Arabic Online

A comprehensive electronic program for
teaching Arabic to non native speakers

2019 - 2020   1440 - 1441

Introduction

Language is not seen merely as a means of communication but a way to create bonds between nations and individuals and the means of broadening people's horizons. Language learning encourages tolerance and peaceful co-existence among people and by extension nations. The Arabic language is considered to be one of the fastest growing languages in the world. As many as over 422 million people around the world speak Arabic, making it the sixth most spoken language. It is also the official or co-official language of 22 countries around the world. Also, Arabic is the spiritual language of over 1.5 billion people around the world who use it in their daily prayers and worship, as the Quran is indispensable in the spiritual life of a Muslim. Arabic is also one of the six official languages of the United Nations and one of its major organizations, UNESCO, celebrates the Arabic language every year in December.

Given the growing demand for learning the Arabic language among non-native speakers and the need to create closer cultural understanding and appreciation of other cultures, it was imperative to design a comprehensive language program that promotes the dissemination of the Arab and Islamic culture.

To meet the above challenges, The Saudi Electronic University created a unique comprehensive language learning program named Arabic Online in 2015. After three years, the program went through a review and modernization that resulted in the content being moved to Blackboard. The initiative was intended to make the program one of a kind that offers language learning anytime and anywhere in the world and also fosters universal values of diversity, acceptance of others, promotion of peace and coexistence.

Vision

The acceptance and spread of the Arabic language across the world.

Mission

The central mission of the Arabic Online program at The Saudi Electronic University is to provide high quality Arabic language and orientation of Arabic culture to non-native speakers in conformity with the highest standards and best practice of language instruction.

Program objectives

1. Respond to the urgent needs of the field of teaching Arabic to non-native speakers for a comprehensive online learning environment.
2. Respond to the growing demand for learning Arabic from non-native speakers.
3. Contribute to the growth of the Arabic language and strengthen its role and distinguished status as a global language and enhance the role of Saudi Arabia's service to the Arabic language.
4. Contribute to the dissemination of the Arabic Islamic culture as well as actively participate in the promotion of cultural understanding, coexistence among different cultures and the engagement of Arab youth with their peers of other cultures.
5. Present Modern Standard Arabic to non-native speakers emphasizing the communicative aspect and link it with everyday usage.
6. Enhance the field of teaching the Arabic language to non-native speakers in the light of proven techno- logical advancement and internationally recognized standards.
7. Provide access to Arabic language learning through an interactive e-learning environment.
8. Promote and strengthen universal values of tolerance, mutual coexistence, diversity and acceptance of others.

Stages for improving Arabic online program

His Excellency the president launches the Arabic Online Program on the Blackboard.

Stage 1: Review principles

1. Feedback from faculty in the department of teaching Arabic to non-native speakers.
2. Feedback from experts in the field.
3. Observations from newly enrolled students in the program.
4. Feedback from the coordinators in countries where the program is in use.
5. Best practice in language learning.

Stage 2: Guiding principles

1. Identify the weaknesses and shortcomings of the program.
2. Arrange the content of the program to ensure it is organized and presented in a coherent and cohesive manner that ensures ease of learn- ing for the students.
3. Upgrade the program in terms of content, delivery and learning outcome.
4. Respond to the feedback from the coordinators, students and experts on the previous program.
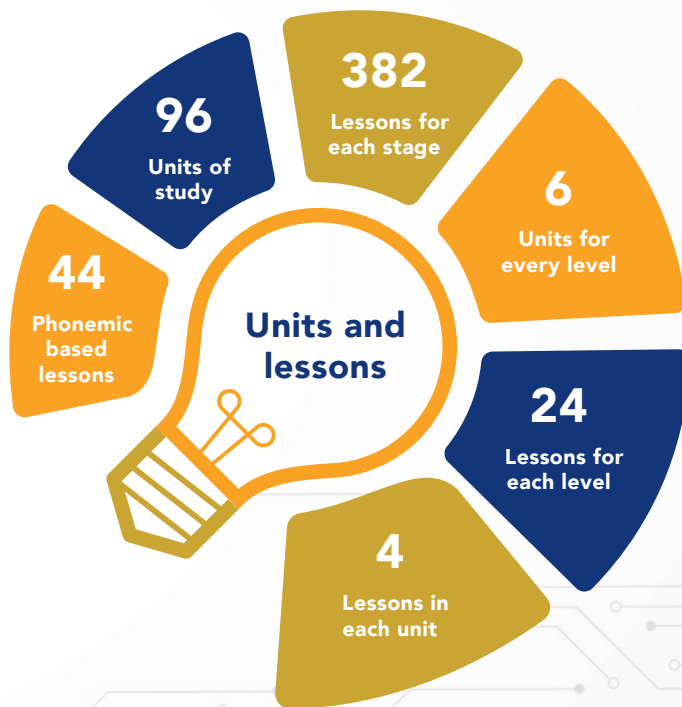

Revision to the program content after the transfer.

Stage 3: Reference points

1. The Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR)
2. The American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL).
3. Theoretical framework for teaching languages.
4. Learning from previous experiences.

Content standards

The content of the program is in accordance with universal values as articulated by UNESCO, namely:

One of the team meetings' discussing the progress of the transfer of the program to Blackboard.

Celebrate differences

Cultural diversity

Peace

Universal values

Human dignity

Freedom

Openness

Virtual class testing

Educational levels of the program

» The educational program is based on The Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR), The American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL) and other international experiences. The program offers the four language skills (Listening, Speaking, Reading and Writing) and language elements (Sounds, Vocabu- lary and grammar points) in a comprehensive format.

» The program starts with a placement test that determines the appropriate level for the learners to begin their jour- ney of learning the Arabic language. The first level introduces the Arabic alphabet and its pronunciation through high quality videos. At the end of the unit, a review of the concepts are highlighted. Then the learner proceeds to practice the language acquired with interactive speaking, listening, reading and writing exercises.

* The program consists of 16 levels divided into six stages as detailed below:-

Stages	levels to be completed		
Foundational stage	1	2	3
Elementary stage	4	5	6
Intermediate Upper	10	11	12
intermediate	7	8	9
Advanced	13	14	15
Proficient		16	

Each level consists of 24 lessons and each lesson has interactive exercises. The lessons are distributed over 6 units of study. At the end of each unit the learner attempts a (unit test), eventually completing six unit tests for each level. At the end of each level the learner attempts a (level test).

Units and lessons

- **382** Lessons for each stage
- **6** Units for every level
- **24** Lessons for each level
- **4** Lessons in each unit
- **44** Phonemic based lessons
- **96** Units of study

Program evaluation methods

The program uses a variety of assessment methods to ensure it meets high quality standards, which enables the learners to be aware of their skill level before advancing.

Assessment method	Standard
1. Level test	34 points
2.Unit test	36 points
3.Exercises\assignments	30 point
Total 100 points	

Certificates and Badges

The Arabic online program offers the following certificates and badges.

1.Certificates:

Certificate	Standard
1.Completion certificate.	» Completion of all the lessons and assignments with a minimum score of 50% on all self learning activities on the levels attained. » Attaining 33% attendance in virtual classes equivalent of 4 lectures per month of all the levels attained since attempting the placement test. » Attaining 60% on all the exercises and level tests attempted by the learner.
2. Level completion certificate	» Attaining 60% on all tests and exercises of the level.
3. Attendance certificate.	» Completion of the level and the exercises with no less than 50% attainment in all self learning lessons. » 33% attendance of virtual classes with a minimum attendance of 4 sessions per month.

2.Badges:

The objective is to motivate the learner and make learning enjoyable and rewarding.

Medal	Standard
1. Medal of achievement	» Awarded at the end of each lesson if the student attains 90% out of 100% in all of the exercises in the lesson.

Program Content breakdown\statistics

1. Phonemic awareness and it consists of:-

6	Units of study.
44	Comprehensive lessons.
29	Video based phonetic learning.
6	Review lessons for the unit studies.

344	Assignments.
620	Audio files.
357	Audio vocabulary.
300	Pictures.

2. Program levels (1 to 16) and consists of:-

16	Files on information about each level.
16	Files for teachers.
96	Units of study.
382	Comprehensive lessons.
2674	Learning objectives.
382	Listening script.
382	Reading script.

216	Educational graphic motion.
166	Educational infographic.
12224	Audio files.
1548	linteractive videos.
4538	Pictures.
6826	Exercises.
96	Unit tests.

| 16 | Level tests. |
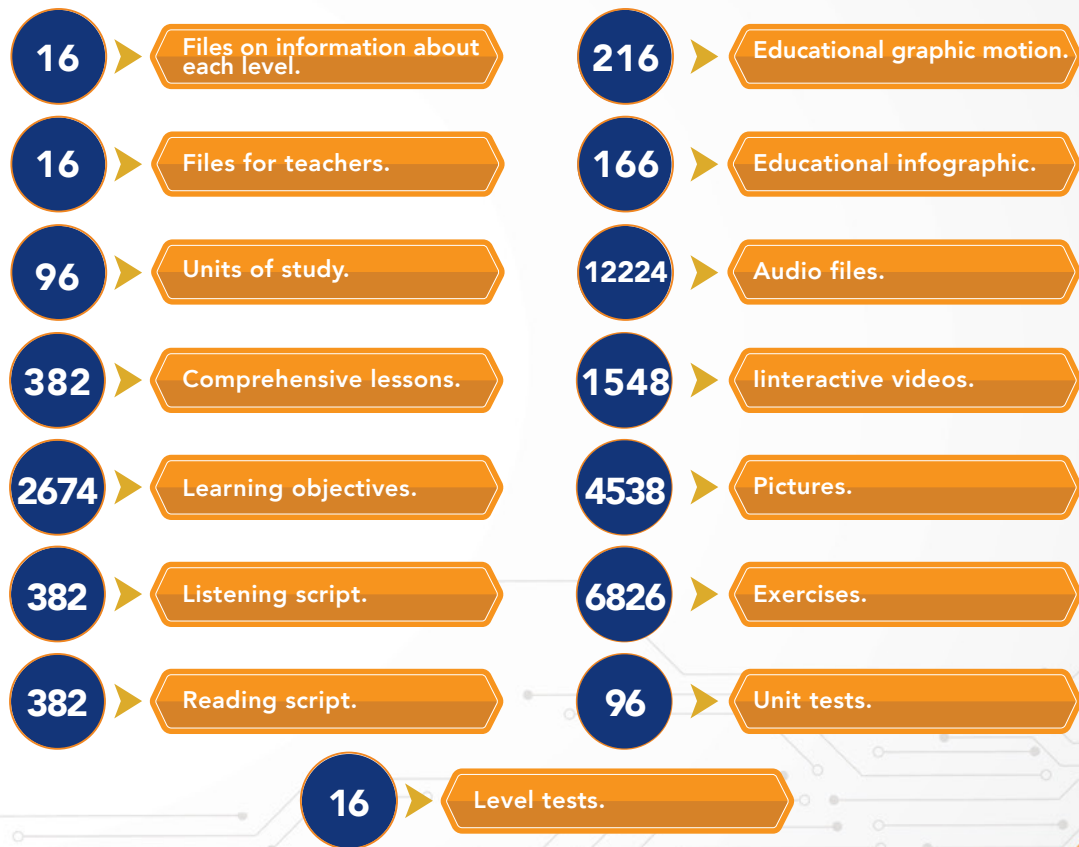
Learning hours

The program content is divided into 16 levels, and each level is further divided into units for a total of 96 units. Each unit consist of 4 lessons culminating into a total of 382 lessons that the learner will be exposed to. This translates into 24 lessons per level. In addition, 44 lessons are dedicated to phonetic learning. The total contact hours for the program is 960 hours roughly 60 hours for each level of which 48 hours are for self-learning and 12 hours account for attendance in virtual classes. The program emphasizes independent learning and therefore 75% of the program is self-learning and 25% is on-line live virtual classes.

Self learning hrs per week

Virtual hrs per month

Self learning hrs per month

Virtual hrs per week

Hours of study per level

12

12

48

3

60

960 Contact hrs

%25 virtual class attendance

%75 self learning
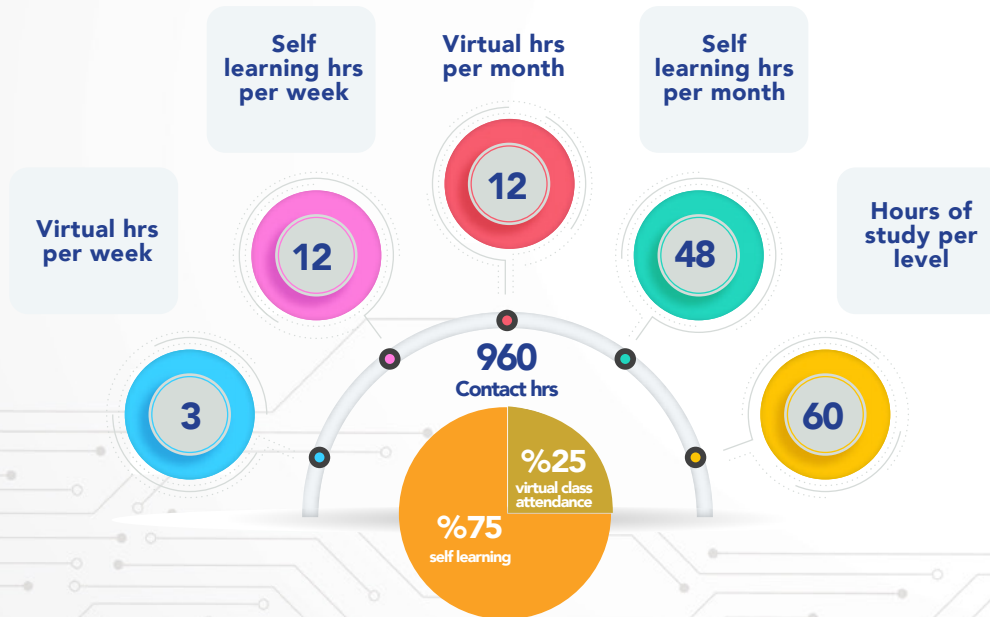
Lesson Content

Each level consists of 6 units of study. Each unit has 4 lessons consisting of video based listening seg-ments, vocabulary, grammar, speaking and writing. In addition, each lesson would have a variety of assessments.

Grammar points

Writing

Speaking

Lesson components

Video based listening content

Vocabulary

Reading
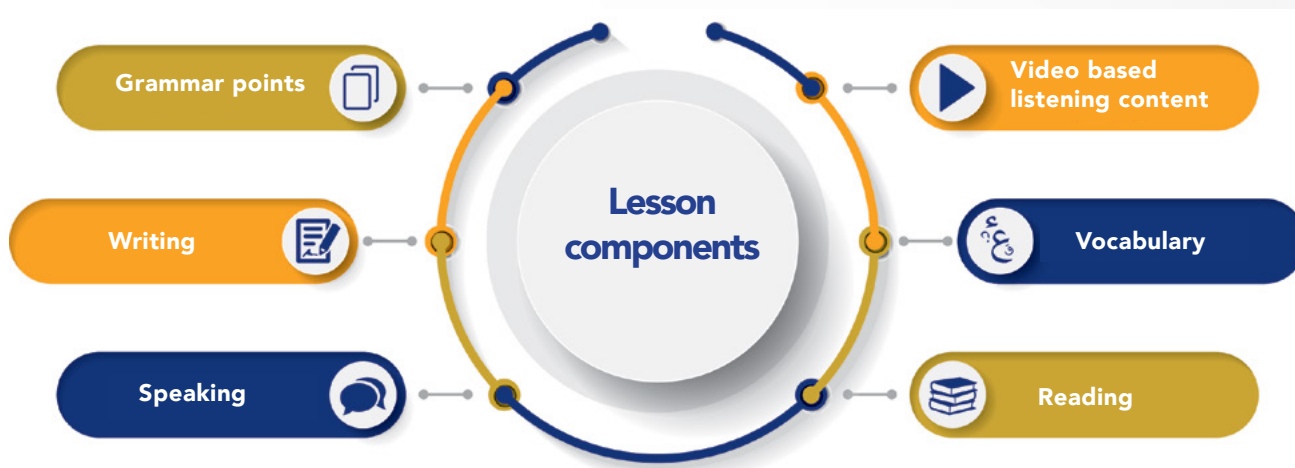
Expansion and global presence of the program

• Global reach:

* The total number of students registered in the Arabic online program exceeds 18,000 students that hail from 72 counties across the globe from different cultures, socio economic status and educational background that lends to the uniqueness of the program as a harbinger of culture and civilization. This unique opportunity allows for building bridges based on shared human values.

• International agreements to offer Arabic Online Program to universities across the world:

* The Saudi Electronic University has concluded a number of agreements to offer the Arabic Online Program to more than 54 universities around the world. The Saudi Electronic University anticipates signing more service contracts with universities and educational institutions around the world.
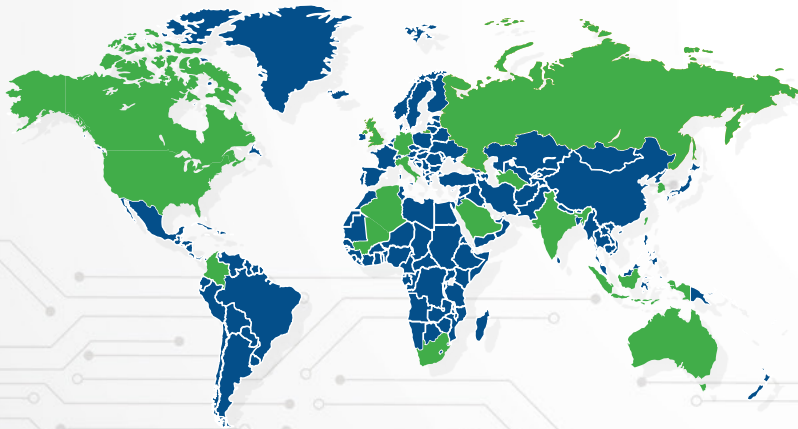
■ A map that reflects the location of the program participants.

Students in the program in one of the universities in Indonesia.

The number of universities in the countries that have concluded an agreement

Country	Number
Indonesia	**48**
Germany	1
Denmark	1
Uzbekistan	1
Brunei	1
Uganda	1
Memorandum of Understanding with Center of information & Arabian- Russian Studies	

List of universities that have successfully implemented the Arabic online program

No	Name of university	Country	City	Logo
1	State University of Malang	Indonesia	Malang	
2	State University of Jakarta	Indonesia	Jakarta	
3	Indonesia University of Education	Indonesia	Bandung	
4	State Semarang University	Indonesia	Semarang	
5	Indonesian Muslim University Makassar	Indonesia	Makassar	
6	State University of Makassar	Indonesia	Makassar	
7	Hasanuddin University	Indonesia	Makassar	

No	Name of university	Country	City	Logo
8	Gadjah Mada University	Indonesia	Yogyakarta	
9	Sebelas Maret University	Indonesia	Surakarta	
10	State Islamic University Ar-Raniry	Indonesia	Banda Aceh	
11	Sultan Syarif Kasim II State Islamic University	Indonesia	Pekanbaru	
12	Imam Bonjol State Islamic University	Indonesia	Padang	
13	Raden Fatah State Islamic University	Indonesia	Palembang	
14	Sultan Thaha Saifuddin State Islamic University	Indonesia	Jambi	

No	Name of university	Country	City	Logo
15	Raden Intan State Islamic University	Indonesia	Lampung	
16	Sultan Maulana Hasanuddin State Islamic University	Indonesia	Banten	
17	Sunan Kalijaga Islamic State University	Indonesia	Yogyakarta	
18	Wali Sangha Islamic State University	Indonesia	Semarang	
19	Maulana Malik Ibrahim Islamic State University	Indonesia	Malangx	
20	Alauddin State Islamic University	Indonesia	Makassar	
21	Bengkulu Islamic University	Indonesia	Bengkulu	

No	Name of university	Country	City	Logo
22	State Islamic Institute of Batu-sangkar	Indonesia	Batusangkar	
23	State Islamic Institute Metro	Indonesia	Metro Lampung	
24	State Institute of Islamic Studies Purwokerto	Indonesia	Purwokerto	
25	State Islamic Institute IAIN (Surakarta)	Indonesia	Surakarta	
26	State Islamic Institute IAIN (Salatifa)	Indonesia	Salatifa	
27	Mahad Al-jami'ah IAIN SY-EKH NURJATI Cirebon	Indonesia	Cirebon	
28	The State Institute for Islamic Study Pekalongan	Indonesia	Pekalongan	

No	Name of university	Country	City	Logo
29	State Islamic University of Kudus	Indonesia	Kudus	
30	State Islamic Institute of Religion (IAIN) of Tulungagung	Indonesia	Tulungagung	
31	State Islamic Institute of Religion (IAIN) of Kadiri	Indonesia	Kadiri	
32	State Islamic Institute of Religion IAIN Pontianak	Indonesia	Pontianak	
33	State Islamic University IAIN Palangka Raya	Indonesia	Palangka Raya	
34	State Islamic University IAIN Sultan Amai	Indonesia	Gorontalo	
35	Al-Azhar University of Indonesia	Indonesia	Jakarta	

No	Name of university	Country	City	Logo
36	University of Darussalam Gontor	Indonesia	Ponorogo	
37	Muhammadiyah University of Yogyakarta	Indonesia	Yogyakarta	
38	Ahmad Dahlan University	Indonesia	Yogyakarta	
39	Quranic Science University, Central Java	Indonesia	Wonosobo	
40	Islamic University of Malang	Indonesia	Malang	
41	The Islamic Institute	Indonesia	Polewali Mandar	
42	Islamic and Arabic College of Indonesia	Indonesia	Batang	

No	Name of university	Country	City	Logo
43	Tazakka institute of modern Islamic education	Indonesia	Batang	
44	State Institute For Islamic Studies Palu	Indonesia	Palu	
45	Union of Arabic language teachers in Indonesia	Indonesia	Malang	
46	Antasari Banjarmasin State Islamic University	Indonesia	Banjarmasin	
47	State Islamic University of North Sumatra	Indonesia	Medan	
48	Mataram State Islamic University	Indonesia	Mataram	
49	Saarland University	Germany	Saarbrücken	

No	Name of university	Country	City	Logo
50	International Islamic Academy of Uzbekistan	Uzbekistan	Tashkent	
51	Sultan Sharif Ali Islamic University	Brunei	Bandar Seri Begawan	
52	North European Academy of Sciences and Scientific Research	Denmark	Tasstrup	
53	Islamic University in Uganda	Uganda	Mbale	
54	MoU Center of information & Arabian- Russian Studies	Saudi Arabia - Russia	Riyadh- Moscow	

The team of the Arabic Language Department for non-native speakers

contact

The Saudi Electronic University

Kingdom of Saudi Arabia - Riyadh - Prince Muhammad bin Salman bin Abdulaziz Road

Postal code: 11673

P O Box: 93499

Direct phone: 00966112613500 / Converted: 3741

E-mail: ArabicOnline@SEU.edu.sa

Social media:

YouTube: Arabic Online Program

Facebook: Arabic-Online.net

Twitter: @SEUArabic