

PERSIAN STUDIES MAJOR

Program Director: Dr. Fatemeh Keshavarz

The 45 credit major in Persian Studies (12 courses, excluding prerequisites, and 3 supporting courses that can be fulfilled by a double major or minor) will provide students with a solid background in linguistic, literary, and cultural aspects of the study of Persian. This study will be inclusive of the cultures of Iran, Afghanistan, Persian-speaking Central Asia, and the Persian diaspora. Students work toward competence in speaking, reading, writing, and listening, in addition to studying the evolution of Iranian and Persianate cultures in their diverse perspectives, practices, and products. They will become conversant with the contemporary political and daily life of Persian-speaking peoples, with cultural comparison implicit throughout their 4 years.

The B.A. in Persian Studies (PERS) prepares students for a range of professional opportunities, including careers in government, education, the arts, business, and communication. Many undergraduates will choose to double major or do a double degree in Persian and another subject, including arts and humanities majors, business, computer science, engineering, and journalism.

Placement in Courses

For information about the Foreign Language Placement Assessment, go to: arhu.umd.edu/undergraduate/flpa (<https://arhu.umd.edu/academics/foreign-language-placement/>).

Program Learning Outcomes

1. **Language Ability:** Students develop and improve their language ability in speaking, listening, reading, and writing in Modern Standard Persian. Students demonstrate level-appropriate oral and written skills as assessed by Oral Proficiency Interviews (OPIs) and the University of Maryland Test of Persian Proficiency Test ©. At graduation this is defined as Intermediate High to Advanced levels of proficiency across skills.
2. **Cultural Literacy:** Students develop and improve their ability to function in relevant cultural, religious, and linguistic contexts and demonstrate cultural awareness through identifying and articulating cultural values and practices, similarities and differences, and successfully handling situations that require intercultural negotiation of meaning.
3. **Analytical and Argumentative Skills:** Students develop and improve their abilities to analyze various texts (including written, audio, visual) representing different genres and develop and improve their abilities in critical analysis. Students hone their critical thinking and discursive skills by demonstrating the ability to distinguish between opinions and facts and advancing their own reasoned arguments delivered in written or oral format.
4. **Disciplinary Knowledge:** Students demonstrate curriculum-based familiarity with key figures, texts and events within the social, cultural, and historical contexts of regions of the world where Persian has a significant linguistic or cultural presence.
5. **Academic Skills:** Students are able to produce and present source-based academic texts (oral and written) in Persian and/or English, display an awareness of various purposes and audiences, and demonstrate analytical skills as described under 3 above.

Requirements

All students planning to pursue the major in Persian Studies should contact the undergraduate advisor for Persian, who will be responsible for placement, oversight, and record keeping.

Course	Title	Credits
College Requirements (https://academiccatalog.umd.edu/undergraduate/colleges-schools/arts-humanities/#collegerequirementstext)		
Prerequisites ¹		
PERS101	Elementary Persian I	
PERS102	Elementary Persian II	
Core Sequence ²		
		18
PERS201	Intermediate Persian I	
PERS211	Intermediate Conversation	
PERS202	Intermediate Persian II	
PERS212	Intermediate Reading in Persian	
PERS301	Advanced Persian I	
PERS302	Advanced Persian II	
Electives in Persian		
Select six credits of 3xx or 4xx level electives of the following:		6
PERS311	Persian Media	
PERS312	Contemporary Iranian Culture	
PERS386	Experiential Learning	
PERS402	Persian Translation	
PERS498	Special Topics in Persian Studies	
Electives in English		
Select up to 12 credits of the following: ³		12
PERS251	Modern Iran	
PERS252	Gender and Body in Iran	
PERS283	Iranian Cinema	
PERS353	Iranian Life in Literature and Film	
PERS371	Introduction to Persian Literature in Translation	
PERS398	Special Topics in Persian Studies	
Supporting Area		
Select nine 3xx or 4xx level credits in a single area of study outside Persian Studies as a complement to the major ⁴		9
Total Credits		45

¹ There are no prerequisites for students with equivalent knowledge.

² All prerequisites imply "or equivalent knowledge." In cases where a student has equivalent knowledge, required language-focus credits are replaced in consultation with undergraduate advisor. This may include courses in Arabic for those students who intend to study Persian literature in Persian, as Arabic is integral to the history of Persian Literature.

³ No prerequisites
Courses in Middle Eastern Studies taught in English outside the department may be substituted on prior approval of the undergraduate advisor.

⁴ The area of study outside Persian Studies should be cleared with the undergraduate advisor upon declaring a major. Double majors and minors fulfill this requirement.

Students must earn a grade of "C-" or higher in each course applied toward a major or minor in the School of Languages, Literatures, and Cultures. Additionally, an overall GPA of 2.0 in a major or minor is required for graduation.

Four Year Plan

Click here (<https://www.arhu.umd.edu/academics/advising/academic-plans/>) for roadmaps for four-year plans in the College of Arts and Humanities.

Additional information on developing a four-year academic plan can be found on the following pages:

- 4yearplans.umd.edu (<http://4yearplans.umd.edu/>)
- the Student Academic Success-Degree Completion Policy (<https://academiccatalog.umd.edu/undergraduate/registration-academic-requirements-regulations/academic-advising/>) section of this catalog

Opportunities Scholarships Opportunities for Persian Study

Persian Language Flagship Scholarship

Persian Flagship students are eligible to receive need-based funding when it is most necessary – to support intensive domestic summer study at an approved institution (such as the University of Maryland Summer Language Institute), and for the domestic capstone year.

In order to apply for funding through the Flagship Program, students must demonstrate that they have actively pursued other scholarship opportunities. Each student has a **lifetime maximum of \$20,000** that they are eligible to receive from The Language Flagship Program.

Boren Awards

Boren Scholars and Fellows study a wide range of critical languages (<https://www.borenawards.org/eligible-programs/#languages>), including **Persian**. Boren Awards are available to students of all proficiency levels who are committed to enhancing their skills.

The Boren Fellowships offer up to **\$12,000** for summer intensive language study. If requested, the maximum total combined domestic and overseas award amount is **\$30,000**. Domestic study is entirely optional but may be useful preparation for Boren Fellows whose overseas program requires that they arrive in country with strong language skills. See further guidance here (<https://www.borenawards.org/eligible-programs/#fellows-domestic>).

Critical Language Scholarship

clscholarship.org (<http://clscholarship.org>)

The Critical Language Scholarship (CLS) Program is a fully funded summer overseas language and cultural immersion program for American undergraduate and graduate students. With the goal of broadening the base of Americans studying and mastering critical languages and building relationships between the people of the United States and other countries, CLS provides opportunities to a diverse range

of students from across the United States at every level of language learning.

The CLS Program is a program of the U.S. Department of State.

Location: Dushanbe, Tajikistan

Requirements: One year of Persian Study before program begins, U.S. Citizenship

Deadline: November

Minimum GPA: N/A

Amount: Full cost of attendance provided.

Middlebury Institute of International Studies-Language Flagship Scholarship

The Middlebury Institute of International Studies at Monterey has partnered with The Language Flagship to provide a guaranteed scholarship of **\$16,000** each year to its students. We recognize Language Flagship students and their commitment to language and cross-cultural communication as a valuable part of our campus community and global alumni network.

You may also receive additional **merit and need-based scholarships** depending on the strength of your application or financial situation.

HOW TO APPLY

1. Submit your application (<http://www.miis.edu/admissions/apply/>) for one of our degree programs by the next **priority deadline**. Please indicate that you're affiliated with Language Flagship when prompted on the online application.
2. You may also waive your application fee at go.miis.edu/LFwaiver.

For a host of other scholarships, please visit:

slc.umd.edu/special-programs/arabic-persian/persian-flagship/funding
(<http://slc.umd.edu/special-programs/arabic-persian/persian-flagship/funding/>)