

Egypt: American University in Cairo

Cairo, Egypt

<http://www.aucegypt.edu>

2008-2009

Program Information:

Language of Instruction: English

Program Length: Long Term

Program Dates: Late August to mid-December

Enrollment: Maximum of 2

Class Standing Requirement: Junior (17 credits)

GPA Requirement: Minimum of 3.0

Non-K Program: Program is run by an institution other than Kalamazoo College. Program is approved for transfer of academic credit. Only state and federal financial aid transfers to this program—Kalamazoo aid and scholarships do not transfer.

Program Fee: \$25,444 (2008-2009); Includes tuition and fees, food and housing while classes are in session, several excursions, and round-trip international airfare from a designated point of departure. Does not include books, personal spending money, food or housing during vacation periods, or independent travel.

NOTE: The sponsoring institution has provided the CIP with the latest information on expenses, however the program fee must be regarded as an estimate of total program charges. Any changes that are beyond the control of Kalamazoo College could cause a participant to pay more than the estimated costs.

Housing: Dormitory or Apartment. Students are housed in double rooms with other international students. Meals are available in the campus cafeteria.

About the Location:

Cairo is the capital of Egypt, located at the center of the Arabic-speaking world at the ancient crossroads between Africa, Europe, and Asia. Cairo's monuments and museums document 5,000+ years of civilization; it has more Islamic treasures than any other city in the world; ancient Egypt is surrounded by today's modern metropolis. American University in Cairo (AUC)'s new campus is scheduled to be fully operational by January 2009. Most of the university's facilities, colleges, centers, and institutes are located in a 260 acre community in New Cairo. An international team of architects designed the campus to be technically advanced, environmentally sensitive, student centers, and accessible to persons with disabilities. According to Olivia Murray, who studied in Egypt during 2007-8, "Cairo is extremely big—it has something like 25 million people living there—and extremely unique. There is always something going on with your senses. Nothing here particularly reminds me of Cairo because it is so unique and energetic - you can't compare it to anything. One smell I always think of is the fruit stands and fruit juice bars." Alyson Chun (K'09) describes Cairo as "one of the more 'western' cities in Egypt. You'll find a lot of people speak English, and quickly switch to speaking English if you don't speak Arabic. (That doesn't mean you shouldn't try using Arabic!) And you'll find most everything you need pretty easily. There are fast food places and coffee shops on every street. Super markets are also pretty easy to find. And everybody uses a cell phone!"

AUC offers a wide variety of student activities, sports, clubs, associations and groups. Study abroad students are encouraged to participate in all that interests them. Student Government, Volunteers in Action, the Egyptian Folk Dance Troupe, Model Arab League, and the student newspaper, *Caravan*, are just a few examples of available opportunities.

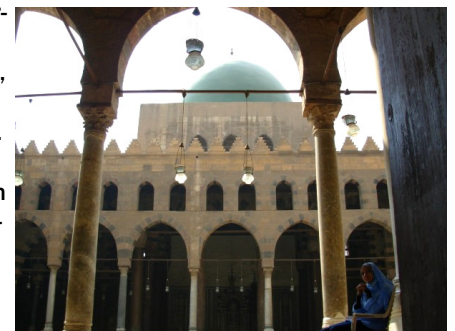
To learn more about Egypt and its academic program, contact a CIP Peer Advisor in person or at cippa@kzoo.edu. They will be able to put you in touch with returned students who have experienced Egypt first-hand!



Program is geared towards but not limited to: Anthropology, History, International and Area Studies, Political Science and Religion Majors

I miss everything about Cairo. Especially the people. I have never experienced a more hospitable group of people in my entire life than the Egyptians. No questions. They put other countries to shame.

— Olivia Murray K'08



Mosque in the Citadel of Muhammad Ali Pashar.
Photo provided by Danielle Badra K'08

Questions?

Contact the Center for International Programs

Location: First Floor Dewing

Phone: 269-337-7133

E-mail: cip@kzoo.edu

Egypt: American University in Cairo

Cairo, Egypt

<http://www.aucegypt.edu>

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About the University:

Courses/Credits

Study abroad students have access to all University courses and are fully integrated with Egyptian students.

Students on the Long-Term program must enroll in the equivalent of 6 K-Units of credit. In order to be counted as one K-Unit of credit, a course must be within the liberal arts tradition and have 40-45 contact hours. One K-Unit is equivalent to 3-4 semester credits. No partial credit is given. In cases where students must combine courses to achieve the minimum number of contact hours for a unit of credit, both courses must be from the same discipline. The academic program includes a 20 hour *Survival Arabic* course offered before the semester begins. When combined with Arabic language courses taken during the regular school term, *Survival Arabic* can yield academic credit. The academic advising period begins shortly after the *Survival Arabic* course commences, followed by the on-site orientation and class registration.

All instruction is in English with the exception of some advanced Arabic literature and language courses. Courses that focus on Arabic language and literature, Islamic art and architecture, Egyptology and Middle East history are consistently popular. For a list of courses offered, please refer to the academic catalogue at <http://catalog.aucegypt.edu/>

Credit Transfer

Grades from all study abroad courses will appear on the Kalamazoo transcript but are not included in the Kalamazoo grade point average. Students must earn the equivalent of a C in the local grading system to receive credit for coursework completed abroad. Coursework must be completed and turned in before the end of the academic program or no credit will be given.

One of the best times I had there was going to Dahab on the Red Sea, going snorkeling at Blue Hole, and climbing Mt. Sinai - this I would recommend to anyone and everyone. It was amazing.

— Olivia Murray K'09



Photo provided by Danielle Badra K'08

Courses approved for Cultures Credit: *Arab Society (ANSO), Peoples and Culture of the Middle East and North Africa (ANSO), Art and Architecture of the City of Cairo (ARTX), Muslim Political Thought (POLS), and Selected Themes and Topics in Arabic Literature in Translation (LIT).*



Black and White Desert:
Photo provided by Danielle Badra K'08

Advice from Past-Participants

- In terms of classes and clubs, take Arabic. It will help a lot and it's a great language. Take an Egyptian Colloquial Arabic class—the Modern Standard Arabic classes is not as useful unless you intend to study MSA in the future. Knowing a little bit of colloquial Egyptian Arabic gets you pretty far.
- Join clubs on campus if you can. It is a great way to meet people. The tabling and recruiting for clubs happens within the first week or so of school, which is difficult to be aware of as an exchange student because you're still getting used to so much else. So if you're interested in joining a club or sport, just make sure you're aware of when the sign ups are. Try to go to events sponsored by the school too, like movies or lectures. I saw some awesome things this way and some great people came to visit, like Cornell West.
- Ramadan is like nothing I've ever experienced. It is a month long and the entire country turns upside down. It is a lot of fun, especially at night when everyone breaks from fasting. Try everything, at least once. All the food is worth trying, and the small "hole in the wall" joints are where I had some of the best food while I was there. It is a little unnerving at first, but once you get used to the pace and life-style of the city, you get into the flow. Try everything.
- Dress modestly—it only can help. As a white woman I was stared at quite a bit but never was I followed, touched, grabbed or anything else like that. Just cover your shoulders (eg. tee shirts) and legs below the knee. Again, it's not a big deal if you don't but it just helps. Especially in Khan el Khalili (the biggest market in the middle east). There are lots of tourists there so you get hollered at a lot.
- One of the best restaurants is Abu Seed in Zamalek. It is always packed and it is the best traditional Cair-ean restaurant around. Also, Fel-Fella, which is near school, is a cafeteria style restaurant that we often got lunch from. It is extremely cheap and the food is delicious. There is also a sit down version of Fel Fella nearby which is also good. Any place that sells Koshari is good and cheap and fast - and those are everywhere. You can spot them by the mounds of noodles and rice in the windows.