September 11, 2007

MEMORANDUM

TO: Charles Caramello
    Associate Provost and Dean, Graduate School

FROM: Phyllis Perez
       Associate Provost for Academic Planning and Programs

SUBJECT: Proposal to modify the MPST in Arabic (PCC log no. 07004)

Your proposal to extend the one-cohort Master of Professional Studies in Arabic has been administratively approved. A copy of the proposal is attached.

The changes are effective Fall 2007.

CWR/

Enclosure

cc: Carmen Balthrop, Chair, Senate PCC Committee
    Sarah Bauder, Office of Student Financial Aid
    Mary Giles, University Senate
    Barbara Hope, Data Administration
    Denise Nadasen, Institutional Research & Planning
    Anne Turkos, Archives
    Linda Yokoi, Office of the Registrar
    Mary Ann Ottinger, Graduate School
    Judith Broida, Office of Professional Studies
    Beth Loizeaux, College of Arts & Humanities
THE UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND, COLLEGE PARK
PROGRAM/CURRICULUM PROPOSAL

DIRECTIONS:

- Provide one form with original approval signatures in lines 1 - 4 for each proposed action. Keep this form to one page in length.
- Early consultation with the Office of the Associate Provost for Academic Planning & Programs is strongly recommended if there are questions or concerns, particularly with new programs.
- Please submit the signed form to Claudia Rector, Office of the Associate Provost for Academic Planning and Programs, 1119 Main Administration Building, Campus.
- Please email the rest of the proposal as an MSWord attachment to pcc-submissions@umd.edu.

DATE SUBMITTED July 17, 2007

PCC LOG NO. 07004

COLLEGE/SCHOOL Office of Professional Studies/Graduate School/School of Languages, Literatures, and Cultures

DEPARTMENT/PROGRAM School of Languages, Literatures, and Cultures – Arabic Flagship Program

PROPOSED ACTION (A separate form for each) ADD_____ DELETE_____ CHANGE__ X __

DESCRIPTION (Provide a succinct account of the proposed action. Details should be provided in an attachment. Provide old and new sample programs for curriculum changes.)

The attached proposal is for an extension of the one-cohort MPS in Arabic approved in Spring 2007. The program offers graduate courses in translation and interpretation, politics and society, and culture. Students complete 18 graduate credits at the University of Maryland, and 12 while at the University of Damascus: 6 are earned as 400- or 600- to 700-level transfer courses, and 6 are registered for at the University of Maryland, under the supervision of a UMCP faculty member.

JUSTIFICATION/REASONS/RESOURCES (Briefly explain the reason for the proposed action. Identify the source of new resources that may be required. Details should be provided in an attachment.)

Five members of the 2006-2007 cohort will study at the University of Damascus in 2007-2008; six students admitted to the 2007-2008 cohort will likewise complete their degrees through study abroad. We request extended approval of the one-cohort MPS in Arabic to allow students funded by the National Security Education Program (NSEP) to complete their degrees.

APPROVAL SIGNATURES - Please print name, sign, and date

1. Department Committee Chair Launette Lewis 8-22-07
2. Department Chair Pierre Verdaguer 8/22/2007
3. College/School PCC Chair
4. Dean Jamie Z. Hargreaves 9/11/07
5. Dean of the Graduate School (if required)
6. Chair, Senate PCC
7. Chair of Senate
8. Vice President for Academic Affairs & Provost
9. Chancellor

VPAAP 8-03
PROPOSAL FOR

INSTRUCTIONAL PROGRAM

UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND AT COLLEGE PARK, MARYLAND

Master of Professional Studies in Arabic

Extended Two-Cohort Approval

PROPOSED INITIATION DATE: Fall 2007
I. OVERVIEW and RATIONALE

A. Briefly describe the nature of the proposed program and explain why the institution should offer it. [You may want to refer to student demand, market demand for graduates, institutional strengths, disciplinary trends, synergy with existing programs, and/or institutional strategic priorities.]

The University of Maryland is committed to providing educational programs that meet the needs of a variety of audiences. As part of our graduate offerings, the Master of Professional Studies (MPS) and the Graduate Certificate in Professional Studies (GCPS) are career-focused degrees designed for students who wish to strengthen their academic knowledge as well as prepare for specific challenges related to their professional areas. These programs are administered by the Office of Professional Studies (OPS), with academic oversight provided by academic units (for this proposal, the School of Languages, Literatures, and Cultures), and housed in the Graduate School.

The National Arabic Flagship Program at the University of Maryland is part of the National Flagship Language Program (NFLP). This federally-funded, full-time program offers students with basic functional ability in Arabic an unprecedented opportunity to develop professional proficiency in Modern Standard Arabic, to increase their expertise to include the Egyptian or Levantine dialect, and to pursue a year-long immersion experience in an Arabic-speaking country that includes advanced language development, graduate coursework, and an internship.

The objectives of the proposed MPS in Arabic can be distinguished from those of traditional master’s degree programs in that it:

- Serves a professional audience and bases linguistic and cultural acquisition on the professional needs of each student
- Develops proficiency in speaking, listening, reading, and writing to a minimum of 2+ on the ILR scale; ACTFL “superior” (see Learning Outcomes Assessment section for definitions)
- Features graduate study entirely in Arabic
- Emphasizes application over research

Five members of the 2006-2007 cohort will study in Damascus in 2007-2008; six students admitted to the 2007-2008 cohort will likewise complete their degrees through study abroad. These students are funded by the National Security Education Program (NSEP), and are the only students who will study abroad as part of the MPS in Arabic. We request extended approval of the one-cohort MPS in Arabic to enable these specific students to complete their degrees (in May 2008 and May 2009). (A proposal for a permanent, entirely on-campus MPS in Arabic accompanies this document.)
B. How big is the program expected to be? From what other programs serving current students, or from what new populations of potential students, onsite or offsite, are you expecting to draw?

This Extended Approval MPS will include 5 NSEP-funded students from among the 2006-2007 entry cohort, and 6 NSEP-funded students from among the 2007-2008 entry cohort. The proposal for a permanent MPS in Arabic will serve students entering the program beginning in 2008. The last graduate of the Extended Approval MPS would be expected to complete the degree in Spring 2009.

II. CURRICULUM

A. Provide a full catalog description of the proposed program, including educational objectives and any areas of concentration.

The proposed Extended Two-Cohort MPS in Arabic offers graduate courses in translation and interpretation, politics and society, and culture, with additional focused language acquisition courses provided as support. While on campus, students simulate living in an Arabic-speaking environment, with six hours a day of language learning, both in class and with "speaking partners," native speakers of Arabic who work with students on an individual basis. There is a dedicated Arabic study and multimedia resource area on site, and the program offers regular visiting speakers, field trips, and other formal and informal cultural experiences.

The proposed program comprises a two-year course of study (30 graduate credits). Students complete 18 graduate credits at the University of Maryland during the first year, and 12 credits while abroad during the second year, of which 6 are earned as 400 or 600-700 level transfer credits, for which they register at the University of Damascus. The remaining 6 are earned through independent study (ARAB 789) and an internship (ARAB 788), both registered for at UMCP and both under the direction of a UMCP faculty member.

B. List the courses (number, title, semester credit hours) that would constitute the requirements and other components of the proposed program. Provide a catalog description for any courses that will be newly developed or substantially modified for the program.

Courses Offered Within the Master of Professional Studies in Arabic

During the first year of study, students take 18 credits of graduate courses selected from among the following approved courses (ARAB 788 and ARAB 789 are not offered to first-year students). Special Topics courses will be offered regularly with different content so that all students will be able to take the required minimum of 10 courses.
ARAB 603 Advanced Arabic into English Translation (3) Practicum in translation from Arabic into English. Study of interdependence of language, context, and culture.

ARAB 604 Arabic to English Interpreting (3) Practicum in interpreting from Arabic into English. On-site, consecutive, and simultaneous.

ARAB 610 Islamic Culture (3) In-depth study of core topics related to Islamic culture and society, e.g. the political system, caliphat, reform movements, Shari’a law. Taught in Arabic.

ARAB 628 Special Topics in Arabic Studies (3) In-depth study of a particular aspect of Arabic Studies. Can be repeated.

ARAB 638 Special Topics in Middle Eastern Studies (3) In-depth study of a particular aspect of Middle Eastern Studies. Can be repeated.

ARAB 640 Socio-political Issues in Contemporary Arab Societies (3) In-depth study of major social and political issues in Arab world today. Inter-Arab dynamics, economic impact of globalization, pressure for Westernization in areas such as democratic state institutions, women’s rights, human rights, role of religion in government and the law. Taught in Arabic.

ARAB 650 The Arab World and Contemporary International Relations (3) Examines the political interests and diplomatic positions of Arabic-speaking countries in the contemporary international context. Taught in Arabic.

ARAB 788 Internship in Arabic (3) Field and/or professional experience in the student’s area of interest in a public or private institution where Arabic is the language of work.

ARAB 789 Independent Study in Arabic (3) Independent study in Arabic as arranged between a graduate faculty member and student.

Supporting Language Acquisition Courses

Because one of the primary goals of the students who seek an MPS in Arabic is enhanced proficiency in spoken and written Arabic, they welcome all chances to improve their language skills, including taking undergraduate-level courses that do not count toward their degrees. Sections of these courses established exclusively for MPS students will be offered. (Written authorization to offer undergraduate courses to OPS students was received from the Provost in 2005-2006). Advising and placement are provided by the Arabic Program during the application and admissions process.
These courses include:

ARAB 206 Elementary Egyptian Colloquial Arabic III  
ARAB 207 Elementary Egyptian Colloquial Arabic IV  
ARAB 210 Elementary Levantine Arabic III  
ARAB 211 Elementary Levantine Arabic IV  
ARAB 304 Advanced Modern Standard Arabic I  
ARAB 305 Advanced Modern Standard Arabic II  
ARAB 306 Intermediate Egyptian Colloquial Arabic I  
ARAB 310 Intermediate Levantine Colloquial Arabic I  
ARAB 330 Listening Strategies I  
ARAB 331 Listening Strategies II  
ARAB 332 Listening Strategies III

C. Describe any selective admissions policy or special criteria for students selecting this field of study.

Students are admitted under a policy that reflects current standards established by the Graduate School, including the prerequisite bachelor’s degree and a cumulative 3.0 GPA. Documentation includes a current resume and official undergraduate transcripts from all colleges attended. In addition, all applicants take a language proficiency examination offered by the Arabic Department prior to admission for course placement.

III. STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES ASSESSMENT

The purpose of this assessment plan is to set clear guidelines, identify articulated outcomes, and ensure avenues for continuous improvement for each graduate certificate and Master’s degree program managed by the Office of Professional Studies and housed in the Graduate School. It is our mission to provide programs that meet UMCP’s institutional goals and objectives for educational activities.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Student Learning Outcomes</th>
<th>Assessment Measures and Criteria</th>
<th>Assessment Schedule</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Students will demonstrate in-depth knowledge of Arab culture</td>
<td>Measurement: Final project in a course in culture, politics, and/or media&lt;br&gt;Criterion: 80% of students will earn a grade of B (3.0 on a 4.0 scale) on this assessment according to attached rubric.***</td>
<td>Yearly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Students will demonstrate professional proficiency in spoken Arabic at the superior level</td>
<td>Measurement: Oral proficiency interview (known as OPI) will be conducted by program faculty&lt;br&gt;Criterion: 80% of students will perform successfully in this interview at ILR* level 2+ (ACTFL** superior)</td>
<td>Yearly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Students will demonstrate professional proficiency in written Arabic at the superior level</td>
<td>Measurement: Final writing assignment in 600-level Arabic course&lt;br&gt;Criterion: 80% of students will reach ILR* level 2+ on this assignment (ACTFL** superior)</td>
<td>Yearly</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* ILR: Interagency Language Roundtable Scale (US government)<br>**ACTFL: American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages<br>

**Superior oral proficiency:** The Superior level is characterized by the ability to participate effectively in most formal and informal conversations on practical, social, professional, and abstract topics. Using extended discourse, the speaker can explain in detail, hypothesize on concrete and abstract topics, and support or defend opinions on controversial matters.

**Superior written proficiency:** Speakers read and express themselves effectively in most informal and formal writing on practical, social, and professional topics treated both abstractly and concretely. Read and present well-developed ideas, opinions, arguments, and hypotheses through extended discourse. Control structures, both general specialized/professional vocabulary, spelling or symbol production, punctuation, diacritical marks, cohesive devices, and other aspects of written form and organization with no pattern of error to distract the reader.
IV. FACULTY AND ORGANIZATION

A. Who will provide academic direction and oversight for the program? [This might be a department, a departmental subgroup, a list of faculty members, or some other defined group.]

A Program Oversight Committee will provide direction and oversight for the program. Members include:

Graduate Director (academic chair):
Alaa Elgibali, Associate Professor
School of Languages, Literatures and Cultures

Graduate School Representative:
Charles Caramello, Dean
Graduate School

OPS Program Manager (program management chair):
Lee Ellen Harper, Program Manager
Office of Professional Studies

B. If the program is not to be housed and administered within a single academic unit, provide details of its administrative structure.

This MPS will be housed in the Graduate School and managed by the Office of Professional Studies. A faculty member from the School of Languages, Literatures, and Cultures will serve as Graduate Director and will provide the academic leadership for the team. OPS will manage and coordinate the Program Oversight Committee as well as all other administrative components of the program.

Faculty selection and appointments are made by the School of Languages, Literatures and Cultures. All faculty will be members of the Graduate Faculty and approved by the Dean to teach.

V. OFF-CAMPUS PROGRAMS (if applicable)

The second year of this proposed two-cohort extension of the one-time Master of Professional Studies in Arabic takes place overseas at the University of Damascus. It will consist of advanced language courses, specialized graduate courses, and an internship. Academic supervision and coordination will be provided by the overseas host institution with oversight by the American Councils for International Education (ACTR). (An Affiliation Agreement between UMD and ACTR, to be approved by the Office of Legal Affairs and International Education Services, has been signed; a copy accompanies this proposal.) Student progress will be monitored regularly to ensure objectives are being met. Through
ACTR, instructors at the international institution will provide progress reports to the Program Oversight Committee at the University of Maryland.

Students working toward a graduate degree will register for 6 credits at the University of Damascus that they may transfer to the University of Maryland. While they are overseas, students will also register at UMCP for 3 credits of ARAB 789, Independent Study in Arabic, and 3 credits of ARAB 788, Internship in Arabic, to be supervised by a UMCP faculty member.

Students are not restricted from taking additional courses at an overseas institution, but no additional credits earned will be considered for transfer credit.

Advanced language instruction abroad aims to provide students with the Arabic skills necessary to function professionally in Arabic-speaking cultures by:

- Developing proficiency in colloquial speech
- Developing proficiency in reading and writing Modern Standard Arabic
- Developing cultural competency
- Developing skills in understanding the spoken word, with special emphasis on audiovisual media

Specialized graduate courses include:

- Lecture/small-group discussion format
- Examination of topics such as gender issues in the Arab world, Islamic studies, trade and finance, economy and natural resources, international relations, domestic policy, and military and security issues

Internship consists of:

- Placement in a corporation, media outlet, or non-profit organization according to profession
- Individual tutoring with an instructor in the host institution
- Visits and interviews in Arabic with representatives of business, the media, and politics

VI. OTHER ISSUES

A. Describe any cooperative arrangements with other institutions or organizations that will be important for the success of this program.

Testing. The Arabic Language Institute of the University of Damascus will provide coordination for the overseas track of the MPS program in Arabic. Staff will administer tests after each phase (Summer, Fall, and Spring) focusing on four skills: listening, reading, speaking, and writing.
Instruction. Academic supervision and coordination will be provided by the administration of the Arabic Language Institute. Two to three principal instructors, supported by assistant instructors, will work with students; a principal instructor will monitor academic progress, generate reports, assess any learning difficulties encountered, and issue periodic reports to the Program Oversight Committee at the University of Maryland.

Institute faculty and administrators will modify syllabi, instructional materials, and methodology as appropriate to individual student levels and needs.

Activities. The Institute will also provide cultural and social activities, including lectures and cultural events relevant to courses; films; visits to historical and archaeological sites; visits and interviews; and interactions with local students. In addition, the Institute will facilitate enrollment at the University of Damascus; provide requisite documents and forms; meet students at the airport on arrival and assist them on departure; and assist with housing.

B. **Will the program require or seek accreditation? Is it intended to provide certification or licensure for its graduates? Are there academic or administrative constraints as a consequence?**

Not applicable

VII. COMMITMENT TO DIVERSITY

The University of Maryland is an equal opportunity institution with respect to both education and employment. The University does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, or handicap in admission or access to, or treatment or employment in, its programs and activities as required by federal (Title VI, Title IX, Section 504) and state laws and regulations.

Through its actions and statements of policy the University of Maryland has demonstrated a commitment to diversity by creating programs of study which explore the experiences, perspectives, and contributions of a wide variety of cultures, groups, and individuals; and has sought to create a campus environment which encourages tolerance and respect for individuals regardless of differences in age, race, ethnicity, sex, religion, disability, sexual orientation, class, political affiliation, and national origin.

VIII. REQUIRED PHYSICAL RESOURCES

A. **Additional library and other information resources required to support the proposed program. You must include a formal evaluation by Library staff.**

The GCPS in Arabic and one-time MPS in Arabic programs have thus far functioned with no additional library resources. In addition, the SLLC has recently received funding from NSA to increase the Arabic holdings in the library.
When the students are in Damascus, there will be no library resource implications for the College Park campus.

B. Additional facilities, facility modifications, and equipment that will be required. This is to include faculty and staff office space, laboratories, special classrooms, computers, etc.

This program does not require additional resources.

C. Impact, if any, on the use of existing facilities and equipment. Examples are laboratories, computer labs, specially equipped classrooms, and access to computer servers.

This program does not require additional resources.

IX. RESOURCE NEEDS AND SOURCES

A. List new courses to be taught and needed additional sections of existing courses. Describe the anticipated advising and administrative loads. Indicate the personnel resources (faculty, staff, and teaching assistants) that will be needed to cover all these responsibilities.

This is a continuation of the previously approved one-time Master of Professional Studies program in Arabic. The students complete 18 credits at the University of Maryland in Year One. In Year Two, they complete an additional 12 credits overseas, of which 6 are transfer credits. The program is financed by a combination of grant and self-support funding. All resources needed to administer and implement the program come from these sources.

B. List new faculty, staff, and teaching assistants needed for the responsibilities in A, and indicate the source of the resources for hiring them.

Not applicable.

C. Some of these teaching, advising, and administrative duties may be covered by existing faculty and staff. Describe your expectations for this, and indicate how the current duties of these individuals will be covered, and the source of any needed resources.

OPS, a self-support unit, is responsible for the overall administrative management of the program, which is provided by a program manager in the course of her duties.
D. Identify the source to pay for the required physical resources identified in Section VIII. above.

Grant and tuition revenue will be used to cover the program expenses.

E. List any other required resources and the anticipated sources for them

Not applicable.

F. Complete the additional proposal and financial tables as required by MHEC.

Not applicable for MPS/GCPS programs.

Additional Campus Approvals:

Victoria M. Peterson, Assistant Dean, Office of Professional Studies

Judith K. Broida, Associate Provost and Dean, Office of Professional Studies
Affiliation Agreement for National Flagship Language Program Study

The purpose of this agreement is to set forth policies and procedures to be followed by American Councils for International Education: ACTR/ACCELS (ACTR) and the University of Maryland, College Park, when students participate in Overseas Flagship Language Programs in Tajikistan (Persian Overseas Flagship Program) and Syria (Arabic Overseas Flagship Program) AND when their participation satisfies a requirement of a graduate degree program at the University of Maryland, College Park.

1. American Councils will assist University of Maryland students with the at-large application process for the Overseas Flagship Language Programs.

2. American Councils will administer the overseas program, provide liaison with the host institutions, and provide orientation materials to participating students.

3. American Councils will verify that students from the University of Maryland are enrolled overseas for the equivalent of at least 6 graduate credits per semester in Arabic language and culture courses (for the Arabic Flagship) or 6 graduate credits per semester in Persian language and culture (for the Persian Flagship).

4. For the Arabic Flagship, students will register each semester for:
   - 3 credits at UMCP (typically, ARAB 788 one semester; ARAB 789 the second semester)
   - 3 credits of upper level (the equivalent of 400-level) language course
   - 3 credits of graduate course (the equivalent of 600-700 level)

   For the Persian Flagship, students will register each semester for:
   - 3 credits at UMCP (typically, PERS 689, Special Topics in Persian Studies, each semester)
   - 3 credits of upper level (the equivalent of 400-level) language course
   - 3 credits of graduate course (the equivalent of 600-700 level)

5. Within the first month of classes (no later than September 20 and February 2), American Councils will provide verification of registration for each student to the Office of Professional Studies and the Advisor for the Arabic and Persian Flagships at UMCP.

6. All courses that count toward the MPS in Arabic and the MPS in Persian must be equivalent to UMD courses at the 400, or 600-700 level.

7. American Councils will verify that students will earn credits at the University of Damascus (Arabic Flagship) or Tajik State National University in Dushanbe (Persian Flagship).
8. Upon completion of the program, American Councils will obtain transcripts from the University of Damascus (Arabic Flagship) and Tajik State National University in Dushanbe (Persian Flagship), which will be sent directly to the University of Maryland via the Single Point of Contact (SPOC) office in the Office of Professional Studies by July 1, along with translations of each transcript into English.

9. This agreement is entered into as a document of working cooperation between the University of Maryland and American Councils. This agreement shall remain in force until either party gives notice of its intention to terminate. Such notice shall be given in writing no later than January 1 of the academic year preceding the study abroad program, and sent to the person in charge of administering the agreement.

10. The term of this agreement is from July 1, 2007, until the last student admitted in Summer 2007 completes her or his program, or May 31, 2012, whichever occurs first.

American Councils for International Education:  
ACTR/ACCELS

[Signature]
Dan Davidson  
President

[Signature]
Date

University of Maryland

[Signature]
Nariman Farvardin  
Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost