

**(Review #1). "The Ali Baba International Center helped me to advance my Arabic language skills a lot." by Mirjam Hafner (Switzerland)**

One thing I really enjoyed about the school was the composition of the class and our teacher who was absolutely excellent. The class consisted of 4 students who came from all corners of the world. I loved to meet these new people from South Korea and that very nice person from Germany. In class, we always had a good time. We laughed a lot because our teacher invented a lot of great games in order to improve our Arabic speaking skills. One time we even went out and visited the local hospital in order to test our vocabulary we had learned about the "Mustashfa". It was very interesting. To make it short, our teacher was genius! The housing was good as well. My student resident was only 3 minutes away from school and I was able to walk every morning so I did not have to care about getting a taxi. Besides, there were a lot of nice restaurants and small shops near. I've learned a lot in Amman and I enjoyed my time there. I recommended the school to my friends and I hope to come back one day.

**Duration of study**

3 weeks

**Date of study**

Jun 02 2013 - Jun 27 2013

Would you recommend this school? Yes

**(Review #2). "Incredibly rewarding." by Claudia Flores (Mexico)**

I first came because it was the school that offered most information and made, in fact, everything easy. I was impressed by the service and the quality. The fact that they have such good teachers and are there to help you, completely aware of the needs of international students, was amazing. Another great fact was the school's availability to accommodate private classes. The place is very nice and the neighborhood is quite animated. I very much enjoyed the group activities; wish I had more of them! My experience with the teacher was great. I was really impressed by her preparation and her knowledge. Nariman is truly a great teacher and I was very, very lucky to have her teaching me in Spanish! Overall, I had an excellent experience and I recommend everyone looking for Arabic classes to go to Amman directly to Ali Baba!

**Duration of study**

14 weeks

**Date of study**

Apr 01 2013 - Jul 10 2013

Would you recommend this school? Yes

**(Review #3). "A great foundation to language learning with strong support from the center and faculty." by Christopher Cruz (USA)**

My experience at Ali Baba was very pleasant. It was a great foundation for strengthening my Arabic language skills. The center and faculty were very welcoming and truly cared for the betterment of their students. I really enjoyed the diverse community that Ali Baba brought. I made friends with people from all over the world. The location of the center was ideal, being across from the University of Jordan and a short taxi ride from downtown Amman. One of my favorite aspects about my stay at Ali Baba was the knowledge gained in regards to Arab culture. I believe culture is just as important as the language and learned so much about it from my teachers, the locals, cultural outings, and my overall stay in Jordan. I highly recommend this program to anyone looking to strengthen their knowledge of language and culture while growing and becoming a part of a wonderful community.

**Duration of study** 3 weeks

**Date of study** Jun 01 2013 - Jun 27 2013

Would you recommend this school? Yes

**(Review #4). "The Ali Baba International Center was a quality education without being expensive. I will return and I would recommend this place to anyone who wants to study Arabic. " by Tyler Alexander Bristol (USA)**

What I liked most about the experience with the Ali Baba International Center was the professionalism expressed by the staff and teachers. I had never heard about the institute before and neither had friends of mine who live in Jordan. Yet, I believe the school exhibits a quality service of language that left me completely satisfied with my learning there. I plan to return to this institute any time; I am in Jordan, insha'Allah. I didn't take advantage of the housing service, but I can say that the location was central and easy to get to from anywhere in Amman since the University of Jordan is right across the street. For those students, unlike myself, who are just graduating or taking a break from their university studies in their home country, should fit right in because the location of the center is right in the hustle and bustle of a college town with students, taxis, buses, etc. It also seems like a good place to work as the instructors seemed to enjoy their jobs and the atmosphere was pleasant. My teacher was tough, but I think that is just a matter of coming from a different culture of teaching philosophy. I would prefer the toughness because it helps push the students. The course was fun, we laughed a lot and we learned a lot, at least I did. In just three weeks, I was able to have small conversations with taxi drivers and friends. One taxi drive for about a half hour, in fact. The text for the course was good, easy to understand, and logical. The facilities of the center were really modern with lots of computers and internet, which I never had any issues with. The building even housed an electronics store in the lobby to buy sim cards and the like. Not to mention cafes and eateries. People were pleasant as most of the Jordanians I have met have been. The only downside to the whole experience was that I had to leave. I honestly didn't know what to expect, especially since no one I knew could tell me anything about it. I was pleasantly surprised and I so much look forward to returning to the Ali Baba International Center.

**Duration of study**      3 weeks  
**Date of study**            Sep 01 2013 - Sep 23 2013  
Would you recommend this school? Yes

**(Review #5). "Disappointed at the beginning, very happy at the end." by Gauthier Mercier (France)**

Overall, very happy. Good points: They were very nice teachers and people. We discussed interesting topics. It was very good to have an assessment sheet after a few weeks (lessons were much better afterwards). I liked the book, very good "Iftar". To be improved: I would have liked to speak more (courses too much focused on the vocabulary, written on the blackboard). Teacher went too fast, as if we had to finish the book or finish a program. It was too fast for the vocabulary written on the dashboard, for the grammar, for everything. We can't see all points of Arabic language in 1 or 2 months, and it's useless to try it. Just focus and spend time on some relevant points Please give more exercises! Those in the book are good, but are not enough. We did them very very quickly during the classes, all together, without time to think about it before giving the answer. But, please, find more exercises, for instance, to learn the conjugation. It's good to conjugate 3 or 5 verbs at all tenses and persons. But I think it's far more useful to have a text with sentences and verbs which are given and that we have to conjugate at the given person. It's closer to real situation, as opposed to the very mechanical way like ana katabtu, anta katabta, etc. learned in the right order Maybe next time I'll choose 1 on 1 classes. I practiced much more in a few 1 on 1 lessons than in all collective classes (which with only 3 students were almost 1 to 1 classes). Housing: I found a Jordanian family on my own and it was very good.

**Duration of study**      2 week  
**Date of study**            July 28 2013 - Aug 16 2013  
Would you recommend this school? Yes

**(Review #6). "I would strongly recommend the Ali Baba Center to anybody who wishes to learn Arabic."** *by Peter Winkler (Germany)*

After my return, I wrote a detailed report about my experience in the Center for my classmates here, since a number of them may be interested in doing a similar course. My overall rating was excellent, since I was very impressed with the facilities of the Center, the method of teaching, the qualification of our teacher, the overall atmosphere among teachers and students, the flexibility to accommodate and deal with problems related to my own limits of coping with the amount of grammar and vocabulary. The accommodation in an apartment nearby was reasonable. The advantage of it was the independence and the short walk to the Center. I also found the friendliness and assistance given by the staff remarkable, also related to travel and sightseeing arrangements. I also took benefit of being assigned to a Jordanian language partner.

**Duration of study**      3 weeks  
**Date of study**            Jun 01 2013 - Jun 27 2013  
Would you recommend this school? Yes

**(Review #7). "Ali Baba International Center provided a life-changing experience that I still think about and miss every day."** *by Linnea Madsen (USA)*

The classes were fantastic. We did 4 hours a day of MSA in a group of about 8 or 10 people, and I also took private colloquial languages. My teacher, Arwa, had a great personality and a lot of patience. We studied texts that helped us improve our understanding of Jordanian culture while we learned Arabic. The location of the course was great. Because it's across the street from the university, there are many students studying in the Gloria Jean's coffee shop in the same building. It's a fun experience to go do homework in that cafe. The facilities were state-of-the-art. I was impressed at the wifi, the abundance of computers, and the light, airy classrooms. The dorm room (in the sakan barakat lltalibat) was also very nice. It had air conditioning, ensuite kitchenette and bathroom, and wifi. The only thing that I thought could be improved was the activities. I wish there had been more activities arranged by Ali Baba. During my time there (which was Ramadan so perhaps that made things more difficult for the organizers), we had only one activity arranged by the school. Another student did all of the arrangements for our trip to Wadi Rum and Aqaba, someone else made arrangements to go to Jerash, and someone else made arrangements for Palestine. I think it would have been nice to have pre-planned trips like this because we were all nervous trying to organize things while visiting the country for the first time and not really speaking Arabic. However, I absolutely recommend this program. My Arabic improved during my time in Amman to the point where I understand almost everything people say to me, and I can express most of the things I want to say in any context. I wish that the colloquial Arabic was more of a focus, but the private lessons were great for this. This program was phenomenal. Amazing. I want to go back as soon as I can!

**Duration of study**      4 weeks  
**Date of study**            Jun 28 2013 - Jul 26 2013  
Would you recommend this school? Yes

**(Review #8). "The school was very professional, hospitable, and the teachers clearly enjoy teaching."** *by Jack Lister (UK)*

I was met at the airport, taken straight to my accommodation, and given directions for the following days. This, particularly if you are arriving late, is a really great service. The teachers were enthusiastic and set challenging amounts of work while tailoring their classes to the individual.

**Duration of study**      1 week  
**Date of study**            Aug 26 2013 - Aug 30 2013  
Would you recommend this school? Yes