December 7, 2007

MEMORANDUM

TO: Charles Carantello  
   Associate Provost and Dean, Graduate School

FROM: Phyllis Peres  
   Associate Provost for Academic Planning and Programs

SUBJECT: Proposal to establish a Master of Professional Studies in Arabic (PCC log no. 07021)

Today the Senate Committee on Programs, Curricula and Courses approved the proposal to establish a Master of Professional Studies in Arabic. A copy of the approved proposal is attached.

The College should ensure that the changes are fully described in all relevant descriptive materials, and that all advisors are informed.

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  
    Elizabeth Bergmann Loizeaux, College of Arts & Humanities  
    Victoria Peterson, Office of Professional Studies
November 12, 2007

Dr. C. D. Mote, Jr.
1101 Main Administration Building
University of Maryland, College Park
College Park, MD 20742

Dear Dan:

Thank you for forwarding the request from the University of Maryland, College Park to offer new Graduate Certificates in Professional Studies and the Master of Professional Studies. I am pleased to approve these recommendations.

**Graduate Certificates in Professional Studies**

- Graduate Certificate in Professional Studies in Arabic
- Graduate Certificate in Professional Studies in Chinese Language
- Graduate Certificate in Professional Studies in Food Safety Risk Assessment
- Graduate Certificate in Professional Studies in Geospatial Information Sciences
- Graduate Certificate in Professional Studies in Information Assurance
- Graduate Certificate in Professional Studies in Public Health Informatics
- Graduate Certificate in Professional Studies in Radar Signal Processing
- Graduate Certificate in Professional Studies in Real Estate Development
- Graduate Certificate in Professional Studies in Sport Management
Master of Professional Studies

- Master of Professional Studies in Arabic
- Master of Professional Studies in Geospatial Information Services
- Master of Professional Studies in Leadership Education & Development
- Master of Professional Studies in Persian
- Master of Professional Studies in Real Estate Development

Sincerely,

William E. Kirwan
Chancellor

cc: Irwin Goldstein, Senior Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs
    Theresa Hollander, Associate Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs
    Nariman Farvardin, Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost
    Phyllis A. Peres, Associate Provost, Academic Planning & Programs
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. 07021

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 x DELETE CHANGE

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 a MPS in Arabic. The program offers graduate courses in translation and interpretation, politics and society, and culture. Students complete 30 graduate credits at the University of Maryland.

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.)
The objective of the proposed MPS in Arabic is to prepare students to function professionally in Arabic, both linguistically and culturally. It develops professional proficiency in Modern Standard Arabic and a colloquial dialect (Egyptian or Levantine). There is demand for the program from government agencies and private industries with interests in the Middle East.

APPROVAL SIGNATURES - Please print name, sign, and date
1. Department Committee Chair LAURENCE CLOWEST J. D. ARNON 8/22/07
2. Department Chair PIERRE VERDAQUET ANN VERDAQUET 8/22/2007
3. College/School PCC Chair
4. Dean
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 by letter

11/12/07
PROPOSAL FOR

INSTRUCTIONAL PROGRAM

UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND AT COLLEGE PARK, MARYLAND

Master of Professional Studies in Arabic

Permanent

PROPOSED INITIATION DATE: Summer 2008
I. OVERVIEW and RATIONALE

A. Briefly describe the nature of the proposed program and explain why the institution should offer it.

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 expertise 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 objective of the proposed MPS in Arabic is to prepare students to function professionally in Arabic, both linguistically and culturally. The program 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 students’ occupational need for professional proficiency in Arabic, including translation and interpretation
- Develops professional proficiency in speaking, listening, reading, and writing (see Learning Outcomes Assessment section for program-specific goals)
- Features graduate study entirely in Arabic
- Emphasizes application over research

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?

The permanent MPS in Arabic will serve students entering the program beginning in Summer 2008, with 15 as the target number. A GCPS in Arabic, initiated in 2005 as the National Flagship Arabic Program, and a one-time (with a two-cohort extension) MPS in Arabic already exist. The GCPS in Arabic was originally approved in 2005 and amended in 2006. Two cohorts have completed their certificates; a third has been admitted to the GCPS program and is now in residence. Four members of the first cohort, admitted in 2005, also received one-time MPS degrees in May 2007. Five members of the second cohort have been admitted to the two-cohort extended program and are registered for graduate credit both on campus and at the University of Damascus.

The majority of Arabic students are and will continue to be US government employees (predominantly from the Department of Defense) funded by the National Security Education Program (NSEP). A limited number are self-funded.
The National Flagship Arabic Program has had a ready-made audience and no market research or advertising was required.

II. CURRICULUM

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

The proposed MPS in Arabic develops professional proficiency in Modern Standard Arabic and a colloquial dialect (Egyptian or Levantine). It offers graduate courses in translation and interpretation, politics and society, and culture. Students simulate living in an Arabic-speaking environment, with six hours a day of instruction, both in class and with volunteer “speaking partners,” native speakers of Arabic who work with students on an individual and small-group basis. There is a dedicated Arabic study and multimedia resource area in Preinkert Hall, and the program offers regular visiting speakers, field trips, and other formal and informal cultural experiences. Paid speakers, if any, are compensated out of program funds transferred to the School of Languages, Literatures, and Cultures. Most are volunteers.

Unlike the One-Cohort and Two-Cohort Extended MPS programs in Arabic, this program includes no credits earned overseas. All coursework will be completed at the College Park campus.

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.

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. The program is intended to be full-time and cohort-based, and all courses will be offered during the two years each cohort spends on campus. The courses do not have prerequisites and may be taken out of sequence in the event a student is unable to complete the program in two years.

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-sight, 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, caliphates, 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 (currently Alaa Elgibali) 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. In addition to the 30 credits of graduate work that make up the MPS in Arabic, students may take undergraduate language acquisition courses during their time on campus. Dedicated sections of these courses could be reserved for MPS students. Advising and placement based on level of language proficiency are provided by the MPS in Arabic program during the application and admissions process. These are preparatory courses only and do not count for credit toward the proposed master’s degree. MPS students will complete them in the first year of the program, as GCPS students historically have done.

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
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. Students who do not pass the language proficiency test may be required to take all or some of the preparatory courses.

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 UM’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 Arabic culture, politics, and/or media</td>
<td>Yearly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>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></td>
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<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</td>
<td>Yearly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Criterion: 80% of students will perform successfully in this interview at ILR* level 2+ (ACTFL** advanced plus)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Students will demonstrate professional proficiency in written Arabic at the</td>
<td>Measurement: Final writing assignment in a 600-level Arabic course</td>
<td>Yearly</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
superior level | Criterion: 80% of students will reach ILR* level 2+ on this assignment (ACTFL** advanced plus)

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

Advanced plus oral proficiency: Able to satisfy the requirements of a broad variety of everyday, school, and work situations. Can discuss concrete topics relating to particular interests and special fields of competence. There is emerging evidence of ability to support opinions, explain in detail, and hypothesize.

Advanced plus written proficiency: Able to write about a variety of topics with significant precision and in detail. Can write most social and informal business correspondence. Can write about the concrete aspects of topics relating to particular interests and special fields of competence.

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:
  - Mary Ann Ottinger, Interim Associate 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.

The Master of Professional Studies and the Graduate Certificate in Professional Studies will be housed in the Graduate School and managed by the Office of Professional Studies. A faculty member from the college providing the foundation courses 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 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.

VI. OTHER ISSUES

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

Not applicable

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.

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 will utilize existing facilities, faculty and equipment and will 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 will utilize existing facilities, equipment, and resources, and will 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.**

Although this is a new Master of Professional Studies program in Arabic, it is developed from the one-time MPS approved in Spring 2007. Oversight and supervision will be provided to MPS students in the 2006-2007 and 2007-2008 cohorts by faculty appointed by the SLLC. No additional resources will be needed by the new program.

**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.**

National Security Education Program (NSEP) 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