Tübingen is proud of its long tradition in Oriental Studies which spans over a century. It has been one of the most important European centers for the study of Islam for decades. The University of Tübingen Library, in addition to the institute’s own collection, offers one of the finest collections for Middle Eastern studies in Europe, making it a prime destination for many international visiting scholars. The Research Center for Islamic Numismatics, home to one of the world’s largest Islamic coin collections, is another major attraction.

Our M. A. program is based on current research and offers an excellent opportunity to work closely with professors, while encouraging and facilitating international networking. The program, with its cultural studies orientation, takes an interdisciplinary approach to best prepare students for a diverse academic setting. It focuses on Islamic Intellectual History, the history and cultures of the modern Middle East, and on digital humanities.

The University of Tübingen

The University of Tübingen has combined these guiding principles in research and teaching ever since its foundation. The University of Tübingen is one of Germany’s oldest universities and is among the eleven universities distinguished under the German government’s Excellence Initiative. Given the wide range of subjects taught, it offers superb opportunities for interdisciplinary research. We are also well connected locally and internationally with other universities, research institutions, and the industrial sector.

Tübingen owes its special charm to its picturesque historical city center and the beautiful countryside around it, where the presence of the many eminent scholars who studied or taught at the university since the 15th century can still be felt.

### Modules of the M. A. Program (Semesters 1-4)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Module Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Credit Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ISL-MA-11</td>
<td>Methods and Methodology</td>
<td>6 CP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ISL-MA-12</td>
<td>Review Module: Written Arabic Language</td>
<td>9 CP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ISL-MA-13</td>
<td>Academic Focus (Basic Module)</td>
<td>18 CP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ISL-MA-14</td>
<td>Contexts &amp; Contextualizations</td>
<td>12 CP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ISL-MA-15</td>
<td>Middle Eastern Language Acquisition A</td>
<td>9 CP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ISL-MA-16</td>
<td>Internships/Projects</td>
<td>12 CP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ISL-MA-17</td>
<td>Academic Focus (Extension Module)</td>
<td>18 CP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ISL-MA-18</td>
<td>Middle Eastern Language Acquisition B</td>
<td>6 CP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ISL-MA-20</td>
<td>MA Qualifying Examination Module</td>
<td>30 CP</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

CP: Credit Points under European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System (ECTS)

Students entering the M. A. program are required to take courses in language, history, and the study of Middle Eastern cultures (modules ISL-MA-11, ISL-MA-12). These modules are designed to create a common basic linguistic and methodological background. The Basic Module for the chosen area of academic focus (ISL-MA-13) as well as the module of Contexts & Contextualizations (ISL-14) give students the flexibility to choose courses that fit their individual academic interests. Students can choose from classes offered either by our institute or by the institutes of Anthropology, Religious Studies, Islamic Theology, Jewish Studies, or Political Science.

The program presupposes a firm level of competency in written Arabic, which will be improved during the course of the program. Students are also expected to choose another Middle Eastern language which matches their interests. Besides Arabic, we offer thorough and comprehensive language instruction in Persian and Turkish as well as in Ottoman Turkish. Greek or Hebrew may also be selected in cases of particular interest.
The two-year program in Islamic and Middle Eastern Studies is designed for students who wish to obtain a strong educational background in the languages, history, religion, and cultures of the Islamic Middle East.

The program is oriented towards cultural studies and thus offers a wide range of possibilities for the study of the region’s cultural and literary traditions, and provides thorough advanced language training in Arabic, Persian, and Turkish as well as Ottoman Turkish. Students interested in specializing in classical and post-classical Islamic intellectual history and/or the history and cultures of the modern Middle East will find this program especially appealing.

The languages and cultural traditions of the Islamic Middle East, both past and present, constitute the core of the degree program. The curriculum’s geographical focus equips students with strong methodological training, by combining solid philological training with a strong theoretical outlook. Courses are designed to equip students with advanced scientific and methodological tools and to facilitate their ability to approach and analyze various textual sources that are drawn from a broad spectrum of genres, ranging from medieval manuscript traditions to today’s social media.

The profile of the degree program is shaped by the research interests of our professors and researchers, which range from classical Islamic intellectual history, and the history and cultures of the modern Middle East, to the digital humanities. As part of Islamic intellectual history, students study the various fields of classical and post-classical Islamic thought in great depth. This includes Islamic Philosophy, Islamic Theology, Sufism, Political Thought, Quranic Studies, Hadith Studies, Islamic Law, Islamic History, and Historiography. At the same time, modern debates in the Islamic world, as well as current social, cultural and political trends within Muslim societies, are analyzed within a broader historical and intellectual framework.

**Keywords:** Islam, Middle East, Arabic, Religion, History, Literature, Philosophy

**Photos:** Joel Koczowski/Joel K Photography, Tübingen University Library

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**APPLICATION**

The University of Tübingen requires all M. A. applicants to apply through the online application portal:

https://movein-uni-tuebingen.moveonnet.eu/

The program begins in winter semester.

Application deadline: September 30.

If you have any further queries, please contact us:

Prof. Dr. Eichner: heidrun.eichner@uni-tuebingen.de
Prof. Dr. Büssow: johann.buessow@uni-tuebingen.de

We look forward to applications from students with a demonstrated interest and dedication to the study of the Middle East. We offer an excellent academic environment, which includes superb research and library facilities, a friendly and supportive work atmosphere, and close contact with faculty.

The curriculum is designed to offer a focused program, but remains flexible enough to allow for the pursuit of individual interests. The M. A. program is offered both in German and in English, creating a unique multicultural atmosphere, which fosters and facilitates the establishment of international contacts. We also offer excellent international exchange programs at our distinguished partner universities.

Applications should be submitted to:
University of Tübingen - Student Administration Office
Wilhelmstraße 11 · 72074 Tübingen · Germany

All relevant information about application procedures can be found on the Student Administration website.

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**PROFILE**

A good undergraduate B. A. degree (B or better) in Near Eastern Languages and Cultures or its equivalent is required. The University’s Student Administration Office processes the admissions to the M. A. Program. Please refer to the instructions provided on the online application portal.

We also recommend that you contact our study advisors ahead of time for an approval of the equivalency of your B. A. degree.

**OPPORTUNITIES**

This picture shows one of the oldest Quran fragments written in Kufic script, dated to the first half of the 7th century, which is kept in the University of Tübingen Library manuscript collection.

**REQUIREMENTS**

**Program starts:** each winter semester

**Duration:** 4 semesters

**Required credit points:** 120 ECTS points

**Languages of instruction:** English and German