



Study Arabic in Oman







Starting fall 2022:

مَعْمَدُ نُورٍ مَجَانٌ لِلتَّلَامِيذِ
Noor Majan Arabic Institute



دارس
Daaris



*In the interest of broadening students' study options, Noor
Majan is pleased to announce the opening of our Daaris
Institute in the interior city of Nizwa. See page 9 to learn more!*

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There's so much that comes to mind when I think about my time at Noor Majan. Sharing a *karak* tea with my Omani friends at coffee shops, Eid holiday with my language partner's family, navigating the labyrinth of Muscat's Muttrah Souq, and practicing Arabic with friends at picnics under the starry night sky of the desert. Most importantly, I walked away from my summer in Oman with a newfound confidence and identity in the Arabic language.

— *Critical Language Scholarship
Participant, Summer 2018*



THE NOOR MAJAN DIFFERENCE

Academics



Classes taught 100%
by native Arabic
speakers



Innovative Omani
Gulf dialect courses



Options for
researchers,
professionals, study
abroad, and language
enthusiasts

Learning Environment



Two host cities
(Muscat and Nizwa)
to choose from



Institute apartment/
dorm housing
arrangements



Average oral
proficiency growth of
two ACTFL levels
during summer
programs, 2016–2019



Twice-weekly
meetings with vetted
Omani language
partners (Muscat
only)



Mark Voss • Students talk to merchants during an excursion | Ibri Old Souq

UNIQUE EXPERIENCES

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Noor | نور

(n.) light, illumination

Majan | مجان

(proper n.) an ancient civilization that encompassed what is today Oman

The Noor Majan Arabic Institute was founded in 2012 with a name that speaks to Oman's Islamic modernity (Noor) and its rich history on the Arabian Peninsula (Majan). Ten years later, the institute has emerged as a premiere site for studying Arabic abroad in the Gulf region. From its eight original students in 2012, the institute today serves more than 200 students annually from over 15 countries.

Noor Majan's **Muscat campus** and our **Daaris Institute in Nizwa** provide students the flexibility to choose programs more suited to their unique needs and interests. Together with a team of Omani instructors, enthusiastic staff, and a welcoming community, we invite you to achieve your Arabic language study goals with us, whatever they may be. We offer programs geared towards expatriates, study abroad students, and international professionals and welcome you all to seek out a unique experience here in Oman.

UNIVERSITIES & ORGANIZATIONS REPRESENTED

- Brigham Young University
- Bryn Mawr College
- Critical Language Scholarship
- George Washington University
- Georgetown University
- German Embassy of Oman
- Grand Valley State University
- Harvard University
- Ohio State University
- Portland State University
- Princeton University
- School of Oriental and African Studies
- Texas A&M University
- University of Arizona
- University of Freiburg
- University of Kentucky
- University of Mississippi
- University of New Mexico
- University of Oklahoma
- University of Rhode Island
- University of Texas at Austin
- Virginia Tech University





Mark Voss • A Noor Majan student mingles with language partners

ACADEMIC OVERVIEW

COURSE OFFERINGS

Before arriving in Oman, Noor Majan students take a comprehensive placement exam online that assigns them to one of 11 levels as defined by the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL).

In addition to the core instruction program in MSA, students can arrange to take elective classes for additional fees. These courses are taken privately or as institutional small-group classes for an additional fee.

INTENSIVE MSA PROGRAM

Base MSA Course

Noor Majan offers 11 levels of Arabic instruction that correspond to the ACTFL's language proficiency levels.



Media Arabic

Focuses on applying knowledge to understand articles, books, and current world events.

ELECTIVE OFFERINGS

Omani Dialect

Innovative dialect classes that impart students with an understanding of Omani Arabic, which is a dialect of Gulf Arabic.

Arab Poetry

Advanced Arabic taught through the lens of the language's poetic greats.

Research Course

Ideal for researchers studying authentic historical Arabic source materials.

LEVELS

Arabic 101: Novice Low		N/A
Arabic 102: Novice Mid		
Arabic 201: Novice High		A1
Arabic 202: Intermediate Low		A2
Arabic 301: Intermediate Mid		B1
Arabic 302: Intermediate High		
Arabic 401: Advanced Low		B2
Arabic 402: Advanced Mid		
Arabic 501: Advanced High		C1
Arabic 502: Superior		C2*
Arabic 503: Distinguished		

* Approximate Common European Framework of Reference oral proficiency equivalents.

METHODOLOGY

Noor Majan's methodology places equal importance of speaking, reading, writing, and listening and strives for students to advance in all four areas. Instruction time is divided between two distinct concentrations:

- Foundational knowledge in Modern Standard Arabic
- Application of knowledge and skills through media literacy

Throughout both concentrations, Noor Majan utilizes the third edition of *Al Kitaab Fi Ta'allum Al-'Arabiyya* (Mahmoud Al Batal) as the primary course material. Complementary material from *Al Kitaab Al-Asasi (1-3)* (El-Said Badawi), *Modern Standard Arabic* (Eckehard Schultz), and *Ahlan Wa Sahlan* (Mahdi Alosch) may also be used. The media Arabic class in particular draws on authentic and relevant material selected by our instructors to demonstrate real-world applications of the language skills.

We follow the international teaching standards set by the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages and teach Arabic at all eleven ACTFL-defined levels.

LANGUAGE PARTNERS

All Noor Majan students in Muscat* meet with an Omani language partner for a total of two hours a week. This allows students to apply their classroom knowledge to the real world and gain confidence. Language partners more than often become good friends and invite students to accompany them on outings and to cultural events.

Noor Majan's language partners are chosen through a competitive interview process. Once selected, they are given training in effective intercultural communication and language engagement strategies.

** Language partners are part of the tuition package in Muscat. Students at the Daaris Institute in Nizwa are encouraged to take advantage of Nizwa's vibrant university population to seek out friendships and opportunities for immersion.*



Mark Voss • Jibreen Castle, Bahla



Mark Voss • Students study Arabic on the road



Omanis welcome students to use national garb • Ibri

NOOR MAJAN-MUSCAT

📍 The Shadow Building in Muscat (right), home to Noor Majan's classrooms



THE CAMPUS

The Noor Majan-Muscat campus is located in a modern and multi-story building at the heart of the Al-Khuwair shopping and commercial district. The campus is surrounded by a number of lively restaurants, stores, and cafés and is near essential services such as hospitals and pharmacies.

Noor Majan-Muscat's centralized location places students equidistant from places of interest in Muscat. The campus is located 10 minutes away from the Al-Qurum Beach, the Muscat Royal Opera House, the Sultan Qaboos Grand Mosque, and less than 15 minutes from Muscat International Airport.



PROGRAMS

Programs at the Muscat campus are highly flexible and range from short term programs such as a 4-week winter term, and 4-week, 6-week, and 8-week programs throughout the year. There are also long-term programs for students who want to do a full semester or year abroad. Students can start at any of the 11 levels offered at any time of the year. All programs amount to 25 contact hours per week or 100 contact hours* per month. All students additionally receive two hours of language partner practice every week.



Program prices include the following:

- Tuition (100 hours monthly)
- Airport pickup
- Lunch during class days
- Student visa
- Accommodation
- Excursions & cultural activities
- 2 hours of language partner practice weekly

MUSCAT PROGRAM COSTS

MONTH	SUMMER	SEMESTER
1,225 OMR	2,410 OMR	3,880 OMR
~\$3,185 USD	~\$6,270 USD	~\$10,090 USD

*A contact hour is equivalent to 50 minutes of instruction time.

**Summer is a 9-week program with a week of break for Eid and semester price is for a 13-week spring program. The 14-week fall semester in Muscat is OMR 4,210.

MUSCAT

مسقط

THE HIDDEN PEARL OF THE GULF

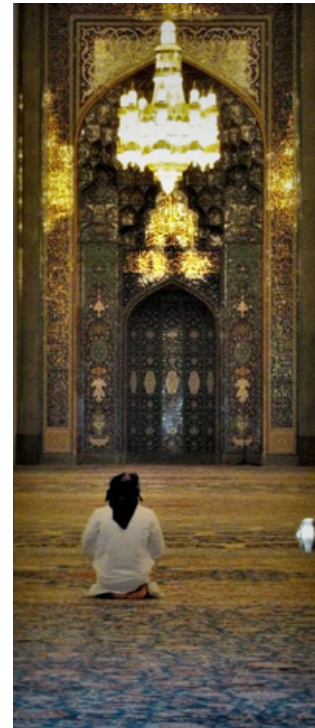
Wedged between the sea and the jagged rocks of the Hajar Mountains, Muscat is rather quiet in comparison to its neighbor Dubai. Under the surface of its pearly cityscape, however, is a cosmopolitan culture that speaks to its history as a port for ships from all corners of the globe.

👥 1,400,000 residents (rank: 1)

One possible meaning for the name Muscat is “falling-place,” a fitting name for a city where merchant ships have dropped their anchors for centuries. Muscat reflects this history in its cultural diversity as a crossroads between East Africa, South Asia, and the entire Arab Gulf. Today, nearly one and a half million people live in the greater Muscat area, including the suburban areas of Muttrah and Seeb.

Different from the dazzling skylines of Dubai or Doha, Oman's capital maintains an unassuming appearance of low, whitewashed buildings. As the country's political capital, the city hosts many of Oman's most spectacular mosques, museums, and cultural sites. Among the most iconic representations of the city are the sprawling Sultan Qaboos Mosque and the Sultan's Palace. Muscat boasts many luxury hotels, shopping centers, and of course, sandy beaches for relaxing getaways. A long coastal road connects Muscat to the Muttrah port, home to a teeming souq. Here, students can put their Arabic to use while shopping for frankincense, Omani handicrafts, Islamic artwork, national clothes, and much more.

Students who come to Muscat enjoy the international environment and social atmosphere to converse with Arabic speakers from across the region. The international airport has economic flights to much of the Arab Gulf, allowing students to get a feel for other Arab cultures and explore the region.





Mark Voss | Falaj Irrigation System, Wadi Dhahir al-Fawaris

EXCURSIONS

Noor Majan treats culture as an inseparable component of language learning. Thus, students studying in Muscat are invited to participate in semi-weekly cultural excursions around Oman as part of their tuition package. These excursions represent opportunities to explore the country and serve to complement their language studies and are included in the tuition package. Locations of excursions are determined by factors including season, weather, safety, and availability of local hosts and guides.

NIZWA FORT AND SOUQ

2 days • History and culture

Immerse yourself in the rich heritage of Nizwa, Oman's de facto cultural and religious capital. Nizwa's market with its live animal auctions and friendly people make it a consistent favorite destination.

AL SHARQIYAH REGION

2 days • Nature and culture

Camp under the starry desert skies in the Sharqiyah Sands natural area and visit a traditional shipbuilding workshop in the coastal city of Sur. Make a stop at the Ras Al Hadd beach to witness sea turtles come ashore to lay eggs (seasonal)

WADI BANI KHALID 1 day • Nature and recreation

Swim in the refreshing waters of a natural wadi (canyon) in Oman's eastern region.

MUTTRAH SOUQ 1 day • Culture

Crisscross Oman's largest traditional market and indulge in some of the country's scents and flavors. Mutrah is an excellent place to pick out gifts and products unique to the Sultanate.

AL DAKHILIYAH REGION 2-3 days • Nature and culture

Trace the alleys of the ancient village of Misfat al-Abriyeen and experience the natural beauty of Jebel Akhdar, one of Oman's most splendid natural areas.

DAARIS INSTITUTE-NIZWA

Mark Voss Nizwa's Al-Qala'a Mosque and the Hajar Mountains



POWERED BY: NOOR MAJAN ARABIC INSTITUTE

THE CAMPUS

In fall 2022, Noor Majan opened its affiliated Daaris Institute in the interior city of Nizwa with the goal of offering students an alternative, more independent study program.

The Daaris Institute is housed in a building that overlooks the idyllic Nizwa Old Souq and with views of the surrounding Hajar Mountains. With nine classrooms, the institute has the capacity to host 60 students at any given time and is happy to work with university Arabic programs to host groups.

DAARIS INSTITUTE COSTS

J-TERM	SUMMER	SEMESTER
600 OMR	1,200 OMR	2,250 OMR
~\$1,560 USD	~\$3,120 USD	~\$5,860 USD

*A contact hour is equivalent to 50 minutes of instruction time.

**Summer price is for an 8-week program and semester price is for a 15-week fall program. A 16-week spring semester in Nizwa is available for OMR 2,400.

PROGRAMS

Noor Majan's Daaris Institute in Nizwa offers an experience designed with independent learners and explorers in mind. Daaris's fees exclusively cover housing and tuition and offer a more budget-friendly, less structured option. The following programs are offered:

- J-term (January), 4 weeks
- Summer program, 8 or 9 weeks
- Semester term, 15 weeks (fall) or 16 weeks (spring)

While the instruction methods are the same as Noor Majan-Muscat, tuition costs at Daaris do not include structured excursions. Students are therefore encouraged to explore the country independently according to their own budget. Students at Daaris will not be assigned language partners, but will find that Nizwa's lively university community makes it easier to make local Omani friends independently.

Semester students will start at one of three levels for each semester: beginner low, intermediate low, and advanced low. Upon the end of the semester, they can expect to reach beginner high, intermediate high, and advanced high levels respectively. Each month of class consists of 100 contact hours* (25 per week), just as at Noor Majan-Muscat.



Program prices include the following:

- Tuition (100 contact hours monthly)
- Accommodation

📍 NIZWA

نزوى

A CULTURAL HUB NESTLED IN THE MOUNTAINS

Nizwa serves as Oman's de facto religious capital, with a long history of cultivating Islamic culture and scientific and literary intellect. Its spectacular forts, mountain views, and ancient suqs make it a popular stop for international tourists.

👤 70,000 residents (rank: 10)

When international tourists plan trips to Oman, Nizwa is usually the second city on their lists after Muscat. As the capital of the Al Dakhiliya governorate, Nizwa is part-college town, part-cultural hub with a plentiful touristic offering. Among the town's most popular attractions are:

- Jebel Akhdar and Jebel Shams mountains
- The extensive Nizwa Old Souq and animal auctions
- Falaj Daris UNESCO World Heritage Site
- The 7th-century Al-Qala'a Mosque
- Nizwa Fort

Located at the western edge of the Hajar Mountains, Nizwa is a starting point for travelers to the peaks of Jebel Akhdar and Jebel Shams, in addition to the mountain villages that dot the region. As the site of the Noor Majan's Daaris Institute, Nizwa offers intrepid study abroad students the chance to engage with the local community. A large university means that students have all the more chances to participate in local culture and social events. As a city accustomed to opening its doors to tourists, students will find a pleasantly welcoming atmosphere that facilitates a more independent learning environment.

The Daaris Institute overlooks the Nizwa Old Souq and offers students unparalleled access to Omani lifeways and culture. Students here are encouraged to get out and explore the city, which in a city like Nizwa is a sure way to meet Omanis curious to meet foreign students and establish friendships.



CULTURE AND DIVERSITY



📍 A "hanging village" in Oman's mountainous interior 📍 Jebel Akhdar

CULTURAL ACTIVITIES

Students will find that Omani culture is multifaceted, with communities representing the three major sects of Islam in addition to large communities of South and Southeast Asian expatriates. Noor Majan seeks to engage students in meaningful activities to strengthen their understanding of local culture. Noor Majan–Muscat hosts lectures with experts in Arabic on subjects such as “Women in the Gulf” and “The Ibadi Tradition in Oman,” among others.

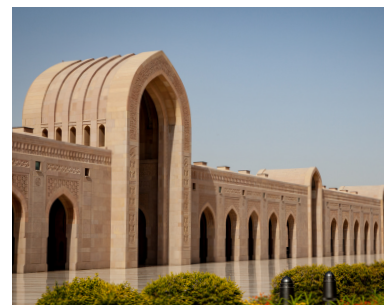
Other regular cultural activities include Arabic movie nights, Omani cooking workshops, Arabic *khatt* (calligraphy) workshops, outings to museums, galleries, and exhibitions, and cultural exchange activities with Omani students.

📍 Ahmed Al Suleimani • Students try their hand in an Arab calligraphy workshop



DIVERSITY

Noor Majan's directors have over a decade of experience working with students of a broad range of identities and backgrounds. We work with students' individual situations and are always happy to talk about worries or concerns they may have to ensure their time in Oman is an enjoyable and safe experience. Students with questions about navigating issues of accessibility or identity in Oman are encouraged to reach out to us to ask for advice from our knowledgeable staff. We are more than willing to speak with students about how race, gender, disability, and other personal aspects are understood and addressed in Oman.



STUDENT HOUSING



Typical apartments in Oman

STUDENT APARTMENTS

Except for professionals residing in Oman, students at Noor Majan–Muscat or the Daaris Institute stay at our student apartments for the duration of their stay. At both locations, this accommodation is covered by the course fee. The apartments themselves are gender-segregated within a shared building, and both apartments have undergone recent renovations and are outfitted with modern appliances. Their locations have been carefully selected to be within walking distance of restaurants, shops, laundry services, and taxi/bus stops.

Student apartments consist of shared two, three, or four-bedroom apartments. Bedrooms are double occupancy, although students may upgrade their room to single occupancy for an additional fee (when available). The fully equipped kitchen, lounge area, bathrooms, washing machines and flat-screen TVs are for shared usage within one apartment. All apartments are equipped with Wi-Fi internet access. All apartments are equipped with appropriate smoke detectors and air conditioning.



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Mark Voss Sharqiyah Sands



Mohammad Al Rahbi • Shoppers in the Old Souq Nizwa



Mark Voss Jibreen Castle, Bahla

IS OMAN SAFE?

Noor Majan is conscious of the perception of the Middle East as a restive conflict zone. For over 50 years, Oman has been an exception to this regional trend and is consistently rated as among the safest countries in the world. Even with Oman's exceptionally low crime rate, Noor Majan takes student safety seriously and our core staff members are available to answer emergency calls 24/7.

HOW SHOULD I DRESS IN OMAN?

Students at Noor Majan are asked to dress in a way that is considerate of the country's Islamic culture. All students regardless of gender are asked to wear modest clothes that cover their legs to the ankle and arms to the elbow. Omanis welcome foreign students to dress in national clothes (*abaya* for women and *dishdasha* for men) if they choose. Women will not be asked to cover their hair except during visits to mosques.

WHAT HEALTH SERVICES ARE AVAILABLE?

At orientation, all students are informed about emergency protocols and health services so they can focus on their studies with peace of mind. Noor Majan maintains contact with local health professionals who speak English, and our staff are always available to accompany sick students on doctor's visits. Students studying at Noor Majan must acquire health insurance for the duration of their stay in the country.

WHAT IS FOOD LIKE IN OMAN?

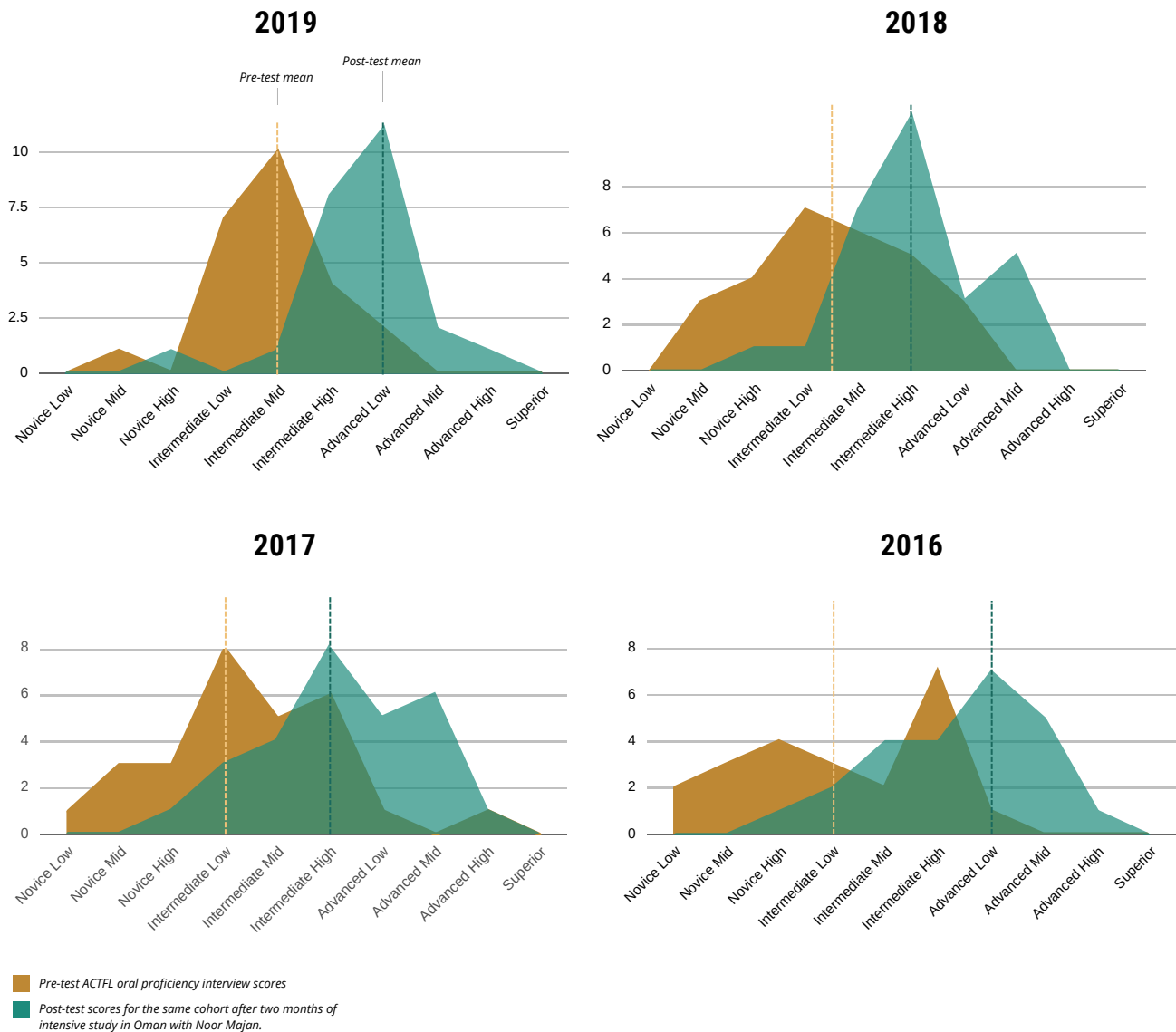
Students studying at Noor Majan–Muscat are served lunch on class days. All students apartments in both Nizwa and Muscat are equipped with kitchens and modern appliances. Restaurants in Oman often serve Levantine Arab food or Indian food, which have more vegetarian options than home style Omani meals.

RESULTS-DRIVEN



Noor Majan provides students with all the academic tools for students to make strides in their language learning goals. Committed students can expect to see significant gains within a few months of study. Noor Majan's CLS students from the U.S. consistently have shown marked oral proficiency interview (OPI) gains over the years.

Critical Language Scholarship Oral Proficiency Scores



NOOR MAJAN IN NUMBERS



AVERAGE STUDENT-TEACHER
RATIO



ARABIC LANGUAGE
INSTITUTE IN OMAN



LANGUAGE
LEVELS OFFERED



HOURS OF LANGUAGE PARTNER
PRACTICE WEEKLY



MINUTES OF FORMAL LANGUAGE
INSTRUCTION DAILY



CONTACT
HOURS MONTHLY



COUNTRIES REPRESENTED
ANNUALLY



STUDENTS ANNUALLY



UNIVERSITIES REPRESENTED
ANNUALLY

THE TEAM



📷 Noor Majan summer students at a farewell dinner 📍 Ibri Castle

Our directors and teaching staff work daily to enrich the experience of our students in Oman. Our instructors are all native speakers of Arabic and are certified to teach MSA to foreigners. Students can feel comfortable going to them with any questions about local culture and language. All of our administrators have over a decade of experience working with Arabic language instruction to foreigners in Oman and make an effort to get to know all the students who come through our doors.



Sultan Al Farsi
Institute Director

Sultan holds a master's degree in teaching Arabic and German as foreign languages from the University of Leipzig (Germany). He directed the Language Department at the World Learning (SIT) Oman Center until 2011. Since co-founding Noor Majan in 2012, Sultan has overseen all aspects of operations and has striven to professionalize the teaching of Arabic as a second language in Oman.



Dr. Hussein Al Farsi
Academic Director

Hussein holds a master's degree in Teaching Arabic from the University of Nizwa (Oman) and a Ph.D. from the International Islamic University Malaysia with a focus on using classical Arabic poetry in the classroom. He has served as a consultant with the Omani government in improving Arabic language teaching throughout the Sultanate.



Samira Selle
Director of Marketing and
Student Affairs

Samira holds a master's degree in Middle East studies, political science, and French civilization from the University of Leipzig. She worked as the Academic Director of the World Learning (SIT) Oman Center, teaching courses on Middle East studies and research methods. Born in Germany with Yemeni roots, Samira is a cultural mediator and supports students with any issues they may have in Oman.



Dr. Saif Al Azri
Instructor

Saif is one of our most dedicated teachers. With a Ph.D. in the techniques of teaching the Arabic language, he uses modern teaching techniques and authentic source materials to enable students to attain their highest potential in Arabic.



Al Khansaa Al Rawahi
Instructor

Al Khansaa comes from a background of translation studies at Sultan Qaboos University, but started her career in teaching Arabic as a foreign language after her graduation. Since early 2019, Al Khansaa has been a valuable addition to Noor Majan Muscat's faculty.



Youssef Al Jassasi
Instructor

Youssef has 30+ years of experience in foreign language teaching. He holds a master's degree in TESOL and served as a consultant with Omani Ministry of Education, designing and implementing foreign language courses.



Asma Al Shukeili
Instructor

Asma holds a bachelor's degree in Arabic literature from the University of Qatar and has several years of experience in the field of TAFL at different language institutes in Muscat. She has been part of our teaching staff since the opening our Muscat branch in early 2018.



Mohammed Al Maawali
Administrative Staff

Mohammed is our administrative assistant. He is responsible for all institute logistics and transportation and is available at our reception desk during the work day. You can contact him whenever you need something in the institute, library, computer lab, or apartments.



Alex Bare
Outreach Officer

Alex joined Noor Majan in 2022 after having studied at the institute for a summer in 2018. He graduated from the University of Iowa and worked as a Fulbrighter for two years in Colombia teaching English. He manages all Noor Majan social media and outreach efforts.



Shifa Al Amri
Instructor

Shifa brings to Noor Majan her passion for public speaking, broadcasting, and an interest in researching social issues. She's currently finalizing her thesis to obtain a master's degree.



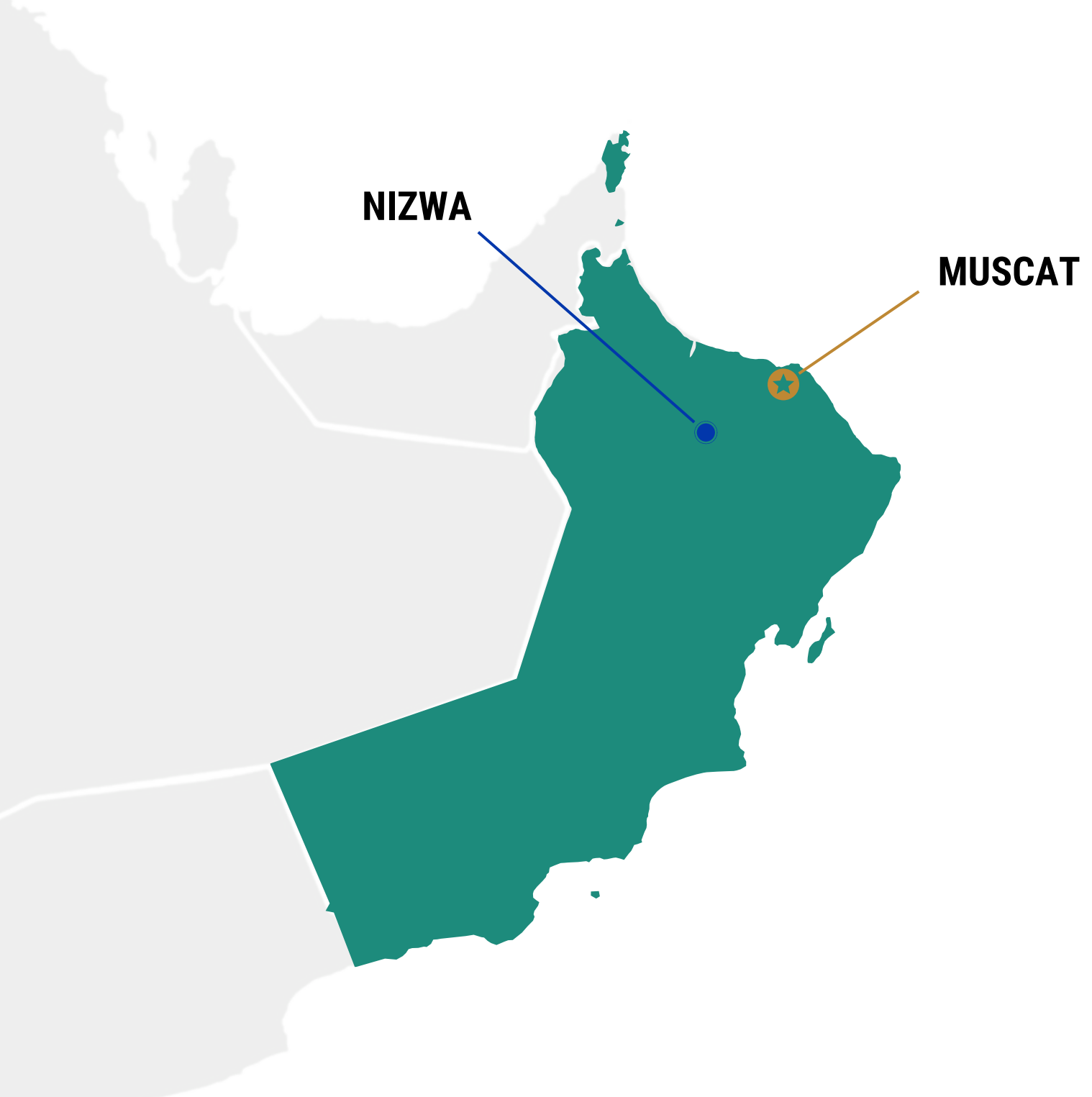
Mohammed Taher
Grounds Keeper

Mohammed is Noor Majan's trusted facilities manager and a smiling face our students always come to know. He oversees all the institute grounds and student housing.

**Note: this list is partial, as we welcomed several new Arabic instructors onto our team post-pandemic. Updated staff profiles will be soon available on our website.*



Two institutes, one quality team.





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