students advance in their studies. More specifically, tutors assist by activating the vocabulary and structures students learn in class. This means that they help practice, expand, and apply the material which is covered in class.

Students entering the language learning center should make every effort to speak Arabic there. Bring your textbooks and notebooks to the language lab. In addition, devise specific questions in advance. Here are some examples of the many areas where tutors can assist:

- grammar help
- homework questions
- challenging reading assignments
- editing
- developing conversational skills
- useful everyday expressions
- rehearsing classroom presentations
- practicing listening exercises
- acting out dialogues and role play

Now, for a few words on what tutors cannot do. They cannot substitute for advance planning and attention to your assignments. Although tutors can assist with homework, they have been advised to never complete another’s homework assignments. Tutors cannot read students’ essays which are submitted as part of the Flagship overseas application process. Tutors are a supplementary learning resource, but they are not a replacement for going to a professor’s office hours.

Our Flagship alumnus, Chase Smithburg, is also able to help students with Egyptian Colloquial Arabic.
Tutoring

The language learning center offers additional resources during open hours:

- movies, documentaries
- Arabic television
- Computers with Arabic keyboards for typing practice
- realia (real objects, for role playing)
- Smart Board
- document camera

Furthermore, additional resources can be checked out from the Flagship staff in room 150:

- dictionary
- Arabic music
- grammar books
- dialectal books: Gulf Arabic, Palestinian, Moroccan, etc.
- media textbooks
- Arabic films
- magazines
- Federal Service Guide (a tool for career planning)

Students interested in applying for a tutoring position should go to jobs.ou.edu and search for positions in the College of International Studies.

Growing your Arabic Proficiency

When we talk about foreign language competence, achievement and proficiency may seem like the same thing at first glance. However, there is a key difference. Achievement refers to a student’s grades, which can be measured on a grading scale. Proficiency refers to the ability (and the range of abilities) to respond and communicate in an authentic way, particularly in non-classroom settings. This is especially relevant to the Flagship program because each year students must show consistently high achievement plus proficiency growth. In other words, earning A's is necessary but not sufficient to stay on track with the program. Flagship students’ proficiency levels are assessed during the process of applying for study abroad opportunities, and throughout the study abroad. Flagship certification confirms your proficiency level upon completion of the capstone year abroad, so that employers and others have a written record of your ability.

The advantage of having common proficiency benchmarks is that it allows different groups of people including universities and hiring agencies for example, to make comparisons about individuals’ linguistic competence.

There is no single, universally-accepted paradigm precisely defining language proficiency or fluency. This especially rings true with Arabic language, due to its spectrum of geographical dialects. Although that challenge exists, the Flagship program measures proficiency using ACTFL, ILR, and OPI tests. It is valuable to familiarize yourself with the contents of these rubrics because there are specific expectations of students upon entering and exiting the study abroad programs; see the section titled ‘Applying for Flagship Study Abroad Opportunities’ for specifics. The annexes of this handbook contain complete and updated descriptions of each level.
Growing your Arabic Proficiency

ACTFL

ACTFL stands for American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages and their website is www.actfl.org.

After participating in an ACTFL interview with a certified tester, a student receives a rating, ranging from novice to superior. ACTFL deals with listening and speaking skills and does not measure reading or writing. The interview lasts less than 30 minutes. Our instructor Hossam Barakat is certified in ACTFL, and we encourage you to take advantage of the opportunity to take part in interviews with him.

Here is a fun fact: in order to be qualified to teach Arabic in k-12 public schools in the state of Oklahoma, you have to score Advanced-Low on the ACTFL scale.

ILR

ILR stands for Interagency Language Roundtable and their website is www.govtilr.org. The Interagency Language Roundtable (ILR) is an organization of federal agencies, ranging from the Peace Corps to the CIA, which has been established for coordination and sharing of information about language-related activities.

The ILR webpage features a self-assessment you can use to get an approximate estimate of how you might rank in the areas of speaking, reading, and listening. The ILR scale is composed of proficiency levels ranging from zero (no proficiency) to five (educated native proficiency). Translation and Interpretation skill levels are also described.

In 2012 the ILR scale was expanded to include competence in intercultural communication. We encourage you to dwell on this aspect of your learning, as it is very relevant to the Flagship mission of creating global professionals.

OPI (Oral Proficiency Interview)

OPI is the test for speaking skills. Refer to the new ACFTL language proficiency guidelines, under the Speaking section, this explains a lot about ACTFL OPI testing.

Final Note

Members of the Arabic Council have emphasized the need for students to gradually but steadily display language skills ‘appropriate for the task required’, which means being able to switch between MSA and colloquial Arabic depending on the type of task. Using MSA exclusively is limited to certain tasks in the Arab culture and using a colloquial variety of Arabic is essential, especially in everyday ‘casual’ interactions.
Applying for the Flagship study abroad programs

The challenges and rewards of study abroad are countless. Each student’s experience is unique and irreplaceable, and study abroad has the potential to be a time of tremendous linguistic and personal growth. The choice to study abroad is a pivotal one, and should be taken seriously. Solid preparation boosts your likelihood of getting accepted into a program and having a successful trip.

Our role here at the OU Arabic Flagship Program is to empower you and help you lay the groundwork for a competitive application. After all applications have been submitted and all candidates have sat for the pre-program exam, the Arabic Council and a panel of program directors convene, review all applications, and decide who is admitted. These decisions are communicated to applicants in early to mid-March. At that point, American Councils communicates with applicants by notifying them of their status, providing a comprehensive acceptance package to those who are accepted, conducting two pre-departure orientations, and managing and implementing the overseas program. The acceptance package materials are designed to help you know what to expect, and maximize the skills you have, while moving towards professional fluency. The pre-departure orientations cover several aspects of your trip including health, safety, and more topics. In managing and implementing the overseas program, they employ several highly-trained individuals, including professors, interns, and an on-site Resident Director who handles a variety of matters to ensure that students have a safe and productive experience.

The Arabic Council voted that applicants must be in the process of completing their sixth semester of Arabic in order to be considered for the summer study abroad program. For OU students, this means students taking 3000-level courses are eligible to apply. As described elsewhere in the handbook, the overseas summer program is not mandatory but students are highly encouraged to take advantage of this opportunity (or another intensive language experience). Students in 4000-level courses are expected to apply for the capstone year.

The application is very competitive and admission is never guaranteed. At the time of application, overseas summer program participants are expected to demonstrate intermediate-level proficiency in Arabic, equivalent to a Level 1 or 1+ on the ILR scale. The summer program is designed to move participants’ Arabic proficiency from Level 1 or 1+ to 2 or 2+ by the end of the summer. The capstone (yearlong program) is designed to boost students’ proficiency from Level 2 or 2+ to at least level 3 by the end of the program. Therefore, it is imperative to review the skills associated with each of these levels, and prepare thoroughly!

The application is due in mid-January each year. Typically, each Fall American Councils staff members visit OU to provide all dates, details, and answer your questions. We strongly suggest that applicants begin working on their applications near the start of the fall semester, so that they have ample time to devote to it. Start working on your application components early and practice typing on the Arabic keyboards in the language lab regularly. You will be required to fill out an online application, write an essay in Arabic, a statement of purpose, provide official transcripts, and obtain 2 letters of recommendation.
Applying for the Flagship study abroad programs

Tips

Create a plan B, in case you are not accepted into your first choice program.

Attend and actively participate in the boot camp in January 2013.

On the topic of recommendation letters, we suggest giving instructors generous lead time to act on your request, and a gentle reminder. Sit down with your instructor, explain your aspirations with regards to the program you are applying for, and give them a chance to get to know a little bit more about you and how this opportunity relates to your life goals. After all, in addition to commenting on your classroom self, they are attesting to your perspective, maturity, and readiness to handle the challenges associated with exiting your comfort zone.

During your study off campus, remember that you are representing the University of Oklahoma and the Flagship program.

Applying for the Flagship summer intensive program

Our partner, the University of Texas at Austin, offers a ten-week summer intensive institute. This program offers a variety of entrance points (students can apply to study at the Beginner, Intermediate, or Advanced level). This program is highly structured and rigorous. Accordingly, it offers an excellent means to boost your overall proficiency. Although it does not offer the cultural experience one would gain in the Arab world, it can put you on very solid footing so that you benefit more when you do study abroad. Highlights include:

• transfer up to a full year’s worth of academic credit upon completion (subject to approval by MLLL faculty)
• dedicated daily chat sessions, focused on developing speaking and listening skills, as well as cultural competence in colloquial Arabic (Levantine and Egyptian)
• structured sessions focused on sharpening listening skills, strategies, and proficiency
• film discussions and cultural events
• supportive university housing environment
• all the delights of Austin!

Student experience has been overwhelmingly positive, and it indicates that this program is tremendously efficient and worthwhile.

The application is rather extensive, and we recommend following the advice listed in the section on applying for the overseas program.

If you have questions or are not sure whether this program is right for you, feel free to confer with Flagship program staff for more details. We are delighted to address your concerns and follow up on any questions you may have.

Flagship is authorized to contribute up to $3,500 towards the program fee for students who are accepted to UT-Austin’s Arabic Summer Institute. In past years, this has covered all or most of the program fees. Summer Institute students are responsible for all other costs, including travel and housing in Austin. It may not be possible to apply OU summer financial aid to these costs.
The capstone year

We refer to the year abroad as the “capstone” because it is the defining feature of the Flagship program and the crowning achievement of a student’s Flagship experience. Flagship’s capstone year is specifically structured so that students can progress from a level 2 to a level 3 or beyond by the time they complete the 12-month program, and in doing so gain professional-level language proficiency. In addition to making language gains, capstone students are expected to independently and actively engage with the host culture. Making this personal investment enables them to gain an in-depth familiarity and comfort with their host culture, and their language and cultural proficiency are mutually reinforced.

Flagship students in good standing who are in the process of their 4000-level Arabic courses become candidates for the overseas capstone year. The most competitive applications typically belong to students who effectively participated in Flagship summer programs or other off-campus intensive language learning experiences. In addition to having strong scores on the pre-program exam and an excellent academic record, successful students’ capstone application materials demonstrate a high level of maturity, open-mindedness, and overall personal readiness to face the challenges and opportunities involved in twelve months of direct, immersive study in a foreign culture.

These are the academic components of the capstone year:

- Classes focusing on Modern Standard Arabic, Egyptian Colloquial Arabic, and media
- 1-2 university courses of your choosing
- Translation courses
- Weekly sessions dedicated to one-on-one time with Language and Academic partners
- Guest speakers and meetings with notable persons

Capstone students are also required to take part in an internship each semester, where Arabic is used in a professional capacity. The Resident Director assists students in identifying their interest area(s) and setting up the internship. Furthermore, students are led on cultural excursions periodically. These sites are selected on account of their historical and cultural significance. The trips range in length from 1 to 3 days.

American Councils staff facilitates students’ academic and extracurricular experiences during the capstone year, including helping set up student housing and ensuring their safety and security. Students may reside in the university dorms, in apartments with Egyptian and American roommates, or with host families. Students’ safety and security are of paramount importance, and students are regularly briefed on this topic.

After successful completion of the capstone program, students automatically receive a Flagship Alumni certificate. They are also eligible to obtain Flagship certification. Certification entails some additional language proficiency testing and serves as a formal recognition of Flagship program completion on a student’s resume.

For administrative reasons, all participants must retain undergraduate status throughout the duration of the program. This means that participants must notify their academic advisors of their intent to participate in the capstone program and delay graduation until their return. Due to the structure of the program, it is not realistic to expect to apply several hours of capstone coursework to your major requirements at OU. If you are considering returning to OU to complete a semester after the capstone year concludes, discuss this with your major advisor.
The capstone year

Unfortunately, every year applicants from every Flagship University are not admitted to the capstone program. In this case, they do not retain any Flagship status. Unsuccessful applicants could wait and submit an application the following year, if they desire. However, in order to preserve momentum we would suggest that students in this situation independently pursue another opportunity to study or work in an Arabic-speaking country. Through investigation and planning, students can identify worthwhile alternatives to the capstone year and go on to reach their language goals.
Scholarships

This year all domestic Flagship institutions are following a new approach to scholarships. Flagship scholarships will be competed in the same way as other university scholarships; that is to say they will become more competitive and not automatic. In previous years, students accepted into Flagship’s study opportunities off campus were automatically granted a maximum scholarship, often covering most or all of the costs. Going forward, applicants will be evaluated on eligibility criteria such as GPA and their presence and participation at Flagship events such as the round table, Introduction to the Flagship Experience in Alexandria, and other extracurricular activities as well as their overall commitment to the Flagship Program and to learning Arabic to advanced levels. Students who have not registered in the Flagship Certification System (FCS) will not be eligible to receive Flagship scholarships.

In the Fall semester, Flagship staff will communicate a range of scholarship amounts that successful applicants may expect to receive for their Flagship off campus excursions. This will help students plan more effectively. We often do not receive total cost specifics for the next year's programs until Spring.

Flagship scholarships are merit-based (as opposed to need-based) and are intended to offset part, not all, of the costs of participating in Flagship programs. Not every student admitted to a Flagship off campus program will receive a Flagship scholarship. It is strongly recommended that students research, and apply early for, alternative sources of support for their Flagship excursions. In particular, the Boren award opportunity is an excellent one for capstone year candidates (see section on Boren FAQs). Flagship students ought to complete the FAFSA, even if you are not sure you will need it. This is the first, and essential, step to knowing what Financial Aid you are eligible to receive. Some, but not all, scholarships require you to be Pell-eligible. Flagship Scholarships should not offset other sources of funding you may receive.

The Flagship program does not consider issuing scholarships to non-Flagship programs, i.e. study abroad through other outfits. In other words, funding by Flagship is limited to approved Flagship sites. Additionally, Flagship will not consider issuing scholarships to help offset the costs of completing Arabic courses on campus.

In essence, our program’s goal is to empower students who demonstrate a long-term commitment to the study of Arabic. The scholarships offered by Flagship are meant to serve this end.

At the beginning of the Fall semester, the Director and Coordinator will meet with each student in the Flagship Program on an individual basis in order to discuss their standing in the program. This discussion includes progress in the course requirements, scholarships received to date, summer plans, scholarship opportunities, answering students’ questions, and more.

Here is a list of scholarship opportunities that we strongly encourage you to investigate and apply for. Keep in mind that most deadlines are in February, or earlier, so advance planning is key. Pursuing scholarship sources is the student’s responsibility. Flagship staff can assist with the scholarship application process but the student is tasked with being aware of deadlines, eligibility factors, and other restrictions. This list is a starting point, it not exhaustive. We encourage you to work closely with your advisor to identify opportunities specific to your area of study. OU Arabic Flagship is not endorsing any of the programs below.

Don’t forget about the more commonly known scholarship websites, such as Fast Web (http://fastweb.monster.com/), Scholarship Hunter (www.scholarshiphunter.com), College Answer (www.collegeanswer.com), and College Scholarships (www.collegescholarships.org) to name a few.
## Scholarships

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<th>Funding for Courses on Campus</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Sooner Heritage Scholarship (OU)</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Oklahoma College Start</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant (FSEOG)</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Ameen Rihani Scholarship</strong></td>
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## Funding for Study Abroad

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<th>Scholarship</th>
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<tr>
<td>Boren Scholarships</td>
<td><a href="http://www.borenawards.org/boren_scholarship">http://www.borenawards.org/boren_scholarship</a></td>
<td>Award up to $20,000 to students wishing to study languages and cultures considered to be important to U.S. national security.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gilman Scholarships</td>
<td><a href="http://www.iie.org/en/Programs/Gilman-Scholarship-Program">http://www.iie.org/en/Programs/Gilman-Scholarship-Program</a></td>
<td>The Gilman Scholarship Program is open to U.S. Citizen undergraduate students who are planning to study abroad. The program aims to diversify the kinds of students who study abroad and the countries and regions where they go by supporting undergraduates who might otherwise not participate due to financial constraints (Pell grant recipients).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Presidential International Travel Fellowship (OU)</td>
<td><a href="https://oklahoma.studioabroad.com/index.cfm?FuseAction=Programs.ViewProgram&amp;Program_ID=10010&amp;Type=S&amp;sType=S">https://oklahoma.studioabroad.com/index.cfm?FuseAction=Programs.ViewProgram&amp;Program_ID=10010&amp;Type=S&amp;sType=S</a></td>
<td>Created by OU President David L. Boren to support international travel for qualified students, includes internships. Fellowships will be awarded on the basis of financial need, participation on an approved study abroad program, overall strength of application, and overall strength of the student’s academic record.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tulsa Community Foundation: Have a Great Day Scholarship</td>
<td><a href="http://tulsacf.org/">http://tulsacf.org/</a> (search for Have a Great Day)</td>
<td>Awards up to $3,000 for international travel to eligible students with a demonstrated financial need.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Institute for International Education, Study Abroad Funding</td>
<td><a href="http://www.studyabroadfunding.org/">http://www.studyabroadfunding.org/</a></td>
<td>Directory featuring detailed descriptions of hundreds of study abroad scholarships, fellowships, grants, etc. Search by region/country, field of study, etc.</td>
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## Scholarships

### Non-Flagship Programs Off Campus And their Scholarship Opportunities

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<th>Scholarship Program</th>
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<tr>
<td>Critical Language Scholarships</td>
<td><a href="http://www.cl">www.cl</a> scholar ship.org</td>
<td>Critical Language Scholarship (CLS) institutes provide fully-funded group-based intensive language instruction and structured cultural enrichment experiences for 7-10 weeks for U.S. citizen undergraduate, Master's and Ph.D. students.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kathryn Davis Fellowships for Peace: Investing in the Study of Critical Languages</td>
<td><a href="http://www.middlebury.edu/ls/finaid/fellowships/kwd">http://www.middlebury.edu/ls/finaid/fellowships/kwd</a></td>
<td>Fellowships are merit-based and cover the full cost of summer language study, beginning to graduate levels. This takes place at Middlebury College language schools. To apply for the Kathryn Davis Fellowship, you must both apply for admission to the Arabic Language School and submit a separate fellowship application.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Center for Arabic Study Abroad (CASA) at the American University in Cairo</td>
<td><a href="http://www.utexas.edu/cola/centers/casa/">http://www.utexas.edu/cola/centers/casa/</a></td>
<td>Full-year fellowship covers airfare, tuition, stipend, and excursion in the CASA program. Administered through UT-Austin.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Al Akhawayn University in Ifrane</td>
<td><a href="http://www.aui.ma/VPAA/shss/shss-aranas-shss-aranas-scholarships.htm">http://www.aui.ma/VPAA/shss/shss-aranas-shss-aranas-scholarships.htm</a></td>
<td>Scholarships cover up to 75% of tuition and housing costs for students accepted into the Arabic and North African Studies (summer) program.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Additional resources for self-study

Cross-Cultural Understanding and Preparation (English)

Hammond, Andrew: What the Arabs Think of America
Library link: http://libraries.ou.edu/

Egyptian Newspapers

Al Ahram www.ahram.org.eg
Al-Gomhuria http://www.algomhuria.net.eg/algomhuria/today/fpage/Al-Wafd www.alwafd.org
Al-Masry al- Youm www.almasryalyoum.com

Egyptian Magazines

Rose al-Yusuf http://www.rosaonline.net/
Horreya Magazine http://www.horreyati.net.eg

English-Language

Al-Ahram Weekly http://weekly.ahram.org.eg/

Others

Aljazeera
http://www.bbc.co.uk/arabic/
www. Schoolarabia.net
NaturalArabic.com
http://www.verbace.com/
Readarabic.nflc.org
Annexes