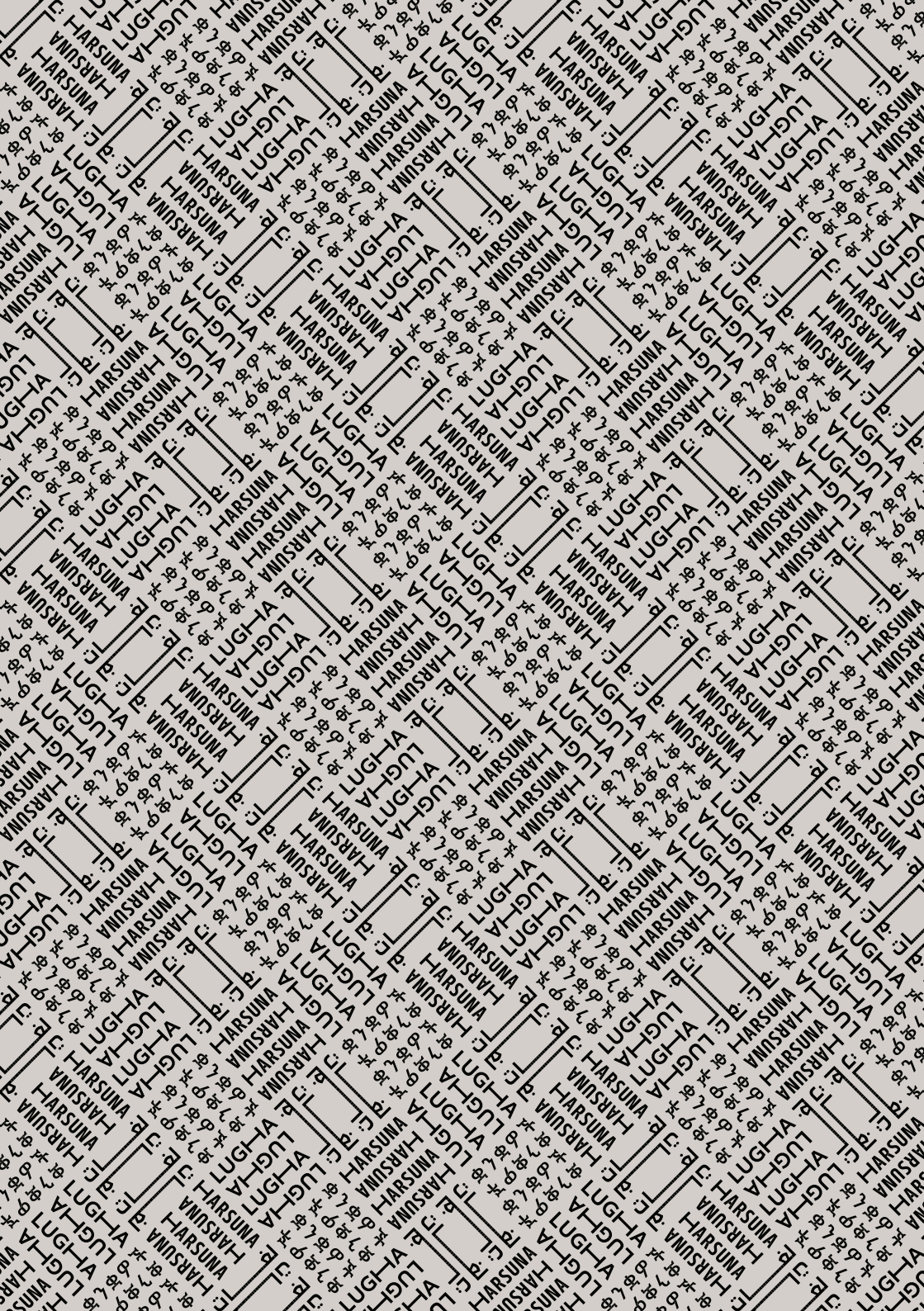# THE AFRICAN LANGUAGES AND TRANSLATION PROGRAM

**LANGUAGE COURSES PROSPECTUS**

THE**AFRICA**
INSTITUTE

# THE AFRICAN LANGUAGES AND TRANSLATION PROGRAM

The Africa Institute, Global Studies University, offers immersive courses in Amharic, Hausa, Arabic, and Kiswahili for non-native speakers. Launched in 2023 and licensed by the Sharjah Private Education Authority (SPEA), these courses develop communicative skills, cultural understanding, and engagement with the rich linguistic and cultural diversity of Africa and the UAE. At the heart of this offering is the African Languages and Translation program, providing in-depth study of less-commonly taught languages and a unique lens into the continent's cultural mosaic.

**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 African 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.

**Mode of Learning & Levels Offered**
Fall Intake (September - December)
– Elementary I
– Intermediate I
– Advanced I (Advanced II for Amharic)

Spring Intake (January - May)
– Elementary II
– Intermediate II
– Advanced II (Advanced I for Amharic)

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

**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.

The Institute offers group language courses, both in-person and online, with late afternoon classes to accommodate students and professionals.

# 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 colloquial (spoken) Arabic, a global language of diplomacy and culture, and the official language of the UAE, many Arab nations, and several African countries. Spoken in 22 Middle-Eastern countries with a population of about 250 million and used in numerous non-Arab Muslim countries with a billion people, Arabic is indispensable for Islamic studies, comparative theology, Middle-Eastern studies, international law, political sciences, and international business due to its fast growth and UN recognition.

**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)**
Embrace Kiswahili, the lingua franca of East and Central Africa. As an official language of the African Union and the sole African language in the UN's Directorate of Global Communications, Kiswahili not only opens doors for scholars in fields such as linguistics, anthropology, geography, archaeology, and sociology but also fosters cultural exchange, diplomatic engagement, and global understanding. Join over 200 million speakers worldwide in learning this language, enriched by Arabic influence and shaped by its history as a trade language and a vehicle for anti-colonial liberation.

# MEET OUR FACULTY

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
**Binyam Sisay Mendisu**, Professor
of African Languages and Linguistics

Ph.D. Linguistics, University of Oslo, Norway

Mendisu is a native speaker of Amharic and has experience in teaching Amharic as a foreign language and developing supporting teaching materials including dictionaries. He was Associate Professor and founding Dean of Humanities (2010-2012) at Addis Ababa University (AAU). As an education specialist in UNESCO-IICBA between 2016-2021, he worked on mother tongue education and teacher policy developments in Uganda, the Seychelles, Burundi, Malawi and Mozambique. He also led various projects and initiatives related to linguistic capacity building and early childhood education. Currently, he sits on the Steering Committee of African Science Leadership Program (ASLP), University of Pretoria, South Africa and is a fellow of the International Science Council (ISC). He holds dual roles as an Associate Professor of African Languages and Linguistics and Associate Director of The Africa Institute.

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

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

Woube is a native speaker of Amharic and has experience in teaching and preparing educational materials to teach Amharic as a foreign language. He is an Associate Professor of Linguistics at the Department of Linguistics and Philology, Addis Ababa University. After earning his Ph.D. in Comparative-Historical Linguistics from the University of Brussels in 2001, over the past two decades, Woube has actively participated in various research programs, gaining a unique blend of experiences intersecting language, culture, education, and policy formulation.

# 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 in the African Languages and Translation Program at the Africa Institute. Prior to this role, Al-Omar was a Lecturer of Arabic Language and Literature at Cornell University in Ithaca, New York (2017 to 2022). He has taught a diverse range of courses at Cornell University including Modern Arabic Literature, Current Events in Arabic Media, Elementary Arabic I/II, Intermediate Arabic I/II, and Advanced Arabic I/II. Additionally, he has developed a new Modern Arabic Literature curriculum for non-native speakers of Arabic and served as the coordinator of the Elementary Arabic class. He has worked and been affiliated with Jerash University, Jordan as an Assistant Professor of Comparative and Modern Arabic Literature teaching courses in Comparative Literature in Arabic, Modern Arabic Poetry, and Modern Arabic Prose. Additionally, he served as the coordinator of the Academic Quality Department at the Faculty of Arts at Jerash University. Currently, Al-Omar is working on a website dedicated to teaching modern Arabic literature to non-Arabic speakers as well as curating a dictionary with over 10,000 keywords.

**Learn Hausa** with
**Aliyu Mustapha Lawal**, Lecturer

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

Lawal is a Lecturer of Hausa and Arabic in the African Languages and Translation program. He taught Hausa at the Faculty of African Postgraduate Studies, Cairo University (2014–2021), and has authored publications in Arabic poetry, the Hausa language, and translation. He has also worked as a translator, news editor, and broadcaster at the National Media Authority in Maspero, Egypt (2020–2021). He earned his Ph.D. in Islamic and Arabic Studies, specializing in Arabic Literature and Criticism, from Al-Azhar University, Cairo (2025). His dissertation examined the poetry of Sheikh Weld Bel'Amsh, focusing on vision and artistic formation. He is currently a member of the International Council for the Arabic Language, accredited as a partner organization of UNESCO (2026–2028). Lawal has appeared on literary and cultural TV programs in the UAE and Egypt and published articles and poems in Al Qawafee (Sharjah), The Magazine of Arabic Language Academy (Sharjah), Al-Azhar Magazine (Egypt), and One Million Poet Magazine (Abu Dhabi). He has also participated in major Arabic poetry festivals, including the Rabat International Book Fair (2022), The Prince of Poets Competition (2021), Sharjah Poetic Festival (2019), and Luxor Poetic Festival (2016).

**Learn Kiswahili** with
**Regina Minael Fupi**, Lecturer

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

Regina Minael Fupi is a native speaker of Kiswahili (Swahili), born and raised in Tanzania, East Africa. She brings over a decade of experience teaching Kiswahili to non-native speakers across North America, with a focus on second language acquisition, cultural immersion, and real-world communication.Previously, she taught as a Kiswahili Language Instructor at the School of Linguistics and Language Studies at Carleton University (2010–2015) and as a Kiswahili Lecturer at Stanford University's Language Center (2008–2009) through the prestigious Fulbright Foreign Language Teaching Assistant (FLTA) program. Her students included both undergraduate and graduate learners at all proficiency levels (Elementary to Advanced). She is currently pursuing her Ph.D. in Education, Curriculum, and Learning at the University of Calgary in Alberta, Canada. Fupi's scholarly interests include translation studies, Kiswahili pedagogy, Bantu linguistics, the representation of Black history in educational resources in the Western world (particularly North America), and the phenomenological experiences of people of African descent in the diaspora.

**Learn Kiswahili** with
**Ruth Ndekiro Shao**

Adjunct Lecturer of Kiswahili (Intermediate Level)
Ph.D. in Kiswahili, University of Dar es Salaam, Tanzania

Ruth Ndekiro Shao is an experienced Kiswahili instructor with over eight years of teaching and research across East Africa, West Africa, and Europe. She has taught beginner to advanced levels to undergraduate and graduate students in Tanzania, Ghana, Germany, and the United Arab Emirates. She has academic strengths in linguistics, translation, second language acquisition, and curriculum development, with teaching expertise in grammar instruction, oral proficiency, and learner-centered curricula that are culturally rich and academically rigorous. She also brings extensive experience in online instruction, using platforms such as Zoom and Google Classroom to create interactive and inclusive virtual learning environments. Shao's teaching philosophy emphasizes student engagement, cultural immersion, and practical communication. She is passionate about making Kiswahili accessible to learners from diverse backgrounds and equipping them with the skills to use the language confidently in academic, professional, and everyday contexts.

# COURSE SCHEDULE AND KEY DATES FOR SPRING 2026

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.

– **Classes start:** January 26, 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
– **Eid Al-Fitr & Spring Break:** March 17–29, 2026
– **Last day of instruction:** May 6, 2026
– **During Ramadan,** sessions will be 1 hr, with extra time added to the end of the course

## 1. Arabic

| Level | Modality | Days | Timing (GST) |
|---|---|---|---|
| Elementary II | Online | Monday and Friday | 7:00–8:30 PM |
| Intermediate II | Online | Monday and Thursday | 4:30–6:00 PM |
| Advanced II | Hybrid | Monday and Wednesday | 4:30–6:00 PM |

## 2. Amharic

| Level | Modality | Days | Timing (GST) |
|---|---|---|---|
| Elementary II | Online | Tuesday and Thursday | 6:30–8:00 PM |
| Intermediate II | Online | Monday and Wednesday | 4:30–6:00 PM |
| Advanced I | Online | Tuesday and Thursday | 4:30–6:00 PM |

## 3. Hausa

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

## 4. Kiswahili

| Level | Modality | Days | Timing (GST) |
|---|---|---|---|
| Elementary II | Online | Tuesday and Thursday | 4:30–6:00 PM |
| Intermediate II | Online | Tuesday and Thursday | 4:30–6:00 PM |
| Advanced II | Online | Monday and Wednesday | 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-peron 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 cover attendance, active participation, age requirements, 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 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.

# FEE STRUCTURE AND REFUND POLICY

# ON COMPLETION OF THIS PROGRAM, YOU WILL ACQUIRE:

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)

**Discounts**
—  20% discount available for students who register one level course of 72hrs or more.
—  20% discount for both the participant and a referred family member or friend.
—  20% 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.

—  **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@theafricainstitute.org**

**Scan to learn more and enroll in
our African Language Courses!**

**Location Map**

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