

### *Dear learners of Arabic as a foreign language,*

We would like to invite you to a journey of exploring our innovative methodology of teaching and learning. Have you ever wondered how students learn, what makes certain students learn faster than others, what motivates them?

Specialists at the Syrian Virtual University would like to introduce to you an innovative methodology based on the ACTFL Guidelines we have named the Arabic Learning System (ALS). It offers insights into accelerating language acquisition through flexible deliverables.

### **Integration into the Curriculum**

The ALS Program offers you *flexibility* in that it combines an instructor-based teaching and a stand-alone element for individualized instruction; both tracks have substantial deliverable content. The ALS is specifically designed for non-native and/or heritage learners of Arabic who have little to no knowledge of Arabic.

The ALS comprises two main programs: AFL (Arabic as a Foreign Language), and ASP (Arabic for Specific Purposes).

### **1- AFL Format**

AFL is based on a language model divided into three major levels: Novice, Intermediate, and Advanced--adopting the framework set by the 2012 ACFTL Guidelines. These major levels are further divided into sub-levels: Low, Mid, and High. Historically, it has taken students approximately five weeks to complete each sub-level, and as such the program is geared to that end.

#### **Interactive self-paced content**

AFL simultaneously incorporates print based instruction along with interactive, self-paced content within multimedia learning objects (i.e., voice, animation, and video), which are bolstered by back-end, performance tracking. No program would be complete without interactive exercises that provide direct, detailed feedback creating an enriching, satisfying learning experience.

#### **Pre-recorded Lectures**

Each lesson comes with a pre-recorded lectures further enhancing explanations that focus on lesson content.

#### **Real-time online lectures**

Each unit ends up with a real-time online lecture led by a specialist instructor, allowing learners to interact directly with instructor and cover additional materials using cutting edge technologies.



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### **One-on-one Virtual Meetings**

We are proud to boast that this system offers office hours--one-on-one virtual meetings with a certified instructor of Arabic; quite possibly the most valuable feature to learners of any language; regardless of their proficiency level.

### **Assessment**

Activities and tests have been placed at precise milestones within the program to measure the students' progress throughout their study.

Exams are carried out at the end of each sub-level and main levels determining the proficiency of students.

### **The Arabic Variety Taught**

Standard Arabic (SA) is the focus of teaching and learning. We understand the controversy regarding the Arabic variety to be taught and we prefer to stay out of the fray. However, the decision is made on employment prospects available for Arabic graduates. A position might involve monitoring print publications, listening to pan Arab radio and TV broadcasts, and reading official publications. Upon reaching higher levels of proficiency, they might take up a position to teach Arabic. They might work in interpreting and translating. All these tasks require proficiency in SA, hence the focus on this variety. Nonetheless, a lab component presents a list of communicative phrases relevant for every lesson pronounced in SA and another list of their equivalents presented in Syrian Arabic. No teaching or exercises for the colloquial component.

### **Accreditation**

Being a state institution, SVU offers an accredited Arabic program. The Arabic Learning System program can be used as a series of language courses leading to a minor or a major, or as supplementary material for an introductory course to Middle Eastern studies.

### **Cost of Using the AFL**

Students or programs pay for the sub-level in which the student is placed. The cost per sublevel is US\$300. Payment details will be sent later upon registration.

## **2- ASP Format**

Arabic for Specific Purposes program (ASP) is designed for those learners who would like to gain more insights in specific proficiencies, such as diplomacy, business administration, tourism, Arabic literature, media ..etc.

ASP starts upon completing the intermediate or advanced level in AFL. It follows a learner-centered method and focuses on life-like context in the desired area. It depends mainly on online interaction between learners and tutors, enabling offering external resources (different publications and media).



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The launch of each specialised track is conditioned by the availability of learners willing to register. The duration of each package is 2 months period, and the cost is 500USD.

### Adopting the AFL

For registration, please fill in the application on: <https://linguais.svuonline.org/TIS/signup.php>  
For more information, please visit the program website: <https://admin-arabicsoftonline.org/>,  
or contact us directly: Mrs. Saya Ghojal, Director of SVU Lifelong Learning Centre, email: [lfl\\_director@svuonline.org](mailto:lfl_director@svuonline.org) and telephone (+963 932 691 600), we would be more than happy to speak with you about starting your program on this remarkable journey.

Cordially,

**Professor Dr. Khalil Ajami**  
Rector Of SVU

A handwritten signature in green ink, appearing to be 'Khalil Ajami', is written over a light blue horizontal line.