



## CASA Fellows 2023-2024 in Jordan

**Abdulla Ahmed** graduated from Hunter College at The City University of New York with a BA in Human Biology and Arabic. As an undergraduate student, he was the recipient of a FLAS fellowship and Critical Language Scholarship which allowed him to study Arabic in Morocco and Jordan. His interests include medicine, history, Classical Arabic, and Islamic Studies. Following CASA, he hopes to pursue a career in medicine.

**Emily Atieh** recently graduated from Brandeis University with a BA in Anthropology, along with minors in Middle Eastern studies and Arabic. She previously studied Arabic through a Critical Language scholarship in 2022 in Amman, Jordan. In addition, she has studied in Beirut, Lebanon and Rabat, Morocco. Emily is looking forward to returning to Jordan for Arabic study, as she is interested in languages, travel, and cross-cultural connection!

**Emre Benoit-Savci** received a BA in Islamic studies from McGill University in 2020 and a MA in Middle Eastern studies from the University of Texas at Austin in 2023. His research interests include early Islamic historiography and the formation of Islamic sectarian identity in the high caliphal and early middle periods. After CASA, he intends to start his Ph.D studies.

**Calista Boyd** is a PhD student at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville. Her field is comparative politics, with research interests in governing institutions, civil society, and social movements. After CASA, she hopes to conduct fieldwork for her dissertation research.

**Lily Flick** recently graduated from the University of California, Los Angeles with a BA in Global Studies and Arabic. She is particularly interested in regional conflict, diplomacy, and youth social movements in the Levant. Following her time as a CASA fellow, she is looking forward to joining Georgetown's Master of Science in Foreign Service Class of 2026.

**Ivana Gabriele-Smith** graduated from the University of Oxford with an MSc in Modern Middle Eastern Studies. She received her BA in Arabic and Philosophy from Georgetown University. In 2016, she was awarded a scholarship to study Arabic in Jordan as a participant in the National Security Language Initiative for Youth (NSLI-Y). In 2020, she returned to Jordan to study at CIEE. Her interests include Arabic literature and philosophy.

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**Ryan Geitner** is a 2021 graduate of Duke University with B.A.s in Political Science (Security, Peace, and Conflict) and Asian & Middle Eastern Studies (Interregional: Arabic and Mandarin). She spent three semesters studying Arabic in Amman, Jordan; two of which were supported by the Boren Scholarship. For the past year, Ryan has been working as a Research Officer for a Monitoring & Evaluation firm in Hargeisa, Somaliland. Her interests include visual discourses around the destruction of infrastructure, running, backpacking, and little jokes.

**Amal Haddad** is a recent graduate of Swarthmore College, where she double majored in English Literature and Sociology & Anthropology and wrote an honors thesis on Jordanian nationalism and Jordanian and Palestinian history. She likes Liz Phair, Diet Coke, and reading novels in translation.

**Ali Hassani** is a PhD student in comparative literature at Yale University focusing on modern Arabic, French, and German literature and intellectual history. He received his BA in history and comparative literature at Columbia University, where he wrote his thesis on the works of Tayeb Salih and W.G. Sebald.

**Audrey Kost** is a student in the Dual BA Program between Columbia University and Sciences Po Paris, where she studies Middle Eastern history and economics. She has interned with the U.S. Embassy in Tunisia and studied Arabic through Critical Language Scholarships during college. Her interests include political economy, migration, and environmentalism.

**Emma Lane** graduated from the University of Mississippi in 2022 with a BA in International Studies and Arabic. She recently completed the Arabic Flagship Capstone program where she studied Arabic in Meknes, Morocco for a year and interned at a private clinic. Her research interests include the historical and cultural connections between the Middle East and Latin America, and women's healthcare issues in the Arab world.

**Lena Maghraoui** studies environmental science at the University of Chicago. She hopes to conduct research on water scarcity as a result of climate change in Jordan. She later plans to earn a law degree, which will allow her to pursue her interest of working at the intersection of climate change and human rights.

**Brynn Morse** recently completed a BA in Middle East Studies and Arabic at Brigham Young University, where she participated in research on Islamist political parties and authoritarian use of gender reform for legitimation. Brynn has interests in diplomacy, language acquisition, data analysis, and more recently international business.

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**Bridget Peak** is an arts educator and researcher with work experience across Palestine, Greece, Jordan, Ghana, Thailand, Indonesia, and Philadelphia, PA, USA. She holds a BA in Political Science from Wellesley College, and, most recently, worked in the Art Education Department of Sultan Qaboos University in Oman on a Fulbright Fellowship. Her interests include art museums, hiking, and studying Arabic.

**Mackenzie Poust** graduated in May 2023 from Georgetown University with an MA in Arab Studies. Her thesis focused on the women's movement in Jordan. She previously attended the University of Mary Washington, receiving a BA in Religious Studies in 2019, as well as a certificate in Middle Eastern Studies with a concentration in Arabic. Her academic interests include gender, social organizations, and activism in Jordan and the Levant. She looks forward to furthering her study of Arabic while in the CASA program to continue her research in the future.

**Zachariah Qureshi** is a global business and Middle East studies major at Brigham Young University. He is interested in venture capital and private equity in emerging Middle Eastern and African markets and US foreign policy. He speaks Arabic, Dutch, and Spanish. Zach is a Boren Scholar.

**George Rivas** is a University of Arizona graduate with a BA in Political Science and Arabic. He has lived and studied abroad in Spain and Morocco and is a recipient of the Arabic Flagship Capstone Program Certificate. He hopes to pursue a career in diplomacy.

**Kobe Spells** is a recent graduate from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, where he studied Political Science and Arab Cultures with a minor in Public Policy. This past year, he taught English, hip hop dance, and debate skills to Palestinian students on a Fulbright grant. Kobe's interests include moral psychology, asymmetric conflict resolution, and learning how to freestyle in Arabic.

**Dikla Taylor-Sheinman** recently graduated with an MA in Middle Eastern Studies from the University of Chicago, where she also completed her BA in History and Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations. She spent a semester during her undergraduate degree studying Islamic Civilizations and Arabic in Cairo, Egypt. Her research interests include the modern history of Israel-Palestine, women's movements, and the politics of Jewish identity.

**Alika Zangieva** is a third-year PhD student in the Department of Near Eastern Studies at Princeton University. Her research areas include Ottoman and modern Middle Eastern history, the Caucasus, Russian and Eurasian history, Islamic studies, Anthropology, empire, and migration. Prior to doctoral studies, Alika worked at the Middle East Institute in Washington, D.C., where she was Associate Editor of its flagship publication, *The Middle East Journal*. Alika completed her B.A. in International Affairs at George Washington University.