GRADUATE PROGRAM

MIDDLE EASTERN STUDIES
The graduate program in Middle Eastern Studies offers an interdepartmental, interdisciplinary curriculum designed for students who wish to acquire a broad background in Middle Eastern history, cultures and politics. The program seeks to prepare candidates for a variety of post-graduate opportunities in diplomacy, human rights, government and public service, business, media, non-governmental organizations and cultural institutions in the United States and abroad. Graduate students contribute to the intellectual life of the Boston College community and are encouraged to participate in colloquia and conversations across the University.

The master’s program in Middle Eastern Studies (MES) offers two areas of focus: Politics and International Relations, and Religion, Culture and Society. Students have considerable flexibility in designing their programs of study and have access to resources of all relevant departments, such as Fine Arts, Music, History, Political Science, Slavic and Eastern Languages and Literatures, Theology and other departments of the University. In addition to the wide range of courses offered within the MES program and its affiliated departments at Boston College, students have the opportunity to utilize the resources of the outstanding network of scholars in the Boston area, including those of our Boston Area Consortium partners at Boston University, Tufts University and Brandeis University.

The Middle Eastern Studies program admits about 10 students a year—a number small enough to allow for personal attention, close contacts with the faculty and an environment of collegiality, as well as small class size. Graduate students are encouraged to attend extra-curricular events, such as our lecture series, alumni networking workshops and informal discussions. Program faculty, with the assistance of the Office of International Programs, direct students toward opportunities for language immersion, internships abroad and other invaluable opportunities for professional development outside the classroom.

You are most welcome to visit the Boston College campus to learn more about the Middle Eastern Studies program. We hope you will consider joining our thriving intellectual community.

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PROGRAM OVERVIEW

PROGRAM OF STUDY

M.A. Program

REQUIREMENTS
The M.A. in Middle Eastern Studies is a two-year interdisciplinary program. Students are required to take 10 courses (30 credits). If a student chooses to write a thesis, eight courses of study are required and the written comprehensive examination is waived. As a general introduction to the field, all students are required to take a yearlong proseminar, the History, Culture and Politics of the Middle East. Students in the program may focus their remaining coursework in one of the two areas of concentration. Students are required to demonstrate an intermediate level of competency in at least one Middle Eastern language: Arabic, Persian, Turkish or Hebrew.

FACULTY PROFILES

KATHLEEN BAILEY
Associate Professor of the Practice
Ph.D., Boston College

RESEARCH INTERESTS
• Central Asian politics
• Russian politics
• Balkans
• Politics in the Middle East
• Women in the Middle East

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

ALI BANUAZIZI
Professor
Ph.D., Yale University

RESEARCH INTERESTS
• Middle Eastern politics
• Intellectuals and politics
• Political culture
• Religion and politics

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

NASSER BEHNEGAR
Associate Professor
Ph.D., University of Chicago

RESEARCH INTERESTS
• Early, modern and contemporary political theory
• American political thought
• Comparative ideologies

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS
SHEILA BLAIR and JONATHAN BLOOM
Norma Jean Calderwood University Professors of Islamic and Asian Art
Ph.D.(s), Harvard University

RESEARCH INTERESTS (BLAIR)
• Islamic art and architecture
• Relationship of word and image
• Iranian art and architecture

RESEARCH INTERESTS (BLOOM)
• Islamic art and architecture
• History of paper
• Art and architecture of the medieval Mediterranean world

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS (BLAIR)

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS (BLOOM)

NATANA J. DELONG-BAS
Assistant Professor of the Practice
Ph.D., Georgetown University

RESEARCH INTERESTS
• Modern and contemporary Islamic thought and practice
• Saudi Arabia and the Arabian Gulf countries
• Islamic-Christian relations
• Women and gender
• Comparative religious extremism (Islam and Christianity)
• Islamic law
• Religion and sustainability (Islam and Christianity)

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

DAVID M. DIPASQUALE
Assistant Professor of the Practice
Ph.D., Harvard University

RESEARCH INTERESTS
• Islamic political thought
• Medieval Islamic, Jewish and Christian philosophy
• Alfarabi
• The transmission of Greek science to the Muslim world
• Islam and the West

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

PETER KRAUSE
Assistant Professor
Ph.D., Massachusetts Institute of Technology

RESEARCH INTERESTS
• International security
• Middle East politics
• Political violence
• National movements
FACULTY PROFILES

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

JONATHAN LAURENCE
Professor
Ph.D., Harvard University

RESEARCH INTERESTS
❖ Western European politics
❖ North African politics
❖ Turkish politics

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS
❖ “Muslims and Social Democrats.” Dissent (Fall 2013).

ANN LUCAS
Assistant Professor
Ph.D., University of California, Los Angeles

RESEARCH INTERESTS
❖ Ethnomusicology
❖ Iranian folk music
❖ Relationship between cultural upheaval and musical change

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

JAMES W. MORRIS
Professor
Ph.D., Harvard University

RESEARCH INTERESTS
❖ Islamic philosophy and theology
❖ Sufism and religious ritual
❖ The Islamic humanities
❖ Qur’an, hadith and Shiite thought

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS
❖ Openings: From the Qur’an to the Islamic Humanities. World Wisdom (forthcoming).

DANA SAIDI
Associate Professor
Ph.D., Columbia University

RESEARCH INTERESTS
❖ Pre-modern Middle Eastern history
❖ Popular and learned literary cultures
❖ Historiography
❖ Literary topographies and urban history
❖ Book history

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

FRANCK SALAMEH
Associate Professor
Ph.D., Brandeis University

RESEARCH INTERESTS
❖ Near Eastern history
❖ History of ideas and political thought in the modern Middle East
❖ Minorities, language and identity formation
❖ Arabic language pedagogy, conflict and planning
❖ Politics of language and pluralism
SELECTED PUBLICATIONS
❖ The Other Middle East; An Anthology of Levantine Literature.
  Yale University Press (forthcoming).
❖ Charles Corm: An Intellectual Biography of a Twentieth Century
❖ “Adonis, the Syrian Crisis, and the Question of Pluralism in
  the Levant.” Bustan: The Middle East Book Review (Spring 2012).
❖ Language Memory and Identity in the Middle East; The Case for

PETER SKERRY
Professor
Ph.D., Harvard University

RESEARCH INTERESTS
❖ Racial and Ethnic Politics
❖ Immigration Policy

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS
❖ “Give Undocumented Permanent Non-Citizen Resident
  Status.” Orange County Register, October 12, 2013.
❖ “No Kidding: Republicans, Democrats, and Illegal
❖ “Problems of the Second-Generation: To Be Young, Muslim,

COURSES

T he combined and varied interests of the faculty, as
indicated in the faculty profiles, ensure that the
department offers a wide range of graduate course
 electives. While the number and content of the graduate
 electives varies from year to year, the following courses
are illustrative of the range offered.

FALL 2017

Art of the Silk Road
  Blair
Anatomy of Dictatorship
  Bailey
Politics and Society in the Middle East
  Banuazizi
Ibn ‘Arabi and the Islamic Humanities
  Morris
History and Historiography of the
  Arab-Israeli Conflict
  Sajdi
Islam in Europe
  Laurence
Terrorism and Political Violence
  Krause
International Relations of the Middle East
  Krause
Islam and History in the Middle East
  DeLong-Bas

SPRING 2018

Jews and Islamic Civilization
  Braude
Prophetic Tradition and Inspiration
  Morris
The Political Philosophy of Alfarabi
  DiPasquale
Language, Memory and Identity
  in the Middle East
  Salameh
Arts of Islamic Spain
  Bloom
Women and Gender in Islam
  DeLong-Bas
Intellectuals and Politics in the Middle East
  Banuazizi
The oldest and largest of the University’s eight schools and colleges, the Morrissey College of Arts and Sciences offers graduate programs in the humanities, social sciences and natural sciences, leading to the degrees of Doctor of Philosophy, Master of Arts and Master of Science. In addition, numerous dual-degree options are offered in cooperation with the Carroll School of Management, the Boston College Law School, the Lynch School of Education and the Graduate School of Social Work.

With approximately 1,000 students and 400 full-time faculty, the Graduate School is small enough to know you as a person, but large enough to serve you and prepare you for a rewarding life and satisfying career.

**Academic Resources**

**BOSTON AREA CONSORTIUM**
The Boston Area Consortium allows graduate students to cross-register for courses at Boston University, Brandeis University and Tufts University.

**BOSTON COLLEGE LIBRARIES**
The University is home to eight libraries, containing 2.95 million volumes; more than 700 manuscript collections, including music, photos, art and artifacts; 625,000 e-books; and more than 600 electronic databases. O’Neill Library, Boston College’s main library, offers subject-specialist librarians to help with research, to set up alerts to publications in areas of interest and to answer any research- and library-related questions.
Boston College is located on the edge of one of the world’s most vibrant cities. Just six miles from downtown Boston—an exciting and dynamic place to live and learn—Boston College is an easy car or “T” ride away from a booming center for trade, finance, research and education.

Home to some of New England’s most prestigious cultural landmarks, including the Museum of Fine Arts, the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum, Boston Symphony Hall and the Freedom Trail, Boston provides a rich environment for those passionate about art, music and history. For sports fans, Boston hosts a number of the country’s greatest sports teams: the Celtics, Patriots, Bruins and, of course, Fenway Park’s beloved Red Sox. Found within a short drive from Boston are some of New England’s best recreational sites, from the excellent skiing in New Hampshire to the pristine beaches of Cape Cod.

Boston also offers a wide range of family friendly attractions, including the Children’s Museum, New England Aquarium, Franklin Park Zoo and the Museum of Science. There are roughly 50 universities located in the Boston area, and the large student population adds to the city’s intellectually rich and diverse community. Events, lectures and reading groups hosted by world-renowned scholars abound on area campuses, providing abundant opportunities to meet and network with other graduate students and faculty throughout the Boston area.

**The University**

Boston College is a Jesuit university with 14,250 students, 805 full-time faculty and more than 175,000 active alumni. Since its founding in 1863, the University has known extraordinary growth and change. From its beginnings as a small Jesuit college intended to provide higher education for Boston’s largely immigrant Catholic population, Boston College has grown into a national institution of higher learning that is consistently ranked among the top universities in the nation: Boston College is ranked 31st among national universities by *U.S. News & World Report*.

Today, Boston College attracts scholars from all 50 states and over 80 countries, and confers more than 4,000 degrees annually in more than 50 fields through its eight schools and colleges. Its faculty members are committed to both teaching and research and have set new marks for research grants in each of the last 10 years. The University is committed to academic excellence. As part of its most recent strategic plan, Boston College is in the process of adding 100 new faculty positions, expanding faculty and graduate research, increasing student financial aid and widening opportunities in key undergraduate and graduate programs.

The University is comprised of the following colleges and schools: Morrissey College of Arts and Sciences, Carroll School of Management, Connell School of Nursing, Lynch School of Education, Woods College of Advancing Studies, Boston College Law School, Graduate School of Social Work and School of Theology and Ministry.

**General Resources**

**HOUSING**

While on-campus housing is not available for graduate students, most choose to live in nearby apartments. The Office of Residential Life maintains an extensive database with available rental listings, roommates and helpful local real estate agents. The best time to look for fall semester housing is June through the end of August. For spring semester housing, the best time to look is late November through the beginning of the second semester. Additionally, some graduate students may live on campus as resident assistants. Interested students should contact the Office of Residential Life.
STUDENT LIFE & CAMPUS RESOURCES

JOHN COURTNEY MURRAY, S.J., GRADUATE STUDENT CENTER
One of only a handful of graduate student centers around the country, the Murray Graduate Student Center is dedicated to the support and enrichment of graduate student life at Boston College. Its primary purpose is to build a sense of community among the entire graduate student population and cultivate a sense of belonging to the University as a whole. Its amenities include study rooms, a computer lab, two smart televisions, kitchen, deck and patio space, complimentary coffee and tea, and more. Throughout the year, the center hosts programs organized by the Office of Graduate Student Life and graduate student groups. The Murray Graduate Student Center also maintains an active job board (available electronically), listing academic and non-academic opportunities for employment both on and off campus.

MCMULLEN MUSEUM OF ART
Serving as a dynamic educational resource for the national and international community, the McMullen Museum of Art showcases interdisciplinary exhibitions that ask innovative questions and break new ground in the display and scholarship of the works on view. The McMullen regularly offers exhibition-related programs, including musical and theatrical performances, films, gallery talks, symposia, lectures, readings and receptions that draw students, faculty, alumni and friends together for stimulating dialogue. Located on the main campus, the McMullen Museum is free to all visitors.

CONNORS FAMILY LEARNING CENTER
Working closely with the Graduate School, the Connors Family Learning Center sponsors seminars, workshops and discussions for graduate teaching assistants and teaching fellows on strategies for improving teaching effectiveness and student learning. Each fall, the Learning Center and the Graduate School hold a one-and-a-half day “Fall Teaching Orientation” workshop designed to help students prepare for teaching. The center also hosts ongoing seminars on college teaching, higher learning and academic life; assists graduate students in developing teaching portfolios; and provides class visits and teaching consultations, upon request. Through these and other activities, the Connors Family Learning Center plays an important role in enhancing the quality of academic life at Boston College.

FLYNN RECREATION COMPLEX
The 144,000-square-foot Flynn Recreation Complex houses a running track; tennis, basketball, volleyball, squash and racquetball courts; an aquatics center with pool and dive well; saunas and more. Its 10,000-square-foot Fitness Center offers more than 100 pieces of cardio equipment, a full complement of strength training equipment and free weights, an air-conditioned spin studio and three air-conditioned group fitness studios. During the academic year, BC Rec holds more than 80 group fitness classes per week in a variety of disciplines, including Zumba, spin, yoga, strength training, Pilates and more.

BOSTON COLLEGE CAREER CENTER
The Boston College Career Center works with graduate students at each step of their career development. Services include self-assessment, career counseling, various career development workshops, resume and cover letter critiques, and practice interviews. In addition to extensive workshop offerings, Career Center staff members are available throughout the year for one-on-one advising about any aspect of the career path. The Career Resource Library offers a wealth of resources, including books, periodicals and online databases.
The application deadline for fall admission is February 1 for the M.A. program in Middle Eastern Studies. Please visit bc.edu/gsas for detailed information on how to apply.

Application requirements Include:

- **Application Form:** Submitted online, via the GSAS website.
- **Application Fee:** $75, non-refundable.
- **Abstract of Courses Form:** A concise overview of background and related courses completed in an intended field or proposed area of study.
- **Official Transcripts:** Demonstrating coursework completed/degree conferral from all post-secondary institutions attended.
- **GRE General Test:** Official score report required for all applicants.
- **Three Letters of Recommendation:** From professors or supervisors. It is highly advisable that at least one letter be from an academic source.
- **Statement of Purpose:** A brief (1-2 page) discussion of an applicant’s preparation, motivation and goals for their proposed course of study.
- **Writing Sample:** A sample of an applicant’s best work (usually a course paper or equivalent) related to their proposed field of study.
- **Proof of English Proficiency:** (International only) Official TOEFL/IELTS reports accepted.

Financial Assistance

**FEDERAL FINANCIAL AID**

Graduate students can apply for federal financial aid using the FAFSA. The loans that may be available to graduate students are the Federal Direct Unsubsidized Stafford Loan and Perkins Loan, based on eligibility. If additional funds are needed, student may apply for a Grad Plus Loan. For more information, see the Graduate Financial Aid website www.bc.edu/gradaid or contact the Graduate Financial Aid Office at 617-552-3300 or 800-294-0294.

**OFFICE OF SPONSORED PROGRAMS**

The Office of Sponsored Programs (OSP) assists both faculty and graduate students in finding sources of external funding for their projects and provides advice in the development of proposals. OSP maintains a reference library of publications from both public and private sectors listing funding sources for sponsored projects. In the recent past, graduate students have received research support from prominent agencies, corporations and organizations such as the Fulbright Commission, the Guggenheim Foundation, the National Science Foundation, the American Political Science Association, the American Chemical Society and the American Association of University Women.