Center for Migration and Refugee Studies
Mission & Vision

The Center for Migration and Refugee Studies (CMRS) is an interdisciplinary center for education, research, training, and outreach. Situated in the heart of the Middle East and North Africa, at the School of Global Affairs and Public Policy (GAPP) in the American University in Cairo (AUC), CMRS aims to further scientific knowledge of refugee and migration movements in this region, both long-standing and recent. Our broader objective is to understand theoretically and practically the role of refugees and migrants in the international system.

Our research is collaborative, conducted with reputable regional and international academic institutions as well as international and nongovernmental organizations. Our graduate education programs attract students from all continents to study in an interdisciplinary and cross-cultural environment. Through outreach and training, we promote well-rounded continuing education for our graduates as well as researchers, policymakers, bureaucrats, and civil society activists from all over the world, including members of international organizations and migrants and refugee themselves.

We are one of few academic institutions in the Arab region combining postgraduate degrees in migration and refugee studies with research, training and outreach. Our goal is to establish useful linkages between education, research, training, and outreach with a view to ultimately building capacity and creating a pool of qualified academics and practitioners in the field of migration and refugee studies in this region and beyond.
CMRS offers a Master of Arts (MA) in Migration and Refugee Studies as well as a Graduate Diploma in the same field. Both are interdisciplinary programs that provide graduates with critical knowledge, research methods, and analytical skills on current theoretical, legal, political, economic, sociological, demographic, and psychosocial issues in the fields of migration and refugee studies. The knowledge and skills acquired may be applied in careers within institutions such as governmental, nongovernmental, and international agencies, as well as universities, research organizations, and private corporations dealing with the multitude of issues connected with migration and refugee movements.

**Admission**

Applicants seeking admission to either the MA or the Diploma should have an undergraduate degree of high standing (equivalent to a B average grade or higher) and should also meet the University’s language proficiency requirements. Applicants that do not have a background in the social sciences may be required to take prerequisite courses in some instances.

For more information on admission, contact the Office of the Dean of Graduate Studies at aucgrad@aucegypt.edu or visit the AUC graduate admissions website at www.aucegypt.edu/admissions/grad.
Course Requirements

The MA requires the successful completion of eight courses (24 credit hours), consisting of five required courses and three electives. The Graduate Diploma requires the successful completion of six courses (18 credit hours), consisting of four required courses and two electives. Electives can be chosen from a list offered by the Center each semester.

Thesis Requirements

All MA students must complete a thesis per University regulations. A thesis is not required for the Diploma. However, students who complete the Diploma may request the Center’s permission to develop it into an MA by taking the two extra required courses and completing a thesis.

CMRS offers the possibility, in some instances, of doing another MA or Diploma at AUC alongside the CMRS MA or Diploma, with up to three courses (9 credits) being double-counted between the two degrees.

I am a medical doctor by background and have worked with refugees, IDPs and immigrants throughout my career in Sudan, Egypt, Algeria, Liberia, Somalia, Yemen and Canada. Earning a graduate diploma in refugee studies and a master’s in migration and refugee studies at CMRS has given me a long career with United Nations agencies and solid research knowledge and practice. The fact that the center is situated in Egypt, at the highest ranking University, gives it a unique position to provide up-to-date information on migration and refugee issues in Africa and the Middle East. Returning to CMRS has always felt like a homecoming. The center also has a unique collection of Grey Literature for interested scholars. I highly recommend this program!”

Iman Ahmed, MBBS, MA, researcher, CMRS
Timeline

Completion of the MA in Migration and Refugee Studies normally takes two years full time while completion of the Graduate Diploma normally takes one year full time.

CMRS graduate degrees are among the most attractive graduate degrees for international as well as Egyptian students at AUC. The diversity of students and faculty members is a strength of the program, bringing people together from Africa, Asia and the Pacific, Europe, and North and South America. A unique and rewarding element of the program is the opportunity students have to work within the refugee and migrant community by participating in the Center’s research, training, and outreach. Many students also participate in Student Action for Refugees (http://clubs.aucegypt.edu/star/), a student-run organization working with refugees to improve their lives in Cairo by providing language and art classes and organizing awareness raising activities and events.

“Graduating from the diploma program in 2009 increased my knowledge base about refugee issues and provided a credentialed specialty in social work. After graduation from CMRS, I continued to work for refugee agencies in Cairo until September 2011. As of March 2012, I am working as a finance manager at an organization focused on resettlement (RefugePoint is based in the USA, but with majority of staff in Africa). As I am told, what attracted the organization to my resume was the combination of international experience at refugee agencies in Cairo (AMERA and St. Andrew’s Refugee Services) and having a management background. Also, having both the academic background in addition to grounded experience is crucial in this job market.”

Danna Gobel, FMRS diploma
Research

CMRS’s research priorities fall under the following areas:

- Crisis of current mass displacement in the Middle East and North Africa
- Protection issues, including migrant and refugee rights
- Labor migration in the region and globally
- Integration and livelihood challenges of migrants and refugees

The CMRS series, Cairo Studies on Migration and Refugees, publishes some of our research: http://schools.aucegypt.edu/GAPP/cmrs/reports/Pages/CMRS%20New%20Series.aspx

CMRS Current Research Projects:

The UKRI GCRF South-South Migration, Inequality and Development Hub

The Center for Migration and Refugee Studies at the American University in Cairo joined a global research hub – funded through UKRI’s Global Challenges Research Fund (GCRF) and led by Coventry University’s Centre for Trust, Peace and Social Relations (CTPSR). The UKRI GCRF South-South Migration, Inequality and Development Hub will see CMRS join forces with universities and organizations from across the world to explore how the movement of people in the Global South is affecting inequality and development in less developed regions. The initiative is thought to be the largest study into global migration undertaken anywhere in the world. Over the next five years the Hub will work with governments, international agencies, partners and NGOs on the ground in these countries and around the globe to maximize the benefits of South-South migration for development and to investigate how it contributes to the delivery of UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) such as ending poverty and reducing inequality.

The Hub will explore South-South migration in six global ‘corridors’ linking origin and destination countries, focusing in particular on the following routes: Nepal–Malaysia; China–Ghana; Burkina Faso–Cote D’Ivoire; Ethiopia–South Africa; Haiti–Brazil; and Egypt–Jordan. The Hub is a network of partners including 20 universities, the Overseas Development Institute (ODI), and...
Six international organizations: the International Organization for Migration (IOM), the International Labour Organization (ILO), the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the United Nations Research Institute For Social Development (UNRISD).

**Refugee Entitlements in Egypt**

This project, funded by the European Commission, maps the complex legal rights and entitlements of asylum seekers, refugees, and unsuccessful asylum seekers in Egypt and uses this knowledge to raise awareness and build capacity amongst refugee and migrants as well as other relevant actors in Egypt.

**Reducing Statelessness in North Africa**

This project, funded by the London School of Economics and Political Science, assesses the administrative reasons for statelessness amongst migrants in Egypt and Morocco and works with migrants, consulates, and local actors to eliminate needless suffering.

**Research On Egyptian Labor Migration to Jordan in the late 2010**

The research is funded by the Swiss Agency for Cooperation and Development Regional Office. Its overall objective is to understand the impact of the regional political environment in terms of the large Syrian influx to Jordan on Egyptian Migrant workers and to suggest policies that can improve the governance of Egyptian labor migration to Jordan.
Training

Summer and Winter Short Courses

CMRS is well-known for its specialized short courses that since 2000 have been providing training to researchers and practitioners in the field of migration and refugees, including in international refugee and humanitarian law, psychosocial issues, research methodology, crises in the Euro-Mediterranean region, and addressing crises in the Middle East and North Africa. CMRS short courses are attended by academics and practitioners from all over the world, including staff at institutions working in the field such as UNHCR, IOM, UNRWA, UNFPA, and UNICEF, as well as researchers and doctoral students needing training in specialized areas of research and field work.

Certificate on Migration Governance for Government Officials and Other Target Audiences

This Certificate is offered in collaboration with the International Organization of Migration and targets Egyptian government officials. The main objective is to provide government officials, and eventually also other important stakeholders, with a comprehensive and shared knowledge on migration management. The training requires the completion of 7 intensive courses covering migration and refugee law, migration and development, labor mobility, trafficking, border management, and managing crises. Upon completion of the seven courses, each participant receives a training certificate on migration management. Based on the positive feedback and the success of the three editions of the certificates, CMRS/IOM developed a regional curriculum for officials from MENA countries. The regional certificate is an eight-day certificate in migration governance with a regional focus. Since September 2018, CMRS/IOM offered two editions of the certificate that included participants from Algeria, Bahrain, Kuwait, and Sudan.
Cairo Community Interpreter Project (CCIP)

CCIP was developed by CMRS in 2002 as a training and capacity-building program to provide professional-standard training in community interpretation for migrant and refugee interpreters who work in aid agencies and other organizations that serve migrants and refugees in Egypt. CCIP’s training program has since become a role model for refugee and migration interpretation programs in other countries. CCIP’s activities include full course community interpreter trainings for Arabic, Amharic, Fur, Oromo, Somali and Tigrinya languages; 40-hour short courses that are non-language specific and designed for community interpreters outside Egypt; advanced workshops on special interpretation issues; glossary-building support for technical terminology; and technical assistance in multilingual communication planning and coordination for organizations. CCIP has partnered with agencies and NGOs to provide community interpretation training beyond Egypt, including Turkey, Hong Kong, Tanzania, Uganda and Thailand, and CCIP continues to expand partnerships in other countries in line with the CMRS vision to understand and operate in relation to the global context while maintaining and enhancing the advanced training levels of CCIP’s unique flagship program in Egypt.

Professional Development Courses

The Professional Development Courses (PDC) is a joint project by CMRS and Saint Andrew’s Refugee Services (StARS), an organization that provides legal, educational, and psychosocial services for refugees and migrants. The project was initiated to provide refugees and migrants that have completed all STAR (Students Action for Refugees) English courses with additional skills
Outreach

CMRS outreach includes disseminating knowledge on migration and refugee issues beyond the University gates through its monthly seminar series, workshops, conferences, and roundtable discussions. In addition to our monthly seminars, CMRS hosts on average two or three conferences and workshops every year. In the coming years, CMRS will continue to expand its involvement in policy dialogues through the commission of policy papers and organizing platforms for linking scholars, academics, policymakers, and practitioners in the region.

EU Commission Training of Trainers for adult education: Cooperation for Innovation and the Exchange of Good Practices

Funded by the EU commission, the project aim to professionalize and empower people, who are working with refugees and migrants on a professional or voluntary basis in Europe and beyond. Project partners are trained to gain a wide spectrum of knowledge and experience in the field of migration, integration and civic education who in turn train practitioners working directly with refugees in the countries covered by the project: Egypt, Greece, Spain, France and Germany.

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UKRI GCRF South-South Migration, Inequality and Development Hub Jordan in the Late 2010

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