



and



Welcome you to Oman!

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ABOUT CISabroad - Northampton, MA USA

CISabroad envisions a world of peace, possibility, and prosperity based on the compelling truth that education abroad offers students the best chance to realize their potential and change their world. Since 1999, we've been sending US university students abroad to intern and study. Nestled in the beautiful hills of Western, MA, CISabroad has grown from sending two students abroad to Australia in the year 2000 to over 2,000 students abroad to 21 countries today.

Known for our affordability, CISabroad is a growing partner of state colleges and universities who want to keep costs down, and support and cultural immersion up. CISabroad joined IIE's Generation Study abroad initiative with a focus on increasing educational resources and programming for the LGBTQ population. Through the CISabroad Gives Back Initiative, we partner with Earth Deeds to measure our organization's environmental impact through supporting sustainable, community-based environmental projects in many of the locations in which we operate.





CIL was founded in 2012 by Dr. J. Larry Brown, retired professor at Harvard University's School of Public Health and former Assistant Director of the Peace Corps, Judi Garfinkel, and Said Al-Ismaily.

CIL is currently owned by Mr. Said al-Ismaily and is managed by Dr. Issam Khoury, an Arab-American who earned his degrees at Virginia Tech, Ohio State and Penn State. The Center is staffed by a multi-cultural and international staff from around the world.

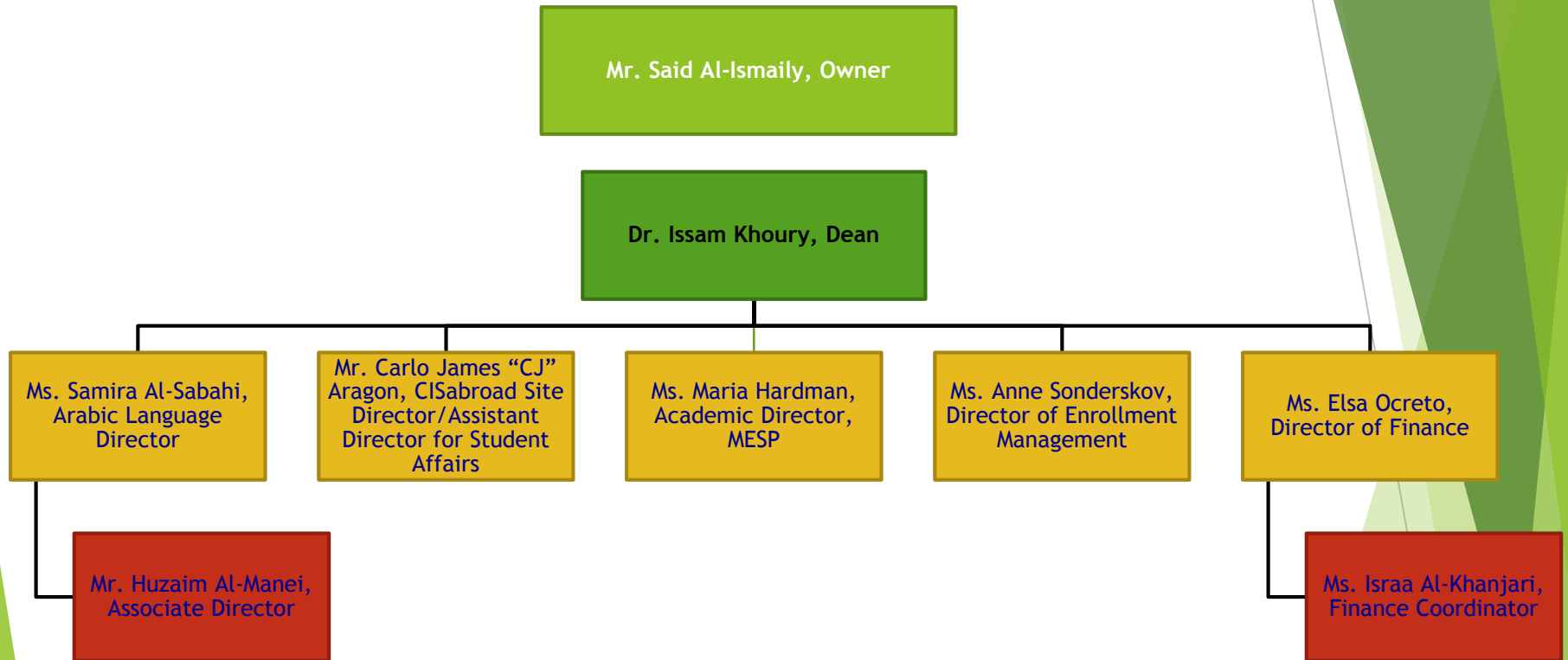
CIL offers all nine levels of Modern Standard Arabic (beginner, intermediate, and advanced, at low, mid, and high levels), as well as Omani dialect, media Arabic, and skills classes. Arabic is one of the fastest growing languages learned by students in the U.S. Known for its fascinating complexity, it is a language of literature, poetry and elegant calligraphy. Arabic also is a language that encompasses deep and abiding cultural traditions, making its study a rich and rewarding learning experience.



A Welcome from the Dean
of the Center for
International Learning,
Dr. Issam Khoury

Welcome from Oman! Sitting in the Middle East's safest point, it is a pleasure to also introduce you to CIL. We are the Persian Gulf's largest and most experienced Center teaching Arabic and Middle East Studies. Our programs are rigorous, our student experience intensive, and our location ideal. As a Palestinian-American, I am happy to be able to serve as the Dean of the Center, where I am responsible for the overall vision of the Center, to ensure the highest quality academic programs that meet the needs of the many institutions and organizations that send us students, to coordinate our outreach both within Oman and around the world, and to develop new and innovative programs that will attract students from around the world. Ma' as-salaama!

Administrative Structure of CIL



What do you know about Oman?



Oman is the oldest independent state in the Arab world!



Other facts about Oman:

Capital: Muscat

Size: about the size of Italy

Population: 3.6 million

| | |
|-----------------------------|--|
| NAME: | Oman |
| LOCATION: | Africa & The Middle East |
| GOVERNMENT: | Monarchy |
| OFFICIAL LANGUAGE: | Arabic (official), English, Omanis also speak Swahili Baluchi, Urdu, and a variety of Indian dialects |
| MAJOR RELIGION(S): | No official statistic exists, but Islam is the official religion of Oman with the Ibadhi sect thought to comprise the majority and is the official sect of the Sultanate. Sunni and Shia Muslims coexist very peacefully with the Ibadhi majority, as do other religions, including Hindu and Christian. |
| MAJOR ETHNIC GROUPS: | Arab, Baluchi, South Asian (Indian, Pakistani, Sri Lankan, Bangladeshi), African. |

Is Oman safe?

The Global Terrorism Index (GTI) is a comprehensive study which accounts for the direct and indirect impact of terrorism in 162 countries in terms of its effect on lives lost, injuries, property damage and the psychological aftereffects of terrorism. This study covers 99.6 per cent of the world's population. The GTI rates countries on a scale from 0 to 10, with 10 being the countries most impacted by terrorism. [Link](#) to full report.

| Country | GTI Rating Score | Rank |
|-------------|------------------|------|
| Iraq | 10 | #1 |
| Afghanistan | 9.2 | #2 |
| UK | 5.6 | #28 |
| USA | 4.6 | #35 |
| New Zealand | 1.2 | #98 |
| Oman | 0 | #124 |

Is Oman safe?

The United Nations Development Program ranks countries according to a Human Development Index (HDI). The HDI is a summary measure of average achievement in key dimensions of human development: a long and healthy life, being knowledgeable and have a decent standard of living. The HDI was created to emphasize that people and their capabilities should be the ultimate criteria for assessing the development of a country, not economic growth alone. The HDI ranks 187 countries, with #1 having the highest score

| Country | HDI Rank |
|------------|----------|
| Norway | #1 |
| US | #5 |
| UK | #14 |
| Oman | #56 |
| Costa Rica | #68 |
| Iraq | #120 |

But what's even more important....

Oman was ranked the 7th most welcoming country in the world!

(By The Expat Insider's [InterNations Survey](#), 2015)



CISabroad/CIL Program options

- ▶ Semester / Year-long
- ▶ Summer (4 - 8 weeks)
- ▶ J-term
- ▶ Faculty-led (1 week - 12 weeks)

CISabroad/CIL Program inclusions

Before

- ▶ Pre-departure orientation
- ▶ Financial aid advice
- ▶ Scholarship/ grant options

During

- ▶ Airport pick-up
- ▶ On-site orientation
- ▶ 24/7 CISabroad Site Director
- ▶ Medical/Accident insurance
- ▶ Excursions (1 overnight for short-term programs and 2 overnight for semester, as well as multiple day-long excursions)
- ▶ Shared Apartments included, homestay for extra fee

After

- ▶ Re-entry program
- ▶ CIL Transcript
- ▶ Alumni Ambassador Program



OUR ACADEMIC PROGRAMS

SAMPLE SEMESTER CALENDAR

- ▶ September 6: First Day of Classes
- ▶ September 23-28 (tentative): Eid al-Adha
- ▶ October 25-29: Term Break
- ▶ November 19 (tentative): National Day
- ▶ December: 17 Last Day of Class

Typical daily schedule, Sun through Thurs

| | SUN | MON | TUE | WED | THURS |
|---------------|----------|--------------------|-------|--------------------|-------|
| 8:30 - 9:30 | Class #1 | | | | |
| 9:30 - 9:40 | Break | | | | |
| 9:40 - 10:40 | Class #2 | | | | |
| 10:40 - 11:00 | Break | | | | |
| 11:00 - 12:00 | Class #3 | | | | |
| 12:00 - 12:10 | | | Break | | |
| 12:10 - 1:10 | Class #4 | | | | |
| 1:10 - 2:00 | Lunch | | | | |
| 2:00 - 4:00 | PFM | Activity/ Class | PFM | Activity/ Class | PFM |

PF = Peer Facilitator Meeting

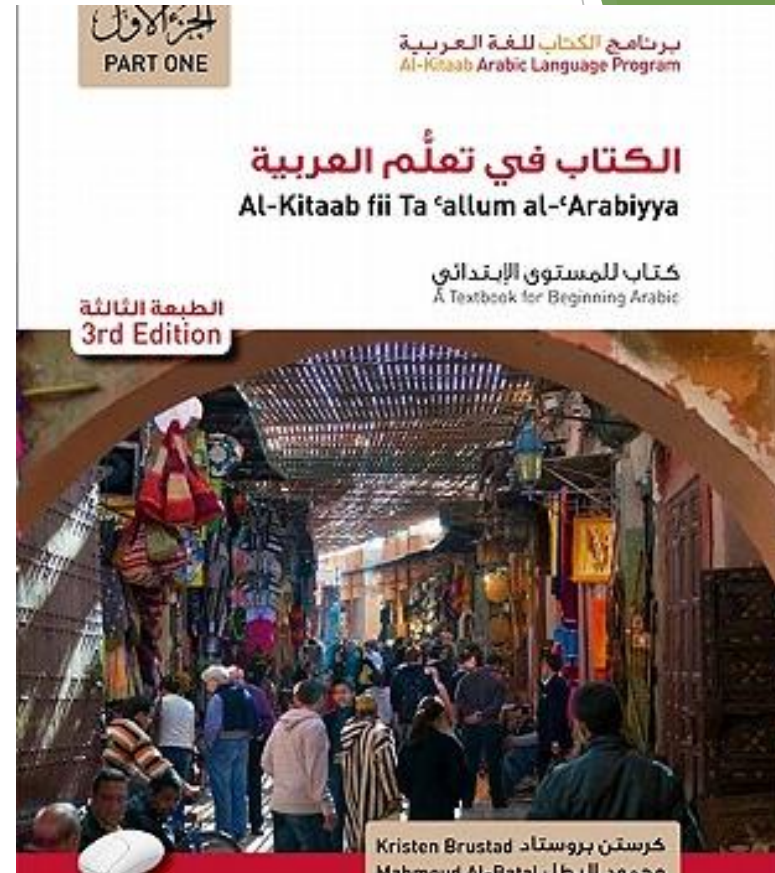
Intensive Arabic program

- ▶ Teach Arabic at all American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL) levels
- ▶ Courses calibrated to ACTFL levels as well as standards at US universities
- ▶ Arabic 101 & 102: 4 credits
- ▶ Arabic 103 to 402: 3 credits



Curriculum

- ▶ Omani faculty
- ▶ Based on Al-Kitaab
 - ▶ Version 3 of Books 1 & 2
 - ▶ Version 2 of Book 3
- ▶ 4 hours of class every morning
 - ▶ Media / Grammar / Reading/Writing / Listening/Speaking
- ▶ 2 hours of Peer Facilitator time 3 times per week
- ▶ Activities arranged by teachers



Program Objectives

- ▶ Improving and mastering the four essential skills in language learning:
 - ▶ Reading
 - ▶ Writing
 - ▶ Listening
 - ▶ Speaking
- ▶ Learning to express ideas in writing and in speech, using correct grammar
- ▶ Practicing translation skills between English and Arabic



Middle East Studies Program

- ▶ 6-8 credits of Arabic language (2 courses)
- ▶ 9 credits in Middle Eastern Studies:
 - ▶ MES 350: Socio-political issues in the Contemporary Middle East
 - ▶ MES 360: Research and Theory in Middle East Studies
 - ▶ MES 370: Independent Study
- ▶ Courses focus on Oman, the AGS (Arab Gulf States), and the Arab World
- ▶ This semester-long curriculum may be of particular interest to: International affairs, political science, peace and conflict studies, international studies, Arabic language majors/minors



Grades, credits & transcripts

- ▶ We use the Carnegie standard, as well as guidelines from SACS-COC and the University of North Georgia to determine our credit system
- ▶ Our grading system is standard to the ones at US institutions
- ▶ Our school of record is the University of North Georgia
 - ▶ We are working on developing equivalencies for every course we teach at CIL
 - ▶ They issue transcripts for our students at a fee of \$300
 - ▶ Process:
 - ▶ Grades are sent to UNG who issue transcripts and send them to CISabroad in Northampton, Massachusetts
 - ▶ CISabroad sends transcripts to student's home institution

LA VIDA LOCAL

OUR CO-CURRICULAR PROGRAM

CISabroad “La Vida Local” cultural activities are our way of getting students involved in the local culture and with local people. At CIL, Mondays and Wednesdays include free time from 2-4pm. This is ideal time for cultural learning, including:

- a grammar review session or a movie and discussion each Wednesday.
- Omani Coffee and Dates Chat - includes how to give greetings, be a guest in an Omani household, etc.
- Omani Arabic Dialect Chat.
- Conversations at The Lounge, run by local Omani youth



Weekly Cultural Activities



- ▶ Dates and Coffee Sessions
- ▶ Grammar Review Classes
- ▶ National Day Celebrations
- ▶ Eid festivities
- ▶ Student2Student events
- ▶ Peer Facilitators
- ▶ Calligraphy Classes
- ▶ Movies and cartoons (in Arabic)
- ▶ Academic & Guest Lectures

Overnight Excursions

- ▶ Sharqiyyah Sands
 - ▶ Desert Camping/Camel Riding
- ▶ Ras al-Jinz turtle reserve
 - ▶ Sea Turtle Nesting site
- ▶ Masandam Tour
 - ▶ Beach camping/Dolphins-watching



Day-long Excursions

- ▶ Muscat city tour - Tour of Grand Mosque, Sultan's Palace, Grand Market, National Museum
- ▶ Nizwa/Misfat al-Ibriyyeen - Ancient capital of Oman/3,000 year old village
- ▶ Bahla = UNESCO World Heritage Fort
- ▶ Sur - Traditional wooden boat manufacturing
- ▶ Wadi Shab - hike/swim in ravine



Basics of omani culture

- ▶ Islam and Arab culture
- ▶ Polite, generous
- ▶ Gentle language
- ▶ Tolerance of others
- ▶ A “being” rather than “doing” culture
- ▶ Use of right vs. left hand
- ▶ Soles of your feet
- ▶ Afternoon siesta
- ▶ Gendered spaces



Gender-related customs

Gender separateness



Shaking hands



Students dress modestly to enhance their immersion experience.



Please no...



- ▶ Shorts
- ▶ Sleeves above elbow
- ▶ Short skirts
- ▶ Tank tops
- ▶ Low-cut necklines
- ▶ Tight-fitting

Logistics



- ▶ Students are picked up at airport
- ▶ Students are provided with local phones.
- ▶ Visas provided for semester students; short-term visa advice for the tourist visa used for programs under 8 weeks.

Health and Safety

HEALTH

- ▶ Water: HYDRATE!
- ▶ Food - western grocery stores are available
- ▶ Allergies
- ▶ Pharmacy
- ▶ Clinic - covered by CISI insurance



SAFETY

- ▶ Driving/seatbelts
- ▶ Taxis and texting
- ▶ Women
- ▶ Police: dial 9999
- ▶ Emergency phone #s
- ▶ Alcohol - not sold/only available at hotels.



OUR EXPECTATIONS OF OUR STUDENTS

- ▶ Invest the time and energy into learning and using Arabic
- ▶ Engage and learn to appreciate the culture that is hosting you
 - ▶ Be curious about what makes Oman special and different from your own culture
- ▶ Show respect to the staff, teachers, and colleagues
 - ▶ Be on-time and in-time during class
 - ▶ No feet up in class
 - ▶ No phones in class
 - ▶ No vulgarity in class
- ▶ Respect the culture and traditions in Oman
 - ▶ No cursing in class or around the Center/avoid vulgarity in general
- ▶ Adhere to CIL and CISabroad Codes of Conduct

Apply today!

www.cisabroad.com/apply-now

