

**For practical training in a project format  
(as per the initiative of HSE University staff<sup>1</sup>)**

Practical training element	Project
Project type (if a project)	Research
Project Name	Identification and Analysis of Mainstream Discourses in the Modern Middle East and North Africa (20 <sup>th</sup> Century)
Subdivision - project initiator	Institute for Oriental and Classical Studies
Project head	Dr Mozhgan Samadi
Main place of the project head's employment at HSE University	Institute for Oriental and Classical Studies
Supervisor's contact details (e-mail)	m.samadi@hse.ru
Project co-heads at HSE University ( <i>if any</i> )	-----
Contact details of co-heads at HSE University (e-mail)	-----
Key project idea / description of the problem under consideration	<p>The social and political conditions of the Middle East and North Africa have appeared intricate and multifaceted since the emergence of the Eastern Question and the beginning of the Great Game. This region continues to remain profoundly overwhelmed with change, struggle, controversy, war and conflict. Contradictions and interactions between national and religious identities, traditional and religious values, on the one hand, and modernisation and the values of modernity, on the other, have been among the fundamental reasons for fluctuation and instability in the region throughout the 20th century.</p> <p>We aim to examine what discourses were dominant, how they emerged and transformed over the period, as well as what semantic constructs and socio-political institutions they created in the Modern Middle East. Using literature, public media and cinema as well as history of the region, students will identify the discourses that formed and/or constructed various 'truths' of self-perceptions.</p> <p>By discourse we mean something more than the way of thinking and producing meanings. The notion of discourse in this project is borrowed from Foucault's concept which refers to ways of producing and processing knowledge, along with the social practices, forms of subjectivity and power relations [Weedon, 1987, p. 108].</p>
Goal and objectives of the project	This project aims at:

<sup>1</sup> Project work initiated by HSE University's staff can be organized jointly with partner organizations.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i) identifying mainstream discourses in different Middle Eastern societies during the 20th century;</li> <li>ii) analysing the obtained data to identify common patterns and underlying distinctions in the societies in question.</li> </ul>
<p>Project assignment/ task</p>	<p>The project involves the implementation of individual and group research, analytical work and tasks to achieve the following targets:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i) to work with a mix of published and recorded materials including poetry, novels, movies and documentaries from a multidisciplinary angle.</li> <li>ii) to identify, analyse, and compare the main discourses in the 20<sup>th</sup>- century Middle East, resulting from contradictions and/or interactions between national and religious identities, on the one hand, and modernisation and the values of modernity, on the other.</li> <li>iii) to improve intellectual and analytical skills of the participants in the project through analytical and critical thinking, synthesis and analysis of data and information as well as to develop advanced skills of written and verbal communication, organization and expression of ideas, discussion and debating ethics in English.</li> </ul>
<p>Project deliverables, special or functional requirements regarding project outcomes</p>	<p>The selection of participants takes place on a competitive basis. Main requirements:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. An academic achievement and motivation letter (it should be about one A4 page in English. Students should describe therein their scientific interests, as well as their vision of how participation in the project will help their professional and personal development).</li> <li>2. An acceptable level of English is needed. All the meetings, discussions, round tables, essays, etc. will be in English.</li> <li>3. Priority is given to those who are familiar with, at least, one of Middle Eastern languages such as Arabic/Turkish/Persian/Hebrew, although other students are also welcome.</li> <li>4. This project will also be beneficial to those who are not familiar with any Middle Eastern</li> </ol>

	language but intend to improve their level of English.
Starting date of project	February 1 <sup>st</sup> , 2023
Final date of project	June 26, 2023
Workload (hours per week) per participant	8
Anticipated number of participants (vacancies) on project team	15
<p>Vacancies (roles), short description of tasks, number of credits assigned, and qualification criteria for project participants (<i>description of a single vacancy will be sufficient, if all participants perform similar works</i>)</p> <p><i>Credits per participant shall be calculated as: the duration in weeks * the project's workload in hours / 25</i></p>	<p>The current name of the project is presented in a generalised form. Before it starts, each participant will choose one of the four vacancies relevant to Turkey, Egypt, Iran, and Israel based on their interests. The members of each group choose research contexts for their research such as literature, cinema, etc. Each member works on the mainstream discourses in the targeted society, using the chosen research context.</p> <p><b><u>Vacancy №1:</u></b> Student Researcher  Tasks (Turkey): an individual and group (of 4 people) survey, analytical and research work related to Turkey within the framework of the project, participation in discussions and round tables, fulfilling the tasks of the project manager.  Number of credits: 6  Qualification criteria: Bachelors and Masters.</p> <p><b><u>Vacancy No.2:</u></b> Student Researcher  Tasks (Egypt): an individual and group (of 4 people) survey, analytical and research work related to Egypt within the framework of the project, participation in discussions and round tables, fulfilling the tasks of the project manager.  Number of credits: 6  Qualification criteria: Bachelors and Masters.</p> <p><b><u>Vacancy № 3:</u></b> Student Researcher  Tasks (Iran): an individual and group (of 4 people) survey, analytical and research work in the direction of Iran within the framework of the project, participation in discussions and round tables, fulfilling the tasks of the project manager.  Number of credits: 6  Qualification criteria: Bachelors and Masters.</p> <p><b><u>Vacancy No.4:</u></b> Student Researcher  Tasks (Israel): an individual and group (of 3 people) survey, analytical and research work in the direction of Israel within the framework of the project, participation in discussions and round tables, fulfilling the tasks of the project manager.  Number of credits: 6  Qualification criteria: Bachelors and Masters.</p>

Total credits	90
Final assessment format	Exam
Format of results subject to assessment	Monthly progress report. Presentation of the results of individual and group research and analytical work at one round table. Drawing up a general comparative/analytical table/report.
Formula for resulting grade, possible assessment criteria, including all requirements and parameters	Monthly progress report - 20% Short oral presentation at the round table - 30% (*2) Participation in the preparation of a comparative/analytical table (report) - 20%
Retakes in case of unsatisfactory grades	No
Anticipated educational outcomes of the project	<p>The outcomes of this project are divided into two categories:</p> <p>1) Knowledge and understanding.</p> <p>The first outcome of this project is to study, analyse and compare the main discourses in the 20th century Middle East that resulted from contradictions and/or interactions between national, religious values, on the one hand, and the values of modernity, on the other. This will be done through recommending to the participants a mix of published and recorded materials including movies and documentaries, etc. Students will gain knowledge about various online databases and other sources of information about the project topic.</p> <p>2) Intellectual skills.</p> <p>The second outcome of this project is to improve intellectual skills of the students through analytical and critical thinking, synthesis and analysis of data and information as well as to develop advanced skills of written and verbal communication, formulating and expression of ideas, discussion and debating ethics.</p>
Special aspects of the project implementation: territory, time, information resources, etc.	Communication and activities are carried out online.
Recommended educational programmes	<p>No prior Middle Eastern training needed.</p> <p><b>Бакалавриат:</b> История Культурология Филология Язык и литература Ирана Арабистика: язык, словесность, культура Христианский Восток Политология Социология Международные отношения Мировая экономика Востоковедение</p>

	<p>Программа двух дипломов НИУ ВШЭ и Лондонского университета по международным отношениям</p> <p>География глобальных изменений и геоинформационные технологии</p> <p><b>Магистратура:</b></p> <p>Современный социальный анализ (Санкт-Петербург)</p> <p>Сравнительная политика Евразии (Санкт-Петербург)</p> <p>Сравнительная политика России и Евразии (Санкт-Петербург)</p> <p>Бизнес и политика в современной Азии (Санкт-Петербург)</p> <p>Глобальная и региональная история (Санкт-Петербург)</p> <p>История современного мира</p> <p>Мусульманские миры в России: история и культура</p> <p>Культурные исследования</p> <p>Философия и история религии</p> <p>Комплексный социальный анализ</p> <p>Международные отношения в Евразии</p> <p>Международные отношения: европейские и азиатские исследования</p> <p>Мировая экономика</p> <p>Политика. Экономика. Философия</p> <p>Политический анализ и публичная политика</p> <p>Социально-экономическое и политическое развитие современной Азии</p> <p>Сравнительные социальные исследования</p>
Students submits a CV (resume)	No
Students submit a motivation letter	Yes (in English)