Congratulations on being selected to participate in the French Language and Culture Intensive in Morocco summer program!

This program is offered by International Academic Programs (IAP) at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. This IAP Program Handbook supplements handbooks or materials you will receive from your faculty leader as well as the Study Abroad Handbook and provides you with the most up-to-date information and advice available at the time of printing. Changes may occur before your departure or while you are abroad.

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CONTACT INFORMATION

ON-SITE PROGRAM INFORMATION
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UW-Madison Information
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University of Wisconsin-Madison
106 Red Gym, 716 Langdon St.
Madison, WI 53706
Tel: 608-265-6329, Fax: 608-262-6998
Web: www.studyabroad.wisc.edu

Kate Hamoonga
IAP Study Abroad Advisor
(608) 265-6296
hamoonga@studyabroad.wisc.edu

Emergency Contact Information
In case of an emergency, call the main IAP number (608) 265-6329 between 7:45 a.m.-4:30 p.m.
Monday-Friday; after-hours or on weekends call the IAP staff on call at (608) 516-9440.

Embassy Registration
All program participants who are U.S. citizens must register through the Smart Traveler Enrollment Program (STEP) at the US Embassy. This is a free service provided by the U.S. Government to U.S. citizens who are traveling to, or living in, a foreign country. STEP allows you to enter information about your upcoming trip abroad so that the Department of State can better assist you in an emergency. STEP also allows Americans residing abroad to get routine information from the nearest U.S. embassy or consulate. https://travelregistration.state.gov

U.S. Embassy in Rabat, Morocco
Km 5.7, Avenue Mohamed VI
Souissi, Rabat 10170
Morocco

Phone: (212) 0537 637 200
Fax: (212) 0537 637 201
Web: https://ma.usembassy.gov/
PROGRAM DATES

MAY 20-JUNE 11 (MORE DETAIL BELOW)

PREPARATION BEFORE LEAVING

IMMIGRATION DOCUMENTS

Passport: A passport is needed to travel to Morocco. Apply immediately for a passport if you do not already have one. Passport information and application forms can be found on the U.S. State Department website http://travel.state.gov/passport/. If you already have your passport, make sure it will be valid for at least 6 months beyond the length of your stay abroad. You may not be admitted into the country if you do not have this 6-month requirement met.

Embassy of the Kingdom of Morocco in Washington D.C.
http://embassyofmorocco.us/

US citizens do not need a visa to enter Morocco and stay up to 90 days. If you are not a US citizen, please contact your Study Abroad Advisor for assistance.

HANDLING MONEY ABROAD

The official currency of Morocco is the Dirham.

Exchanging Money
Cash can be changed easily at the Bureau de Change in the airport upon arrival and at most major banks and hotel chains. It is illegal to exchange money in the streets so look for the official Bureaux de Change, identifiable by a golden sign.

ATM/Debit Cards: Most restaurants, shops, and hotels accept debit cards, typically Visa or MasterCard, however a surcharge may be applied. Make sure to notify your bank that you will be abroad so as not to put a block on your credit or ATM cards. Make note of all credit card numbers and associated contact numbers in case of theft or loss. Many people use a prepaid FairFX or Caxton card, both which offer good exchange rates.

Most ATMs incur charges. Check with your bank to see what your international rate is.

Safety with Money
Use the same precautions with money abroad that you would when traveling in any large city in the United States. Be aware of pickpockets in crowded areas and on public transportation. Carry your money and other documents in a money pouch worn inside your clothing. Use the same precautions you take at home when using an ATM; keep your pin number separate from your ATM/debit card and use machines inside banks or other buildings. Maintain a copy of all credit card numbers, traveler check numbers, and any PIN numbers in a safe place, and do not carry
these with you at any time. Leave a copy of these documents and a photocopy of the first (photo) page of your passport with your Financial Representative in the United States.

**PACKING SUGGESTIONS**

- Important documents (passport, emergency contact information, insurance card, ATM card, money, etc.) should be in your carry-on luggage. Also, make sure that you make a copy of important documents and leave them with a friend or family member back home to access in the case of an emergency.
- Take enough prescription medication to last the duration of the program. Keep prescription medications in their original packaging and carry a letter/prescription from your doctor explaining your condition and use of medication. Prescriptions should be packed in your carry-on luggage.
- Leisure clothes (long skirts, loose long pants, t-shirts, casual shoes)
- Comfortable walking shoes (also shoes for rain)
- Sandals (but not flip-flops)
- Jacket, fleece or light sweater
- Water drinking bottle
- First aid kit: Pain reliever, band-aids/ointment for cuts, diarrhea medicine (pepto)
- Sunblock, lipbalm, hat and sunglasses for protection from harmful effects of UV sun rays.
- Antibacterial hand wipes or alcohol-based hand sanitizer containing at least 60% alcohol.
- Insect repellent
- Towel
- Camera
- Luggage lock
- Clothes: skirts/dresses below the knee for women, shorts/pants for men
- Rain jacket
- Small bag for day/weekend trips
- Flashlight and batteries
- Computer
- Valuable items, expensive jewelry, and items that cannot be replaced should be left at home.

**Electronics**
Voltage in Morocco is 220 V, with outlets using the common international two-pin Europlug. A converter should be purchased to convert voltage if your appliance is not designed for both 110 and 220V. You will also need an adapter to be able to plug in your items. Adapters can be purchased from outdoor and travel stores. It is best to bring a number of standard or rechargeable batteries since electricity may not be entirely reliable.
TRAVEL AND ARRIVAL

Flight
You will need to book your own flight but will be given a specified time window in which to arrive. This means that many of you will likely be on the same flight. Please do not purchase your air ticket until you receive this information. Upon arrival, transportation will be provided to your housing.

Arrival
You will receive more information regarding arrival details at a later date.

THE ACADEMIC PROGRAM

GENERAL INFORMATION

Schedule:
5/20  Arrive in Rabat
5/22  Orientation
5/23  Class begins
5/26  Class Visit to the Old City
5/27-5/28 Excursion to Tangier-Tetouan Chefchaoun (might be subject to some changes)
6/2   Class Visit: Museum
6/3-6/4 Trip to the Sahara
6/9   Student Presentations
6/11  Return to US

More specific information regarding course expectations and grading will be provided in your course syllabus.

COURSE INFORMATION

Students will earn three (3) credits in of French 228, 311, or 312 on a summer transcript, based on the appropriate next sequenced language course. IAP will register you for the course. There are no additional registration procedures you must take.

Pass/Fail/Drop/Audit
Students cannot take this course pass/fail.
LIVING ABROAD

RABAT
The capital of Morocco, Rabat, situated along the Atlantic coast, is considered to be the hidden gem of the country. Its rich history and beautiful beaches make it the ideal tourist destination. Rabat is known as the cleanest major city in Morocco and the easiest to get around. It’s easy to spend the day strolling through the medina, frequenting the charming cafés, or visiting one of the many historical landmarks. One such landmark is the Kasbah of the Udayas, a fortress from the 12th century that looks over the city and the sea. Other landmarks include the Hassan Tower and Mosque, that dates back to 1195, the Villa des Arts de Rabat, and the Mausoleum of Mohammed V.

The Muslim holy month of Ramadan will take place May 27-June 24th. During this time period, traditional Muslims will fast during the day and break the fast at sunset. Many restaurants will be closed for lunch and it is respectful to refrain from eating, drinking, or smoking in public during the fast. However, since Rabat is a tourist hub, there shouldn’t be any problems finding places to eat, and the host families will still offer the daily breakfast and Qalam Center its daily lunch.

HOUSING
Staying with a local host family will provide you the opportunity to drastically improve your language skills and learn firsthand about the local culture. Moroccans are especially warm and inviting hosts. They love sharing all their home and food with their guests. Families are located within 5 miles of the Qalam Center and provide breakfast and dinner every day. Lunch is provided at the Qalam Center.

Most host families do have wifi, but this is not guaranteed. It is possibly to get 4G service for your personal devices if your host family does not have internet.

Please contact your Study Abroad Advisor if you have concerns about staying with a host family.

HEALTH
You should visit a travel health clinic to obtain all necessary immunizations and medication at least one month prior to travel. You should consult the Center for Disease Control website as well as discuss with your physician any vaccinations and/or other health precautions you should take while abroad.


Alcohol and drug use
Morocco is a traditionally Muslim country, and many of the local citizens will not imbibe. Drinking in public places or near a mosque is considered unwise and disrespectful. However, because it has a large tourism sector, many restaurants do have a liquor license and offer beer, wine, and occasionally spirits. Excessive drinking can impact your health during the program, impair judgment, lead to risk or harm to yourself or others and have an effect on your academic
performance. Please exercise caution and remember that cross-cultural differences exist in the consumption of alcohol.

Penalties for use or possession of illegal drugs abroad may include jail terms, hard labor, and even the death penalty. Neither the U.S. Embassy nor the program offices are able to exercise effective pressure to moderate these penalties. If you are arrested, you are subject to the host country’s laws and neither the UW-Madison’s IAP office nor the U.S. Embassy can protect you from the local legal consequences. While on an IAP study abroad program, you are responsible for obeying all local laws. If IAP learns that program participants are using drugs or breaking other local laws, participants will be confronted and may be asked to leave the program.

SAFETY

Common crimes are generally crimes of opportunity rather than planned attacks. These include, but are not limited to: thefts from vehicles, thefts of property from residences, residential break-ins, strong-armed robberies, pickpocketing, and theft from hotel rooms. ATM and counterfeiting crimes are also not uncommon. Crime can occur anywhere and at anytime.

While Morocco is generally viewed as a safe, secure, and politically stable country within the region, its extensive and porous borders are inadequately policed, allowing for a robust flow of illicit trade and immigration.

TRANSPORTATION

The main modes of transportation while in Morocco are buses, taxis, metro and walking. Students should bring adequate walking shoes. Petit taxis are blue in color and an inexpensive way to get around, but be sure to check and see if the meter is running in order to not be overcharged at the end of the trip. Grand taxis, the white Mercedes taxis, are much less safe and not recommended for travel. Buses are the cheapest option and are generally reliable, though they can be of varying quality. Pay attention to your surroundings while using public transportation in order to avoid pickpockets.

COMMUNICATION

Telephone: When making calls, keep in mind time zone differences [www.timeanddate.com/worldclock](http://www.timeanddate.com/worldclock). To make an international call to the United States, dial 000 plus the United States country code (always “1”) followed by the appropriate U.S. area code and local number.

*For example, to call IAP, you would dial: 000 1 608 265 6329
To call Uganda from the United States, dial 011, 256 (the country code for Uganda), and the phone number, minus the initial zero. Some of steps can vary if you are using a calling card.
Websites of Interest:

- International Academic Programs (IAP) at UW-Madison: www.studyabroad.wisc.edu
- Qalam wa Lawh Center: http://www.qalamcenter.com/

Current Exchange Rates: www.x-rates.com

Moroccan Government Website: http://www.maroc.ma/en

Moroccan Ministry of Tourism: http://www.tourisme.gov.ma