- MRel -
Master of Religion in Middle Eastern and North African Studies
Administered online with two on-campus residencies per year in Lebanon, this accredited postgraduate degree focuses on providing a strong theoretical understanding of the region and the issues that it faces, combined with an emphasis on developing applied skills needed to work in the region and among MENA communities worldwide. It is based upon a solidly theological and Biblical framework in that each module weaves scripture and theology into its theory and practice.
The Master of Religion in Middle Eastern and North African Studies (MRel) is a unique and innovative multidisciplinary program designed for individuals who want to go deep in addressing key issues facing the MENA region. The degree aims at opening new doors with relief and development agencies that address poverty and humanitarian crises, with church and mission organizations seeking to engage with Islam and historic Christianity, as well as with advocacy and peace-building organizations.

WHAT SKILLS DO STUDENTS ACQUIRE?

- Cultural analysis for the development of contextually appropriate frameworks for ministry
- Needs assessment, problem analysis and project design for the pursuit of effective change
- Inter-church and Christian-Muslim dialogue for the purpose of peacebuilding, conflict transformation, and faith-based cooperation for the common good
### Year 2

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Research Methods Module + Final Project Orientation</th>
<th>Online tutorials</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Oct – Dec 10 weeks Pre-Residency Online</td>
<td>Jan – Mar 10 weeks Post-Residency Online</td>
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#### January Residency (2 weeks)

<table>
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<tr>
<th>MENA CHRISTIANITY</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>April – June 10 weeks Pre-Residency Online</td>
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<tr>
<td>July – Sept 10 weeks Post-Residency Online</td>
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#### June – July Residency (2 weeks)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CULTURAL ANALYSIS IN THE CONTEXT OF MENA</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Middle East Consultation (1 week)²</td>
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² MEC attendance is encouraged but not mandatory. Students may earn up to 4 academic credits per MEC: [www.abtslebanon.org/mec](http://www.abtslebanon.org/mec)

* No module is a prerequisite for another. You may enter the program at any time bearing in mind each module is offered every 2 years.
**FLOW OF THE ACADEMIC PROGRAM**

### **YEAR 1**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Induction Module</th>
<th>Oct</th>
<th>Nov</th>
<th>Dec</th>
<th>Jan</th>
<th>Feb</th>
<th>March</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Introduction to the MRel and online learning</td>
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<tr>
<td>Short online module prior to entering the first Core Module</td>
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#### Induction Module
- **Induction Module**
- Introduction to the MRel and online learning
- Short online module prior to entering the first Core Module

**Language Study + Electives 18 Credits**
- Specified proficiency as mutually agreed to be acquired over course of study

**MENA ISLAM**

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<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Oct – Dec</th>
<th>Jan – Mar</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>10 weeks</td>
<td>10 weeks</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Pre-Residency Online</td>
<td>Post-Residency Online</td>
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**January Residency (2 weeks)**

**MENA HISTORY, POLITICS AND ECONOMICS**

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**June – July Residency (2 weeks)**

**Middle East Consultation (1 week)**

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1. Middle East Consultation (1 week)
THE COUNTRY OF LEBANON

Located on the Eastern shores of the Mediterranean, Lebanon is rich in history, archeology, culture, and religion. Exemplifying an ‘east meets west’ ethos, Lebanon has long been regarded as the gateway to the Middle East. The capital city of Beirut embodies both the beauty and pain of diversity, playing host to a dizzying array of religious and social groups. As the epicenter of the current global refugee crisis, Lebanon has come under immense pressure in recent years with over a quarter of its population now Syrian, Iraqi or Palestinian refugees. Yet in spite of the trauma of civil war and the current refugee crisis, Lebanon remains a place of creative ideas and intrigue, an ideal location for those called to cross-cultural ministry, Christian-Muslim engagement, community development, and peacebuilding.

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

- A recognized undergraduate degree
- A TOEFL score for non-native English speakers
- A demonstrated level of competence in Modern Standard Arabic for native Arabic speakers
- A completed application form
- 3 - 5 years of post-undergraduate work and/or ministry experience preferred
CORE MODULES

The MRel explores issues of critical concern for the MENA region through four distinct lenses:

**MENA Islam**
Definitions, history, Qur’anic Sciences and Islamic jurisprudence, varieties of Muslims, unity and division within Islam, approaches and skills for Christian-Muslim relations

**MENA Christianity**
History, creeds, traditions, unity and division within Christianity, approaches and skills for Christian-Christian relations

**MENA History, Politics and Economics**
An overview of the history, politics and economics of the Middle East and North Africa and how these concepts relate to the idea of The Kingdom of God

**Cultural Analysis in the Context of MENA**
Varieties of cultures in the Middle East and North Africa, trends, approaches and skills for cultural hermeneutics, skills in anthropological research and reporting

In addition, students undertake the study of a suitable language of the Muslim world and complete a final project. The program’s flexible design enables a student to study within his or her particular context, as well as interact firsthand with the peoples, cultures, and religions of the dynamic MENA region.

**Language Learning and Electives**
Over the course of the two years, students have 18 credits that can be used to study Arabic or another mutually agreed upon language of the MENA region. Some of these credits can also be used as electives to acquire other knowledge or skills relevant to the program.

**Final Project**
After completion of all modules, students will submit a final project incorporating theoretical and applied components before graduation from the program.
For Additional Information:

@ MRel@abtslebanon.org | admission@abtslebanon.org

+961 4 400 250

Read our weekly blog posts and monthly regional brief at: i m e s . b l o g

www.abtslebanon.org/mrel

ABTS is a ministry of the Lebanese Society for Educational and Social Development
- LSESD -