

Arabic Language Programs for Non - Arabic Speakers

Offered by: Arabic Language Programs Unit
In Continuing Education Center
United Arab Emirates University

2018 - 2019



(First) Introduction:

A) United Arab Emirates University:

It's the first and foremost comprehensive national university in the United Arab Emirates. Founded in 1976 by the late Sheikh Zayed Bin Sultan Al Nahyan, UAEU aspires to become a comprehensive, research-intensive university and currently enrolls approximately 14,000 Emirati and international students. As the UAE's flagship university, UAEU offers a full range of accredited, high-quality graduate and undergraduate programs through nine Colleges: Business and Economics; Education; Engineering; Food and Agriculture; Humanities and Social Sciences; IT; Law; Medicine and Health Sciences; and Science. With a distinguished international faculty, state-of-the art new campus, and full range of student support services, UAEU offers a living-learning environment that is unmatched in the UAE.



In its drive to achieve international research stature, UAEU works with its partners in industry to provide research solutions to challenges faced by the nation, the region, and the world. The University has established research centers of strategic importance to the country and the region which are advancing knowledge in critical areas ranging from water resources to cancer treatments. UAEU is currently ranked among the top research universities in the GCC and the Arab World, and among the top 25% globally.

UAEU's academic programs have been developed in partnership with employers, so our graduates are in high demand. UAEU alumni hold key positions in industry, commerce, and government throughout the region. Our continuing investments in facilities, services, and staff ensure that UAEU will continue to serve as a model of innovation and excellence.



B) Continuing Education Center:

The United Arab Emirates University established the Continuing Education Center upon the Chancellor's Decree Number 231 in 1998 to transfer the role of the university to the serve the society and to maintain interest in human capital as a tool for development.

Continuing education programs are designed to meet the needs of institutions, individuals and different sectors of the community for growth through developing skills, acquiring knowledge and exploring potential.

The Continuing Education Center seeks to achieve the following objectives:

- Accessible to the community and employing energies and possibilities available at the University to enrich the members of the community and to improve intellectual and cultural knowledge.
- Monitoring and following-up scientific and technical developments and transferring them to concerned segments of society.
- Liaising with professionals from the community to offer a variety of programs.



The Center provides training courses, workshops, seminars and specialized conferences through specific units related to various managerial, administrative, scientific, technical, linguistics and social fields.

C) Arabic Language Program Unit:

The main purpose of the Arabic language unit at the CEC is to serve the Arabic language and continually strive to boost the language among the native speakers in the local community. We also strive to disseminate the language among the non-native speakers inside and outside the country. The unit also executes Al Ain Test to measure proficiency in the Arabic Language for Arabic speakers.

Fields of services provided by the unit:

- Manage and execute Al Ain test to measure proficiency in Arabic Language for Arabic speakers, UAEU students and all who require it.
- Organize courses in Arabic language skills for Arabic speakers, such as) functional writing, effective oral communication and quick reading.
- Modern Standard Arabic for Non-Native speakers (Beginners and intermediate)
- Attract students and scholars from around the world to teach them the contemporary Arabic language communication skills.
- Provide scientific consultations, workshops and design scientific research on Arabic language issues, teaching methods and design curriculum for organizations to meet their specific needs.



(Second) Teaching Arabic in the Arabic Language Unit:

The unit delivers two types of Arabic Language Courses for Non-speakers of Arabic. They are:

Short Courses:

- These courses target mostly those residing within the UAE.
- These courses aim to enrich the learners with the basic skills needed to communicate in Arabic.
- These courses run for 32-64 hours
- Most individuals in this category are at the beginner's level.

Long Courses:

- These courses target mostly those coming from outside the UAE.
- Most students in this category are enrolled in international universities which teach them the Arabic language before they are dispatched to the Arabic Language Unit to continue their language journey.
- These courses run mostly for 150 to 300 hours. These courses are flexible programs that target mostly those who are residing within the UAE.
- These courses mainly aim to enrich the learners with the basic skills needed to communicate in Arabic.
- These courses run for 64 and-32 hours.

- The Unit has delivered a great number of courses to delegations coming from International University; some of which are (The Institute for Middle East Studies at Philips University in Marburg, Germany – Marmara and Al Fatih University in Turkey – Osaka University in Japan – the University of Adelaide in Australia – the University of South Denmark – Hankuk and Dankook Universities in South Korea.
- In addition to delivering courses to delegates from Azerbaijan, the USA, Singapore, Spain, and others.

(Third) The Philosophy Behind Teaching Arabic for Non-Speakers in the Arabic Language Unit:

1. Teaching of Modern Standard Arabic (MSA) (The second level the five levels of Arabic use suggested by Dr. Saeed Badawi).
2. Focus on the use of Arabic through authentic use, real world and actual communication situations.
3. Teaching in the Arabic Unit focuses on the four language skills of listening, reading, writing, and speaking.
4. Teaching in the Arabic Unit utilizes various teaching techniques using group work, pair work, and independent learning.
5. Teaching the language is used as a communication tool and the learner is seen as the center of learning who produces, discusses, evaluates, critiques, suggests, and decides as the productive agent inside the classroom and not a passive receiver of knowledge.
6. The unit seeks to indulge the learners in a language environment where they communicate in Standard Arabic.
7. Reading and Listening texts represent real world language (giving directions, signs, billboards and advertisements, news casts, oral and written reports, lectures, documentaries, drama, songs, speeches, audio books, newspaper articles, internet sites, textbooks)
8. In Oral production, the learners practice reading aloud (the standard language) and improvise where the learner practices the use of MSA the way Arab intellectuals use it, in the way it is seen in serious talk shows, and the way it is used in scientific lectures and cultural meetings. This combines the second and third levels of Dr. Saeed Badawi's levels. This is what is referred to as "the third language" of Tawfiq al-Hasim's work and others.
9. The learner practices the oral production skill outside the classroom and records it on a voice recorder which he/she will obtain from the Unit and the teacher will evaluate the production of the learners.



10. Teaching Arabic grammar is based on the idea of (pattern simulation) where the learner studies from the Arabic sentence in reading topics and he/she is asked to simulate these patterns in writing without being drenched in the specifics of theoretical grammar.
11. Language similarities: The language lecturers gather as much information about the trainees' mother tongue, looking for the similarities between Arabic and their mother tongues (for purposes of utilizing such similarities and build on them). They also look for the differences (to focus on them) in the various linguistic aspects (voice, meaning, grammar and sentence structure, tense, number, gender...). The trainers also get involved by asking them to draw comparisons between Arabic and their mother tongue.
12. The program requires learners to speak in standard Arabic during the whole length of their enrollment in the program (except for the first part for total beginners). The program is not inclined to use a middle language in teaching and focus on the simplified language.
13. The learners practice how to deal with translation websites and the use of bilingual and the Arabic dictionaries. The unit has also adopted a variety of select dictionaries and made them available to the students for use (especially, the Arab language Educational, cultural, and scientific organization dictionary and the modern Arabic language dictionary by Ahmed Mukhtar Omar).
14. Starting with the Intermediate level (B1) some hours are dedicated for newspaper reading and free surfing of news sites on the internet.
15. The learners practice the standards of writing using the computer and smart devices. They also complete assignments like (writing emails and short texts and SMS messages on the mobiles...).



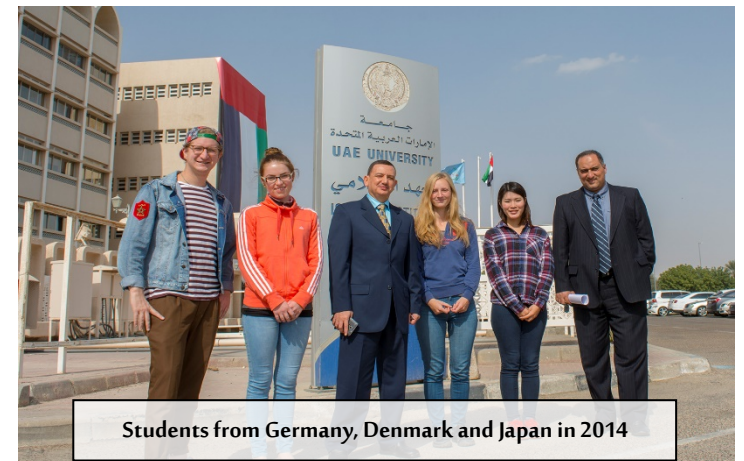
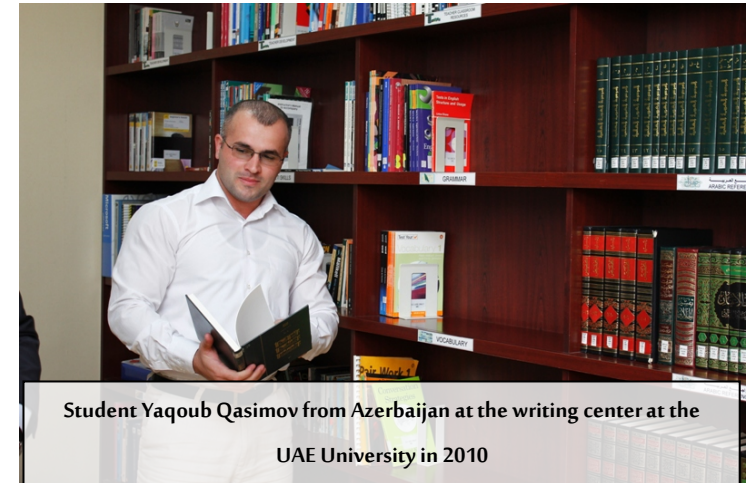
(Fourth) Language Performance Evaluation Regulations

1. The course starts with a placement exam to determine the students' levels which takes place remotely. The learners are asked to fill in a (get-to-know you cards and self-evaluation).
2. The unit analyzes the performance of each student in the placement exam and the get-to-know you cards before the start of the program so that they can target the language needs of the learner.
3. Progress in the four language skills (understanding what is heard, read, and oral production) is assessed.
4. Progress mastery is done through the usual means of assessment which are observation, classroom interaction, evaluation during the various level progression exams and graduation projects.
5. Graduation projects are considered an essential requirement for course completion. The activities for the graduation projects start from week one. The lecturer will explain to the students the idea of the project. The lecturer will ask each participant to think about their own personal project. Then, asks the students to gather information about their personal projects in front of their classmates and the lecturer, who discuss the project, asking him/her questions about the project.
6. The learner is also assigned outside class hours which the learner is supposed to complete specific language activities under the supervision of the teacher.
7. The course ends with a final exam that measures what skills the learner has internalized. Each learner receives a certificate of their grades and a report called (Description Report) which includes comments the lecturer has written about his impressions and the language progress the student has done.



(Fifth) The Certified Language levels at the Arabic Language Unit

- The unit adopts a curriculum and outcomes the standards of the common European Framework of Reference (CEFR), taking into consideration, the specifications for the Arabic language.
- The Language Levels of the Unit courses are:
 1. Modern Standard Arabic for Beginners (A1)
 2. Modern Standard Arabic for Beginners (A2)
 3. Modern Standard Arabic for Intermediate Learners (B1)
 4. Modern Standard Arabic for Intermediate Learners (B2)
 5. Modern Standard Arabic for Advanced Learners (C1)
 6. Modern Standard Arabic for Advanced Learners (C2)
- The unit teaches all levels above in full. It can also deliver some of them based on the needs of the learners.
- Each level is taught for (150) hours for (16) weeks (Regular Courses) or (8) weeks (intensive courses).
- Each level can be divided in (3) sub-levels (50) hours each.
- Each section cannot exceed (14) students.



Level	Description
Beginner (A1)	This level is an introduction to standard Arabic fundamentals. It aims to introduce students to Arabic pronunciation, how to differentiate between similar sounds and how the sounds are written in their distinct script from left to right. Students will learn the vocabulary necessary for basic communication such as exchanging greetings, giving a first time welcome, going shopping, and speaking with neighbors or fellow students. Students will also be taught to read simple phrases such as shop titles or direction signboards. Finally, students will learn to write short phrases and personal data on identification cards or forms.
Beginner (A2)	This level aims to enable the students to converse about essential everyday topics. Students will learn to read and understand short simple spoken and written texts about topics relating to them such as their families, friends, places, homeland, neighborhood, house, and work, news headlines and other daily issues. Students will also learn to write simple sentences, short letters and emails.
Intermediate (B1)	The aim of this level is to help the students understand oral texts about general topics, and pieces of news. They will also learn to read short (2-paragraph) texts about common diversified issues and produce well organized, short written texts following the right language norms. Students will understand the main contents of discourse about common topics, and how to speak in situations they might face when they travel or go shopping in an Arab country. Students will produce simple texts about common subjects of interest to them and describe personal experiences, events, and dreams or aspirations.

<p>Intermediate (B2)</p>	<p>This level aims to enable the students to listen to short texts in Arabic (pieces of news, dialogue/ information radio programs) and grasp the main and relevant ideas. Students will learn to read texts of medium length about general topics and issues and understand the content and major details. They will be able to explain their opinions and situations, advantages and disadvantages, and distinguish between facts and opinions. Students will learn to interact with others with a certain degree of spontaneity and fluency and effortlessly talk about general issues. Additionally, students will write well organized, clear, informative and cohesive short texts and summarize short topics.</p>
<p>Advanced (C1)</p>	<p>This level is designed to enable the students to listen to texts of medium length such as speeches, or parts of a documentary film, educational programs...etc., and grasp the main ideas and important pieces of information. Students will also be able to read and understand the contents of medium length texts about general topics such as education, sports and health or topics relevant to their specialization. They will learn to understand the meaning of the metaphorical idioms and expressions in a text. Students will write descriptive, narratives which have informative paragraphs with a minimum number of errors and a reasonable degree of organization, coherence and relevant details, including diversified grammatical techniques and methods of expressing their needs, ideas and opinions with acceptable fluency involving little effort while trying to find the required expressions.</p>
<p>Advanced (C2)</p>	<p>This level seeks to enable the students to listen to long texts such as lectures and speeches and understand major and minor concepts. Students will learn to read and grasp the direct and indirect contents of long texts about general and specific themes. Students are also able to summarize notable ideas of a text and comprehend relevant metaphorical and idiomatic expressions and connotations. They will learn to write three-paragraph essays, which are well organized and coherent and based on common topics related to their specialization or areas of interest. Students are able to express their opinions using supporting evidence. At this level, students are able to communicate with confidence, understand expressions from various social contexts, share opinions through asking questions and arguing, criticize, and accept or refute an idea. Students are able to employ clear and easy language and undertake logical presentations using information derived from different sources.</p>

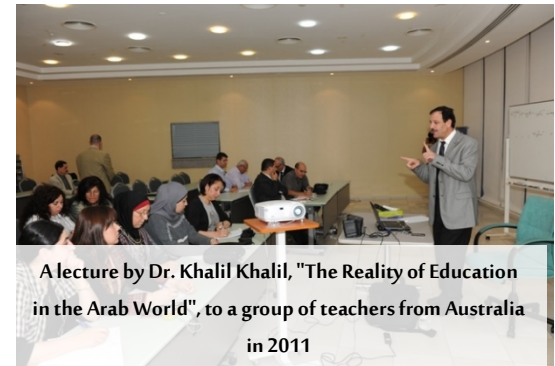
- The unit teaches the previous levels in full, and teaches some of them, according to the needs of students.
- Each of the six levels is taught at (150) hours, performed in (16) weeks (normal method), or (8) weeks (intensive courses).
- One level can be divided into three sub-courses, each session (50) hours.
- The number of students in each division does not exceed 14

(Sixth) The Cultural and Tourism programs of the Language Courses:

- While these programs are optional, they are thought to be an integral part of the language courses.

(A) The Cultural Program:

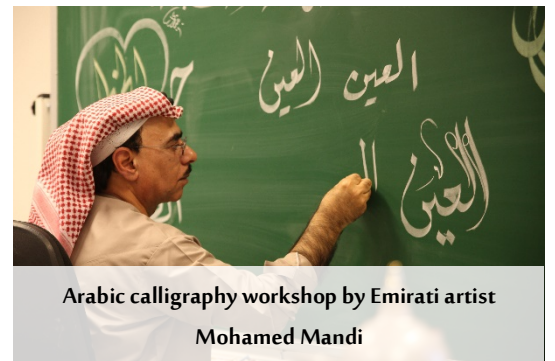
- The program aims to introduce the learners to the Arabic and Islamic cultural aspects.
- The program is delivered through cultural lectures and workshops which take place mostly in the evening hours.
- The cultural lectures and activities focus on the following subjects:
 - Introducing the Arabic and Islamic cultures: (Characters from the Arabic History, the contributions of the Arab scientists in the human civilization, women in Islam, human rights in Islam, the rise of the Islamic sciences like Jurisprudence, the sciences of the Hadith (the sayings of the Prophet), speech science...)
 - Introducing the United Arab Emirates (traditions, customs of Emirates' clothing, holidays, social relations, dances (cultural and Nabataean poetry, the risk of the modern UAE...)
 - Modern Arab Issues (Familiarity with the Arab world geographically and Historically, Education issues in the Arab World...)
 - Arabic Calligraphy and its prominent school and Artists (Practical Workshops)



A lecture by Dr. Khalil Khalil, "The Reality of Education in the Arab World", to a group of teachers from Australia in 2011



A part of the activities of the definition of aspects of Arab culture in 2011



Arabic calligraphy workshop by Emirati artist Mohamed Mandi

(B) The Tourism Program:

- This is an optional program which aims at introducing learners with the UAE and gives them an opportunity to develop their language abilities by communication in Arabic while doing these activities.
- Visits to places with religious nature are organized (Sheikh Zayed Mosque in Abu Dhabi). Places with historical nature (Al Ain Museum, Dubai Museum, Al Ahmadiya School museum, Al Maqta' Bridge Fort), places with modern nature (Dunai Mall, Burj Khalifa, Dubai Dancing Fountain, Jumeira Beach, Conference Palace, Abu Dhabi Courniche,...)
- A night in the desert (with sleep over) is organized in the UAE desert, living with this magical atmosphere, and participating in some special Emarati cultural activities.
- Having dinner at the foot of Jabal Hafeet (Hafeet mountain) where the spaces are green and the warm Sulphuric water flows from the water springs.
- All of the above is preceded with a tour to familiarize students with Al Ain City to know where the shopping centers, hospitals, restaurants, banks, some entertainment centers and others.
- The learners are accompanied with trained supervisors provided by the Unit in all tourist activities.
- The Arabic Unit covers all expenses related to the transportation and meals, but does not cover the fees charged but the visited places. (There are fees charged for visiting places like Burj Khalifa and others).



(Seventh) Room and Board

There are two options for Accommodation:

(a) Living in the special students hostels at the United Arab Emirates University:

- Two students live in one room.
- Male students stay in the male hostels, and females students stay in the female hostels.
- The hostels are located inside Al Ain city, in locations far from the city center. Students cannot reach shopping centers unless they use public transportation (some hostels specifically the female hostels are 10 kilometers away from the city center and some are closer).
- Residents are subjected to a set of rules and regulations specified for the hotels following the Arabian culture and traditions, wearing conservative clothes, proper behavior, honoring the timing rules and curfews of the hostels and other regulations which the students will get to know once they are admitted into the student hostels.
- Accepting students into the hostels depends on the approval of the University Housing Management, based on vacancies and the availability of rooms.



(b) Living in one of the Hotels in Al Ain City:

In this case, the Arabic Unit can help the students in booking a room in one of the appropriate hotels if the students opt for that. It can also provide information about the available hotels. It will also provide the transportation needed for taking the students from the hotel to the university and vice versa. The students will take care of housing expenses and meals.



(Eighth) Transportation:

The Arabic Unit will cover the following activities:

1. Receiving students at one of the c Emirates' Airports.
2. Transporting students from the hostel area to school and vice versa.
3. Executing the tourism program that has been approved in full.
4. Executing the complete activities that have been approved.
5. Transporting the students back to one of the Arabs Emirates' Airports.



(Ninth) Summary of language programs offered by the unit:

The first program:

Most foreign students from abroad choose this program, it is the most implemented program affiliated to the Middle Eastern Studies Institute at Phillips University in Germany, and other international universities.

Program's Elements	Details
Program number	1
Program Description	Language program that covers two levels of the six main levels Arabic Language for Non-Native speakers, according to the Common European framework of reference for languages (CEFR).
Program Period	Full academic semester (15 weeks) The academic semester starts in September or February each year (according to UAEU agenda)
Actual study days	75 Days
Hours amount	300 study hours
Teaching System	4 hours per day, from Sunday to Thursday. Friday and Saturday are weekend.
Cultural component (Optional)	10 cultural evening events (2 hours each)
Tourism Component (Optional)	4 trips around UAE. The Social club that belongs to UAEU also provides an almost weekly free trip with cheap fees for transportations only (registration required for the trips).

The second program:

It is available for most students residing in the country.

Program's Elements	Details
Program number	2
Program Description	Language course teaching all Arabic language skills (Reading, Writing, Listening and Speaking), depends on the level of this course (Beginners, Intermediate, Advanced).
Program Period	6.5 Weeks
Actual study days	13 Days
Hours amount	32 study hours
Teaching System	2.5 hours per day, 2 days per week.

- This program is flexible and can change some of the details accordance with the conditions of the students.

The Third program:

Program's Elements	Details
Program number	3
Program Description	Language program that covers one level of the six main levels Arabic Language for Non-Native speakers, according to the Common European framework of reference for languages (CEFR).
Program Period	8 Weeks
Actual study days	38 Days
Hours amount	150 study hours
Teaching System	4 hours per day, from Sunday to Thursday. Friday and Saturday are weekend.

The fourth program (Arabic Specialization):

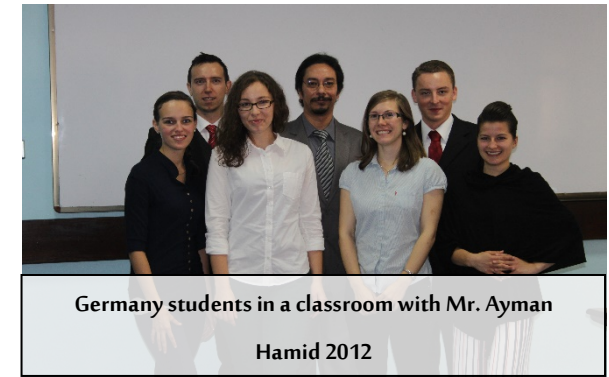
Number	Program elements	Details
1	The number of the program	4
2	Offered courses	<p>The main courses given in Specializes linguistics:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The principles of Arabic grammar 2. Newspaper readings 3. Arabic in the audio and visual media 4. Dealing with Arabic Information sources 5. Writing letters, memos and reports 6. Readings in Modern Arabic literature 7. The Quran Arabic readings 8. Reading in old Arabic poetry 9. Functional Arabic grammar for advanced learners
3	The teaching credit hours	60 hours

Note:

In addition to these programs, there is a possibility to deliver other courses that consider the needs of the trainers and their personal goals.

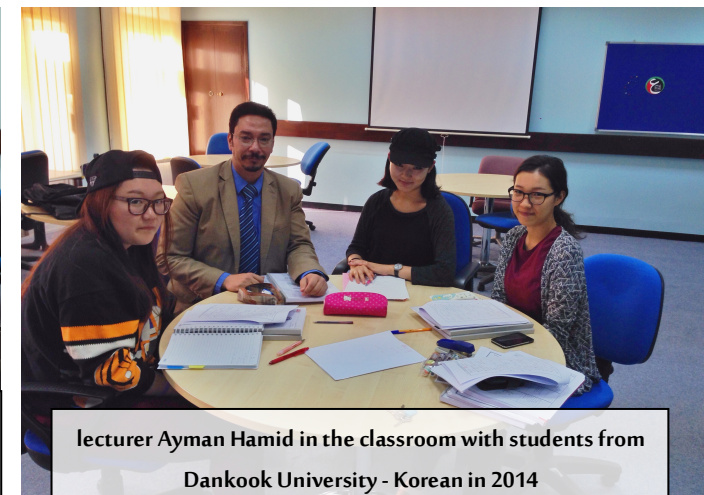
(Tenth) Organizational Issues:

1. The names of the students and their official documents (copy of passport, recent photo, contact information of the students like an email address and phone numbers) have to be received by the Arabic Unit at least a month and a half before the decided date of arriving at the United Arab Emirates.
2. Coordinating between both parties about the entry visa to the United Arab Emirates where the Unit will complete the procedures of issuing the entry visas and the procedures for housing. The students will be responsible for these expenses upon their arrival to the country.
3. The Unit will send the placement exam to the students who in turn will take before coming to the UAE.
4. The Unit will receive the students at the airport and transport them to their designated housing area.
5. The two parties will agree on the delivery dates and specify the various mechanisms and responsibilities in a documented contract.



Photos from previous courses implemented by the Arabic Language Programs Unit

1. Inside classroom:



(2) University facilities and student accommodation:



(3) Photos from the tourist program:



Group Australia in 2012 on a visit to some of the historical buildings in Al Ain city



Australia Group 2014 during attending some heritage events in Al Ain



Azerbaijani student Samir Ismailov on a visit to Green Mubazzara in Al Ain with students from the UAE University in 2010



Australia Group 2013 on a camping trip in the Dubai desert



Australia Group 2011 Visit to Sheikh Zayed Mosque



Group of Turkey from Al Fateh University in 2013 in a visit to Al Qattara Center



Turkey Group of Marmara University 2013 on a visit to the Jumeirah Mosque

(4) Graduation Pictures:



Graduation Pictures.....



Contact Details

Email Addresses:

- Arabic Language Programs Unit E-Mail: apca@uaeu.ac.ae
- Dr. Ibrahim Mohammed Ali (Arabic Language Programs Unit, Head): i.mohammed@uaeu.ac.ae
- Miss. Mouza Al Aryani (Arabic Language Programs Unit, Projects Coordinator): m.alaryani@uaeu.ac.ae

Phone Numbers:

- Dr. Ibrahim Mohammed Ali: 0097137134395
- Miss. Mouza Al Aryani: 0097137134771
- Miss Muna Al Kindi: 0097137134769