

Course Catalog



Ribaat Academic Institute

online traditional Islamic knowledge for
Muslim women across the world

A RABATA EDUCATION INITIATIVE
ribaat.rabata.org

OUR STORY

Rabata was founded in 2011 with the goal of creating positive cultural change through creative educational experiences. This 501(c)3 nonprofit organization serves Muslim women and everyone they lead through its three areas of programming: education, spirituality, and community.

The Ribaat Academic Institute is part of the educational wing of Rabata and offers women a comprehensive curriculum in Islamic Sciences, the Arabic language, and Tajwid of the Holy Quran. Ribaat certifies traditionally-trained scholars and da'iyas who are prepared to educate others, and also offers independent classes for those not seeking certification. The language of instruction is English and students range from 17-70 years of age and beyond.

Ribaat combines a rigorous curriculum of Islamic studies with courses on such topics as current affairs, teaching methodologies, and pastoral care, all taught by qualified female scholars. In this way, Ribaat graduates women who are equipped to serve their communities both Islamically and professionally.

Through Ribaat's online classes, women are reconnecting with their faith and reclaiming their traditionally-held leadership roles in Islamic scholarship, mentorship, and community care.

What we offer at Ribaat Academic Institute is a gradual process of intellectual growth and spiritual development that will provide women with a solid knowledge of their religion and a strong moral compass, preparing them to take part in the upliftment of women, children, youth, and society.

Rabata creates positive cultural change through creative educational experiences

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Over 3,500 women representing 55 countries are learning and growing with Ribaat. We began with 180 students in a pilot course in 2012, and have grown into a powerful force for positive culture change offering over 130 academic courses per year.

The year 2020 marked a milestone in Ribaat's history, as the first cohort of 17 students graduated with the Ribaat Teacher Certification. This cohort continues to work towards the Ribaat Scholar Certification, as other cohorts follow their lead.

We stand in *rābiṭa*; ready to share and contribute to the world of Islamic scholarship.

Rabata works to create positive cultural change through the values of:

- Knowledge
- Commitment
- Courage
- Positivity
- Hard work
- Leadership
- Spirituality

Rabata's Vision

Rabata envisions a rising tide of Muslim women teachers, faith leaders, and community stewards in every digital and local neighborhood around the world.

Theory of Change

At Rabata we work to build a better society through the educational and spiritual development of women by women, amplifying the female voice in scholarship and publishing, and graduating teachers and religious leaders ready to serve their communities.

RIBAAT ACADEMIC TRACKS

Aqida - AQD:

Aqida is the foundational study of creed or faith and covers the six pillars of faith: God, the angels, the revealed books, the messengers, the Final Day, and divine destiny.

Arabic - ARA:

The Ribaat Arabic Program provides a comprehensive curriculum for non-Arabic speakers designed to develop students' reading, writing, speaking, and listening skills in the Arabic language.

Certification Requirements - CRT:

Ribaat certification requirements are required courses for students who are seeking certification. They include orientation courses, seminars, oral assessments, thesis projects, and discussion, as well as in-person retreats to ensure a solid, well-rounded understanding of the concepts learned and an ability to apply them practically.

Communications - COM:

Communications is the study of how to effectively write, speak, and deliver a message. Communication studies provide students with the necessary skills to be effective teachers, community leaders, and changemakers.

Education - EDU:

Education courses ground students in pedagogical theory, modern educational methodology, and best teaching practices. They also provide the developmental knowledge needed to access students at each age with a background of some of the issues that may be faced when working with them.

Fiqh - FQH:

Fiqh is the study of codified Islamic law (jurisprudence) according to a specific madhhab. The study of fiqh is divided into two primary subject areas: the fiqh of worship and the fiqh of deeds. The fiqh of worship includes matters of purity, prayer, fasting, pilgrimage, and mandatory charity (zakat). The fiqh of deeds includes social, political, and economic matters of life.

Hadith - HAD:

Hadith is the study of the sunnah, behavior, words, and deeds of the Prophet Muhammad (sallallahu 'alayhi wa sallam). Upper level courses go into the history of the compilation of hadith, narration, classification, and transmission.

History - HIS:

History is the study of past events of the earth, its peoples, civilizations, natural resources, and international relations. Ribaat history courses focus primarily on the history of the Muslim world and the diaspora, Muslim historical figures and movements, as well as the effect of global history on Muslim civilizations.

Purification - PUR:

Tazkiya is the study of how to purify the self. It includes the qualities of a believer, qualities of a disbeliever, and methods of identifying and treating diseases of the heart. Tazkiya teaches spiritual ethics and how to gain piety while living in the world in the manner of those who were and are beloved to God.

Sira - SIR:

Sira began as the documentation of the battles during the time of the Prophet Muhammad (sallallahu 'alayhi wa sallam) and grew into a complex compendium of his entire lived history. His life, relationships, manners, experiences, what he did and did not do - all add up to sira. His life is a blessed example of a lived Quran and how best to live on this earth.

Social Sciences - SSC:

Social Sciences at Ribaat encompass the study of social and cultural aspects of human relationships both individually and collectively within Muslim societies. This includes the study of Islamic cultures and societies through the lenses of anthropology, sociology, historiography, human geography, education, history, communications, and psychology.

Tafsir - TAF:

Tafsir is the exegesis of the Quran. It includes asbab al-nuzul, or the contextual reasons for the revelation of particular verses; grammatical points; an explanation of vocabulary; related hadiths or stories from the life of the Prophet (sallallahu 'alayhi wa sallam); and sometimes commentary. Tafsir can be as simple as a translation of the Quran. A translator interprets the meaning and renders it into English; hence, it is a tafsir of the Quran more than it is the Quran itself.

Tajwid- TAJ:

Tajwid is a Quranic science that details the correct pronunciation of the letters of the Holy Quran, including points of articulation, letter attributes, duration of letters, mouth shape and letter fulfillment as well as the rules of tajwid. Ribaat Tajwid courses enable students to become proficient in recitation of the Holy Quran, with complete understanding and application of the rules of tajwid.

ACADEMIC CERTIFICATION TRACKS

To earn the certification, students must complete all required courses with a passing grade. There is no time limit to complete a certification. The program is flexible to fit each student's individual circumstances.

Ribaat Scholar Certification
Ribaat Teacher Certification
Ribaat Tajwid Ijazah



LEVEL 1

CRT 101: Orientation: Introduction to the Ribaat Teacher Certification

This course serves as the first step of the registration process into the Ribaat Teacher Certification Program. Through brief recordings and activities, the course forum will provide an introduction to the program as well as a platform for submitting the required documentation to enroll in the program. Completion of this course and all course activities is a requirement for earning the certification. They must be completed before graduation.

SIR 101 & 102: Companions of the Prophet ﷺ

An in-depth study of the sixty companions discussed in the book Stars in the Prophet's Orbit. Students will learn their stories, draw conclusions about Islamic precepts from their lives, understand their relationship to the Prophet ﷺ, and derive personal lessons from their lives. Students will apply same to an additional companion upon whom research will be done. The first thirty companions of this text are covered in Part 1 of the course, and the second thirty are covered in Part 2. It is not required to complete part 1 before part 2.

PUR 101: Training the Tongue, Purifying the Heart

An introduction to the concept of tazkiyah, or purification of the self/heart in Islam. It is a beginning look at diseases of the heart and sins of the tongue as well as the relationship between the two. Students will learn some general cures and understand some of the skills necessary to improve relationships with others and with Allah (swt).

AQD 101: Foundations, Floundering, & Faith

Belief and practice are the essential building blocks for Muslims and, as such, in order to build a fortress of faith, we need solid building materials. This course will cover basic 'aqīda (tenets of belief), discuss issues of practice, and attempt to answer controversial questions. We will build a community of faithful friends, quell the floundering heart, and revive the faithful heart.

TAF 101: Reflections from the Quran

This course takes students on a journey with the Quran, gain deeper understandings of its words and derive lessons from Allah's (swt) words. Each term, students will be guided through an in-depth study of a surah from the Holy Quran and reflect upon the lessons learned from its verses as they sit with one of our modern scholars of the Holy Quran. This term will cover Ash-Shu'ara', Al-Mu'minoon, Al-Furqān, and Al-Mujadala.

FQH 101: Fast & Friendly Fiqh: An Introduction to Worship Essentials

A quick and fun introduction to Shafi'i fiqh for the beginner, this course will go over the main rules of worship, covering purification (ṭahāra), prayer (ṣalāh), and fasting (ṣawm).

EDU 101: Teaching Skills & Methodology

This introductory level course provides aspiring and veteran teachers opportunities to learn and practice effective teaching strategies for students enrolled in Islamic Studies programs. During this course we will examine components of skillful teaching including deep learning, lesson planning, classroom management, nurturing the Prophetic model of emotional and moral intelligence, assessment, professionalism, and upbringing within an Islamic framework. Students will be expected to complete a midterm and final along with one course project.

HAD 102: Conversations with the Prophet ﷺ

This course will explore selected hadith of the Prophet ﷺ and conversations as reported by his companions (r). Through study of these hadith, students will learn prophetic etiquette in communicating with others and learn lessons to apply in daily life. They will also learn how the Prophet ﷺ used kind and gentle words to guide others, communicate effectively, and build positive relationships.

AQD 103 & 104: The Prophets (as) Lives & Lessons

This course is designed to create an experience like no other by enhancing students' relationships with each of the prophets of Islam. From Prophet Adam (as) to Prophet Muhammad ﷺ, the message of tawhid was brought to generations of believers by specially blessed individuals. Now we can get to know each of them and their unique challenges through in-depth lessons and thought-provoking exercises which will bring the legacy and history of Islam to life.

CRT 102 - Ribaat Retreat

The annual Ribaat Retreat is a unique opportunity for learning, deep spiritual growth, and enjoying the community of our beloved teachers and fellow students. Days are filled with lessons focusing on personal growth, worship, group activities, and face-to-face time with teachers. Evenings and nights are filled with worship, prayer, and Quran reading.

LEVEL 2

CRT 202: Oral Assessment - Ribaata Teacher Certification

Students who wish to graduate with the Ribaata Teacher Certification will be required to sit for an individual oral assessment. The assessment will be conducted by Dr. Tamara Gray, Rabata founder, Executive Director, and Chief Spiritual Officer. Dr. Gray will determine each student's level of competency and subject material proficiency based on the coursework she has completed. Students need to attain satisfactory results in this assessment to receive clearance for graduation.

SIR 201 & 202: Lessons from the Life of the Prophet ﷺ

This course will undertake a study of the life of the Prophet ﷺ, with a special focus on his behavior and actions, providing a deeper understanding of why he was indeed "the chosen one". Students will examine the major events and minor incidents that took place in his public and private life, extrapolating the wisdom and lessons one can gain from them. Weekly assignments focus on these lessons learned, enabling students to draw parallels to modern day struggles in their own lives and make lasting changes, following in the footsteps of the Prophet ﷺ.

FQH 201 & 202: Fiqh al-Ibadat: al-Madhab al-Shafi'i

An introduction to the foundation of Islamic law as the basis for a life of devotion and servitude to God. The student will learn about the reasons Islamic schools of law evolved and the nature and rationale of the legal schools. Students will learn the detailed rulings relating to purification (ṭahāra) and prayer (salat), fasting (ṣawm), alms-giving (zakat) and hajj, along with an examination of some of the textual proofs for those rulings. The class will also introduce the student to reading legal manuals in Arabic.

HAD 201 & 202: The Forty Hadith of Imam al-Nawawi

An in-depth study of the forty-hadith compilation of Imam al-Nawawī, this course is meant to provide students with a foundation in the hadith of the Prophet ﷺ. The Prophet ﷺ was given jawāmi' al-kalim (جوامع الكلم), or the ability to say much in very few words. The hadiths of the Prophet ﷺ combine eloquence with deep, encompassing meanings in a uniquely simple way. This particular compilation was chosen because it includes ṣaḥīḥ hadiths, and it covers a variety of subjects.

By the end of this course, students will be able to translate, understand, and draw practical life lessons from the text of the forty hadiths in this compilation. The first twenty hadith are covered in Part 1 and the second twenty hadith are covered in Part 2.

AQD 201 & 202: Introduction to Islamic 'Aqīda

The development of 'aqīda in the heart and mind of the believer is the development of her way of life and the ability to communicate and spread the joy of faith to those around her. This course comprises an academic study of the tenets of Islamic belief, beginning in Part 1 with a study of the development of 'ilm al-kalām, a deep look into the meaning of tawḥīd (the Oneness of God), and a review of the messengers of Islam.

The course will continue in Part 2 with a detailed look at revelation, the unseen world, the Day of Judgment, and qaḍā' and qadr, concluding with a look at variant beliefs and some theological dimensions of law.

HIS 201: Mujaddidīn: Crises and Cures of Muslim History

A survey of the crises and trials that have challenged Islamic civilization over the centuries, along with an account of the Muslim "renewers" of the faith (mujaddidīn) whom Allah (swt) sent as a cure for each, and how they were able to overturn the current situation, renew the religion, and restore peace and faith to the Muslim ummah. Students will learn about the factors that contributed to each trial, how each mujaddid was able to overcome the trials of his time and gain an understanding of the characteristics that enabled each to succeed.

SSC 201: Understanding the Muslim World

This course will provide an overview of the human geography of the Muslim World, with an emphasis on cultural, historical, economic, and political geography. Utilizing a world-historical approach, the course will challenge students to rethink certain assumptions about the way the world is mapped, bounded, and defined. The central thesis guiding the course is the contention that the features we take for granted on the world map (continents, countries, directions, and borders) are more a product of various ethnocentrism rooted in the ideologies that shaped the modern world rather than a reflection of natural and inherent divisions. A variety of materials will be assigned to explore this thesis, including a chronicle of the travels of Ibn Battuta, premodern maps, and scholarly articles highlighting key events and processes in the shaping of the premodern Muslim World.

TAF 201: Tafsir Juzu' 'Amma

In this course, students will take a journey with the Quran, gain deeper understandings of its words and derive lessons from Allah's (swt) words. Students will gain an understanding of the surahs within Juzu' 'Amma including the themes of the surahs, the reasons of revelation, lessons derived from them and linguistic background of specific words and phrases.

LEVELS 3 & 4

CRT 301: Ribaah Scholar Certification

An orientation course into the Ribaah Scholar Certification Program, this course serves as the first step of the registration process into the certification program. Through brief recordings and activities, the course forum will provide an introduction to the program as well as a platform for submitting the required documentation to enroll in the program. Completion of this course is a requirement for earning the certification, and all course activities must be completed before graduation.

TAF 301: 'Ulūm al-Quran: The Sciences of the Quran

An introduction to the sciences related to the Quran and its understanding. Students will learn about different definitions of the Quran and modes of revelation, the history of the written and oral text and its transmission, variant readings of the Quran (qira'at) and its miraculous nature (I'jaz). The second half of the fall semester will introduce the students to different aspects of knowledge that is related to the understanding of the Quranic text: the concept of abrogation (naskh), distinct and ambiguous verses (muhkam and mutashabihat), occasion of revelation (asbab al-nuzul), chronology of revelation, beginnings of Surahs. Excerpts and discussions stemming from contemporary scholarship on the Quran will be addressed as these are important to understand and deal with most of the controversies revolving around the Quran.

TAF 302: Tafsir of Selected Surahs

This course is an introduction to the study of tafsir. Sūrat al-Fātiḥah and other short chapters of the Quran will be studied in-depth. As students take a close look at the ways different mufasssīrūn have handled the interpretation of the same chapter, they will gain insight into the science of tafsir and how it has developed through the centuries and influenced various translations of the Quran. This course is a reading intensive course, as the genre of tafsir is probably one of the most productive in terms of volume within the scholarly canon.

Tafsīr: Formal Explanation of the Meanings of the Quran | Part 2

In this course, we will identify the thematic division of each Surah while focusing on certain topics and their historical background in relation to the revelation of each Surah. We will concentrate on certain revelations that shaped the lives and the identity of the early Muslim community and try to apply to modern Muslim issues. Additionally, student will become familiar with key vocabulary and terms. This course is a 4-part course that takes students on an in-depth journey to understanding the Quran over 2 years.

FQH 301 & 302: Uṣūl al-Fiqh: Foundations of Fiqh

Uṣul al-Fiqh has always occupied a prominent place in the teaching curricula of Islamic institutions of legal learning. As a discipline of shari'a, Uṣul al-Fiqh is concerned with the sources of Islamic law, their order of priority, and the methods by which legal rules may be deduced from the source materials of the shari'a. It is also concerned with regulating the exercise of ijtihad.

This course offers an advanced study of Uṣul al-Fiqh in which the students will be introduced to the legislative sources of Islamic Law, rules of interpretation, and the methodology used by the jurist to produce the rules of fiqh.

Sira: An Academic Study of the Life of Prophet Muhammad ﷺ

An in-depth study of the life of Prophet Muhammad ﷺ. Part 1 provides a detailed study of the political and social layout of the Arabian Peninsula before Islam. It concludes with Prophet Muhammad's birth and the events of his life up until the revelation. Throughout Part 2, students examine in detail the major events and incidents that took place up until the hijra to Medina, extrapolating the wisdom and lessons one can gain from them. In Part 4, students are guided through the Prophet's ﷺ life and call to Islam after the hijra.

HAD 301: Uṣūl al-Hadith: A Study of the Origins of the Sayings of the Prophet ﷺ

The methodology of the expert scholars of hadith in assessing the narrations and sorting out the genuine from the mistaken and fabricated, form the subject matter of the science of hadith. In this course the students are introduced to this amazing methodology and the astonishing efforts of implementing it by the hadith scholars who were driven by the sacred motivation of preserving the honorable hadith.

HIS 301: Major Muslim Scholars: Women

This course will cover the lives and achievements of various women throughout Islamic history. The course will introduce a number of women from different eras and continents, starting from the time of the companions and moving to the present day. Students will be guided through a study of what it meant to be a Muslim scholar and leader, and how these women shaped lives, minds, and society.

TAJWID

TAJ 101: Quran Fluency | Part 1

A practical course providing students the opportunity to practice reading the Holy Quran and master the skill of decoding. Students will learn the Nooraniyya method of decoding Quranic script, learn the types of Arabic sounds and how to pronounce them correctly, and be introduced to the science of tajwid. These skills will be put into practice in class with the instructor, and students will also gain strategies to practice at home. By the end of this course, students should be able to recognize all the Arabic letters and vowel sounds with ease, and be able to pronounce most of them correctly.

TAJ 102: Quran Fluency | Part 2

A practical course providing students further opportunities to practice reading the Arabic script and master the skill of decoding the Holy Quran. Students will continue practicing the Nooraniyya method of decoding Quranic script, learn more about the types of Arabic sounds and how to pronounce them correctly, and be introduced to the science of tajwid. These skills will be put into practice in class with the instructor, and with further practice at home students will be ready to read fluently. By the end of this course, students should be able to read all the Arabic letters and vowel sounds.

TAJ 201: Tajwid Part 1: Letters & Phonetics

A study of the science of tajwid accompanied by an instructor-led recitation of Juz' 'Amma. This is a two-part course:

- 1) Students will gain an understanding of introductory tajwid concepts (including points of articulation - makhārij - and letter attributes - ṣifāt) during weekly online sessions with the instructor.
 - 2) Students will be divided into small groups and have an additional weekly session in which they will work with a recitation teacher. This part of the course will be complete when the student has demonstrated the ability to read short surahs of the Quran and pronounce each letter correctly.
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TAJ 202 - Tajwid Part 2: Rules & the Rhythm of Recitation

Building upon concepts taken in TAJ 201, students will complete the study of the rules of tajwid, accompanied by an instructor-led recitation of the second half of Juz' 'Amma. This is a two-part course:

- 1) Students will gain an understanding of the rules of tajwid during weekly online sessions with the instructor.
- 2) Students will work with a recitation teacher in small groups during 2 additional weekly sessions in which they will practice the theory learned in class. This part of the course will be complete when the student has demonstrated the ability to read the last Juz' of the Holy Quran and pronounce each letter correctly.

TAJ 203 - Accelerated Tajwid Rules

A fast-paced review of tajwid rules for those who have mastered the practice of recitation and need to learn or relearn the theory. In this course, students will gain an understanding of all tajwid concepts (including points of articulation - makhārij - and letter attributes - ṣifāt, proper pronunciation of the Holy Quran) during weekly online sessions with the instructor.

TAJ 301 - Khitmah Project

In the Khitmah Project, students will recite the Holy Quran from beginning to end to their assigned tajwid instructors, as a preparation and foundation for beginning with memorization. This is a two-part course:

- 1) Students will attend a weekly online session with the instructor to follow up on their progress, work together to achieve consistent Quran reading habits, and receive inspirations about the Holy Quran.
 - 2) Each student will be paired with a certified tajwid teacher online, with whom she will work one-on-one. This part of the course will be complete when the student has read through the Holy Quran from start to finish with her assigned tajwid teacher, having demonstrated the ability to apply the rules of tajwid to the standardized and acceptable level.
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TAJ 401: The Crowning Venture: Quran Memorization

A self-paced memorization course, students will set a personal memorization target each term and recite to a tajwid teacher. This is a two-part course:

Students will attend a weekly online session with the instructor to follow up on their progress and receive inspirations and tips on memorizing the Holy Quran, achieving effective memorization, and overcoming hurdles. Each student will be paired with a certified tajwid teacher, either online or locally, with whom she will work one-on-one. This part of the course will be complete when the student has recited the amount agreed upon at the start of the term, having demonstrated the ability to apply the rules of tajwid to the standardized and acceptable level.

TAJ 501: Tajwid Ijazah Track

The ijāzah in the Holy Quran is a certification which recognizes that the bearer has recited the Holy Quran from start to finish with complete application of the rules of tajwid and authorizes its bearer to teach and pass on the same ijāzah in turn. The Ribaat Quran Ijazah will be issued by the Ribaat Academic Institute and authorized by the Ribaat Tajwid Committee.

Through this program, students will work individually with their instructors to memorize and recite the Holy Quran from start to finish and will learn Al-Jazariyyah, a poem dedicated to the science of tajwid, as well as other requirements as assigned. Each student will be paired with a certified tajwid teacher, either online or locally, with whom she will work one-on-one.

ARABIC

ARA 100: Introduction to Arabic

The course is designed to equip students with knowledge of foundational grammar constructs to develop their reading, writing, speaking and listening skills in the Arabic language. This will enable them to begin to access a variety of texts, from Quran and Hadith to modern newspaper articles and literary texts. The specially designed grammar curriculum, in coordination with the conversation course, gives students both the ability to comprehend a range of basic vocabulary and identify and utilize an increasingly broad array of grammatical structures, setting them firmly on the path for future learning and development of these skills.

ARA 101: Arabic Grammar Level 1

This course is designed to build on this foundational knowledge and develop students' basic reading, writing, speaking and listening skills in the Arabic language. This level will equip them with the ability to communicate in different tenses and with different structures which they will not only be able to use, but also recognize in a variety of texts. This level will also work on developing their speaking and listening skills to enable them to engage in conversations with a greater depth of comprehension.

ARA 103: Arabic Conversation Level 1

The Conversation track utilizes the al-‘Arabiyya li-l-Nāshi‘īn curriculum, building speaking and conversation skills from the beginner up to the more advanced level through interactive classes which allow students to participate in real time. The curriculum covers everyday conversation topics and integrates listening, comprehension, and writing skills, gradually increasing vocabulary as students progress through the program. Recorded lessons included in the curriculum offer an alternative to traveling to Arabic-speaking countries to put listening and conversation skills into practice. In addition to these recorded lessons and the textbook, in-class practice allows students to apply these skills with the instructor and classmates.

In Level 1, students at the beginner level progress in their use of the Arabic language and are able to partake in simple conversations. Through the recorded lessons students begin to recognize new vocabulary words and understand their meanings, increasing their personal word bank.

ARA 105: Arabic Reading Level 1

This course will provide students with the opportunity to consolidate their Arabic reading and writing skills by practicing their pronunciation and transliteration, as well as Arabic writing. As they move through the course, students will begin to build vocabulary and recognize words in a variety of texts. Students will leave this course feeling much more confident in their reading and writing abilities, ready to power on with full steam in their grammar journey.

ARA 106: 100 Words to Understand the Quran

In part 2 of 100 Words to Understand the Holy Quran, students will continue an intensive study of 100 high-frequency words from the Holy Quran. This is for students who can read the Quran in Arabic but have little or no understanding of the Arabic language. By the end of the course, students will be able to understand at least 40% of the Quran they read. Through daily reading and listening assignments, students will develop a greater understanding of the Quran, a stronger relationship with the Holy Quran, and increase their reading speed significantly.

ARA 201: Arabic Grammar Level 2

This course is aimed at students who have a thorough knowledge of all the topics covered in levels 1A, 1B and 2A. It is designed to give students an understanding of some of the nuances of the Arabic language, introducing them, for example, to a variety of exceptions to the rules learned in previous levels. By the end of this level students should be able to engage in detailed conversations concerning their own personal lives as well as more general topics ranging from religion to current affairs. They should be able to identify grammatical features in texts, correctly read unvowelled texts, and compose texts of their own in a variety of styles.

ARA 203: Arabic Conversation Level 2

The Conversation track utilizes the al-‘Arabiyya li-l-Nāshi‘īn curriculum, building speaking and conversation skills from the beginner up to the more advanced level through interactive classes which allow students to participate in real-time. The curriculum covers everyday conversation topics and integrates listening, comprehension, and writing skills, gradually increasing vocabulary as students progress through the program. Recorded lessons included in the curriculum offer an alternative to traveling to Arabic-speaking countries to put listening and conversation skills into practice. In addition to these recorded lessons and the textbook, in-class practice allows students to apply these skills with the instructor and classmates.

In Level 2, students advance to more complex conversational skills and gain the ability to make simple sentences based on the texts studied in class. Students will gain knowledge of Arabic phrases and new vocabulary words through the lessons and class activities.

ARA 301: Arabic Grammar Level 3

This level consolidates the grammatical constructs covered so far and introduces students to the concept of Verb Forms, which constitute the backbone of the Arabic language. Students are taught to identify a number of these forms and manipulate roots to express different meanings in their own writing. This level prepares students to enter the realms of more advanced grammar and the translation of more complex text in future levels.
