PERSIAN STUDIES MAJOR

Program Director: Fatemeh Keshavarz, Ph.D.

The 36-credit major in Persian Studies (PERS) offers a comprehensive study of Persian language and culture. The program's interdisciplinary curriculum provides students with extensive training to become proficient in the language and acquaints them with the evolution of Iranian and other Persianate cultures in their diverse perspectives, practices, and products. The B.A. in Persian Studies prepares students for a range of professional opportunities, including careers in government, education, the arts, business, international relations, and communication. Many undergraduates choose to double major or do a double degree in Persian and another subject, including agriculture, arts and humanities majors, business, computer science, engineering, international relations, and journalism.

Placement in Courses

For information about the World Language Placement, go to: http://arhu.umd.edu/academics/world-language-placement/.

Program Learning Outcomes

1. LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY: Students will be able to perform in Modern Standard Persian across the four language skills at Intermediate Level (ACTFL Proficiency Guidelines, 2012).
2. DISCIPLINARY KNOWLEDGE: Students will be able to demonstrate, primarily in writing, knowledge of major trends, events, texts, and figures within the social, cultural, literary and historical contexts of Iran.
3. ANALYTICAL AND ARGUMENTATIVE SKILLS: Students will be able to exhibit the ability to distinguish between fact and opinion, critically read and evaluate sources, and write extended source-based texts evincing critical analysis and evidence-based argumentation.
4. SOCIAL JUSTICE COMPETENCIES: Students will be able to (a) describe various aspects of diversity in the Iranian society involving language, religion, ethnicity, gender, class, and race, as well as (b) recognize, explain, and interrogate key cultural, social, political, and historical discourses and practices that shape and challenge structures of power, privilege, oppression in Iranian society, and (c) , and make informed linguistic choices with diversity in mind and understand and describe social justice issues in Persian at the target language proficiency level.

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)		
Core Language Sequence (12 credits) [1]		
PERS103	Beginning Persian I (Beginning Persian I)	3
PERS104	Beginning Persian II (Beginning Persian II)	3
PERS201	Intermediate Persian I	3
PERS202	Intermediate Persian II	3
Foundation Requirements (Choose 9 credits) [2]		**9**
PERS251	Modern Iran	
PERS252	Gender and Body in Iran	
PERS283	Iranian Cinema	
PERS371	Introduction to Persian Literature in Translation	
Electives (Choose 15 credits)		**15**
PERS280	Art Activism in Iran	
PERS298	Special Topics in Persian Studies	
PERS299	Directed Study in Persian Language	
PERS301	Advanced Persian I	
PERS302	Advanced Persian II	
PERS311	Persian Media	
PERS312	Contemporary Iranian Culture	
PERS353	Iranian Life in Literature and Film	
PERS385	Theatre and Dance in Iran and Afghanistan	
PERS386	Experiential Learning	
PERS399	Directed Study in Persian	
PERS405	Media and the Current Issues in Iranian Society	
PERS406	Practicum in Persian Translation	
PERS498	Special Topics in Persian Studies	
Total Credits		**36**

[1] Once credits have been received for a higher-level language focus course, a lower-level course in the same strand may not be taken for credit. PERS201 may not be taken after PERS202, for example.

[2] Foundation Requirements may be substituted with the approval of the Undergraduate Advisor as the list of such courses will be regularly updated.

- All pre-requisites imply "or equivalent knowledge." In cases of equivalent knowledge, required language-focused credits are replaced in consultation with, and with the written approval of, the undergraduate advisor.
- At least 15 of the 36 credits for the major must be at the upper level (courses numbered 300 or above).
- 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 (SLLC). Additionally, an overall GPA of 2.0 in a major or minor is required for graduation.

GRADUATION PLANS

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

Additional information on developing a graduation plan can be found on the following pages:

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

OPPORTUNITIES
Scholarship 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

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 http://go.miis.edu/LFwaiver/.

For a Host of Other Scholarships, Please Visit:

http://sllc.umd.edu/special-programs/arabic-persian/persian-flagship/funding/