



American University of Beirut



2007-08

The PhD Program in Arabic Language and Literature

Goals and Objectives of the Doctoral Program

The program aspires to bring students to a level of competency in their chosen fields of specialization that would empower them to play a principal role in enhancing liberal education in the region. PhD candidates will acquire critical, interpretive and analytical skills; benchmark methodologies leading to the conduct of advanced research; and deeper, more sophisticated and more nuanced understanding of Arabic language and literature, and their histories.

Curriculum

The offerings of the Department fall within three broadly defined fields:

- (1) Arabic language and related fields (phonetics, morphology, syntax, history of grammar, lexicology, stylistics, etc.);
- (2) classical and pre-modern Arabic literature and thought (including poetry, prose, belles lettres and other forms of literary expression); and
- (3) modern Arabic literature and thought (including poetry, prose, literary theory, etc.).

Admission Requirements

Admission requirements are in line with those set by the Faculty of Arts and Sciences (FAS), and are found in the AUB Graduate Catalogue. The Department requires the following three additional requirements:

- (1) A master's degree in Arabic from a recognized university, or an equivalent acceptable to the Department, plus three recommendation, sample writings by the student, and an interview (when deemed necessary by the Department). Students of exceptional promise may be admitted after finishing their BA.
- (2) Proven unimpaired Arabic.
- (3) English proficiency (see the AUB catalogue for the required level of proficiency).

Financial Support

The Department offers, on competitive basis, substantial support which fully covers tuition and includes a monthly stipend of up to \$1000/month, for 10 months a year. In return, a PhD candidate is expected to begin teaching in the middle of his/her third year. Students may also apply for support to carry out research in archives and libraries outside of Lebanon, and to attend international scholarly conferences. Other forms of financial support may be available. For further details, contact the Admissions Office of the University.

Requirements for the completion of the PhD

- **Course Requirements:** A minimum of 16 credits are required beyond the MA. These comprise five three-credit graduate seminars, and one-credit tutorial, in the following fields: (a) Arabic language and linguistics, (b) classical Arabic literature, (c) modern Arabic literature, (d) Arab cultural history (Qur'an, Hadith, heresiography, kalam, tasawwuf, etc.), (e) literary theory (comparative: Arab/ Western), (f) a one-on-one exploratory tutorial, conducted by the candidate's advisor, and leading to the production of the candidate's doctoral proposal. The distribution of the above requirements over the said fields will be decided by the Department in each case on its own merit. Students who are admitted directly after the B.A. are required to take 37 credits and write the equivalent of an M.A. thesis.
- **Language Requirements:** A working reading knowledge of a second European language, preferably French or German, must be attested before candidacy status is attained.
- **Residency Requirements:** These are in line with the requirements set by the Faculty of Arts and Sciences.
- **Supervision:** During the first semester of graduate study, the Department will appoint an academic committee to draw up a program of study for the student and to follow up on his/her progress. At a later stage, the Department, in consultation with the student, will assign an academic advisor who will monitor the student until he/she chooses a dissertation supervisor.



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- **Candidacy Status:** The student must achieve candidacy status not later than three years from the date of admission, and at least one year before graduation. Achieving candidacy is conditional upon completion of course requirements, i.e., five courses plus the required tutorial for students with a Masters degree or 37 credits and the equivalent of an M.A. thesis for students with a BA; and upon satisfying the proposal and the language requirements. To achieve candidacy, a student must sit for a written comprehensive examination comprising at least three different papers.
- **Doctoral Proposal:** A detailed proposal defining the dissertation problem, describing the pertinent literature, and suggesting the proposed approach to solving it, must be presented to, defended before, and approved by a proto-examining committee from the Department. The proposal must also be approved by the Graduate Committee of the FAS and the Board of Graduate Studies.
- **Dissertation:** Candidates are expected to write their dissertations in Arabic. Members of the proto-examining committee may, however, grant permission for a candidate to write in English.

Faculty List

Agha, Saleh Said

1993, PhD; University of Toronto
Pre-Islamic and Umayyad, Poetry and History

Baalbaki, Ramzi

1978, PhD; University of London
Grammar, Comparative Semitic Grammar,
History of Grammatical Theory

Heath, Peter

1981, PhD; Harvard University
Popular Literature, Pre-modern Prose

Jarrar, Maher

1989, PhD; University of Tübingen
Arabic & Islamic Studies, Narratology

Khairallah, Assaad

1971, PhD; Princeton University
Modern Literature, Comparative Literature,
Persian Literature

Khalidi, Tarif

1970, PhD; University of Chicago
Islamic Studies

Makarem, Sami

1963, PhD; University of Michigan
Sufism, Islamic Studies, Classical Literature

Tuqan, Fawwaz

1968, PhD; Yale University
Arabic Literature (Umayyad and Abbasid)

For more information, visit: <http://staff.aub.edu.lb/~webarab/>