

Mark Papai

+971521310264 • teaching@markpapai.com • www.markpapai.com

SUMMARY

TAFI master's degree-holder with experience both supporting and teaching Arabic courses in American universities in the Arab world. Experienced in coordinating with third parties to organize extracurricular and in-class activities for Arabic courses, as well as creating and publishing multimedia content on social media about them. Looking to teach Arabic in the UAE or other Gulf countries.

EDUCATION

September 2021 – **MA Teaching Arabic as a Foreign Language**

September 2023

The American University in Cairo, Cairo, Egypt

GPA: 3.52

Thesis: Segmental Error Gravity in L2 Arabic Speech Comprehensibility and Accentedness: L1 Consonant Age of Acquisition as a Predictor

Thesis supervisor: Raghda El Essawi

Relevant coursework: Material Development, Language Assessment, Second Language Acquisition, Methods of Teaching a Foreign Language, Methods of Teaching Arabic to Non-Native Speakers

August 2016 –

May 2020

BA Psychology

New York University Abu Dhabi, Abu Dhabi, UAE

GPA: 3.33

Minor: Arabic

Capstone project: Indirect Measures of Attitudes to Colloquial Dialects of Arabic

Relevant coursework: Psychology of Language, Psychotherapy and Counseling

TEACHING AND RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

February – May

2023

Instructor: Elementary Arabic Reading and Writing

The American University in Cairo, Cairo, Egypt

Taught the course to three international exchange students as part of the Arabic Language Intensive Program (ALIN) at AUC. Incorporated innovative techniques throughout the course, including peer dictation for improving both reading aloud and transcription skills, and WhatsApp messaging for teaching Arabic typing and practicing reading and writing in an interactive context. Made extensive use of Blackboard platform for documenting course progress and sharing materials and assignments with students.

September –

December 2022

Teaching Assistant: Advanced Listening & Speaking, Intermediate MSA

The American University in Cairo, Cairo, Egypt

Assisted course instructor Iman Saad in two of her courses in the ALIN program at AUC. Digitized the gradebook for both courses using Blackboard, which reduced the instructor's workload at the end of the semester by providing an automatic final grade calculation. Advised material and topic selection for the classes, as well as facilitated group work and class discussion inside class.

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- June – July 2022 **Tutor: Arabic Language Intensive Summer Program**
The American University in Cairo, Cairo, Egypt
Provided 20 hours of individualized instruction to an international exchange student in the Arabic Language Intensive Summer Program at AUC whose university required additional credits to be taken. This involved experiential learning through having the student interact with the city of Cairo (e.g., supermarket and fruit & vegetable market trip, local coffee shop outing, etc.), as well as individual grammar instruction and speaking practice. Developed a Google site for the program to gather all relevant information for teachers to refer to.
- February – May 2022 **Instructor: Elementary Arabic Reading and Writing**
The American University in Cairo, Cairo, Egypt
Taught the course to an international exchange student in the ALIN program at AUC. Designed the syllabus with learning outcomes and a draft course outline. Developed the midterm and final exams and the biweekly quizzes. Textbooks used: *Uktub al-'arabiya: Beginners Writing Skills in Modern Standard Arabic; Al-Kitaab, Part 1 (3rd edition)*.
- September – December 2021 **Tutor: Advanced Intensive Egyptian Arabic**
The American University in Cairo, Cairo, Egypt
Assisted an Egyptian Arabic class section in the Center for Arabic Study Abroad (CASA) program at AUC. Provided office hours to students in need of individual tutoring and assistance outside class. Attended class once a week to observe instructional practices and facilitate class discussions.
- June – July 2020 **Research Assistant: Arabic Studies Program**
New York University Abu Dhabi, Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates
Worked as a research assistant as part of the Post-graduate Practical Training Program at NYUAD. Assisted the Arabic Studies Program in the early development of the listening library: recorded group interviews with native speakers on Zoom and subtitled online videos using an automated captioning and transcription service for Arabic online. Digitized the Arabic placement test for incoming first-year students using the Qualtrics platform.
- October 2017 – May 2020 **Undergraduate Peer Tutor (Student Assistant): Arabic Studies Program**
New York University Abu Dhabi, Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates
Worked as a Student Assistant for the Arabic Studies Program at NYUAD. Provided office hours to students in need of individual tutoring: review of grammar content, practicing writing and speaking, including pronunciation. Gave exam review sessions to groups of students occasionally. Facilitated group and pair work in class per the need of course instructors.

PUBLICATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

- Papai, M. (2023). *Segmental correlates of L2 Arabic speech comprehensibility and accentedness: L1 consonant age of acquisition as a predictor* [Conference presentation]. Teaching and Learning Arabic from K to 16: Adjusting to New Realities, Cairo, Egypt.
- Papai, M. (2024). *Segmental error gravity in L2 Arabic speech comprehensibility and accentedness: L1 consonant age of acquisition as a predictor* [Master's Thesis, The American University in Cairo]. AUC Knowledge Fountain. <https://fount.aucegypt.edu/etds/2196>

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FELLOWSHIPS

- September 2021 – May 2023 **Graduate Fellowship: MA Teaching Arabic as a Foreign Language**
Department of Applied Linguistics
The American University in Cairo, Cairo, Egypt
- September 2020 – May 2021 **Center for Arabic Study Abroad (CASA) Fellowship**
Department of Arabic Language Instruction
The American University in Cairo, Cairo, Egypt
- Relevant coursework:** Advanced Translation (Arabic-English, English-Arabic), Quranic Studies

COMMUNITY SERVICE

- January 2020 **J-Term Senior Assistant: Office of Community-Based Learning**
New York University Abu Dhabi, Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates
- Acted as a tutor and course assistant in the intensive Emirati Arabic J-Term course in Al Ain at NYUAD, taught by Nasser Isleem. Provided individual tutoring for students in the class and acted as a liaison between them and their Emirati homestay families. Photographed and recorded all course activities and documented course progress on the Ramsah at NYUAD Facebook page. Coordinated with guest speakers and arranged their payment. Coordinated between NYUAD Public Affairs office and UAE media looking to report on the course.
- February 2017 – May 2020 **Community Recreation Operational Assistant**
New York University Abu Dhabi, Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates
- Assisted the NYUAD Athletics department in organizing their intramural and intercollegiate sports events. Greeted game referees and managed game scoreboard. Set up the field of play for intramural games including soccer, basketball, volleyball, etc.
- September 2016 – December 2019 **Student Dining Committee Member and Co-chair**
New York University Abu Dhabi, Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates
- Participated in the Dining Committee meetings of the NYUAD Student Government both as a member and as a co-chair. Documented meeting minutes and set the agenda for upcoming meetings. Coordinated with campus dietician and dining hall operator ADNH to address student concerns regarding dining. Cooperated with ADNH in the overhaul of the Meal Club in the D2 dining hall in Spring 2017.
- September – October 2017 **Student Interest Group (SIG) President: Strength and Conditioning**
New York University Abu Dhabi, Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates
- Took over presidency of the Strength and Conditioning SIG and hosted introductory theory and training sessions to promote strength training to students and introduce them to safe and effective training techniques.

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- August 2017 –
February 2018 **First Year Dialogue Co-facilitator**
New York University Abu Dhabi, Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates
Worked as a co-facilitator in the First Year Dialogue (FYD) program for the Office of First Year Experience. Facilitated biweekly group sessions for a group of students to help them ease into their college experience, as well as the new culture.
- December 2016 &
February 2017 **Admissions Peer Ambassador**
New York University Abu Dhabi, Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates
Volunteered as a peer ambassador at two NYUAD Candidate Weekends. Led groups of students around the city on excursions and led certain group activities. Authored reports about students in the group for the NYUAD Admissions team to consider when evaluating the candidates.
- October –
November 2016 **Radio Program on NYUAD student-led station Howler Radio: U and Me in the UAE**
New York University Abu Dhabi, Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates
Hosted podcast episodes where I invited NYUAD students to report on their travel experiences inside the UAE to promote travel to domestic destinations and show the diversity of the UAE landscape and locales.

SKILLS

- Languages* **Arabic:** natively like proficiency (MSA, Emirati dialect, Egyptian dialect)
English: natively like proficiency
German: advanced proficiency
Hungarian: native proficiency
- Computer* **Learning Management Systems:** Blackboard
Digital survey and test development: Qualtrics
Sound editing: Audacity
Website design
- Interpersonal* **Active listening**
Public speaking
Intercultural competence
Patience
- Professional* **Syllabus design**
Lesson planning
Exam development
Grading
Research
Data analysis

REFERENCES

- Raghda El Essawi:** Associate Professor, The American University in Cairo, ressawi@aucegypt.edu
Iman Saad: Senior Instructor, The American University in Cairo, imansaad@aucegypt.edu
Nasser Isleem: Senior Lecturer, New York University Abu Dhabi, nasser.isleem@nyu.edu