

International Research and Training Grant Use Statement

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From December 19, 2019 to January 20, 2020, I used the International Research and Training Grant from the Institute for Regional and International Studies at UW Madison to study the Arabic language in Amman, Jordan. The funds paid for expenses including tuition, airfare, housing, and groceries while I was in Jordan. Overall, it was truly an exceptional experience.

I studied at Deewan Language Institute in the Al-Weibdeh neighborhood of Amman, where I took both Modern Standard Arabic and “Ammiyah” Arabic classes. Modern Standard Arabic is a formal form of Arabic that is consistent across all Arabic-speaking countries and used in forums such as the news, books, and government activities. In contrast, “Ammiyah” is the Jordanian Arabic dialect. Having previously studied Modern Standard Arabic for a year and a half at UW Madison, I found both classes to be beneficial in my Arabic language journey. The Modern Standard Arabic classes built on the base of knowledge that I had already developed at UW, while studying the Jordanian dialect allowed me to interact with locals in everyday situations. My language skills grew considerably during my time in Jordan.

My month-long immersion experience in Jordan was a great learning opportunity for me. Apart from improving my Arabic skills, I was able to experience Jordanian culture firsthand. Being there for a month allowed me to dive into life in Amman, visit important historical sites in Jordan, and appreciate the country’s beauty. I particularly enjoyed my interactions with Jordanians and learning about the similarities and differences between life in Jordan and life in the United States. Also, as an aspiring immigration attorney, I was interested to hear the narratives of various refugee populations living within Jordan, namely Palestinians and Syrians.

This experience was unforgettable and an excellent learning opportunity. It would not have been possible without the support of UW Madison through the International Research and Training Grant from the Institute for Regional and International Studies. Thank you!