

About the Faculty of Arts, Cairo University

In 1908, Egyptians joined efforts to establish a national university. The people's cooperation across the different classes was exemplary. Many of the affluent landlords devoted parts of their estates as *waqf*, a form of public endowment, so that their revenues would go to the university. Foremost among benefactors is Princess Fatima, daughter of Khedive Ismail, who dedicated a large area of her land as a *waqf* trust to be the site of the new university's campus. Further, the Princess donated her jewellery to cover the expenses of building the university premises.

The Faculty of Arts is the oldest of the university's. It dates back to 1908 when the National University was established with literary studies as its major branch. In celebration of its centenary, the Faculty held a conference in 2008 where distinguished alumni were invited to exchange views about its prospective future.

The University embarked on its academic endeavour by offering lectures on general topics in culture by Egyptian and foreign lecturers. Because the university achieved results that met the people's expectations, the government in 1917 started to consider establishing a state university and set up a committee to investigate the purpose. The committee suggested affiliating the existing higher schools to the university on 12th February 1923. The government and the National University administration reached an agreement of merging state run higher schools and the university into a new state university with the Faculty of Arts as its first constituent faculty. On 11th March 1925, the government issued a statute to establish the state university under the name of the Egyptian University, with four constituent faculties: Arts, Science, Medicine and Law. In October of the same year, the School of Antiquities, which was then affiliated to the Higher School for Teachers, joined the Faculty of Arts.

Among the Faculty's first departments were Arabic and Oriental Languages, European Languages, History, Geography, and Philosophy. Other institutes were eventually opened in the Faculty; the Institute of Antiquities (1933), the Institute of Oriental Studies and Literatures (1939), the Institute of Editing, Translation and Journalism (1939) and the Institute of Sudanese Studies (1947), which became independent of the Faculty in 1950 but joined it again in 1954 as the Institute of African Studies. These institutes awarded the degrees of diploma and PhD in their relevant fields.

As the Faculty expanded, the Department of Geography became independent of the Department of History for each to develop its specialisation and the related sciences and research. The Faculty has also developed the study of antiquities, opening an institute for students to join after obtaining the BA or an equivalent degree. The study of antiquities further developed to include Islamic antiquities in a new department in 1923 after it was restricted to Ancient Egyptian antiquities.

The Department of Arabic and Oriental Languages developed into two separate departments: the Department of Arabic Language and Literatures and that of Oriental Languages and Literatures. A department of Ancient European Studies (Greek and Latin) soon opened while the Department of European Languages became separate departments; the Department of English Language and Literatures and the Department of French Language and Literatures. Later on, other departments were established; namely, the Department of German Language and Literatures, Department of Japanese Language, Department of Sociology and the Department of Libraries, Information and Archives. On the other hand, the then Department of Philosophy changed into the Department of Philosophy and Psychology before the later branch developed into an independent department. In 2004, the Department of Chinese Language was established. The most recent is the Department of Italian Language and Literatures, opened in 2009.

The Faculty's postgraduate institutes have also witnessed significant changes. The Department of Oriental Languages and Literatures replaced the Institute of Oriental Languages and Literatures, which awards the BA in either Persian, Turkish or Hebrew language. Similarly, the Institute of Editing, Translation and Journalism became the Department of Journalism in 1954 and the Institute of Antiquities became the Department of Antiquities in the Faculty in 1955. Soon, however, the last two departments developed into independent faculties in their own right; the Faculty of Mass Communications and the Faculty of Antiquities in 1970. As a precursor to future centres of humanities and literary studies, the Centre of Psychological Studies was established in the Faculty. Others were opened afterwards; the most recent of which is the Centre of Ibero-American Cultures.

As for spatial expansion, the Faculty has gone a long way since the first opening in October 1926 when its first location was al-Za'faran Palace in Abbassiya. In October 1929, the Faculty relocated to its current premises among those built for the new university in the Orman Gardens grounds in Giza. An on-campus annex was built in 1937 to keep up with the Faculty's

expansion and accommodate the departments of English and History. It was not until 1982 when the second on-campus annex was opened. The Faculty has an off-campus building overlooking the Nile in al-Remaha Square for the Department of Geography and the former Institute of Antiquities. Today, this building accommodates the Centre of Psychological Studies and Research, the Centre of Historical Studies and Research and the Centre of Information Systems. Also, it has a multi-purpose room for student activities.

Address of the Faculty of Arts,Cairo University

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Goals of the Faculty of Arts, Cairo University

Documenting and assessing the academic performance systematically.

Offering highly qualified educational courses in the early stages of college education.

Offering distinguished proficient learning in social sciences and humanities practical fields.

Offering postgraduate studies that qualify researchers systematically and ethically.

Graduating creative citizens who can function professionally in a complex inconstant world.

Active contribution to research in humanities and social sciences fields.

Offering consulting and academic services to all cultural, academic, and social intuitions in Egypt.

Enriching cultural and intellectual life in the community through writing, translating, publishing, conferences, and introducing unconventional educational programs.

Faculty Administration

The dean of the faculty: Professor: Zein AlAbdeen Abu Khadra

Vice Dean for Community Service & Environmental Development:
Professor Essam Hamza

Vice Dean for Post Graduate Studies & Research: Professor: Fadia Elwan

Vice Dean for Education & Students Affairs: Professor Omar Saber

History of the Faculty of Arts, Cairo University

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develops into an independent department. Afterwards the Department of Japanese Language and the Department of Spanish Language and Literatures were opened, and recently the Department of Chinese Language was established.

Study began in the Faculty in October 1926 in al-Za'faran Palace in Abbasiya. In October 1929, the Faculty relocated to its current premises among those built for the new university in the Orman Gardens grounds in Giza.

Development:

The Faculty's expansion has gone a long way since its establishment. As new departments were opening and students were increasing, an annex was built on campus in 1937 for the departments of English and History. In 1982, another on-campus annex was built for the departments of Philosophy; Geography; Psychology; Libraries, Information and Archives; French Language and Literatures; Spanish Language and Literatures; Japanese Language; Chinese Language and Italian Language and Literatures.

In addition to the Faculty's main building and two annexes, the Faculty has an off-campus building in al-Remaha Square for its research centres. These include the Centre of Arabic Language, the Centre of Social Studies and Research, the Centre of Psychological Studies and Research, the Centre of Historical Studies and Research and the Centre of Information Systems and Services. An annex to this off-campus building was built recently to accommodate a multi-purpose room for student activities and state-of-the-art rooms for training sessions and workshops organised by the Faculty and the research centres.

Since day one, the Faculty of Arts has set the foundations of team work in education and scientific research alike on the basis of interrelatedness of study in all the departments, and in turn they continue to maintain the Faculty's policy.

Despite expansion of premises, the number of students enrolling in the Faculty exceeds the current capacity. Suffices to say that the number of students who join the Faculty amounted from 205 in 1925 to 23, 494 students in the academic year 2007-2008.

Administrative Structure of Faculty of Arts

Prof. Dr.\ Moataz Sayed Abdul Allah: Dean of the Faculty

Prof. Dr.\ El Hussein Mohamed Abdul Moneim: Vice Dean for Students Affairs

Prof. Dr.\ Helda Albert William: Vice Dean for Graduate Studies

Prof. Dr.\ Ali Abdul Tawab Ali: Vice Dean for Social Service and Environment

Mission of the Faculty of Arts,Cairo University

Focusing on acquiring and developing scientific thinking skills.

- Emphasizing the significance of the role of humanities and social sciences in developing the society.
- Encouraging creativity in inter-disciplinary learning and scientific research both theoretically and practically.
- Employing intellectual, educational and research potentials in serving the community.
- Consolidating academic ethics and serving the society.

Vision of the Faculty of Arts,Cairo University

Diversity and integration of disciplinaries in the field of humanities and social sciences.

Enhancing the spirit of perfection and creativity in education and research.

Effective Contribution to the social and cultural scene.

Word of the Faculty of Arts,Cairo University

Welcome to Cairo University's Faculty of Arts, a beacon of knowledge and a leading contributor to the contemporary scientific movement in the Middle East and the Arab world. Since its establishment over a hundred years ago, in 1908, as the foundation stone of Cairo University, our Faculty of Arts has been the first in the East. It therefore symbolizes nationalism and chronicles the journey of university education in the Middle East and the Arab world at large.

In its quest for remaining at the forefront, the Faculty of Arts has been continuously expanding and developing its programmes in the different branches of specialisation thereby crossing local borders to regional and international bounds. The Faculty of Arts boasts thinkers who contribute to global scholarship and research. Along its history, it has been reputable for the revolutionary views of its faculty who are also world-class scholars such as Taha Hussein, Shafiq Ghorbal, Abdel-Wahab Azzam, Suleiman Hozayen, Gamal Hemdan, Zaki Naguib Mahmoud, Ahmed Amin, Shawqi Dayf, Yussof Khulaif, Rashad Rushdy, Samir Sarhan, Abdel-Aziz Hammouda, Mostafa Soueif and Neamat Ahmed Fouad. Among its alumni are the Nobel laureate Naguib Mahfouz and Abba Shunouda III.

When initially founded, the Faculty had five departments. Today, this number grew to sixteen after launching the Department of Italian Language and Literature at the close of the Faculty's centenary. Also, the Faculty has six research centres working in close contact with the Egyptian society.

The Faculty has a library holding a great number of major references in the various specialisations. In addition to the Bachelor of Arts, the Faculty awards diplomas, MA and PhD degrees.

Welcome to the electronic portal of Cairo University's Faculty of Arts, which stands for more than 100 years of enlightenment.

Professor Zein-el-Abideen Mahmoud Abu-Khadra

Dean of the Faculty of Arts, Cairo University.