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60

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in Language  
Teaching

## 2017 Arabic Language Programs at Ali Baba International Center - IH Amman Amman - Jordan



Alibaba  
International  
Center



International  
House  
Amman

## General Information About Ali Baba International Center - IH Amman

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| Arabic Language Institute | The Ali Baba International Center, also known as International House Amman (IH Amman), is a leading Arabic Language institute in Jordan. The center offers Arabic language immersion programs throughout the year. A typical program consist of a language course, comfortable accommodation, rich extracurricular activities, and optional touristic trips. All courses are taught at Ali Baba International Center by experienced multilingual Jordanian teachers with solid teaching experience.  |
| Location                  | The center is located in Amman, the beautiful capital of Jordan. Conveniently, the center is situated in the heart of a university neighborhood which has been developed over the years to accommodate the student lifestyle. Coffee shops, supermarkets and bookstores are all within a minute's walk of the center. The area is safe, clean, open, and is just a fifteen minute drive away from downtown Amman. For exact geographical location please refer to Google map (Lat. 32.015461, Long. 35.86742).   |
| Affiliation               | The Center is a full-member affiliate of the prestigious International House Organization (IHWO) which is one of the largest and oldest groups of language schools in the world. Founded in 1953, IHWO is a global network of over 150 affiliated private language schools in 52 countries, spanning every continent. Therefore, the Ali Baba International Center is also promoted under the name International House Amman (IH Amman).   |
| Accreditation             | <p>The center receives students regularly from most American and European universities. Moreover, courses offered at the Ali Baba International Center are accredited by national and international organizations. A short list is given below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Ministry of Education in Jordan.</li> <li>• Brookhaven College: Students from all US colleges and universities can receive credits for courses taken at the center by registering through Brookhaven College in the US.</li> <li>• CSN: The Swedish National Board of Student Aid (CSN)</li> <li>• Bildungsurlaub: Most courses offered by the center are recognized by various federal German states. Therefore, German nationals can apply for educational leave from government to attend Ali Baba courses.</li> </ul> |
| International Students    | Students attending Ali Baba Center come from different counties and from different universities and organizations around the world. A percentile breakdown of the home countries of our students is as follows: 40% from Europe, %40 from the USA, 15% from Asia, and 5% from south America.   |

## I. Courses Offered by Ali Baba International Center in 2017

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| Standard Group Courses       | <p>Weekly and monthly standard group Arabic language courses are offered throughout the year. Students can register for courses having different durations ranging from 1 week to 12 months. All courses start on pre-specified and unified start dates, and finish on different dates depending on their durations. Students are placed in small groups depending on their scores in a placement test and interview at the beginning of the course. The standard group courses come in three forms:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Standard Group Courses:</b> 20 group lessons per week.</li> <li>• <b>Combined 5 Courses:</b> 20 group lessons plus 5 individual private lessons per week.</li> <li>• <b>Combined 10 Courses:</b> 20 group lessons plus 10 individual private lessons per week.</li> </ul>   |
| Summer Courses               | <p>Intensive courses with different durations are offered in the summer of 2017. The courses are supplemented with extensive programs of social and cultural activities. Three special summer courses are offered :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>1-month Summer Courses.</b> Three 1-month summer courses are offered: in June, in July, and in August.</li> <li>• <b>2-month Summer Courses.</b> Two 2-month summer courses are offered: in June-July and in July-August.</li> <li>• <b>3-month Summer Course.</b> One 3-month summer course is offered: in June-July-August.</li> </ul>   |
| College Courses              | <p>Special courses oriented to college and university students are offered at specific dates of the year. These term and semester course are based on international textbooks supplemented by a wide range of extra materials to meet curricular requirements of most universities. Students may seek accreditation from their respective universities before registration or after completion of the courses. The academic college courses come in two forms:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>3-month Term Courses.</b><br/>Each term course covers 240 contact hours. In most universities a term course equals 12 credit hours.</li> <li>• <b>4-month Semester Courses.</b><br/>Each semester course covers 320 contact hours. In most universities this equals 16 credit hours.</li> </ul>   |
| Private & Customized Courses | <p>Private and customized Arabic courses are offered throughout the year. A private course can be of any duration and for one person or for a small group of people coming together. The start and end dates are decided by the student. The content of a private or customized course is decided by the instructor based on the language level and needs of the student. The center has an extensive experience in offering individual and customized courses in many areas such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Conversation Courses:</b> offered in both modern standard Arabic (Fus-ha) and colloquial (Jordanian, Levant, and other dialects).</li> <li>• <b>Customized Courses for Diplomats and Social Workers:</b> These courses have been developed specifically for professionals and volunteers working in embassies, military, and NGOs.</li> <li>• <b>Bildungsurlaub Courses:</b> Many courses have been accredited by German states to be offered for their public employees.</li> </ul> |



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| <b>Textbooks</b>                   | Different international and local textbooks are used. The two mostly used textbooks are 'Al-Asas for Teaching Arabic for Non-Native Speakers: I, II, III' and 'Al-Kitaab Series' (Alif Baa, Al-Kitaab I, II, and III). These textbooks are supplemented by selected materials and activities to cover different subjects and language skills.   |
| <b>Levels</b>                      | Three language levels are offered each month: the beginners' level, the intermediate level, and the advanced level. The three levels may get subdivided into sub-levels depending on the number of enrolled students. Admitted students need to sit for a placement test, and if necessary a short interview, on the first day of the course to determine the group class they should join.   |
| <b>Contact Hours</b>               | A total of 20 contact hours is offered every week (5 days per week, 4 hours per day). Therefore, a total of 80 contact hours of modern standard Arabic (MSA) is covered every month. This is equal to 4 credit hours in most credit-based universities. <i>(Each contact hour is one lesson of 50 minutes in classroom).</i>  |
| <b>Certificate of Completion</b>   | Upon the successful completion of the course, each participant receives a Certificate of Completion indicating the name, level, and duration of the course attended. Students may request official transcripts indicating the content of the course studied so they can claim credit their home universities. It's however the students' sole responsibility to negotiate with their home universities the appropriate number of credits to be awarded.   |
| <b>Extra-Curricular Activities</b> | Different sets of in-campus and off-campus extra-curricular activities are arranged every week. In-campus activities include, but not limited to, Arabic Calligraphy, Jordanian Cooking, Arabic Henna, and Sand Art bottles classes. Off-campus activities include a trip to downtown Amman upon arrival, a trip to a historical place, and possibly field trips to selected places. We have a language-partner program, through which we introduce language students to local university students. Many other activities can be arranged depending on the number of enrolled students. |
| <b>Course Cancellation</b>         | (1). It is the policy of the center to avoid cancellation of courses. However, in case of very low enrollments, group courses are cancelled, and registered students of the cancelled course are given individual classes. Number of individual lessons totals up to 50% of the original group lessons.<br>(2). A student will be refunded if cancellation is done before the starting date of the course. However, no refunding is possible if cancellation is done after the course has started already.  |



## II. Accommodation Options

### Offered by Ali Baba International Center in 2017

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| Private Studio        | <p><b>Description:</b> A private studio is a small open area that has: comfortable bedroom, bathroom, kitchenette, small refrigerator, small oven, fan or/and AC, TV, and a study desk. Common laundry machines are available.</p> <p><b>Location:</b> The studios are located nearby the language center in a university neighborhood where all types of shops and restaurants are available.</p> <p><b>Rental Price:</b> \$650 per month, \$175 per week, and \$30 per night for stays less than a week. Wireless Internet access and utilities (water, electricity, gas) are included in the rental price.</p>   |
| Private Apartment     | <p><b>Description:</b> A private apartment has a bedroom, bathroom, kitchenette, small living area, fan or/and AC, TV, study desk, iron, laundry machine, refrigerator, and an oven.</p> <p><b>Location:</b> The apartments are located nearby the language center in a university neighborhood where all types of shops and restaurants are available.</p> <p><b>Rental Price:</b> \$750 per month, \$200 per week, \$35 per night for stays less than a week. Wireless Internet access and utilities (water, electricity, gas) are included in the rental price.</p>  |
| Shared Apartment      | <p><b>Description:</b> A shared apartment has one or more bedrooms, bathroom, a kitchen, and a living area. The apartment has fan or/and AC, TV, study desks, iron, laundry machine, refrigerator, and an oven. The bedrooms and facilities of the apartment are shared. Each bedroom may accommodate one or two persons.</p> <p><b>Location:</b> Most shared apartments are located nearby the language center in a university neighborhood where all types of shops and restaurants are available.</p> <p><b>Rental Price:</b> Cost per person in a single room: \$550 per month, \$150 per week, \$25 per night for stays less than a week. Cost per person in shared room: \$450 per month, \$125 per week, \$20 per night for stays less than a week. Wireless Internet access and utilities (water, electricity, gas) are included in the rental price.</p> |
| Homestays             | <p><b>Description:</b> The center gives female students the chance to stay with local host families. A host family provides a private bedroom, two meals, and of course, the cultural exchange experience. Due to cultural issues only few host families may accept male students.</p> <p><b>Location:</b> Few families live within a walking distance from the center, other families live in different parts of Amman. The average Taxi drive to the center from most host families is in the range 15 - 20 minutes.</p> <p><b>Rental Price:</b> \$850 per month, \$250 per week, and \$40 per night for durations less than a week. Wireless Internet access and utilities (water, electricity, gas) and two meals are included in the rental price.</p>   |
| Hotels & Hotel-Suites | <p><b>Description:</b> A variety of hotels and hotel-suites offer single occupancy and double occupancy rooms, fully air-conditioned, and equipped with modern facilities.</p> <p><b>Location:</b> Modern hotel-suites and hotels are located within a walking distance from Ali Baba International Center.</p> <p><b>Rental Price:</b> Prices are variable (\$75 - \$250 per night). Wireless Internet access and utilities are included in the rental price.</p>  |



### III. Extra-curricular Activities

#### Organized by Ali Baba International Center in 2017

*It's our belief at the center that language learning should be accompanied by extra-curricular activities. Therefore, we have prepared a rich set of in-campus and off-campus activities that reflect the Arabic and the Jordanian cultures. We give in this table a sample set of such activities. The center reserves the right to add, remove, change, or cancel any activity depending on factors such as the season of enrollment, weather conditions, number of enrolled students, among other factors.*

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| <b>First-Day Trip to Amman City Center</b> | The first day of all group courses is always a Sunday. Admitted students are expected to be at the center at 9 AM on that day. After taking a placement test, they sit for an orientation session in which they get information about the center's facilities, regulations, staff, etc. The students are then escorted in a small trip bus to Amman city center. The students visit the oldest and most traditional part of the city which hosts the Citadel, Blue Mosque, Roman Theater, and Jordan Museum. Students will have time for shopping in the Souqs, and have lunch in a traditional restaurant. |
| <b>Arabic Cooking Class</b>                | Students enrolled at Ali Baba center have the chance to experience a cooking class with their instructors. Every month, a different Jordanian dish is prepared by the students with the help of the center's staff. The Jordanian cuisine is part of Levantine cuisine and shares many traits and similarities with the cuisine of Palestine, Syria and Lebanon.  |
| <b>Arabic &amp; Islamic Calligraphy</b>    | Since our main steam at Ali Baba center is teaching Arabic Language, we found it rather necessary and useful to explore our enrolled students to the basic elements of Arabic and Islamic calligraphy. This is an artistic practice of handwriting and calligraphy, based upon the alphabet in the lands sharing a common Islamic cultural heritage. It includes Arabic, Ottoman, and Persian calligraphy.  |
| <b>Art of Colored Sand Bottles</b>         | This is a unique art that Ali Baba students love and appreciate. In this art, small glass bottles are filled with multi-colored sand using geometrical decorations and mostly layers of different colors. The original inspiration of this art was born from Petra, Jordan's magical city, and its multi-colored sand mountains.  |
| <b>Arabic Henna Designs</b>                | This particular 'Henna' activity is especially appealing for female students enrolled at the Ali Baba center. When applied on the hands and feet, beautiful henna designs not only augment a woman's natural beauty, but add a touch of elegance as well. This tradition continues in the present day with ladies applying henna in weddings and various other festive occasions. The Arabic style of applying henna is quite flowing in nature with designs comprising patterns of leaves, vines, and flowers.   |
| <b>One Touristic Trip</b>                  | The center organizes a monthly touristic trip to a historical place in Jordan. The destination of the trip may change from one month to another depending on the season, weather conditions, or the number of enrolled students. The center provides transportation and a snack, and the students are expected to pay for their meals and any entrance fees required by the site being visited.   |
| <b>Other Activities and Trips</b>          | The center has great flexibility to organize other in-campus and off-campus activities. Some activities could be even suggested by the enrolled students.   |