

Why Learn Arabic?

- Arabic is the official language of 22 Arab countries & spoken by 3 million in the U.S. and in Canada
- Arabic is also an important language in many Muslim countries
- It is the language of Islam, religion of more than 600 million people
- In 1974, the United Nations adopted the Arabic language as one of its 6 official languages
- The Middle East is the birthplace and cradle of the three monotheistic religions and the home of some of the world's greatest archaeological and religious sites
- The Middle East is also the locus of 2/3 of the World's known oil reserves



Employment Demand

- High demand and low supply of Arabic-speakers in the Western world
- With the growing importance of the Middle East in international affairs, there is an extreme shortage of workers in the West who are versed in Arabic language and culture
- Only 1 % of the United States Federal agents have any knowledge of Arabic
- US government agencies have expressed a need for Arabic speakers to address the complex political, military, and economic questions of US engagement in the Middle East and North Africa

Careers

- Communications: foreign correspondent, reporter, translator.
- Oil and Gas: petroleum engineer, operation geophysicist, production engineer, explorationist
- Water drilling and treatment: reservoir/well engineer, well testing operators, geologist.
- International finance: international banker, international consultant, political risk analyst
- Industry: manager of government relations for oil companies, market analyst for export companies
- Government: foreign service officer, development program officer, intelligence analyst, government relations specialist, translator, interpreter
- Law: contractual and corporate consultant, international lawyer, international civil and conjugal affairs lawyer or consultant
- Academia: teaching and research positions. The U.S. government currently considers Arabic a critical language and many scholarships are available for studying Arabic
- Medicine: physicians, nurses, dentists, technicians dealing with members of the Arab communities or working abroad
- Social services: social workers, receptionists, interpreters dealing with the Arab communities