

# THE MIDDLE EASTERN AND SOUTH ASIAN PAGES

UC DAVIS

# ABOUT THIS GUIDE

Welcome to the Middle Eastern and South Asian (ME/SA) Pages. Within these pages, you will find information about academics, student resources, student organizations and activities particularly relevant for those students who identify as Southwest Asian, North African, Middle Eastern and/or South Asian. Known as ME/SA, these communities are positioned together at UC Davis in acknowledgment of how much they share historically, geographically, spiritually and culturally. It is our hope that this guide will help you make the most of your college experience and find your home away from home. Together, we are ME/SA.

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# WELCOME LETTERS



## Suad Joseph, Ph.D.

Distinguished Professor,  
Anthropology and Women and Gender Studies  
Founding Director, Middle East/South Asia Studies Program  
[sjoseph@ucdavis.edu](mailto:sjoseph@ucdavis.edu)

As the founding director of the Middle East/South Asia Studies Program, I welcome you to the treasured, intentional ME/SA community of students, faculty, administration and non-UC Davis community members. We have worked together from 2001 to the present to found this program. The key members of this community have always been the students. It was the students who started asking the faculty in the 1990s to establish a program like ME/SA. It was the students who lobbied to have Arabic and Hindi/Urdu instruction launched. It was the students who organized event after event to lay the groundwork for Iranian studies, Arab studies, India/South Asia studies. Each of these efforts by the students were organized carefully and collaboratively with the faculty and community and coordinated with the administration. It was an absolutely winning formula.

We started in 2001 with 4-5 courses on the Middle East and South Asia and one ME/SA language, Hebrew, taught only at the first-year level. In 2004 we established the ME/SA minor and in 2008 the ME/SA major. Now we have 120 courses, 30 teaching faculty and 2,500–3,000 students taking courses annually. In addition to Hebrew, we offer Arabic, Hindi/Urdu and Persian. Minors in Iranian/Persian cultures and in India/South Asia studies have been added to the ME/SA major and minor. The annual ME/SA Student Leadership Retreat was launched in 2012. As early as 2004, we began honoring our students in the spring Hafta/Mela, which has become a major moment for all of us to gather and celebrate together.

Every step of the way, ME/SA grew and flourished because it kept its focus on its primary and most important reason of existence: you, the students. On behalf of ME/SA, I invite you to talk with faculty, staff, community and administration about your innovative ideas. Let us continue to work together to grow ME/SA and always ensure that ME/SA serves, educates, protects, offers a home environment and expands the horizons of possibilities for our students.



## Jinni Pradhan, Ph.D.

Middle Eastern and South Asian Student Affairs Officer  
Division of Student Affairs  
2406 Student Community Center  
[jpradhan@ucdavis.edu](mailto:jpradhan@ucdavis.edu)

Welcome, Aggie! As the student affairs officer for the Middle Eastern and South Asian (ME/SA) community and a UC Davis alum myself, I am thrilled you will be joining us on your journey! ME/SA at UC Davis is not only about building a community that supports and empowers you but also honoring you and your story. For you to find success and fulfillment here, we understand the campus must value all your cultures, identities and experiences. When you are recognized as a whole, unique person, the new adventures and challenges you encounter only strengthen you and our UC Davis community.

There are a number of opportunities for you to get involved in the ME/SA community on campus. Students are behind many of our annual events, like ME/SA Leadership Retreat and ME/SA Graduation Celebration. By getting involved and sharing your voice, you can help create meaningful spaces for everyone and connect with other like-minded students at the same time.

While you are here, please do not hesitate to reach out and talk to me. Whether it is for academic support, finding leadership opportunities, guidance for internships, jobs, graduate school or community building, I am here for you. Our campus and its resources are vast, but I can point you in the right direction—like a campus GPS.

I cannot wait to meet and get to know you!



## STUDENT LIFE

At UC Davis, students are able to find a balance between academic and personal interests by getting involved in different athletic, social, networking and community service outreach clubs. By becoming involved, you can foster relationships and memories with peers.

# COMMUNITY EVENTS

## Asian Pacific Islander and ME/SA Fall Welcome

This is an opportunity to connect with all the Asian Pacific Islander (API) and ME/SA student organizations and clubs on campus before classes start and become acquainted with returning students, faculty and staff from these communities.

## ME/SA Chai Chats

Engage in meaningful conversations on topics that affect the Middle Eastern and South Asian communities, and take a break from the busy quarter over a warm cup of chai and snacks. Chai Chats take place biweekly.

## ME/SA Research Symposium

[mesa.ucdavis.edu/symposium](https://mesa.ucdavis.edu/symposium)

The ME/SA Research Symposium is an annual spring quarter event showcasing student work that focuses on the Middle East, South Asia, North Africa and their diasporic communities. It is open to the undergraduate and graduate students of UC Davis and the local academic community.

## ME/SA Studies' Hafila/Mela

The annual Hafila/Mela is an event in spring quarter hosted by the Middle East/South Asia Studies Department to celebrate the graduating class and achievements of the ME/SA academic program and community.

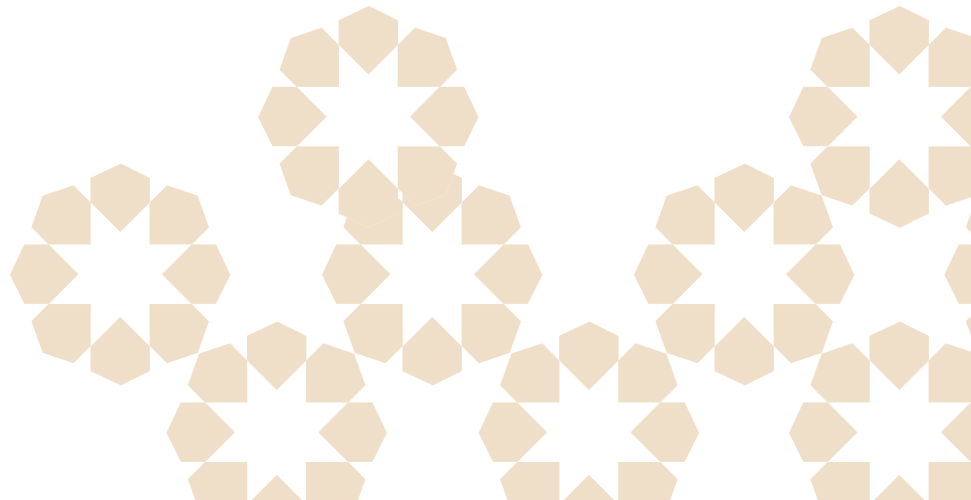
## Spring Quarter Cultural Banquets

Every spring quarter, many of the ME/SA-identified organizations—including but not limited to the Afghan Student Association, Arab Student Union, Indian Student Association and Pakistani Student Association—hold cultural banquets that highlight the beauty, diversity and richness of their cultures. These banquets include traditional food, entertainment, fashion shows and more.

## ME/SA Leadership Retreat

[ccc.ucdavis.edu/mesa.html](https://ccc.ucdavis.edu/mesa.html)

The ME/SA Leadership Retreat aims to empower student leaders and build community through the exploration and celebration of Middle Eastern, North African, Southwest Asian, and South Asian communities and their diaspora.



## ME/SA COMMUNITY GRADUATION CELEBRATION

[commencement.ucdavis.edu](http://commencement.ucdavis.edu)

This culturally relevant graduation celebration is intimate and for both ME/SA academic program graduates and students of Middle Eastern and South Asian heritage graduating from other programs and majors. The event honors family and loved ones. Without their support, the accomplishments of students would not be possible.



# STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS

## Afghan Student Association

[asa-at-ucd.strikingly.com](http://asa-at-ucd.strikingly.com)

The Afghan Student Association (ASA) intends to promote awareness, tolerance and peace at UC Davis and in its surrounding communities around issues relating to Afghanistan. ASA recognizes that the gateway to achieving the ultimate goal of peace resides in knowledge and understanding. For this reason, the ASA's mission includes promoting an understanding of Afghan religion, culture and politics.

## Aggies for Israel

[aggiesforisrael.com](http://aggiesforisrael.com)

Aggies for Israel (AFI) is a progressive student organization at UC Davis dedicated to the preservation of the everlasting bond between the United States and Israel. AFI is welcome to any member of the local community who believes in the future of the state of Israel, regardless of ethnicity, gender, creed or religion.

## Arab Student Union

[facebook.com/groups/ASUatUCD](https://facebook.com/groups/ASUatUCD)

The Arab Student Union is an organization aiming to unite and serve the Arab community on campus while educating the general student body of UC Davis, about Arab culture. The union is committed to benefiting both Arab and non-Arab communities while promoting Arabic culture and heritage, thus adding to the diversity of the campus, as well as increasing public awareness about Arabs.

## Armenian Student Association

[facebook.com/groups/2200255849](https://facebook.com/groups/2200255849)

The Armenian Student Association (ASA) intends to promote awareness, tolerance and peace at UC Davis and in its surrounding communities around issues relating to Armenia. ASA recognizes that the gateway to achieving the ultimate goal of peace resides in knowledge and understanding. For this reason, the ASA's mission includes promoting an understanding of Armenian religion, culture, and politics.

## The Beautiful Mind Project

[facebook.com/groups/1261261070561796/](https://facebook.com/groups/1261261070561796/)

The Beautiful Mind Project (BMP) aims to promote well-rounded and intersectional understandings of mental health in the Muslim community, while transcending socio-cultural, political and physical barriers of stigmatization. BMP seeks to accomplish this goal by utilizing Islamic principles as a source of and inspiration for mental wellness. By providing diverse, accessible resources, the Beautiful Mind Project advocates for its members to have a lifestyle that emphasizes the delicate balance between mental, spiritual and physical health.

## Bhagat Puran Singh Health Initiative

[bpshi.org/uc-davis](http://bpshi.org/uc-davis)

In 2010 UC Davis and Sacramento State students established the local chapter of Bhagat Puran Singh Health Initiative (BPSHI) in honor of Bhagat Puran Singh's devotion to humanity and selfless service (Sewa).

UC Davis BPSHI's initial health screenings underlie all we do today and have expanded beyond gurdwaras, to mandirs, masjids, homeless shelters and many more locations. We organize workshops targeted to women, youth or the elderly, seeking to fulfill their individual needs. We also hold health seminars to allow our community to get an in-depth understanding of what conditions can commonly afflict them, what they may be ignoring, how to improve and how to get help. In addition, we have sought to expand our presence on campus as well, providing our members with resources to help them in their journey in higher education. We also prioritize spreading awareness of the social injustices that pervade our society and embrace ways to tackle them.

## Epsilon Alpha Sigma, Arab Sorority

[facebook.com/easucdavis](https://facebook.com/easucdavis)

Epsilon Alpha Sigma unites its members in a sisterhood based on sincere and lasting friendship. It celebrates the importance of heritage, the diversity of the Arab world and the strength and accomplishments of Arab women.



## Naeema Kaleem

*Sociology—Social Welfare '18  
San Jose, California*

**ETHNICITY** Indian

**GENDER IDENTITY** Female

**PRONOUNS** She/Her/Hers\*

**IDENTITIES** Sorority and fraternity life student, transfer student

**COLLEGE** Letters and Science

**MINOR** Middle Eastern/South Asian Studies

### What do you love most about UC Davis?

Of all things at UC Davis, I have to say I love the ME/SA community the most. When I first reached out for support and help for my mental health issues, the ME/SA community leaders were there from the very beginning. Joining this community allowed me to embrace my Indian-Muslim identity and become part of a family that would always be there for me.

*\* Pronouns are linguistic tools that we use to refer to people (i.e., they/them/theirs, she/her/hers, he/him/his). We believe that it is important to give people the opportunity to state the pronoun that is correct to use when referring to them.*



## Khadeja Ibrahim

*Political Science and ME/SA studies '18  
Palestine*

**ETHNICITY** Middle Eastern  
**GENDER IDENTITY** Female  
**PRONOUNS** She/Her/Her  
**COLLEGE** Letters and Science

### What has been your most memorable UC Davis experience?

Running for senate in our student government has been one of the most trying yet rewarding experiences I have had here. It was really difficult to put myself out there and convince students to vote for me. What made this experience memorable was the abundance of support I received from friends and especially from the Muslim community. We all help one another to achieve our goals. It's really amazing to be part of such a strong and uplifting community.

## Imani Clinic

[imaniclinic.org](http://imaniclinic.org)

Imani Clinic was the brainchild of UC Davis medical students in the Student National Medical Association (SNMA), an organization dedicated to improving outcomes—medical, academic and social—among members of the African American community. Ten years of planning, research and negotiations were initiated because students became concerned about the staggering and persistent morbidity and mortality from hypertension, heart disease, cancer and inadequate prenatal care among African Americans.

## Indian Student Association

[ucdisa.org](http://ucdisa.org)

The Indian Student Association at UC Davis is the only undergraduate student-run organization at UC Davis that allows for Indians, as well as other students interested in Indian cultures and traditions, to unite under one common organization. Our goal is to bring the UC Davis community closer through holding social events for cultural awareness, fundraising for the underprivileged community and working in conjunction with other South Asian organizations.

## Iranian Student Association – Sedad

[facebook.com/isasedad](https://facebook.com/isasedad)

Sedad was founded in the 1970s and reestablished in 2012. The extensive Iranian community includes undergraduate and graduate students, postdoctoral scholars, UC Davis alumni and Davis residents. Our goal is to endorse collaboration and friendship among the university and city of Davis Iranian community and help non-Iranians learn more about Iranian culture.

## Iranian Student Cultural and Aesthetic Organization

[facebook.com/UCDISA](https://facebook.com/UCDISA)

The Iranian Student Cultural and Aesthetic Organization (ISCAO) is a student club at UC Davis that steadily works toward creating a united Persian community, on and off the UC Davis campus. We, as a group of Iranian students, founded the organization because assimilation in a foreign land was leading to a loss of heritage.

The primary goal of ISCAO is to educate everyone, including ourselves, about the Persian culture, its practices and its illustrious history. With the cooperation of various student organizations and surrounding Persian communities, we hope to achieve our goal through the following activities:

- Sponsoring Iranian dance classes and groups
- Producing cultural celebrations in honor of Persian holidays
- Inviting guest lecturers to the UC Davis campus
- Showing Iranian motion pictures and documentaries
- Instituting Farsi classes

## Jakara Movement Club

[facebook.com/groups/160272677677766](https://facebook.com/groups/160272677677766)

The Jakara Movement seeks to encourage engagement with Sikh culture through education, research and community outreach initiatives. The UC Davis chapter is the first official collegiate chapter of the Jakara Movement.

## Jhankaar

[facebook.com/JhankaarACappella](https://facebook.com/JhankaarACappella)

Jhankaar is a premier UC Davis a cappella team that combines musical influences from throughout South Asia with popular Western music. We aspire to blend these powerful and versatile musical styles and convey that this kind of fusion has the ability to unite people from different backgrounds through a common thread: a passion for music. Our singers are trained in a wide range of styles, and we hope to highlight the unique aspects of each to create unexpected and beautiful arrangements!

## Lashkara

[facebook.com/DavisLashkara](https://facebook.com/DavisLashkara)

The official competitive Hindi film-fusion team at UC Davis! We include a versatile intercollegiate Hindi Film Dance (HFD) team that incorporates fusion dance styles such as hip-hop, Bollywood, contemporary and Indian classical dance. Lashkara fuses together the finest of classical and modern dance forms to bring the best of Bollywood to all audiences. As a member of Lashkara, you will grow as a dancer, meet the best of friends and perform in front of thousands of people doing what you love! Show your love and support for the premier HFD dance team at UC Davis: Lashkara!

## Lebanese Cultural Society

[facebook.com/lebaneseculturalsociety](https://facebook.com/lebaneseculturalsociety)

Lebanese Cultural Society is a club that aims to promote the Lebanese culture and heritage, educate the student body, unite the Lebanese and Mediterranean community with others, increase student diversity and develop leadership and communication skills. Anybody who is interested is welcome to join.

## Middle Eastern and South Asian Law Student Association

[students.law.ucdavis.edu](https://students.law.ucdavis.edu)

The Middle Eastern and South Asian Law Student Association (MESALSA) provides outreach and retention services to incoming and first-year law students and promotes community involvement. MESALSA provides students with opportunities to network with various Middle Eastern and South Asian associations throughout the country, build professional relationships and get involved in pro bono work with practicing attorneys. It also hosts social events and cultural celebrations throughout the year.

## Minority Association of Pre-Medical Students

[mapsatucd.com](https://mapsatucd.com)

The Minority Association of Pre-Medical Students (MAPS) at UC Davis is an organization designed to help minority pre-medical students matriculate into health professional school. We are committed to supporting future underrepresented minority health students, addressing the needs of underserved communities and increasing the number of clinically excellent, culturally competent and socially conscious physicians.

## Muslim Academic and Professional Development Program

[facebook.com/UCDAMPD](https://facebook.com/UCDAMPD)

Muslim Academic and Professional Development Program (AMPD) aims to help Muslim students prosper in both their scholastic and professional settings as undergraduate UC Davis students. To do so, we are emphasizing three different keys to undergraduate success: academics, mentorships and development of professional skills.

The primary focus of our academic aspect is to provide students with resources to ensure success within the classroom. The mentorship program is focused on helping Muslim freshmen and transfers assimilate into the UC Davis environment. The mentorship program pairs continuing students with new students to provide general advice on day-to-day university activities and connect them to campus resources. The professional development aspect of AMPD helps students prepare for their post-graduate life by providing workshops on skills such as resume building and mock interviews, and connects students to Muslim alumni in the fields in which they are interested.

## Muslim Student Association

[facebook.com/groups/ucdmsa](https://facebook.com/groups/ucdmsa)

The Muslim Student Association (MSA) at UC Davis is a student organization united for the sake of God. It is open to all students, regardless of religious affiliation.

Primarily designed to serve the diverse Muslim student population in Davis, the UC Davis MSA aims to create a space for Muslim students to meet, exchange ideas, grow together and increase their knowledge of the beautiful faith of Islam. Following the classical principles of Islam, the MSA also aims to exemplify the Quranic and Prophetic characteristics of building character, resolutely standing out for justice and being of service to the wider community.

## Pakistani Student Association

[psaatucd.strikingly.com](https://psaatucd.strikingly.com)

The Pakistani Student Association (PSA) at UC Davis was created as an outlet through which Pakistani students can come together to help raise awareness about Pakistan as well as promote its rich culture and heritage. The PSA at UC Davis is dedicated to providing a welcoming community for Pakistani students on campus through general meetings, quarterly events and our annual banquet.

Aside from cultural events, we also serve as a humanitarian organization and do as much as we can financially and communicatively to support the people of Pakistan.



## LIVING-LEARNING COMMUNITY

The Middle Eastern/South Asian (ME/SA) Living-Learning Community is for students interested in exploring the Middle Eastern, North African, Southwest Asian and South Asian identities and cultures. Being in a living-learning community allows students to enjoy programs and activities related to a theme as well as traditional socials and recreational opportunities. Living-learning communities are located in specific residence halls and floors. Because the location of each living-learning community may change, visit [housing.ucdavis.edu/education/communities](https://housing.ucdavis.edu/education/communities) for current information.



## Permiyas at UC Davis

[facebook.com/groups/PermiyasDavis](https://facebook.com/groups/PermiyasDavis)

Permiyas at UC Davis stands as the sole Indonesian student association at UC Davis, and we pride ourselves on fostering close-knit relationships among our members while showcasing the hospitable Indonesian heritage to the larger UC Davis community.

## Raasleela

[facebook.com/RaasleelaDavis](https://facebook.com/RaasleelaDavis)

Raasleela is UC Davis' official Raas team. Founded in 2014, Raasleela incorporates the traditional folk dance styles of Garba and Raas, also known as Dandia. These lively and energetic dances originated in Gujarat, India. Through our passion for dance, we hope to showcase our high energy and uniqueness as well as entertain and inform the public about this beautiful tradition.

## Shifa Community Clinic

[shifaclinic.org](https://shifaclinic.org)

Shifa Community Clinic is a nonprofit, student-run medical facility dedicated to serving the diverse, medically uninsured population of the Greater Sacramento area. Every Sunday, the clinic provides basic and specialized medical services free of charge to patients of many ethnicities and backgrounds. In addition, as a teaching center for medical students and undergraduate volunteers, Shifa Clinic takes an active role in shaping the physicians of the future. Clinic operation is a collaborative effort between undergraduate students performing administrative duties, medical students interviewing patients and performing physical exams and volunteer physicians recommending appropriate treatment regimens and teaching students basic clinical skills.

## Sikh Cultural Association

[facebook.com/groups/UCDSCA](https://facebook.com/groups/UCDSCA)

Sikh Cultural Association is an organization at UC Davis, that brings together identities of Sikh and/or Punjabi Americans in the aim of providing students with a safe space that allows further exploration of Sikhism and/or the Punjabi culture.

## Southeast and East Asian Muslim Student Association

The Southeast and East Asian Muslim Student Association (SEAMSA) aims to share the Southeast and East Asian Muslim culture and educate the community about who we are and the history of Southeast and East Asian Muslims. We also aim to be the voice of opinions and concerns that Southeast and East Asian Muslim students may have on campus, provide a space for Southeast and East Asian Muslim students to be comfortable in and to serve the Davis community. In accordance to the Qur'an and the life of the Prophet Muhammad ﷺ, SEAMSA also aims to spread the true message of Islam. This organization is open to members of all ethnicities, races and religions.

## Students for Justice in Palestine

[sjpatucd.strikingly.com](https://sjpatucd.strikingly.com)

Students for Justice in Palestine is a diverse group of students, faculty, staff and community members at UC Davis organized on democratic principles to promote justice, human rights, liberation and self-determination for the Palestinian people.

## Sunatya

[facebook.com/UcDavisSunatya](https://facebook.com/UcDavisSunatya)

Sunatya is the classical Indian dance team at UC Davis. We focus on dance forms in Southern India, primarily Bharathanatyam. Our goal is to incorporate the ancient art form of Bharathanatyam with modern choreography to present enticing and engaging performances for all to appreciate and enjoy. We hope to provide a positive atmosphere where all members can interact, work together and grow as artists. As a team, we aim to challenge and motivate one another to dance to our highest capabilities, while still having fun. This year, we hope to perform at many fundraising opportunities and eventually hope to compete at intercollegiate competitions!

## Turkish Student Association

[tsa.ucdavis.edu](https://tsa.ucdavis.edu)

Our goal, as Turkish Student Association at UC Davis, is to form a closer bond between students and/or staff here at UC Davis, present and promote the Turkish culture, art and history to the American people and the diverse population of the United States and guide the new Turkish students and staff arriving at UC Davis to make the transition a little more smooth.

## Visions

[facebook.com/visionsatucdavis](https://facebook.com/visionsatucdavis)

Visions at UC Davis supports educational initiatives for disadvantaged youth. Our focus is on displaced communities in Sri Lanka, India and Ethiopia, where we strive to empower students with the educational and leadership tools necessary to succeed and break the cycle of poverty in their communities.

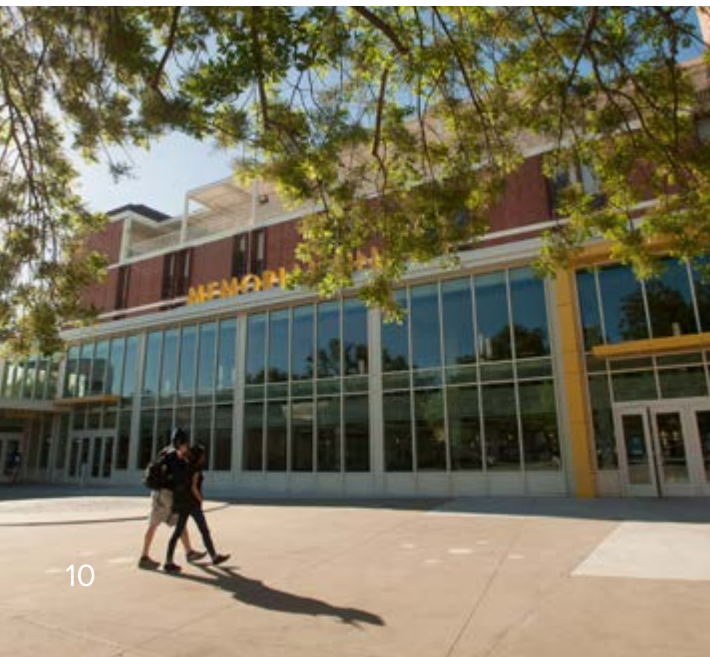
Visions leadership programs have been running since 2003. Approximately 100 international and local volunteers have helped directly train over 1,270 youth and teachers. In addition to working with students, Visions also supports teacher training, youth scholarships and local NGO development that is designed to enable communities affected by conflict or poverty to become self-sufficient and capable of participating as leaders in today's society.

As a Visions volunteer, you have the opportunity to gain leadership experience, work with a fun team, travel abroad and, most importantly, make a difference!



## THINGS TO DO

The campus and city of Davis offer a wide range of attractions. Everyone is welcome to explore the UC Davis Arboretum, view performances at the Mondavi Center for the Performing Arts, visit museums and enjoy the many shops in downtown Davis.



## ON CAMPUS

### Explore the UC Davis Arboretum

[arboretum.ucdavis.edu](http://arboretum.ucdavis.edu)

The UC Davis Arboretum has over 100 acres of beautiful gardens for active recreation or peaceful contemplation. There are documented plant collections, exhibits and demonstration plantings where visitors can learn about sustainable gardening for the Central Valley.

### Attend an event at the Robert and Margrit Mondavi Center

[mondaviarts.org](http://mondaviarts.org)

The Robert and Margrit Mondavi Center for the Performing Arts hosts musical concerts, dance performances, plays and lectures, many featuring world-renowned artists. All UC Davis freshmen and new transfer students are given one free ticket to any event during the current season, plus 50 percent off select events.

### Get active at the ARC

[cru.ucdavis.edu](http://cru.ucdavis.edu)

The Activities and Recreation Center (ARC) is the campus recreational facility and is referred to as the ARC by students. It holds tons of high-quality workout equipment, an indoor track, rock-climbing wall and courts for basketball and volleyball. There are also opportunities to participate in dance, martial arts and personal training classes!

### Celebrate Picnic Day

[picnicday.ucdavis.edu](http://picnicday.ucdavis.edu)

Picnic Day celebrates diversity, campus life, academic excellence and service with over 200 exhibits and marquee events, such as the Doxie Derby and the Chemistry Magic Show. There is something for everyone to enjoy!

### Enroll in a class at the Experimental College

[xcollege.ucdavis.edu](http://xcollege.ucdavis.edu)

The Experimental College formed as part of a movement on university campuses to bring alternative voices to the university culture. Today, the Experimental College provides an outlet for individuals to share their interests and learn skills in an informal setting by offering courses in dance, martial arts, yoga and movement, holistic health, music, language and more.

### Check out sporting events

[ucdavisaggies.com](http://ucdavisaggies.com)

Be part of Aggie Pack, the largest student spirit organization in the country. Aggie Pack cheers on all of the UC Davis NCAA Division I sport teams, and it's a great way to meet new people.

### Explore the Jan Shrem and Maria Manetti Shrem Museum of Art

[manettishremmuseum.ucdavis.edu](http://manettishremmuseum.ucdavis.edu)

The Jan Shrem and Maria Manetti Shrem Museum of Art features innovative architecture and houses rotating exhibitions. The Manetti Shrem Museum Student Coalition provides opportunities for students to assist with creating student experiences.



# OFF CAMPUS

## Eateries

**Ali Baba (Halal lamb)**  
220 3rd St.  
[davisalibaba.weebly.com](http://davisalibaba.weebly.com)

**El Rapido Grill  
Food Truck (Halal)**  
On campus

**Fusion Fresh Cafe  
Food Truck (Halal)**  
On campus

**International Food  
Market (Halal)**  
1760 E. 8th St.

**Kathmandu Kitchen**  
234 G St.

**Pho King 4**  
226 3rd St.  
[phoking4.com](http://phoking4.com)

**Preethi Indian Cuisine**  
715 2nd St.  
[preethiindian.com](http://preethiindian.com)

**Raja's Tandoor**  
207 3rd St.

**Sam's Mediterranean  
Cuisine (Halal)**  
301 B St.

**Shah's Halal Food Truck**  
On campus and  
825 Russell Blvd. Parking Lot

**Yeti Restaurant**  
234 E St.  
[yetirestaurantdavis.com](http://yetirestaurantdavis.com)

## Visit

**Sacramento**  
12 miles  
[visitsacramento.com](http://visitsacramento.com)

**Lake Berryessa**  
46 miles  
[visitvacaville.com/directory/lake-berryessa](http://visitvacaville.com/directory/lake-berryessa)

**Berkeley**  
64 miles  
[visitberkeley.com](http://visitberkeley.com)

**San Francisco**  
74 miles  
[sftravel.com](http://sftravel.com)

**Lake Tahoe**  
125 miles  
[visitinglaketahoe.com](http://visitinglaketahoe.com)

**Yosemite**  
180 miles  
[nps.gov/yose](http://nps.gov/yose)

## Regional, Community and Professional Organizations

**Arab Cultural and  
Community Center**  
[arabculturalcenter.org](http://arabculturalcenter.org)

**Assyrian Aid Society of America**  
[assyrianaid.org/sacramento](http://assyrianaid.org/sacramento)

**Council on American–Islamic  
Relations**  
[ca.cair.com/sacval](http://ca.cair.com/sacval)

**Gujarati Cultural Association**  
[gcabayarea.org](http://gcabayarea.org)

**Gurdwara Sahib**  
[sikhtemple.org](http://sikhtemple.org)

**Guru Nanak Sikh Temple**  
[fairfieldgurudwara.com](http://fairfieldgurudwara.com)

**Hillel Davis–Sacramento**  
[davis-sacramento.hillel.org](http://davis-sacramento.hillel.org)

**India Association of Davis**  
[groups.dcn.org/iad](http://groups.dcn.org/iad)

**Islamic Center of Davis**  
[davismasjid.org](http://davismasjid.org)

**Laxmi Narayan Temple**  
[laxminarayan temple sacramento.com](http://laxminarayan temple sacramento.com)

**Nepalis and Friends  
Cultural Association**  
[nafcaus.org](http://nafcaus.org)

**Punjabi-American  
Cultural Association**  
[pacausa.org](http://pacausa.org)

**SALAM Islamic Center**  
[salamcenter.org](http://salamcenter.org)

**Shambhala Meditation Center**  
[davis.shambhala.org](http://davis.shambhala.org)

**Shifa Clinic**  
[shifaclinic.org](http://shifaclinic.org)

**South Asian Professional  
Association of San Francisco**  
[sapasf.com](http://sapasf.com)



## Adnan Perwez

*Political Science, History '19  
Santa Clara, California*

**ETHNICITY** South Asian

**GENDER IDENTITY** Male

**PRONOUNS** He/Him/His

**COLLEGE** Letters and Science

### What do you love most about UC Davis?

I love the college atmosphere; all is catered toward the collegiate. From the tree-lined streets filled with bustling students and professors, to the Quad flush with campus organizations, to the countless bookstores and reading spots nestled around campus. Davis is clearly a college town, with UC Davis at the center.

### What do you see yourself doing in the future?

I see myself going into academia and activism. I'm interested in doing more research into political theory and my intellectual interests, while being cognizant of political happenings and doing work on the ground to help create the society I envision.

# STUDENT COMMUNITY CENTER



## CAMPUS RESOURCES

UC Davis offers multiple academic, social and community-building programs for students, which support students' academic success and enrich their university experience. Internships and job opportunities are available in on-campus community resource and retention centers, such as the Cross Cultural Center, Student Recruitment and Retention Center and within Middle East/South Asia (ME/SA) Studies. Each center on campus provides various support systems ready to help you!

## AB540 and Undocumented Student Center

[undocumented.ucdavis.edu](http://undocumented.ucdavis.edu)

The AB540 and Undocumented Student Center was built on the foundation of educational equity and opportunity. We foster a holistic approach to recruitment and retention, with sensitivity to a student's mental, emotional and financial well-being. Staying true to our mission, we want to ensure our students' experiences on campus are not only positive but also not limited or hindered due to immigration status.

## Academic Advising Center

[housing.ucdavis.edu/current/academic\\_advising\\_center.asp](http://housing.ucdavis.edu/current/academic_advising_center.asp)

Peer advisors and tutors in the Academic Advising Center provide convenient, personalized academic support for every residence hall student.

## Campus Recreation

[cru.ucdavis.edu](http://cru.ucdavis.edu)

Campus Recreation provides fitness, wellness and recreation programs to the campus community through the operation and administration of a wide variety of programs, services and facilities. The department comprises more than 60 career staff and more than 800 student employees and volunteers who invest their energy and creativity to inspire others to maintain balanced lifestyles through recreation and leisure activities.

### INTRAMURAL SPORTS

[cru.ucdavis.edu/content/77-intramural-sports.htm](http://cru.ucdavis.edu/content/77-intramural-sports.htm)

Campus Recreation's Intramural Sports program provides students the opportunity to participate in a variety of competitive and recreational sport activities. Intramural Sports offers more than 27 different activities ranging from dodgeball to water polo.

### SPORT CLUBS

[cru.ucdavis.edu/content/79-sport-clubs-.htm](http://cru.ucdavis.edu/content/79-sport-clubs-.htm)

Campus Recreation's Sport Clubs program promotes student participation in a wide range of intercollegiate athletic competition. Each club is managed and run by the participants themselves. Sport club participants not

only enjoy the rewards of athletic competition but also gain skills in collaboration, leadership, problem-solving, and financial management.

## Cross Cultural Center

[ccc.ucdavis.edu](http://ccc.ucdavis.edu)

The Cross Cultural Center (CCC) offers a culturally relevant community space where student voices can be expressed and respected. The CCC opened in 1992, as a direct result of a four-student hunger strike advocating for institutional change. Our work is guided by advocacy, cultural competency, community building, academic excellence through research and education, identity exploration and leadership development. We provide programs and services in support of our diverse campus population.

## Financial Aid and Scholarships

[financialaid.ucdavis.edu](http://financialaid.ucdavis.edu)

The Financial Aid and Scholarships Office works closely with students and families to make a UC Davis education an affordable reality. Financial Aid and Scholarships provides information about how to navigate the financial aid application process and awards scholarships, grants, work-study and loans to assist with the costs of a university education. More than 70 percent of UC Davis undergraduates benefit from financial assistance.

## Health Professions Advising

[hpa.ucdavis.edu](http://hpa.ucdavis.edu)

Health Professions Advising is the go-to place for UC Davis undergraduates, graduate students and alumni pursuing any health profession or allied health field. We offer one-on-one advising as well as a variety of small-group and large-group sessions. Our goal is for students to become successful applicants who demonstrate compassion, teamwork and a commitment to academic success throughout their journey toward a health professions career.

## Immigration Law Clinic

[law.ucdavis.edu/clinics/immigration-law-clinic.html](http://law.ucdavis.edu/clinics/immigration-law-clinic.html)

The UC Davis Immigration Law Clinic serves California's community of documented and undocumented immigrants, free of charge. Students from the UC Davis School of Law staff the clinic, which provides confidential,

in-depth consultations and evaluations about immigration-related legal matters.

## Internship and Career Center

[icc.ucdavis.edu](http://icc.ucdavis.edu)

The Internship and Career Center (ICC) is the one-stop location for students seeking internships, on-campus job opportunities and career guidance. We offer valuable services to students in various stages of their academic journeys—from incoming freshmen to graduating seniors. We can help students find an internship or job at one of several internship and career fairs, provide career advice, resume writing and interview skills.

## Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Intersex, Asexual Resource Center

[lgbtqia.ucdavis.edu](http://lgbtqia.ucdavis.edu)

The Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Intersex, Asexual Resource Center (LGBTQIA RC) helps to create a safe, inclusive space for the community at UC Davis. The center is committed to challenging sexism, transphobia, homophobia, biphobia and heterosexism. Our ample resources include counseling services, peer-to-peer networking, awareness events and ally training opportunities.

## myUCDavis

[students.my.ucdavis.edu](http://students.my.ucdavis.edu)

myUCDavis is an internet portal where students can access information and resources ranging from academics such as student advising, scheduling classes and finding support, to employee services, finances, and even student life.

## Office of the University Registrar

[registrar.ucdavis.edu](http://registrar.ucdavis.edu)

The Office of the University Registrar is a hub for permanent student records and academic information. We are committed to maintaining the accuracy and integrity of all student documents such as enrollment verifications, transcripts and degree certifications. Through the Office of the University Registrar, students can access course catalogs, register for classes, request their transcripts, withdraw from classes and file to graduate.



## Vrinda Gupta

*Asian American Studies,  
International Relations '19  
Yuba City, California*

**ETHNICITY** South Asian-Indian

**GENDER IDENTITY** Female

**PRONOUNS** She/Her/Hers

**COLLEGE** Letters and Science

### What advice would you give incoming students?

My advice to incoming students would be to take full advantage of all the resources on campus that help you learn more about yourself, help you find your community and help you learn about your community's history. As a person of color, it was really empowering to learn more about the lived experiences and stories of my people. I really appreciated the paths South Asian folks before me paved in order to challenge systems and make the world we live in a better place.

## Online Advising Student Information System

[oasis.ucdavis.edu](https://oasis.ucdavis.edu)

The Online Advising Student Information System (OASIS) is a central location for students to learn about important deadlines, submit and track forms and petitions, make advising appointments and fill out degree worksheets to help plan their coursework.

## Student Academic Success Center

[success.ucdavis.edu](https://success.ucdavis.edu)

The Student Academic Success Center (SASC) is a large, multi-program Student Affairs department providing essential services, programs and information for UC Davis students.

### ACADEMIC ASSISTANCE AND TUTORING

[success.ucdavis.edu/about/aat](https://success.ucdavis.edu/about/aat)

Academic Assistance and Tutoring (AAT) provides academic support to undergraduate students enrolled in biology, chemistry, economics, mathematics, physics, statistics and Writing Across the Disciplines. Our instructional professional staff offers classes, workshops and office hours. AAT undergraduate tutors also provide drop-in tutoring for students enrolled in math and science courses and in Writing Across the Disciplines.

### EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY PROGRAM

[eop.ucdavis.edu](https://eop.ucdavis.edu)

Educational Opportunity Program (EOP) offers an array of services to help students adapt both academically and socially to the university setting and successfully achieve their educational goals. EOP provides a caring and supportive environment for students to meet with peer and staff advisors and network with other students.

### GUARDIAN SCHOLARS PROGRAM

[success.ucdavis.edu/centers-and-programs/guardian-scholars](https://success.ucdavis.edu/centers-and-programs/guardian-scholars)

The mission of the Guardian Scholars Program is to empower foster youth at UC Davis to reach their potential by providing a community network that supports their academic progress and personal growth.

## PRE-GRADUATE/PRE-PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

[success.ucdavis.edu/services/pre-grad-prof](https://success.ucdavis.edu/services/pre-grad-prof)

Pre-Professional/Pre-Graduate School Advising offers individualized advice and information to students interested in admission to professional and graduate schools (law, master's and Ph.D. programs, etc.). In addition, the program offers small group advising and informative workshops and hosts visits from admissions officers from various professional schools.

## STUDY SKILLS ASSISTANCE

[success.ucdavis.edu/services/study-skills](https://success.ucdavis.edu/services/study-skills)

Advising and workshops are offered to help students strengthen skills that have significant impact on college achievement and academic success. Students may attend a scheduled workshop or meet with an advisor to get help with time management, test preparation, success strategies, note taking and other study skills.

## TRANSFER AND REENTRY CENTER

[trc.ucdavis.edu](https://trc.ucdavis.edu)

If you transferred to UC Davis or are a reentry student, the Transfer Reentry Center is here to serve you. Reentry refers to undergraduate students who are 25 or older, graduate students who are 30 or older, married students or student parents.

## VETERANS SUCCESS CENTER

[vsc.ucdavis.edu](https://vsc.ucdavis.edu)

The Center provides students a welcoming space, professional and peer advising, guidance with educational benefits and engagement opportunities that span the university and the larger Davis community.

## Student Disability Center

[sdc.ucdavis.edu](https://sdc.ucdavis.edu)

The Student Disability Center is committed to the coordination of specialized academic support services. Our talented, professional staff specialize in different areas of disability, including learning, vision, hearing, medical, psychological and mobility. Each disability specialist is assigned a caseload of students, determining their eligibility for academic accommodations and ensuring that provisional accommodations are made to allow students

to participate in meaningful, educational opportunities on the UC Davis campus.

## Student Health and Counseling Services

[shcs.ucdavis.edu](https://shcs.ucdavis.edu)

Established in 1909, Student Health and Counseling Services (SHCS) provides a wide variety of medical, mental health and wellness services to registered UC Davis students, regardless of insurance coverage. Our mission is to enhance the physical and mental health of students in order to help them achieve academic success, personal development and lifelong wellness. We provide an integrated program of quality, accessible, cost-sensitive and confidential health care services tailored to students' unique and diverse needs.

### COMMUNITY ADVISING NETWORK

[shcs.ucdavis.edu/services/can.html](https://shcs.ucdavis.edu/services/can.html)

The Community Advising Network (CAN) community counselors are a diverse group of professional staff who understand student issues. CAN assists all students, especially those from underserved populations, to achieve their goals and address factors that may be affecting their academic success. CAN community counselors provide students with free and anonymous consultation and personal counseling in addition to programs, workshops and other campus-community outreach activities. (CAN counselors do not provide academic advising.)

## Student Recruitment and Retention Center

[srrc.ucdavis.edu](https://srrc.ucdavis.edu)

The Student Recruitment and Retention Center (SRRC) offers student-run and student-initiated programs that foster holistic academic and personal development, and raise political and cultural awareness. We aim to empower students to act as dynamic leaders in their communities. SRRC programs include peer mentoring, academic/study support, leadership development, transfer student support, community building, self-awareness, K–12 enrichment, transfer outreach/support and funding for services and activities complementary to the SRRC's mission.

### COLLECTIVE

[srrc.ucdavis.edu/programs/collective](https://srrc.ucdavis.edu/programs/collective)

Collective is a student-run, student-initiated program that aims to recruit and retain nontraditional students. "Nontraditional" is an umbrella term for transfer, reentry, parents, veterans and all other students who have not experienced entering and graduating from a four-year university immediately after high school as a full-time student. Collective provides workshops, mentorship programs and connections to on- and off-campus opportunities.

## UC Davis Study Abroad

[studyabroad.ucdavis.edu](https://studyabroad.ucdavis.edu)

Through academic coursework, internships and experiential learning, UC Davis Study Abroad provides every UC Davis student the opportunity to graduate with an international experience and an understanding of our diverse global community. We challenge our students to study, explore and engage with other cultures—to broaden their perspective and involvement in the world.

## Undergraduate Research Center

[urc.ucdavis.edu](https://urc.ucdavis.edu)

The Undergraduate Research Center (URC) facilitates research opportunities for UC Davis undergraduates in every major and at all class levels, including the Undergraduate Research, Scholarship and Creative Activities Conference.

## Women's Resources and Research Center

[wrrc.ucdavis.edu](https://wrrc.ucdavis.edu)

The Women's Resources and Research Center (WRRC) provides a place for students to learn about resources and educational programs that focus on gender equity and social justice. We empower students by providing opportunities to make UC Davis a safer and more inclusive environment for everyone—specifically women, transgender and gender-expansive individuals.

## SUPPORT SERVICES

**Aggie Food Connection**

[afc.ucdavis.edu](https://afc.ucdavis.edu)

**Cal Fresh**

[uccalfresh.org](https://uccalfresh.org)

**Fruit & Veggie Up!**

[shcs.ucdavis.edu/services/nutrition-services/fruit-and-veggie-up](https://shcs.ucdavis.edu/services/nutrition-services/fruit-and-veggie-up)

**The Pantry**

[thepantry.ucdavis.edu](https://thepantry.ucdavis.edu)

**Computer Loan**

[financialaid.ucdavis.edu/undergraduate/forms/computers.html](https://financialaid.ucdavis.edu/undergraduate/forms/computers.html)

**We Are Aggie Pride**

[weareaggiepride.ucdavis.edu](https://weareaggiepride.ucdavis.edu)

## CAMPUS SAFETY

**Aggie Guardian**

[police.ucdavis.edu/aggie\\_guardian](https://police.ucdavis.edu/aggie_guardian)

**Center for Advocacy Resources and Education (CARE)**

[care.ucdavis.edu](https://care.ucdavis.edu)

**Clery Act**

[clery.ucdavis.edu/asr](https://clery.ucdavis.edu/asr)

**Fire Department**

[fire.ucdavis.edu](https://fire.ucdavis.edu)

**Police Department**

[police.ucdavis.edu](https://police.ucdavis.edu)

**Safe Party**

[safeparty.ucdavis.edu](https://safeparty.ucdavis.edu)

**Safe Rides**

[police.ucdavis.edu/divisions\\_services/campus\\_security/safe\\_rides.html](https://police.ucdavis.edu/divisions_services/campus_security/safe_rides.html)

**Student Wellness and Safety**

[ucdavis.edu/campus-life/wellness-safety](https://ucdavis.edu/campus-life/wellness-safety)

**Tipsy Taxi**

[tipsytaxi.ucdavis.edu](https://tipsytaxi.ucdavis.edu)



# MIDDLE EAST/ SOUTH ASIA (ME/SA) STUDIES

The Middle East/South Asia (ME/SA) Studies program was founded in 2004 as an undergraduate minor. In response to the demands of UC Davis students and the urgent need to understand this crucial area of the world, a ME/SA academic major program was added in 2008. In this interdisciplinary program, students take classes in history, anthropology, political science, religious studies and many other disciplines to explore a unique set of issues of both historical and contemporary importance. They develop an in-depth understanding of the common historical experience shared by many peoples in these regions and of the legacies of culture, social exchange, power and empowerment across diverse settings. The ME/SA Studies program prepares students for careers in non-governmental organizations, journalism and media industries, education and research, government service, diplomacy and business by equipping them with strong skills in critical thinking and cultural awareness.

## Middle East/South Asia Studies (Major and Minor)

The Middle East and South Asia Studies undergraduate major was launched in fall 2008. By 2009, community members had funded the Suad Joseph Lecture series in Iranian Studies. By 2010, ME/SA had won the PARSA Community Foundation endowed visiting lectureship in Iranian Studies and donor funding for the Faris Saeed Arab Studies lecture series. By 2013, UC Davis had over 30 ME/SA-affiliated faculty, 22 teaching faculty and over 100 courses. As the only University of California campus with a major and minor in Middle East/South Asia Studies, UC Davis is a pioneer in the study of the Middle East and South Asia in relationship to each other.

### Arab Studies (Minor)

The Arab Studies minor was founded at UC Davis in 2006. Faculty research focuses on the Arab world from the 11th century to the present and spans a variety of disciplines, including anthropology, art history, Asian American studies, comparative literature and many more. It also offers over 50 courses on the Arab world.

### Iran and Persian Studies (Minor)

The Iran and Persian Studies minor facilitates dialogue and academic exchange and seeks to engage the Iranian American community during this critical time in international relations. Students can take classes in history, comparative literature and Middle East and South Asia studies.

### India and South Asia Studies (Minor)

The India and South Asia Studies minor explores the hopes and challenges of the South Asian region, a vibrant center of global transformation. The India and South Asia Studies program has hosted film screenings, photo exhibitions, symposiums, conferences, lecture series and music and dance performances celebrating the South Asian world.

## Languages

### ARABIC

Instructors: Ahmed Muhamed, Shayma Hassouna, Manar Al-Shatarat, Noha Radwan

UC Davis offers three years of Arabic at the elementary, intermediate and advanced levels. Instruction is in Modern Standard Arabic with a component of colloquial Arabic that integrates listening, speaking, reading and writing. Students can also take courses on cultures of the Arab world.

### HEBREW

Instructor: Galia Franco

UC Davis offers classes in modern Hebrew (speaking, listening, reading and writing) and Biblical Hebrew (vocabulary and grammar of the Biblical text).

### HINDI/URDU

Instructors: Poonam Chauhan

UC Davis offers two years of Hindi/Urdu at the elementary and intermediate levels. This unique language program introduces students to vocabulary from both the Hindi and Urdu languages (often referred to as 'Hindustani') in speech. Students learn to read and write the Devanagari script through instruction and interactive programming. The program works independently with students interested in advanced Hindi/Urdu and the Urdu script. Students can also request independent studies at more advanced levels.

### PERSIAN

Instructors: Navid Saberi-Najafi

UC Davis offers two years of Persian at the elementary and intermediate levels. Students with some knowledge of Persian may also request permission to enroll.



## Shrishti Tyagi

*Biological Sciences '18  
Vancouver, Canada*

**ETHNICITY** East Indian

**GENDER IDENTITY** Female

**PRONOUNS** She/Her/Hers

**IDENTITIES** First-generation student,  
international student

**COLLEGE** Biological Sciences

### What do you love most about UC Davis?

I love how we are a community. I love how students at UC Davis try to work together to make sure everyone does well. At office hours, we all work together to find the right answer instead of competing with each other to impress anyone.

### What advice would you give incoming students?

Try to take different classes, find your passion! Join different clubs and organizations and try to create your own place through them. I think it's important to talk to your professors, fellow students, TAs and just get to know people!



# MIDDLE EAST/SOUTH ASIA STUDIES FACULTY



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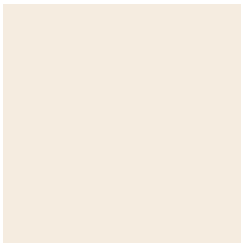
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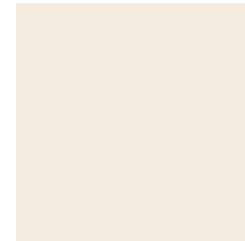
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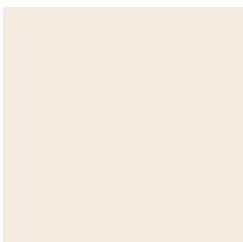
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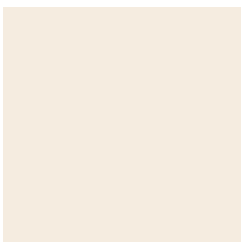
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## Salma Helwa

*Managerial Economics '18  
Gilroy, California*

**ETHNICITY** Egyptian

**GENDER IDENTITY** Female

**PRONOUNS** She/Her/Hers

**IDENTITIES** Sorority and fraternity life student,  
transfer student

**COLLEGE** Agricultural and Environmental Sciences

**MINOR** Technology Management

### Where did you find community at UC Davis?

I found community in Davis through the Muslim Student Association, joining on-campus organizations and most importantly, joining the Empowered Arab Sisterhood sorority.

### What resources have been most helpful to you at UC Davis?

The Cross Cultural Center has been so helpful, the ME/SA community, the Internship and Career Center and more.



# MIDDLE EAST/SOUTH ASIA STUDIES STAFF



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# THANK YOU



## Student Creative Team

*Left to right: Elijah Tech, Alexander Park, Jie Song, Solon Yiu, Karissa Tom, Melanie Zelaya, Cindy Cheung, Emma Hoppough, Jeremy Dang, Nicole Sullivan*

*Not pictured: Bernice Lacerna, Morgan Tieu, Michael Chow*

The Student Affairs Marketing and Communications student design, photography, marketing and editorial assistants collaborated on the production of *The Middle Eastern and South Asian Pages* and fashioned it into what it is now. The student creative team produced a unique design tailored to the needs of the MESA community. The creative team hopes you enjoy the aesthetic experience of the guide and use it as a resource for your life at UC Davis.



## Student Editorial Team

*Left to right: Naman Ajmera, Carmina Acebu, Luana Xiong, Denise Castro, Tara Saghir, Ellen Sanders-Raigosa*

Students representing the UC Davis community resource and retention centers formed the student editorial team. As members of the team, these students provided guidance for content development, design, photos and student profiles. With their contributions, this guide is reflective of the ME/SA community and student voice.

FOR STUDENTS, BY STUDENTS