

PROFILE Angela Giordani



ARABIC FLAGSHIP PROGRAM

CREATING GLOBAL PROFESSIONALS

Meet Angela Giordani, a student of the Arabic Flagship Program (AFP) who is about to embark on her capstone year abroad, yet already claims a level of credibility among Arabs that she knew was not attainable without advanced language learning. To complement her impressive achievements in Arabic speaking, Angela also boasts having completed four, separate majors during her studies at UT and was also recognized as a Dean's Distinguished Scholar. As a speaker of Egyptian and Syrian dialects, as well as Modern Standard Arabic, she is able to represent the US in casual, everyday contexts as well as in academic and professional situations. What lies ahead for Angela? She hopes to join the ranks of global leaders—diplomats, international businessmen, academics, researchers and teachers using her language abilities to redefine these professions in the eyes of Arabs worldwide.

THE VALUE OF A \$20,000 SCHOLARSHIP

For college students in a floundering economy, the power of a \$20,000 scholarship is this: it provides the sense of stability and expectation necessary to enable students to put their minds to succeeding as students, as opposed to agonizing about their financial situation.

ENHANCED ENRICHMENT THROUGH STUDYING ABROAD

Angela is fortunate to have had two study abroad experiences thus far in her educational journey. The first sent her to Alexandria, Egypt, where she participated in an intensive Arabic program. One year later, she returned to Egypt—this time to Cairo—on a research grant. Both of these experiences were incredibly empowering and enlightening, taking her language abilities to a new level. She now has an intimate knowledge of new places and cultures, and the time abroad helped her grow as a person as she found herself, literally, in entirely foreign situations that brought out skills and sides of her personality that were previously untapped.



PROFILE Jennifer Nation

CREATING GLOBAL PROFESSIONALS

Jennifer Nation, an exceptional student who was among the first cohort of Arabic Flagship Program graduates, confidently shares that the Flagship supplied her with the tools to become a “global professional.” Her experiences with the program in the US and abroad allowed her to gain stronger cross-cultural understanding and communication skills. She learned to appreciate the value and richness of other civilizations, and to understand the important differences as well as the shared points between American society and Arab cultures. She now feels part of a global network that will provide a great foundation for propelling her forward in her chosen profession. She knows that our society needs more people who understand the Middle East, and praises The Language Flagship and their programs for directly working to improve this shortfall in real terms.

THE VALUE OF A \$20,000 SCHOLARSHIP

The funding Jennifer received from The Language Flagship allowed her to continue her Arabic studies. She was on the verge of quitting when she learned about the Arabic Flagship Program, and decided to apply. The financial, institutional, and moral support provided by the AFP inspired her to stick with her studies and placed the goal of reaching fluency firmly in her mind. With the AFP, fluency no longer seemed unattainable. The funding she received was crucial for continuing her studies—and eventually mastering the language. A \$20,000 scholarship is fundamental, and would allow students to pursue their studies over the course of a five-year language learning program.

ENHANCED ENRICHMENT THROUGH STUDYING ABROAD

After returning from her capstone year in Egypt, Jennifer tested at Superior in Arabic (3/3 on the ILR scale used by the U.S. government to measure proficiency). The capstone year was critical for her reaching fluency in the language, and she cites the AFP for making this attainable. Full immersion in an Arabic-speaking society—intensive classes in Arabic, a 10-month stay with a host family, formal internships with local institutions, excursions and trips, and personal language tutors recruited from Egyptian Universities—is what pushed her language skills ahead. It was also she says, hands down, the most exciting and culturally enriching experience of her life. She gained a solid understanding of Egyptian customs, beliefs, and ways of thinking, which is as equally valuable as learning the language.

STRAIGHT TALK FROM ANGELA GIORDANI

“The Arabic Flagship Program has, quite literally, opened up a new world before me. The intense language training has enabled me to converse with and learn from people, places and cultures that were inaccessible to me only four years ago, before I had embarked upon what I now know will be a life-long journey of learning Arabic.”

*Angela Giordani,
Arabic Flagship Program student*

STRAIGHT TALK FROM JENNIFER NATION

“The best part about Flagship was the study abroad experience. Egyptians are the kindest, most warm people, and I made wonderful friends there. Egyptian hospitality is a thing to see.”

“I enjoyed interacting abroad with personal mentors in Arabic. They were there for me to ask any question I wanted—from learning about Arabic holidays and marriage customs, to visiting the market and practicing how to bargain on the spot.”

“The program didn't neglect to help me learn about the host country in any way. It funded and organized cultural and historical trips to Cairo, Luxor, Aswan, and Siwa, a desert oasis.”

“The AFP has opened up career opportunities for me. After returning from Egypt, the Flagship's organizers helped circulate my resume and I've been offered a government position in National Security.”

*Jennifer Nation
Arabic Flagship Program alumna*

