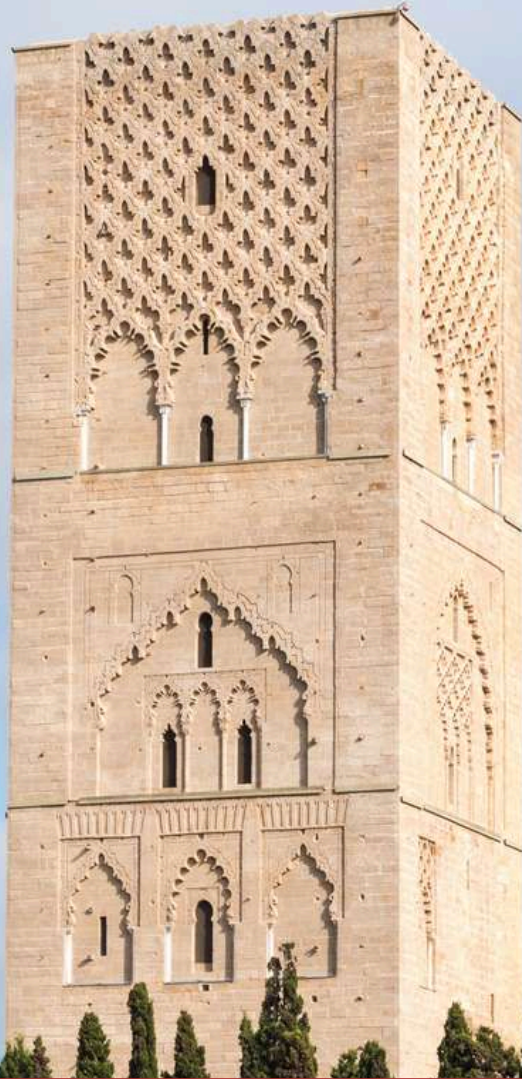




Université Internationale de Rabat
THE INNOVATIVE UNIVERSITY



UIR-Medina STUDIES PROGRAM

RABAT, MOROCCO

DISCOVER A LAND OF CROSSINGS WHERE
SCHOLARSHIP MEETS CULTURAL INSIGHT



Université
Internationale
de Rabat

Why MEDiNA?

MEDiNA offers an immersive academic journey into the cultures, societies, politics, and languages of the Middle East & North Africa, blending coursework, field experience, and intercultural engagement in and around Morocco's capital.

Ideal for:

This study program responds to the academic and professional needs of

1. Credit-Mobility & Study-Abroad Students

- Semester-abroad undergraduate students
- Year-abroad undergraduate students
- Short-term exchange students

2. Short-Term Thematic & Intensive Learners

- Summer / winter school participants
- Thematic institute participants
- Certificate-based short program learners

3. Graduate & Doctoral Researchers

- MA students seeking regional specialization
- Pre-thesis graduate students
- Doctoral (PhD) students conducting fieldwork

5. Internship, Practice & Applied Learning Cohorts

- Internship-seeking students (NGOs, media, policy, culture)
- Research-internship hybrid participants

6. Professional & Executive Learners

- Early-career professionals (diplomacy, development, media)
- Executive or mid-career professionals on short programs

7. Language & Cultural Immersion Learners

- Language learners with regional focus (Arabic + MENA area studies)

8. Grant-Funded & Sponsored Participants

- Grant-funded fellows (Fulbright, Erasmus+, DAAD, etc.)



PROGRAM STRUCTURE

The MEDiNA Studies Program Offers:

- Eight (8) Core Courses per Semester +
- An Elective Portfolio (choose 4 to 6 more modules) +
- Arabic or Darija Language Track
- A Cultural Immersion Portfolio
- Capstone Pathways (Thesis / Fieldwork / Internship / Independent Study)

SAMPLE CORE CURRICULUM

Fall	Spring
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Voices of Resistance in Moroccan Women's Literature • Space Ethnographies: Narratives of Cultural Production • Music, Sports & Festivals: The Power of Popular Culture in the MENA Region • The African Continent from a Global South(ern) Perspective • Arab Spring and the Birth of the Arab Citizen (New Core) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Migration Policies & Foreigners' Rights in the Euro-African Context • Security Challenges and Social Dynamics in the Sahel • Agents of Change: Youth, Activism and Art in Post-2011 North Africa • Popular Culture & Politics in the MENA Region • Literature & Politics in PostColonial Moroccan Literature • Gender Studies in Morocco

▶ ELECTIVES (Students could select 4–6 courses)

Fall	Spring
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Historical Overview of Islam in North Africa • Screening Moroccan Society, Culture & Politics • Politics, Economy & Regional Dynamics • Cultural Encounters in and with North Africa • Introduction to Amazigh Society & Culture in North Africa • The International Politics of the Mediterranean & the Maghreb 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Youth, Gender and Minorities Rights in North Africa • Contemporary Moroccan Popular Musics • Jewish Cultural Heritage in Morocco • Moroccan Archives: History, Heritage and Knowledge Production • Economic Challenges in North African & Middle Eastern Countries

▶ LANGUAGE TRACK (Required)

MSA – Modern Standard Arabic (S1 & S2)

- MSA A1/A2 (Cultural Immersion & Language Basics Through Everyday Practice:
- MSA B1/B2 (Language Immersive Foundations & Cultural Literacy)

Darija – Moroccan Arabic (S1 & S2)

- Darija A1 (Voices of Morocco: Communicative Skills & Cultural Literacy)

▶ CULTURAL IMMERSION PORTFOLIO

A signature part of MEdiNA, designed to deepen experiential learning, that includes:

- Field visits (Medina, Kasbah, museums, NGOs, cultural centers)
- Arabic Calligraphy Workshops
- Moroccan Cooking Workshops
- Henna Sessions

▶ CAPSTONE EXPERIENCE (2–6 ECTS Credits)

Choose **one pathway**:

1. Thesis Supervision

Faculty-supervised academic paper with original research.

2. Fieldwork Research Project

Mini-ethnography, social investigation, or applied qualitative study.

3. Internship-Based Capstone

Placement in appropriate department, cultural institutes, NGOs, think tanks, media outlets, etc., followed by an analytical report.

4. Independent Study

Customized study track with guided readings and supervised research.



► MEdiNA Studies Program Highlights

1

Strategic Location: Study the MENA Region from Within

- Based in Rabat, a diplomatic capital hosting embassies, thinktanks, and international organizations.
- Direct exposure to North African, Arab, African, and Mediterranean intersections.
- Unique access to regional research centers, archives, NGOs, and cultural institutions.

2

Multidisciplinary Curriculum

- Courses covering politics, history, international relations, diplomacy, anthropology, gender studies, economics, and cultural studies.
- Special emphasis on contemporary transformations, including social change, youth cultures, migration, regional conflicts, economic challenges, and cultural heritage.
- Integrative seminars connecting Arab, Amazigh, African, and Mediterranean perspectives.

3

Language Immersion & Cultural Engagement

- Optional courses in Arabic, Darija, or Amazigh.
- Guided cultural immersion:
 - Medina/souk walks & architectural tours
 - Visits to museums, coastal sites, and craft hubs
 - Participation in artistic, culinary, and musical workshops
- Interaction with local scholars, journalists, diplomats, and civil society actors.





4

Experiential Learning & Fieldwork

- Hands-on training through field research, community projects, and ethnographic visits.
- Opportunities to engage directly with NGOs, cultural centers, development agencies, and social initiatives.
- Capstone options:
 - Field research thesis
 - Internship opportunities
 - Independent study projects
 - Cultural portfolio

5

Access to Experts & Guest Speakers

- Lectures by regional scholars, policy specialists, diplomats, and cultural practitioners.
- Seminars on:
 - regional politics
 - women's leadership
 - media and social change
 - migration and diaspora
 - conflict analysis
 - sustainable development
 - Climate change

6

Safe, Vibrant, and International Environment

- Rabat offers a stable, welcoming setting for students.
- Integrated student life with cafés, cultural festivals, libraries, seaside walks.
- Close proximity to Casablanca, Fez, Chefchaouen, and Marrakech.

7

A Gateway to Understanding the Modern MENA Region

- A program designed to help students think comparatively, analyze regional dynamics, and understand the interplay of identity, culture, and geopolitics.
- Strong emphasis on critical thinking, crosscultural communication, and global citizenship.

SUMMER SCHOOLS IN MENA AREA STUDIES, ARABIC FLUENCY TRACK & CULTURAL LITERACY PATHWAY

The **MEdiNA Studies Program** offers **custom-designed Summer Schools** that run at various times throughout the academic year, providing international students with intensive, high-impact learning experiences across **MENA Area Studies, Arabic language development, and Moroccan cultural immersion.**

A flagship open session is held annually on the **First Monday of every July.**

01 MENA Area Studies Intensive Modules

These short-format academic sessions offer a focused immersion into the key issues shaping the modern Middle East and North Africa.

Programs may cover:

- Politics & Geopolitics of the MENA Region
- Gender, Youth & Social Movements
- Migration, Mobility & Human Rights
- Cultural Heritage, Memory & Identity
- Media, Diplomacy & Regional Governance

Designed with MEdiNA's interdisciplinary ethos in mind, these modules blend lectures, seminars, expert talks, and guided field visits.

02 Arabic Upgrade Summer School (MSA & Darija)

Students seeking to improve their Arabic linguistic proficiency may enroll in **accelerated Summer School tracks**, aligned with the program's existing language offerings in **Modern Standard Arabic** and **Darija**. Tracks include:

Modern Standard Arabic (MSA)

- **MSA A1/A2:** Foundations in grammar, vocabulary, and cultural literacy
- **MSA B1/B2:** Intermediate mastery with socio-cultural readings and applied practice

Darija – Moroccan Arabic

- **Darija A1:** Communicative skills for everyday interaction and immersion

These intensive courses combine classroom instruction with **real-life language practice**, building fluency and confidence in authentic Moroccan contexts.



03 Moroccan Cultural Immersion Workshops

Complementing academics and language study, the Summer Schools include curated cultural activities designed to deepen students' understanding of Morocco's social and cultural landscapes.

Activities may feature:

- Guided medina & kasbah explorations
- Museum and archive visits
- Moroccan cooking classes
- Arabic calligraphy workshops
- Henna workshops
- Meetings with NGOs, artisans, and cultural actors

These experiences enhance regional literacy and connect students directly with local communities.

04 Program Benefits

Participants in the Summer Schools gain:

- Condensed, high-impact academic exposure
- Accelerated language progress
- A deeper understanding of Moroccan and regional cultural dynamics
- Access to local experts, scholars, and practitioners
- A Certificate of Completion issued by the College of Social Sciences – UIR





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