Academic Programs

2020/2021

π
POLIS
The Jerusalem Institute of Languages and Humanities
Polis – The Jerusalem Institute of Languages and Humanities is a non-profit academic institution founded in 2011 by a group of scholars with the desire to promote the knowledge of ancient languages and civilizations.

At Polis, we believe that the study of Hellenistic and Roman antiquity, Jewish and Christian heritage, and Arabic and Near Eastern cultures is the key for a better understanding of our global world.

The Institute is situated in the neighborhood of Musrara next to the Old City. The Western Wall, Church of the Holy Sepulcher and Al-Aqsa Mosque are all a few minutes’ walk from the Institute. As is Jaffa Street with its many shops, bars, and restaurants.

Our staff consists of an international team of Israeli, Palestinian, European, and American scholars. Students come to Jerusalem from across the globe, while others benefit from our methodology through the language courses we offer in Europe and America every summer.
The Polis Method

Theoretical Principles

TOTAL IMMERSION. Our classes are taught entirely in the target language: the only language spoken, written, or read is the one being taught. This principle marks the main difference from the traditional grammar translation methods and is both the cornerstone and wellspring of our methodology.

DYNAMIC LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT. We recognize the student’s continuous progression in language acquisition based on the Four Basic Language Skills (listening, speaking, reading and writing) and modes of discourse or literary genres (dialogue > narration > argumentation > poetry).

Practical Techniques

We have, with some modifications, been able to utilize a few techniques developed by various teachers and researchers, which have proven to be useful set-pieces for the practical implementation of our theoretical principles: TPR (Total Physical Response), TPRS (Teaching Proficiency through Reading and Storytelling), and Story Building. Furthermore, Polis instructors are now experimenting on a new tool, Living Sequential Expression (LSE): a technique that was first conceived and developed at Polis, inspired by the work of François Gouin (1831–1896). Through LSE, students will learn sequences of logically connected actions by performing and then reporting on them.
Students at Polis enjoy living in Jerusalem, which is a vibrant and dynamic city filled with different languages, cultures and ethnicities. In addition to the well-known religious and archeological sites, there are many bars, restaurants, museums, and shopping malls in the city.

Jerusalem’s history makes it an incomparable setting for Polis’ programs. It’s a city where Ancient Greek, Hebrew, Latin, and Arabic have all thrived. Living in this crossroads of cultures, languages, and religions profoundly impacts how Polis students understand their coursework.

**Street smart**

Students take their language skills beyond the classroom and into the activities of daily life like buying falafel or attending Greek lunch in the Polis courtyard.
The students and staff of Polis make up a community of exceptionally diverse, intellectually curious, and highly motivated language learners. Students—whether they be professionals or scholars, local or international—come to Polis to share a commitment to language study and language immersion.

The Polis method is the best means to study Biblical Hebrew and Koine Greek. By speaking and listening to these languages, I was able to read a good amount of ancient works in their original language with ease by the time I received the MA in Ancient Philology degree.

REUEL MARTINEZ • BRAZIL
ANCIENT PHILOLOGY (2016)
Ancient Philology

The Master of Arts in Ancient Philology focuses on Ancient Greek and Biblical Hebrew. It is ideal for those interested in taking up careers as Greek or Hebrew teachers, as well as scholars interested in classical philosophy, linguistics, philology, paleography, history, literature, religion, or in the relationship between Greek antiquity and Judeo-Christian heritage.

### Elective Courses

**Theoretical Courses**
- Introduction to Hebrew Literature
- Issues in Teaching Languages
- Ancient Greek Readings (e.g., Epictetus, Euripides, Plato, Letter of Aristeas)
- Greek Lunch
- Semitic Palaeography
- Ugaritic Language & Literature
- Seven Seals (in Ancient Greek)
- Jewish Feasts

**Language Courses**

**Greek**

**Hebrew**

**Syriac**

**Coptic**

**Latin**

**Year One**

**Year Two**

**Non-Research Track**

**Research Track**

**Total ECTS: 126.5**

N.B. Programs are subject to change. *To choose among all levels offered: Ancient Greek I-VII, Biblical Hebrew I-V

**Each course is 2.0 ECTS. Students should take all of them.**
The Master of Arts in Near Eastern Languages consists of intensive modern and ancient language courses as well as courses in history, Eastern Christianity, Judaism, Islam, and the philosophy and literature of the ancient and contemporary Near East. This MA offers a specific track in Semitic philology for students interested in the fields of the Hebrew Bible, manuscripts studies, Arabic literature & philosophy, or Near Eastern studies.
Academic Programs

One-Year Program

A shortened version of the MA program is available for students wishing to stay only for one year. Polis scholarships and other teaching and research opportunities are also valid for the one-year program.

Students who successfully complete the One-Year program in Ancient Philology or Near Eastern Languages will receive a certificate from the Polis Institute. Students will complete 60.0 ECTS throughout the degree, including 44.0 ECTS from mandatory language courses.

Emphasis in Teaching Ancient Languages

MA graduates or students in the second year of the MA or Fluency program may apply to the Emphasis in Teaching Ancient Languages, which focuses on the particularities of teaching ancient languages in an immersive setting. Students following this track will gain first-hand experience in teaching and the ability to participate in a methodological course and workshops.

Certificate in Language Fluency

Polis also offers MA-level Certificates in Language Fluency for those who are more interested in learning how to speak. A BA degree is not required to participate in the Fluency program, and those who complete it will receive a certificate from Polis in language fluency. Currently we offer two different language options for the fluency course: Ancient Greek or Arabic.

These programs offer students, teachers, and academics from any field the possibility of mastering their chosen language. Students will be able to cover all the levels of the language of choice, from a total beginner’s level to acquire reading, writing, and speaking proficiency. There are additional theoretical and practical courses closely linked to the target language’s cultural milieu. The Arabic course covers both MSA and Spoken Levantine Arabic.

Certificate in Language Fluency

Ancient Greek

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>ECTS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ancient Greek</td>
<td>48.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ancient Greek Readings I – IV</td>
<td>12.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Greek Lunch (Symposium) I – IV</td>
<td>12.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Critical Apparatus</td>
<td>1.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Greek Palaeography</td>
<td>1.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Patristic Sources</td>
<td>1.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Translation Theory (Taught in Ancient Greek)</td>
<td>1.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>History of Writing Systems (Taught in Ancient Greek)</td>
<td>1.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Greek Philology</td>
<td>1.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Speech in Ancient Greek</td>
<td>6.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Arabic

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>ECTS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Spoken Arabic</td>
<td>40.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Modern Standard Arabic</td>
<td>24.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arabic Philosophy</td>
<td>1.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>APS 1: Arabic Folklore &amp; Popular Stories</td>
<td>1.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>APS 2: Arabic in Media</td>
<td>1.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Speech in Arabic</td>
<td>6.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Elective Courses

- Biblical Hebrew
- Latin
- Bohairic Coptic
- Classical Syriac
- Modern Hebrew
- Biblical Hebrew Readings
- Lexicon, Code, and Interaction
- Syntax of Natural Languages
- Rabbinic and Early Christian Literature
- Seven Seals (in Ancient Greek)
- Issues in Teaching Ancient Languages (Emphasis Track)
- Introduction to Biblical Hebrew Philology
- Issues in Semitic Languages
- Rabbinic and Early Christian Literature
Teaching & Research

Teaching and research are integral parts of Polis’ Master’s programs. During Master’s study, students are encouraged to teach languages in which they have prior knowledge, and to collaborate with Polis staff on research and publication projects.

In the Teaching Emphasis in Ancient Languages, students learn pedagogical techniques in second language-acquisition and gain practical experience in The Polis Method as student-teachers. Students who are mid-career or aspiring teachers can strengthen their own teaching practice.

Ben-El Dreksler

MA IN NEAR EASTERN LANGUAGES ('20)

Ben-El is a teacher of Hebrew in East Jerusalem and works at the Museum of Islamic Art in Jerusalem. He recently completed a thesis on Huldah the prophetess at the Freie University of Berlin. “I think that all research languages should be taught as spoken languages. That’s just as important to living communities as it is to scholars. That’s what makes Polis special.”

Joseph Ahmad

ANCIENT GREEK FLUENCY ('19)

Joseph works at the Ecole Biblique in Jerusalem editing a biblical commentary that requires working knowledge of Hebrew, Greek, Latin and Syriac. “Polis has been really helpful for me because the translation committee often asks me to translate from Greek and Latin on the spot.”

Research

Students at Polis apply their language skills to pursue research questions in a wide range of humanities disciplines. While some join Polis faculty and the Polis press to tackle questions in the field of language pedagogy, others explore pressing questions of history, social thought, and inter-faith work. Additionally, students have the opportunity to contribute to Polis publications.

Palaephatus Project

Michael Kopf (Ancient Greek instructor) & the Ancient Philology students have been working on the Palaephatus de Incredibilibus project. Students have been re-editing a 1685 edition of this traditional school-text. The book will feature the original Greek, facing a Neo-Latin translation in a reader-friendly layout.

DID YOU KNOW?

Polis offers several scholarships for teachers of Latin and Greek who are interested in teaching during their time at Polis.

www.polisjerusalem.org/scholarships
**SCHOLARSHIPS**

**APPLICATION**

Students with the required academic background (specific to each program) are invited to apply. Applications should include:

- Completed application form: polisjerusalem.org/application-graduate
- Letter of motivation
- Two letters of recommendation (at least one must be from an academic referee)
- Copy of Bachelor’s diploma or equivalent with a description of courses and grades, and official Bachelor’s and other relevant transcripts (if applicable)
- CV or résumé
- Copy of the main page of applicant’s passport (with Israeli stamps, if applicable)
- Two passport photographs
- Application fee of 500 NIS

**APPLICATION DEADLINE**

AUG 1, 2020

**TUITION FEE**

26,000 NIS per annum

~ 7,500 USD per annum

**ROOM & BOARD**

Students are responsible for their own room & board. The living cost in Jerusalem can range from 1,000–1,600 USD per month.

**VISA**

Foreign students may need an Israeli visa to stay in Jerusalem for an extended period. Polis Institute will assist accepted students in this process.

**APPLICATION**

We understand that studying and living in Jerusalem can be a significant investment of one’s resources. Candidates for the Master’s, One-Year, and Fluency programs may apply for scholarships. Recipients are eligible for tuition discounts while completing volunteering hours at Polis. In order to qualify for a scholarship, applicants must submit:

- Completed scholarship application form: polisjerusalem.org/scholarships
- Letter of motivation
- A letter of recommendation (non-academic) describing the candidate’s professional and personal qualifications
- Signed letter confirming the candidate’s financial need for the scholarship
- Research paper writing sample

**SCHOLARSHIPS DEADLINE**

FEB 20, 2020

**AMOUNT**

25%–75% of tuition fee (tuition discount)

**PROCESS**

Upon submission, the Polis Executive Committee will study the application and decide within one month from the deadline.

**ALL POLIS SCHOLARSHIPS**

The Polis Institute offers various kinds of scholarships to help as many students as possible. Visit our website to see all your options.

www.polisjerusalem.org/scholarships

**GOT QUESTIONS?**

Contact us to learn more about Polis Institute, the application process, or scholarships!

Ravenel Khashram
COORDINATOR OF STUDIES
ravenel@polisjerusalem.org
+972 (0) 74-7011048

WE ARE HERE TO HELP

Scholarships

We are here to help.
## Academic Offerings

### MA Programs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PROGRAM NAME</th>
<th>LENGTH</th>
<th>START DATE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MA in Ancient Philology</td>
<td>2 Years</td>
<td>Sep 2, 2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>– One-Year Program</td>
<td>1 Year</td>
<td>Sep 2, 2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MA in Near Eastern Languages</td>
<td>2 Years</td>
<td>Sep 2, 2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>– One-Year Program</td>
<td>1 Year</td>
<td>Sep 2, 2020</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Language Fluency Certificates

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PROGRAM NAME</th>
<th>LENGTH</th>
<th>START DATE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Certificate in Ancient Greek Fluency</td>
<td>2 Years</td>
<td>Sep 2, 2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Certificate in Arabic Fluency</td>
<td>2 Years</td>
<td>Oct 12, 2020</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Language Courses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PROGRAM NAME</th>
<th>LENGTH</th>
<th>START DATE(S)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ancient Greek II, IV, VI</td>
<td>4 Months</td>
<td>Oct 12, 2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biblical Hebrew</td>
<td>4 Months</td>
<td>Oct 12, 2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Latin</td>
<td>4 Months</td>
<td>Oct 12, 2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bohairic Coptic</td>
<td>4 Months</td>
<td>Oct 12, 2020</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Summer Programs & International Programs

#### Jerusalem

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PROGRAM NAME</th>
<th>LENGTH</th>
<th>START DATE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Spoken Arabic</td>
<td>1 Month</td>
<td>Jul 6, 2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Modern Hebrew</td>
<td>1 Month</td>
<td>Jul 6, 2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ancient Greek</td>
<td>1 Month</td>
<td>Sep 2, 2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biblical Hebrew</td>
<td>1 Month</td>
<td>Sep 2, 2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Classical Syriac</td>
<td>1 Month</td>
<td>Sep 2, 2020</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Rome

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PROGRAM NAME</th>
<th>LENGTH</th>
<th>START DATE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ancient Greek</td>
<td>3 Weeks</td>
<td>Jul 6, 2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Latin</td>
<td>3 Weeks</td>
<td>Jul 6, 2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biblical Hebrew</td>
<td>3 Weeks</td>
<td>Jul 6, 2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Methodology</td>
<td>1.5 Week</td>
<td>Jul 6, 2020</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### United States

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PROGRAM NAME</th>
<th>LENGTH</th>
<th>START DATE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ancient Greek</td>
<td>3 Weeks</td>
<td>June 22, 2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ancient Greek</td>
<td>1 Week</td>
<td>July 14, 2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Latin</td>
<td>3 Weeks</td>
<td>June 22, 2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Modern Standard Arabic</td>
<td>TBD</td>
<td>TBD</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY

Academic Staff

Dr. Mercedes Rubio
ASSISTANT DEAN
Lecturer in Medieval Sources and Philosophy

Michael Kopf
GREEK & LATIN COORDINATOR
Ancient Greek Instructor, PhD Student

Eyal Nahum
HEBREW COORDINATOR
Biblical and Modern Hebrew Instructor

Maram Jaraysi
ARABIC COORDINATOR
Modern Standard Arabic and Spoken Arabic Instructor

Taghreed Constantinides
METHODOLOGY PROGRAM ADVISOR
Spoken Arabic Instructor

Dr. Reuven Kiperwasser
LECTURER
Lecturer in Rabbinic & Early Christian Literature

Halely Harel
COPTIC INSTRUCTOR
Bohairic Coptic Instructor, PhD Candidate at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem

Henri Gourinard
LECTURER
Lecturer in History of the Near East and Historical Geography

Prof. Tania Notarius
HEAD OF THE NEAR EASTERN LANGUAGES PROGRAM
Lecturer in Semitic Philology and Linguistics
Lecturer at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem

Prof. Shukri Abed
LECTURER
Lecturer in Arabic Philosophy and Arabic in Media
Professor Emeritus at Al-Quds University

Prof. Jerónimo Leal
LECTURER
Lecturer in Patristic Sources and Critical Apparatus
Professor at Università della Santa Croce & Istituto Patristico Agustinianum (Rome)

Prof. Juan Chapa
LECTURER
Lecturer in Greek Paligraphy
Dean of the Faculty of Theology at the University of Navarra (Spain)

Prof. Christophe Rico
DEAN | HEAD OF THE ANCIENT PHILOLOGY PROGRAM
Ancient Greek Instructor, Lecturer in Greek Philology and Translation Theory
Professor at the École Biblique et Archéologique Française (Jerusalem)

---

The goal of Polis is to revive the study of the humanities and share that knowledge with as many people as possible. Whether you are a classicist, linguist, polyglot, historian of Antiquity or a person interested in biblical languages. We aim for Polis to be a place where people from all over the world can gather to experience the sources of Mediterranean and European cultures. I consider it to be tremendously important that every student here reaches his or her full academic potential. We are just waiting for you to come and join the Polis family.