

KHALIL DERBEL

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Bio Summary and Professional Skills

- Solid Arabic language teaching experience with the US Government and in higher education: for 16 years, trained Foreign Service Officers (DoS) and Foreign Area Officers (DoD) at the Foreign Service Institute's Arabic Field School, Tunis, Tunisia. (MSA, Tunisian and Levantine dialects); since the fall of 2021, have taught Arabic classes at various proficiency levels and taught a course in Media Arabic at the George Washington University; joined the faculty of the Department of Arabic and Islamic Studies at Georgetown University to teach an Arabic beginners' course in the Fall 2022.
- Long experience in language proficiency assessment: Foreign Service Institute certified examiner (the Interagency Language Roundtable proficiency exam, ILR) and end-of-program examiner with various cohorts of Critical Language Scholarship students (ACTFL proficiency guidelines);
- Subject matter expert in political, economic and social issues affecting the MENA region: served as consultant/ trainer with the McKellar Corporation Department of Defense contractor;
- Political Specialist: for ten years, advised the Ambassador and senior embassy leadership on political developments in the context of a vibrant and fast-paced democratic transition;
- Program Analyst: grant management experience with the Middle East Partnership Initiative Regional Office, U.S. Embassy Tunis;
- Freelance translator and interpreter (Arabic – English – Arabic).
- Academic credentials include two M.A. degrees (one in Public Management and one in English Literature);
- High proficiency in three languages: Arabic, French and English;
- Recipient of prestigious State Department awards and certificates of appreciation from top-level USG officials.

Work Experience:

December 2022-Present| **Foreign Language and Area Studies Fellowship Coordinator**, the Institute for Middle East Studies, the Elliott School of International Affairs, The George Washington University.

August 2022 - Present| **Lecturer in Arabic** at the Department of Arabic and Islamic Studies, Georgetown University. Course work includes teaching an Arabic beginners' course.

August 2021- August 2022| **Lecturer in Arabic** at the Department of Classical and Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations (CNELC), GWU.

- Course work included teaching Media Arabic, beginning, intermediate and advanced-level Arabic (on the ACTFL scale) with a focus on the Levantine dialect.

June and August 2022: **Tunisia Country and Mission Study Consultant** with the Defense Security Cooperation Agency (DoD's Defense Security Cooperation University) and USG contractor McKellar

Corporation – designed and delivered two courses on Tunisia’s history and politics, system of government, security institutions, society, education and a host of related issues.

2011- July 2021| **Political Specialist**, U.S. Embassy Tunis, Tunisia

- Analyzed political developments for the U.S. Ambassador and senior-level U.S. government officials to guide U.S. foreign policy decisions in Tunisia;
- Prepared briefing materials for U.S. Embassy leadership and visiting U.S. officials;
- Leveraged **Arabic, French, and English** language proficiency skills to build an extensive network of government and civil society contacts with diverse viewpoints and to support the Embassy’s exchange programs;
- Effectively navigated social media and online resources to provide updates on dynamic political developments.

2010-11| **Program Analyst** at the MEPI Regional Office, U.S. Embassy Tunis, Tunisia

- Negotiated grants with civil society organizations from 11 countries in the MENA region;
- Conducted evaluation and monitoring missions;
- Analyzed program data to inform key decision making and strategic planning

1995-2010| **Arabic Language and Culture Instructor**, Foreign Service Institute Arabic Field School, Tunis, Tunisia

- Taught intermediate and advanced Arabic (on the ILR scale); administered placement, interim and final exams in accordance with interagency guidelines.
- Designed custom-made class materials with a focus on Levantine, Tunisian and Modern Standard Arabic to supplement the curriculum.

2011-2019| **Short-term Elections Observer** with Elections Watchdog NGO Mourakiboun, Tunis, Tunisia: Served as an accredited elections observer for Tunisia’s multiple presidential, legislative, and municipal elections.

1986-1995: **Tunisian Arabic Instructor**: designed and taught a course in Tunisian Arabic, first as an intensive summer course, then over two semesters at the Bourguiba Institute for Foreign Languages; taught Tunisian Arabic to Peace Corps volunteers posted in Tunis; designed and taught intensive courses with the Swedish aid organization *Association de Coopération en Tunisie (ACT)*; tutored Foreign Service Officers in Modern Standard Arabic.

Translation and Interpreting Experience:

- Served as the Ambassador’s interpreter in high-level meetings with Tunisian government senior officials and during senior U.S. government official visits to Tunisia.
- Translated into English a Tunisian Government Publication: The Reform of the National Vocational Training System;
- Translated into English the Annual Report of the activities of the National Tunisian Office for Tourism (ONTT);
- Translated into English three yearly editions of a guidebook on Tunisia, published by Media Horizon, Tunisia;
- Served as interpreter for two visiting Swedish professors who worked for the *Association de Coopération en Tunisie* on teaching/ learning pedagogy targeting young learners.

Education

2019| **M. A. in Public Management** (*Summa Cum Laude*). *L'Université Européenne de Tunis*.

1998| **M. A. in English Language and Literature** (*Magna Cum Laude*). The University of Letters, Arts and Humanities, Tunis.

1990| **B. A. Degree in English**. The University of Letters, Arts and Humanities, Tunis.

Special Recognition:

- Deputy Secretary of State Wendy Sherman (2021)
- Deputy Secretary of State Bill Burns (2014)
- FBI Director Robert S. Mueller, III (2012)
- Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern Affairs Jeffrey Feltman (2011)

Awards:

- Meritorious Honor Award, Department of State: 2021, 2020, 2019, 2017, 2015, 2014, 2013, 2010, 2002, 2000, 1998.
- Franklin Award and Certificate of Appreciation: 2021, 2017, 2013, 2010, 2009, 2008, 2007.