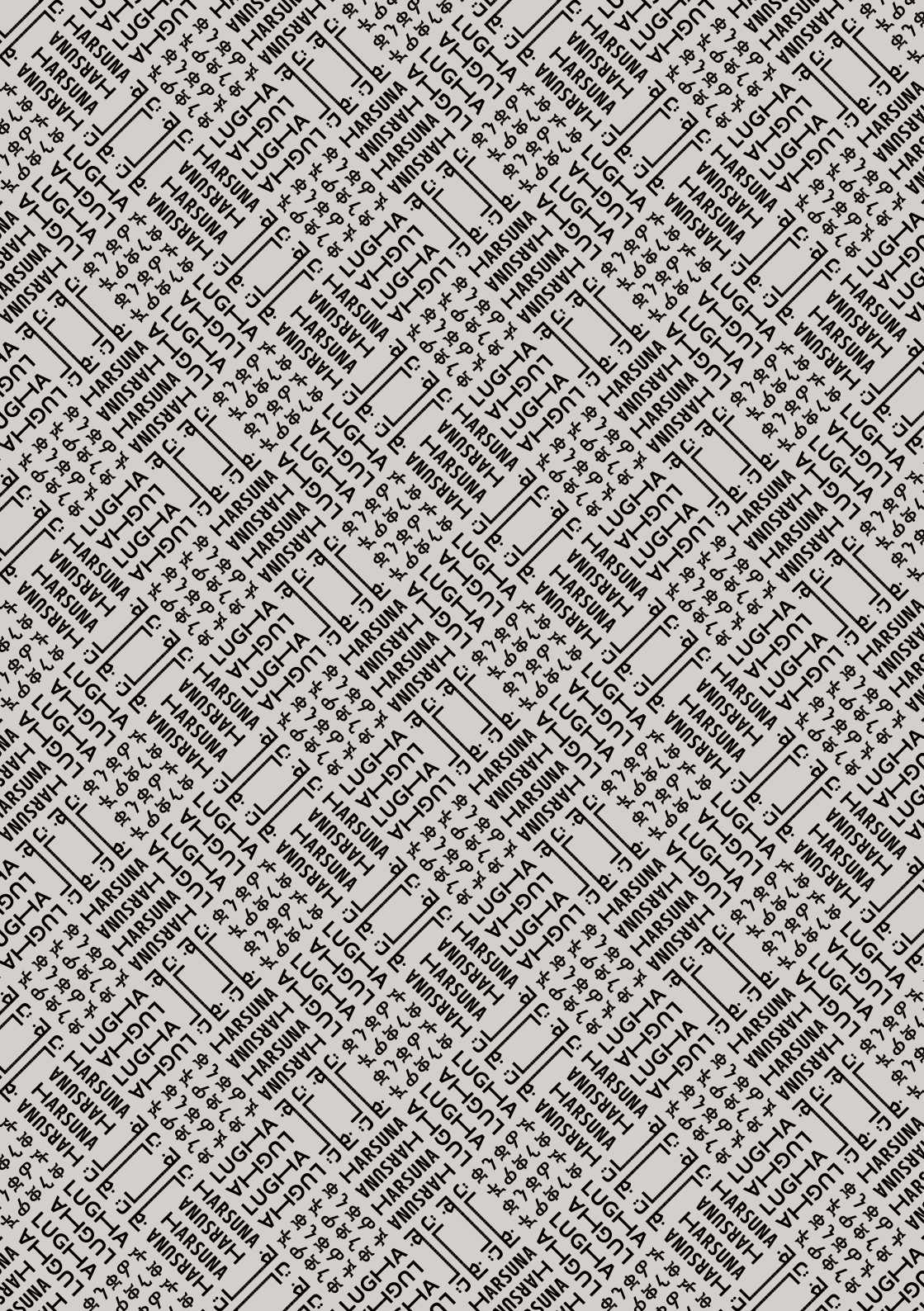


LANGUAGES AND TRANSLATION PROGRAM

PROSPECTUS



THE **AFRICA**
INSTITUTE



LANGUAGES AND TRANSLATION PROGRAM

The Language and Translation Program at Global Studies University was launched in 2023 through The Africa Institute as part of its broader commitment to advancing instruction in less-commonly taught and regionally significant languages. The program is offered in structured cohorts each Fall and Spring, ensuring consistent academic cycles and accessible entry points for learners throughout the year.

Since its inception, the program has expanded its offerings in Arabic, Amharic, Hausa, and Kiswahili for non-native speakers, integrating structured language acquisition with cultural and contextual learning. It emphasizes communicative competence and applied language use, preparing learners to engage effectively in multilingual and cross-cultural environments.

Introduction

Global Studies University (GSU), established by Emiri decree in 2023 by His Highness Sheikh Dr. Sultan bin Muhammad Al-Qasimi, is a postgraduate institution in Sharjah dedicated to advanced interdisciplinary study in the arts, humanities, and social sciences. Structured as a network of region-focused institutes, GSU builds on the foundation of The Africa Institute (est. 2018) and is preparing to launch The Asia Institute, with additional institutes for the Americas, Europe, and Oceania planned. Through these institutes, GSU cultivates a new generation of scholars equipped to engage critically with local, regional, and global issues, combining rigorous research, interconnected curricula, and the study of non-Western languages.

AIMS AND STRUCTURE OF THE COURSES

Join our Languages and Translation program for engaging and interactive 12-week courses led by experienced instructors. We offer three levels: Elementary (1 & 2), Intermediate (1 & 2), and Advanced (1 & 2), available in-person or online. Upon completion, you will receive a certificate of achievement, marking your language journey with us.

Level 1

Elementary (1 & 2) (72hrs): Acquire basic communicative skills, expressing yourself orally and in writing using elementary vocabulary and grammar. Topics span personal introductions, family, studies, hobbies, and work life.

Level 2

Intermediate (1 & 2) (72hrs): Progress by mastering grammar intricacies, idiomatic expressions, and deeper understanding of cultural contexts. Emphasis is placed on oral and written proficiency, exploring culture, society, and relevant topics.

Level 3

Advanced (1 & 2) (72hrs): Elevate your language prowess with advanced oral and writing skills. Engage with oral and written literature and other complex texts to further enhance your proficiency and prepare for translation practice. Short immersion programs offer real-life communication practice and first-hand cultural experiences.

OUR INNOVATIVE APPROACH TO LANGUAGE TEACHING

Adopting the Communicative Language Teaching (CLT) approach, our courses empower you with comprehensive communicative competence, including cultural and functional aspects.

Our instructors integrate diverse strategies from leading second-language teaching methodologies, ensuring a well-rounded learning experience. Cultural awareness and multimedia teaching materials are integral to our curriculum, as we continue to build a state-of-the-art language lab and resource center for technological support.

LANGUAGES OFFERED

Amharic

Communicate in Amharic, spoken by over 40 million people in Ethiopia, utilized in government and transcending regional boundaries, with its unique writing system comprising 256 syllabic letters flowing from left to right. Amharic is a valuable tool not only for Ethiopians but also for international non-profit groups, diplomats, advisors, and scholars in anthropology, geology, biology, history, archaeology, and linguistics who work in Ethiopia and seek language training in Amharic.

Arabic

Master both standard and spoken Arabic, a global language of culture, scholarship, and diplomacy. Arabic is an official language across the Middle East and North Africa, including several African countries, and is spoken by over 300 million people worldwide. It plays a central role in fields such as international relations, Islamic studies, law, political science, and global business, and is one of the six official languages of the United Nations.

Hausa

Discover Hausa, a crucial indigenous language in West and Central Africa, with around 150 million native speakers and 60 million second-language users. Hausa, which uses the Latin script, possesses a rich literary tradition dating back to the Middle Ages and features prominently in international radio broadcasts, including West African Radio, Voice of America, British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC), Duetsche Welle Germany, Radio Moscow, and Radio Beijing. Its value extends beyond cultural enrichment; Hausa proficiency is invaluable to professionals, researchers, and fields requiring insights into West and Central Africa.

Kiswahili (Swahili)

Engage with Kiswahili, the lingua franca of East and Central Africa and a language of over 200 million speakers. An official language of the African Union, Kiswahili plays an important role in regional communication, education, and cultural exchange. Its history as a trade language and its connections across the Indian Ocean world make it especially significant for scholars and professionals in fields such as history, anthropology, linguistics, and international development.

MEET OUR FACULTY



Binyam Sisay Mendisu, Associate Dean,
The Africa Institute, Director of Graduate Studies;
Professor of African Languages and Linguistics

Ph.D. Linguistics, University of Oslo, Norway

Binyam Sisay Mendisu is a native speaker of Amharic and a specialist in linguistics, with extensive experience teaching Amharic as a foreign language and developing language-learning resources, including dictionaries and instructional materials.

From 2016 to 2021, he served as an Education Specialist at UNESCO's International Institute for Capacity Building in Africa (IICBA), where he contributed to mother-tongue education and teacher policy development across Uganda, Seychelles, Burundi, Malawi, and Mozambique. During this period, he also led initiatives focused on linguistic capacity building and early childhood education.

He leads the Language and Translation Program at Global Studies University, providing academic direction for its curriculum, teaching, and research. Mendisu also serves on the Steering Committee of the African Science Leadership Programme (ASLP) at the University of Pretoria and is a Fellow of the International Science Council (ISC).

Our language courses are led by experienced instructors, each an expert in their respective languages and passionate about imparting linguistic and cultural knowledge.



Learn Amharic with
Moges Yigezu Woube, Professor-at-Large,
The Africa Institute

Ph.D. in Comparative-Historical Linguistics,
University of Brussels, Belgium

Moges Yigezu Woube is a native speaker of Amharic with extensive experience teaching the language to non-native speakers and developing instructional materials. He is an Associate Professor of Linguistics in the Department of Linguistics and Philology at Addis Ababa University.

Over the past two decades, Woube has contributed to a range of research programs, bringing together expertise in language, culture, education, and policy. His work reflects a sustained engagement with both the academic study of linguistics and its practical applications in teaching and curriculum development.

MEET OUR FACULTY



Learn Arabic with
Bilal Al-Omar, Senior Lecturer

Ph.D. Arabic Language, The World Islamic
Sciences and Education University, Jordan

Bilal Al-Omar is a Senior Lecturer of Arabic with extensive experience teaching language and literature to non-native speakers. He previously served as a Lecturer of Arabic Language and Literature at Cornell University (2017-2022), where he taught courses across all proficiency levels, from elementary to advanced, as well as classes on modern Arabic literature and media.

Al-Omar has developed curricula for non-native learners and coordinated Arabic language instruction at the elementary level. He has also held academic positions at Jerash University in Jordan, where he taught comparative and modern Arabic literature and contributed to academic quality initiatives.

His work continues to focus on advancing Arabic language pedagogy, including the development of digital learning resources and a comprehensive dictionary project for learners of Arabic.



Learn Arabic with
Abdel-Fattah Shahda, Adjunct Lecturer of
Arabic (Intermediate Level)

Ph.D. in Arabic Language and Literature,
Cairo University, Egypt

Abdel-Fattah Shahda is an Arabic language instructor specializing in Arabic linguistics, with extensive experience teaching Arabic to non-native speakers across a range of academic settings. He has taught at Cornell University, The American University in Cairo, the Middlebury College Arabic School, and International House Cairo.

He teaches Arabic at all proficiency levels, offering courses in language, literature, culture, and media. His teaching integrates elements such as Arabic calligraphy and music to support engagement and deepen cultural understanding.

His approach is grounded in the Communicative Language Teaching method, drawing on contemporary pedagogical practices to support practical language use. His research focuses on Arabic syntax, the conceptual organization of the Arabic sentence, and broader questions in linguistic analysis.

MEET OUR FACULTY



Learn Hausa with
Aliyu Mustapha Lawal, Lecturer

Ph.D. Islamic & Arabic Studies, Arabic Literature and Criticism, Al-Azhar University, Cairo, Egypt

Aliyu Mustapha Lawal is a Lecturer of Hausa with extensive experience teaching language, literature, and translation. He previously taught Hausa at Cairo University (2014–2021) and has worked as a translator, news editor, and broadcaster at the National Media Authority in Egypt.

His academic work spans Arabic and Hausa literature, with publications in poetry, language, and translation. He is a member of the International Council for the Arabic Language, affiliated with UNESCO.

Lawal's teaching is informed by both scholarly research and practical engagement with language in media and cultural contexts. His research focuses on language and literature, with particular attention to Arabic and Hausa linguistic and literary traditions.



Learn Kiswahili with
Regina Minael Fupi, Lecturer

MA in Linguistics, University of Dar es Salaam, Tanzania; MA in Applied Linguistics and Discourse Studies from Carleton University, Canada

Regina Minael Fupi is a native speaker of Kiswahili, born and raised in Tanzania, with over a decade of experience teaching the language to non-native speakers. Her teaching emphasizes second language acquisition, cultural immersion, and real-world communication.

She has taught Kiswahili at leading institutions including Carleton University and Stanford University, where she worked with undergraduate and graduate students across all proficiency levels. Her experience spans both in-person and online instruction, supporting diverse learners in academic and professional contexts.

Fupi's work focuses on Kiswahili pedagogy, translation studies, and Bantu linguistics, alongside broader interests in curriculum development and the representation of Black history in educational contexts. She is currently pursuing a Ph.D. in Education, Curriculum, and Learning at the University of Calgary.

COURSE SCHEDULE AND KEY DATES FOR FALL 2026

- **Classes start:** August 31, 2026
- **Course Duration:** 12 weeks of instruction
- **Session length:** 90 minutes
- **Total hours:** 36 hours (2 classes per week)
- **Class frequency:** Twice a week, Monday to Friday
- **Fall Break:** October 9-18, 2026
- **Last day of instruction:** November 26, 2026

SAMPLE COURSE SCHEDULE

1. Arabic

Level	Modality	Days	Timing (GST)
Elementary I	Online	Monday and Wednesday	4:30-6:00 PM
Intermediate I	Online	Monday and Friday	7:00-8:30 PM

2. Amharic

Level	Modality	Days	Timing (GST)
Elementary I	Online	Tuesday and Thursday	4:30-6:00 PM
Intermediate I	Online	Monday and Wednesday	4:30-6:00 PM

The program schedule is tentative and provided to assist with student planning. As a student-centered institution, we strive to accommodate student preferences wherever possible. Final schedules may be adjusted based on enrollment patterns, faculty availability, and individual learning needs.

3. Hausa

Level	Modality	Days	Timing (GST)
Elementary I	Online	Monday and Wednesday	4:30-6:00 PM
Intermediate I	Online	Tuesday and Thursday	4:30-6:00 PM

4. Kiswahili

Level	Modality	Days	Timing (GST)
Elementary I	Online	Monday and Wednesday	4:30-6:00 PM
Intermediate I	Online	Tuesday and Thursday	4:30-6:00 PM

* The program schedule is subject to change based on student enrollment and faculty availability.

** Online classes are held via Zoom while in-person classes are held at The Africa Institute, Global Studies University, Sharjah campus.

A link to the location map can be found on the last page.

PROGRAM POLICIES AND TERMS

Our policies address enrollment, attendance requirements, active participation, age criteria, grading, and progression to advanced levels.

(a) Attendance Policy

Regular attendance is essential for student success in all classes. Students are expected to attend every class punctually. Each student may have up to nine (9) absences without it affecting their grade. If a student accumulates ten (10) absences (30% of a 12-week course), the Institute reserves the right to withdraw the student from the class, assigning a grade of WA (Withdrawal due to Absences).

We recognize that emergencies may occur. In such cases, students should email their instructor in advance to request an excused absence.

(b) Participation

Instructors will use a participation rubric to assess students' engagement in group classes. This assessment covers student preparation, in-class participation, and the use of the target language during each term. These criteria gauge student involvement in the communicative approach within the classroom. The rubric ensures that students actively practice speaking, listening, reading, and writing in the target language, while also fulfilling homework and exam requirements.

(c) Minimum Age Policy

To attend any language class at The Africa Institute, students must be at least 18 years old. However, individuals aged 15 to 17 can participate in a group language class if they provide signed approval from a parent or guardian or a signed letter of approval from their school.

(d) Grades and Transition to Next Level

The institute's policy for assessing student progress is based on grades. To pass the course and qualify for higher-level courses, students need to achieve a final grade of at least C (50%) or higher. Instructors keep a record of all student grades throughout the term and assign a final grade at the end of the class.

Attendance	15%
Class Participation	15%
Homework	20%
Tests and Midterm	30%
End of Course Assessment/Final Exam	20%
Total	100%

(e) Placement Tests

Students seeking to enroll in elementary (level 2), intermediate or advanced-level courses are required to complete a placement test to ensure they meet the necessary prerequisites. This assessment is provided free of charge. Continuing students are not required to take the placement test.

(f) Course Enrollment Requirement

Language courses are offered subject to a minimum enrollment of three students. The Africa Institute reserves the right to postpone, combine, or cancel a course if the minimum enrollment requirement is not met. Students will be notified accordingly and offered alternative enrollment options where available.

FEE STRUCTURE AND REFUND POLICY

Our tuition fees are the same for all languages, and our refund policy is structured to accommodate various situations, prioritizing fairness and transparency.

Course Fees for New Student Enrolments

Tuition Fees per 36hrs
AED 1,440 (inclusive of registration)

Early Bird Discount

- 15% early-bird discount is available for all enrollments submitted by July 20, 2026

Special Discounts

- 15% discount for participants who register for one-level course of 72 hours or more
- 15% discount for participants and their referred family member or friend
- 15% discount for UAE government employees

Refund Policy

Refunds will be processed upon receiving a written request from the student. Refunds will be issued within 45 to 60 days from the date of receiving the refund application. Please see below for refund amounts in different scenarios:

- Full refund for course and registration fees if the institute cancels the class or students withdraw before the start date.
- 50% refund of the course fee for withdrawals before the first week.

ON COMPLETION OF THIS PROGRAM, YOU WILL ACQUIRE:

- **Language Proficiency**
Develop the skills to speak, read, and write an African language, enabling effective communication with native speakers and enriching your understanding of authentic texts from the target culture.
- **Cultural Understanding**
Immerse yourself in the vibrant cultural landscapes of the African continent, fostering cultural sensitivity and creating opportunities for engagement with diverse communities.
- **Global Career Opportunities**
Gain a valuable skill that enhances your career prospects. Language proficiency is highly sought after in various professional fields, including translation and interpretation, international relations, social services, and business.
- **Certification**
Upon successful completion of both Level 1 and Level 2 (72 hours in total), you will receive a recognized certificate from Global Studies University, The Africa Institute, licensed by the Sharjah Private Education Authority (SPEA).



CONTACT US

For enrollment details and inquiries, reach us at languages@gsu.ac.ae

Location Map



THEAFRICAINSTITUTE.ORG
GSU.AC.AE

