

# PROFILE

## Kaylea Box

### USING ARABIC TO BRIDGE THE GAP BETWEEN THE MIDDLE EAST AND US COMMUNITIES

Kaylea Box, a senior majoring in Arabic Language and Literature, clearly comprehends that the relationship between the United States and the Middle East is not always one of friendship. She recognizes that there is misunderstanding and miscommunication on both sides, and that a strong relationship is key. By studying Arabic, Kaylea hopes to help bridge the gap between these two cultures by empowering both regions to gain a better understanding and trust.

A goal this tremendous can not be achieved alone, Kaylea realizes, but she believes she can make a difference through her actions. She plans to accomplish this through teaching high school students and is certain that she can make a difference in the lives of our youth—our next generation of global leaders. She is passionate about languages and understanding different cultures, and wants to bring a positive atmosphere into the classroom. To learn someone else's language is a beautiful gesture of respect, and a desire to understand. As a country, the US has tremendous opportunity to use the key of language to better understand the world, and Kaylea wants to be a part of this remarkable movement to promote change.

### A \$20,000 SCHOLARSHIP IS A LIFE SAVER

Kaylea candidly shares that almost every college student she knows would benefit from a \$20,000 scholarship to apply towards higher education. For Kaylea, the most significant benefit of funding is that it would allow her to focus on her studies rather than worrying about how to pay the bills. In addition to her studies, Kaylea juggles work for the UT Texas Campaign for the Environment and interning at the Arabic Flagship Program—all in an effort to fund her education. This sometimes balances out to 30 or more work hours per week and even when combining her salary with her additional scholarships, it's still difficult to cover her tuition bill. The opportunity to study abroad and participate in immersion programs are other significant advantages of receiving a scholarship. As a language student of both Arabic and Russian, Kaylea believes that immersion is one of the most important teaching tools. Classroom instruction is an entirely different learning experience living in the country where the language is spoken. She knows that plowing through books is part of her learning, but she wants to converse with people, understand their culture and learn their language—up close and personal.

### DREAMING OF STUDY ABROAD

Kaylea has studied Arabic at UT for two years. What amazes her about this is that before she entered the Arabic Flagship program at UT, she knew nothing about the Arabic language and almost nothing about the culture. In this short time, she now feels comfortable about her upcoming journey to Egypt for a true immersion experience. This trip will help refine the skills she has already acquired, as well as aid in developing new ones. It will allow her to become a better speaker of Arabic in a way that domestic study alone will not.



ARABIC FLAGSHIP  
PROGRAM



### STRAIGHT TALK FROM KAYLEA BOX

"I believe that immersion is extremely important in learning a language because it teaches one how to live the language."

"I have a solid foundation in Arabic right now, and it's time to start building on it. Traveling to Egypt will allow me to expand my knowledge greatly by challenging me to speak Arabic at all times."

"Through a study abroad experience, I hope to achieve a level of fluency that would not be possible to achieve in America."

Kaylea Box,  
Arabic Flagship Program student

