

ISS World Language Initiative - Native Arabic Program

Program Adoption Information

www.iss.edu/wli

Frequently Asked Questions

Which schools are presently using this program?

The WLI is based at Riffa Views International School in Bahrain, which is in its fourth year of implementing the program. RVIS welcomes visits from those who wish to see the program in action. Contact lashi@iss.edu.

Other schools in the region using the program include:

Saudi Arabia: American International School-Riyadh; The KAUST School;
International Schools Group; Saudi ARAMCO Schools; Dhahran Ahliya Schools
Qatar: Qatar Academy
Oman: The American International School-Muscat

The standards for native language learners have been adopted by Abu Dhabi Education Council and are being implemented in schools throughout the emirate.

What do they think of the program?

Most of the schools began using the program in September. However, even in this short term we have received a good deal of positive feedback.

On the down side, it is more challenging to teach this way. It is unfamiliar to teachers, students and parents alike. The change has to be managed smoothly. But on the other hand, because of the volume and quantity of resources available within the program, it enables the teachers to make the critical transition from 'activity planners' to 'managers of student learning'.

How much time would we need to schedule for Arabic?

Schools implement the WLI Arabic programs in many and various ways according to their needs - and this is by design. However, when it comes to the non-native program the variance diminishes considerably. Most of the schools offer Arabic daily for around one class period (45 min-1hr) daily.

What facilities are required?

Under ideal circumstances Arabic will be taught in a dedicated classroom. This allows teachers to create centers, displays and libraries to support student learning. Smart Board, laptops, flipchart, carpeted areas, book tubs, and other features of an English literacy learning environment all apply to its Arabic counterpart. With the volume of required materials it would be extremely difficult for a teacher to manage the program successfully while changing classrooms.

What materials do we need?

Recommended Resource	Role Within the Program	Approximate Cost Based on 2011 prices
Student Learner Packs	The non-native program is genres based, with core sets of literature at each level. Units of study are provided in the student books, which also contain supplementary literature.	\$50 per student
Teacher Guides	Comprehensive teacher guides are available for each level.	\$60 per level
Literature Bundles	You may already be aware of the challenges of finding quality children's literature in Arabic. Not only is it scarce, but it is also difficult to source and purchase. We have therefore coordinated with a distributor in the region to collect and bundle the literature to make the ordering process as simple as possible for schools.	Level 1 - \$250 Level 2- \$200 Levels 3-6 \$100 Levels 7-9 \$60 One bundle is recommended per 2 students per level
<i>My Arabic Library</i> from Scholastic Available directly from Scholastic	Used for the leveled/take-home reading program.	Levels 1-3 \$750 Levels 4-8 \$600

How do we order materials?

Contact Keith Cincotta at ISS and request an order form. kcincota@iss.edu

My Arabic library can be ordered directly from Scholastic

<http://www.scholastic.com/aboutscholastic/worldwide/mepi/english.htm>

What training and support for implementation is available?

With regard to training and support, we are in the midst of a two-year literacy coach training program with the pilot schools. The intention of training coaches is to ensure that Arabic teachers in each site will have the support they need to successfully implement the program. However, we do not anticipate starting a new cohort of coaches until the fall of 2013.

In the interim we can offer onsite training on a number of aspects of the program including:

Implementing the Arabic WLI	5 day intro	All trainings balance theoretical content with practical implementation including modeling, observation, coaching and feedback
Reading workshop	2-3 days	
Writing Workshop	2-3 days	
Literacy best practices	2-3 days	
Standards-based assessment	2-3 days	

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