MIDDLE EAST STUDIES CENTER
TITLE VI IMPACT REPORT

IMPACT ON OHIO
The Middle East Studies Center (MESC) fosters the intellectual growth and job-readiness of Ohio State University graduates by:

• Offering courses on the Middle East
• Creating research opportunities
• Supporting students through internships and fellowships
• Providing hands-on work experience
• Negotiating with the university for tuition support
• Supporting language instruction
• Creating opportunities for cross-cultural interaction
• Facilitating exchanges with other institutions

UNDERGRADUATE SKILLS AND JOB-READINESS
MESC cultivates talent with Ohio State’s undergraduate population, and provides work experience opportunities through its internship program, developing between three and five students each semester. MESC works with Career Services and the other area studies centers to host international career events, and produce up-to-date materials on valid academic and career paths, as well as job information. Our internship program brings in eager and inquisitive young minds that are eager to advance the Center’s mission by fostering knowledge and interest in the Middle East, and in doing so learning something themselves. Interns contribute regularly to web content, outreach programs, and to the organization of various events MESC either hosts or co-sponsors. MESC provides opportunities to strengthen cross-cultural communication skills by facilitating online conversations between Ohio State students and students at Istanbul University. Over the past year, over 20 Ohio State students were paired with conversation partners. Our Center has been instrumental in creating expertise on the Middle East region and its languages. Title VI grant funds have supported 247 Foreign Language and Area Studies (FLAS) fellows, pursuing Arabic, Hebrew, Persian, Turkish and other less-commonly taught languages. Our graduates who studied these languages have moved on to fulfilling positions in a number of different fields: 37% attained positions in higher education; 34% gained employment in the private sector; 8% entered into professional fields; 5% found employment with non-profits; 4% commenced government careers 2% entered.

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35,000 people have participated in our outreach and engagement activities over the past 10 years. Millions have been reached by radio, TV and internet media.
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IMPACT ON CURRICULUM AND LANGUAGE INSTRUCTION AT OHIO STATE

MESC helps to infuse a foreign language and area studies dimension across the disciplines by seeding positions, courses, and through the FLAS fellowships and other curriculum enhancing activities. MESC reduces shortages of experts by seeding courses and faculty positions, by directly funding and teaching three courses, and by supporting the Eastern Consortium in Persian and Turkish*. As a leader in the consortium the Center raised hundreds of thousands of dollars over the years to support summer intensive language instruction in Persian, Turkish and Pashto, hosted here at Ohio State for three years. Since 1969, when the Center first received Title VI funding, MESC seeded the following courses and positions.

OUTREACH NUMBERS

Educator and P-12 Classroom Outreach: Over 55 teachers trained in 2016.

Students: MESC reached 700+ Students (P-12 and undergraduate) during AY 2017.

Military Training: Prepared over 1,000 military officers since 2010 to be culturally effective upon deployment, conducting training three to five times per year.

The General Public: 50 public lectures a year, breaking down the headlines through events and blog posts.

News Media: Reaches 134 million weekly, through weekly interviews with BBC World Service, Voice of America, WOSU, and others.

Online Media Engagement: 31 videos, seven audio recordings, six educational image galleries, two e-books - “Keys to Understanding the Middle East” and “Euphrates-Tigris Water Issues: An Introduction,” and an active blog.

Social Media Engagement: Facebook posts have gone from 30 viewers in 2013 to 561 viewers. Tweets now receive up to 2,858 impressions.

FACULTY POSITIONS SEEDED IN ANTHROPOLOGY, HISTORY AND TURKISH LANGUAGE

• Professor, Department of Anthropology, Archeology of Arabian Peninsula
• Associate Professor in the Department of History, Turkic/ Persian history of Central Asia
• Permanent Lecturer of Turkish, Near Eastern Languages and Cultures (NELC)

COURSES

• Introduction to the Modern Middle East (Enrollments: 50-100 each year)
• Contemporary Issues in the Middle East (Enrollments: 15 - 20 each year)
• Cultural Continuity & the Challenge of Political, Economic, & Social Transition in the Middle East
• The Taliban

The Ohio State University’s Middle East Studies Center (MESC) fulfills the university’s land-grant mission by serving: P-12 teachers and their students, the news media, the military, and the general public.

Visit mesc.osu.edu