



NSLI-Y Arabic Academic Year 2011-2012 Program Description Implemented by Legacy International



Target Language: Arabic

Program Location: Marrakesh, Morocco

Program Implementer: Legacy International

Overseas Partner Institution: Center for Language & Culture (CLC); Marrakesh, Morocco

Overseas Host Institution: CLC, Marrakesh, Morocco

Accommodations: Homestays; Residence by CLC; hotels during field trips

Pre-Departure Orientation: September 12-14

Program Dates:
September 15, 2011 to April 23, 2012

Target Language Instruction: 350 hours

Program Overview

The NSLI-Y Arabic Academic Year 2011-2012 Program exposes American students to Moroccan culture and life during this intensive language-focused experience. Students receive a comprehensive orientation to Moroccan history through tours of Marrakesh, lecture series, and discussions. Field trips to many Moroccan cities enrich this language-focused experience. Students meet Moroccan peers to discuss social issues and questions pertaining to the youth in their respective countries.

The program focuses on all aspects of the language-learning, including reading, writing, listening and speaking. All classes are conducted in Arabic. The program includes a total of 350 hours of Arabic instruction. Students also receive instruction in the Moroccan dialect so that they can communicate more effectively with their host families and friends, as well as in the community. In addition to classroom language instruction, students have opportunities for practice with language partners. Students should expect to receive eight to ten hours per week of homework. In addition to the main textbooks series, the students use audio and video materials to practice their new skills. They also create conversation skits, songs, plays, and poetry all intended to improve their Arabic skills.

Students have many opportunities to participate in community service, art classes, music performances, and presentations by non-government organizations (NGOs), religious leaders, and other sectors of the society.

Living Arrangements/Participant Support and Supervision

For the first three weeks of the program, students will live with Moroccan host families who have been carefully selected by the CLC. Following the homestay experience, students are housed in a rented residence – a villa adjacent to CLC. A Resident Director (RD) resides in the villa with the students.

While the students are with the host families, all breakfasts and dinners are provided by homestay families, and 3 lunches a week are provided by the hosting organization. For some lunches, students may visit nearby cafes and restaurants. This is a great opportunity to practice Arabic. When students transition to the villa, all breakfasts and dinners, and at least 3 lunches a week are provided by the hosting organization with opportunities to purchase some lunches.

The security of the students is of utmost importance. CLC is located in a safe residential neighborhood of Marrakesh. During the period of homestays, students have an evening curfew and are required to return to their respective host family homes prior to the curfew.

The RD monitors the activities and security of the students throughout the program. The RD also travels with the students on all the field trips and other excursions, providing strong support and supervision during the program. Participants have phone and internet access to contact their families. Daily meetings are scheduled between the RD and the partner organization to review any possible issues and resolve potential problems. Legacy's Program Director maintains communication with CLC staff through Skype, emails, and phone calls.

Textbooks and Materials

Al-Kitaab fii Ta'allum al-Arabiyya by Mahmoud Battal, books 1 and 2 are used, in addition to supplemental materials such as stories, video clips, songs, and Arabic websites.

Language Assessment

NSLI-Y is a rigorous language learning experience. All participants are required to complete language assessments at key intervals and as requested by American Councils or the implementing organization in order to maintain good standing in the program. Participants are required to take tests, quizzes and other assessments as part of the in-country program. Participants may be asked to take one or more language tests prior to program assignment. Failure to complete this or other language assessments may result in the cancellation of the scholarship.

Cultural Activities

Once a month there are both short and longer duration trips to places such as Imlil Valley in the Atlas Mountains, country souks, Lalla Takourkust Lake, Safi, sites in the Marrakesh medina, Agricultural Research Center, etc. During extended trips students stay in hotels. Examples of extended trips include:

- Sahara Desert (camel ride, camping on dunes)
- Rabat-Sale-Casablanca visit (capital city, business center)
- Tangier-Tetouan (to experience the northern culture)
- Fes-Meknes-Ifrane (the oldest city in Morocco, imperial city, Akhawayn University)
- Agadir-Taraoudant-Wad Mass (Berber south of Morocco, bird sanctuary)
- Trekking in the Atlas Mountains
- Visits to farms and bird sanctuaries
- Essaouira (picturesque coastal town)

Other cultural activities may include:

- Intercultural dialogues (series of three) between the participants and Moroccan English-language students on topics of relevance to young people
- Field trips to educate participants about various aspects of modern Moroccan life, such as NGOs in Morocco, minority issues, history, religion, social and political systems
- Participation in Gnawan traditional music

Please keep in mind that program details may be subject to change.