



Middle East Studies

# Middle East Studies



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## Curriculum

### Middle East Studies | M.A. Requirements

#### Middle East Studies Program Learning Goals and Objectives

Entering Class 2013-2014

Students must take the equivalent of 16 non-language courses (64 credits) in order to graduate. Those students who are approved for dual degree or advanced standing may only need to take 12 or 14 courses as approved by Academic Affairs.

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### MIDDLE EAST STUDIES (MES)

Students concentrating in Middle East Studies must take at least 6 courses within this program (or the equivalent credit of a total of 6 courses\*). One of the 6 courses must be States & Societies of the Middle East and Muslim Africa (SA.860.702). Students must also pass the Middle East History Exam (MEHE)—generally offered in the fall (spring if in Bologna) in their first year. In some cases, a SAIS course that requires a substantive research paper in the Arab World/Broader Middle East, may count toward the requirements as approved by the director. Students should be enrolled in a minimum of one Middle East or approved regional course per semester.

\*MES offers two-credit courses. Students must combine two, two-credit courses to meet the requirement of one full course.

### Tracks

Students must select one of the following Middle East Studies tracks:

- **Core Middle East (CME):** The CME track is designed to train Arabists with a focus on language skills. Of the 6 MES courses, students must also enroll in Powers in the Middle East: Egypt (SA.860.792)—a two-credit course. Only 1 of the 6 courses may be cross listed starting with a prefix other than SA.860.XXX. Students are highly encouraged to take additional Arabic language courses beyond the minimum SAIS graduation requirements.
- **Broader Middle East (BME):** The BME track is designed to help students acquire a broader regional perspective and training in comparative politics. Of the 6 MES courses, students must take a minimum of 3 regional courses related to the BME, including offerings from African, European and Eurasian and South Asia Studies and enroll in the equivalent of 2 CME track courses—including a minimum of 2, two-credit CME courses.
- **Energy and Resources (ER):** The ER track is designed to help students gain a deeper understanding of the energy and resources sector of the Middle East region. Of the 6 MES courses, students must enroll in Energy Markets in the Middle East and Central Asia (SA.860.761), 1 additional CME course and 3 Energy, Resources and Environment courses.

Please refer to the [Middle East Studies Curriculum](#) for eligible courses that meet track requirements.

## INTERNATIONAL ECONOMICS

Students must complete 4 courses within this program.

- Microeconomics
- Macroeconomics (prerequisite or concurrent Microeconomics)
- International Trade Theory (prerequisite Microeconomics)
- International Monetary Theory (prerequisite Macroeconomics)

Eligible students who pass the waiver exams in these subjects or who pass Micro and/or Macro in Pre-Term must replace those courses with alternate economics courses. Many students choose to pursue an [International Economics Specialization](#) in one of four areas of economics and therefore use electives to meet these requirements. Students may also choose to specialize in [Emerging Markets](#).

## QUANTITATIVE REASONING

Students must complete one course from the list below.

- Statistical Methods for Business & Economics
- Econometrics (prerequisite Statistical Methods for Business & Economics)
- Applied Econometrics (prerequisite Econometrics)
- Macro Econometrics (prerequisite Econometrics)
- Risk Analysis and Modeling
- Corporate Finance (prerequisite or concurrent Microeconomics)
- Quantitative Methods in International Relations (prerequisite Statistical Methods for Business & Economics)

Students may not double-count a Quantitative Reasoning requirement as one of the four required International Economics courses and vice-versa. Eligible students who pass the statistics waiver exam or pass the statistics course in Pre-Term are still required to take an alternate Quantitative Reasoning course from the list above.

## CORE COURSES/EXAMS

All SAIS students must pass 2 core exams and/or courses. If the core courses/exams are not completed by the start of the final semester, a student must enroll for credit in the core course(s).

- American Foreign Policy Since World War II
- Comparative National Systems
- Evolution of the International Systems

## LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY

Middle East Studies MA candidates in the CME Track must pass exams to demonstrate proficiency in Arabic. Students pursuing the BME or ER track may use Arabic, Hindi-Urdu or Persian (Farsi) to meet this requirement. All non-native English speakers are required to pass an English placement exam upon entering SAIS. Native Arabic, Hindi-Urdu or Persian (Farsi) speakers must pass proficiency in a second language which can include English.

## CAPSTONE

Middle East Studies concentrators must produce an MA thesis that involves primary research under the supervision of the Middle East Studies faculty. The paper is written over the two-year period, with an outline and research program due in March of the first year and a working draft of the final thesis to be presented during March of the second year. For those whose final semester is fall, consult the Program Director for due date.

## PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS BY ACADEMIC YEAR

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[Entering Class 2011-2012](#)

[Entering Class 2010-2011](#)

[Entering Class 2009-2010](#)

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Employment  
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