

Short-Duration Immersion Programming to Increase learner motivation

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**QATAR
FOUNDATION
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Summer Arabic Language Immersion Programme 2023 - 2025

- Aims
- The programme
- Learners and activities
- Feedback
- Challenges and successes
- Future immersion programmes
- An invitation to universities to get involved

Origins of summer immersion

- Taste for beginners
- Support for GCSE pupils
- A university experience, travel
- Teaching in a communicative and stimulating way
- USA 7 universities
- Universities: the pipeline and a call to action

Aims: why we do it

The aim of the program is to give students an opportunity to enhance their Arabic language skills in an exciting and stimulating way, through a language learning experience that differs from their normal classroom lessons, and introduces them to a range of cultural practices and forms through immersion and performance. It is also an opportunity for those who have never had any exposure to Arabic to get their first taste of the language.

The model

- Roles and responsibilities
- QFI
- The university (various departments and offices i.e. Arabic Department, Events team, International Partnerships Office, etc.)
- Teachers
- Course academic director
- Schools

The Teachers

- Teach in state schools
- Communication
- Target language
- Culture



Language skills and culture awareness



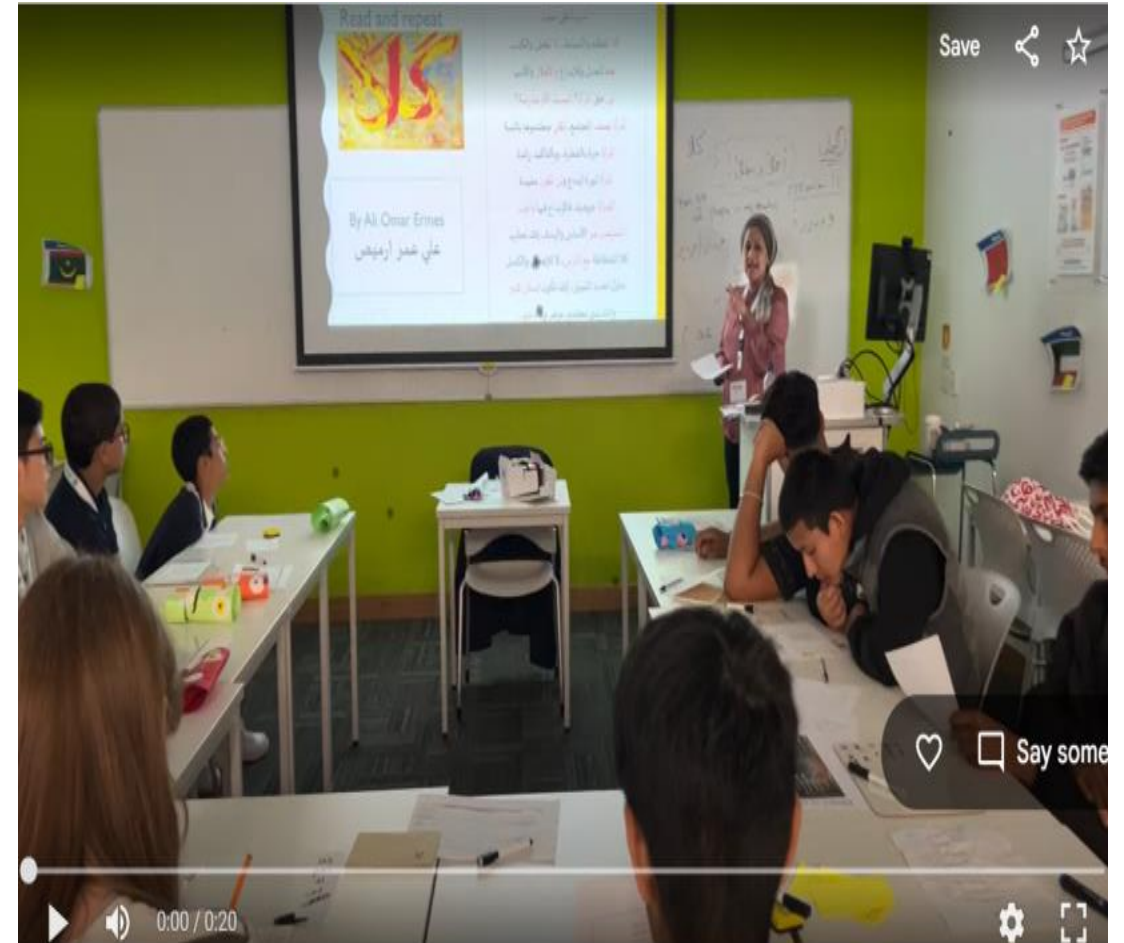
Immersion Learner Groups

- **Beginners** learning in a highly communicative interactive way, developing script, and pronunciation, basic conversation
- **GCSE** group focusing on skills that help exam prep, developing vocabulary, writing skills, discussing the topics, some translation
- **Heritage** group do a project based CLIL approach where the students work collaboratively on podcasts, videos and artwork
- **All Groups** enjoy shared immersion in Arabic culture experiences in the afternoons and evenings

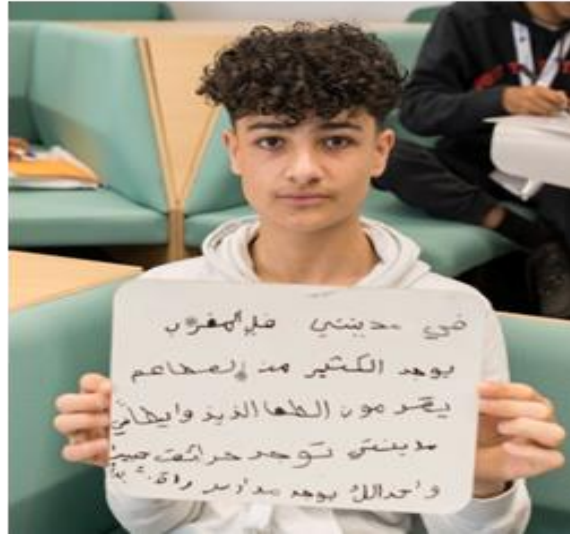
Beginners



Year 10 GCSE



Heritage



In and out of the classroom

- Arabic language lesson
- Lunch
- Arabic language lesson
- Cultural activities carousel
- Free time and dinner
- Evening Arabic music or film performance
- Language pledge



Benefits for the University

- Outreach and connection to schools in local area/community engagement.
- Arabic Department connection to younger Arabic students and what they are learning, engaging with. Build interest for future study and engagement at the university level for your department.
- Teacher connections and development of PGCE pathways for Arabic.
- Vibrant summer programming.

Participants reviews




تكلم
العربية
speak arabic





I'm totally a beginner





It's been really good.

Motivation

"There are numerous studies that show that students who are exposed to the language they're learning in an immersive way, be it through a bilingual immersion programme at their school or a study-abroad experience, exhibit higher levels of fluency (e.g. Cummins 2009, Kinginger 2011, Wilkinson 1998), particularly when motivation to learn and absorb the language is high... We are wired to desire emotional and social connection, and when placed in contexts where such connection is only available through a foreign language, our motivation to acquire it increases."

Maria Kozlova, The benefit of immersive language-learning experiences and how to create them

Feedback and challenges

- Make the program a full week or longer, with more relaxed pacing. This can be done either by providing more breaks for students or ending program activities earlier in the day
- Organize all lesson and activity handouts into a booklet ahead of time. This will ease any stress of document management for students
- Keep existing cultural activities and introduce others. Students loved these and have specifically requested the inclusion of an Arab cooking module and a culturally relevant sport, like football
- Provide more practice time for the four skills as part of lessons. The students are eager to apply the skills they're learning and may not have a dedicated space to do so outside of the program
- Timing: when to hold it

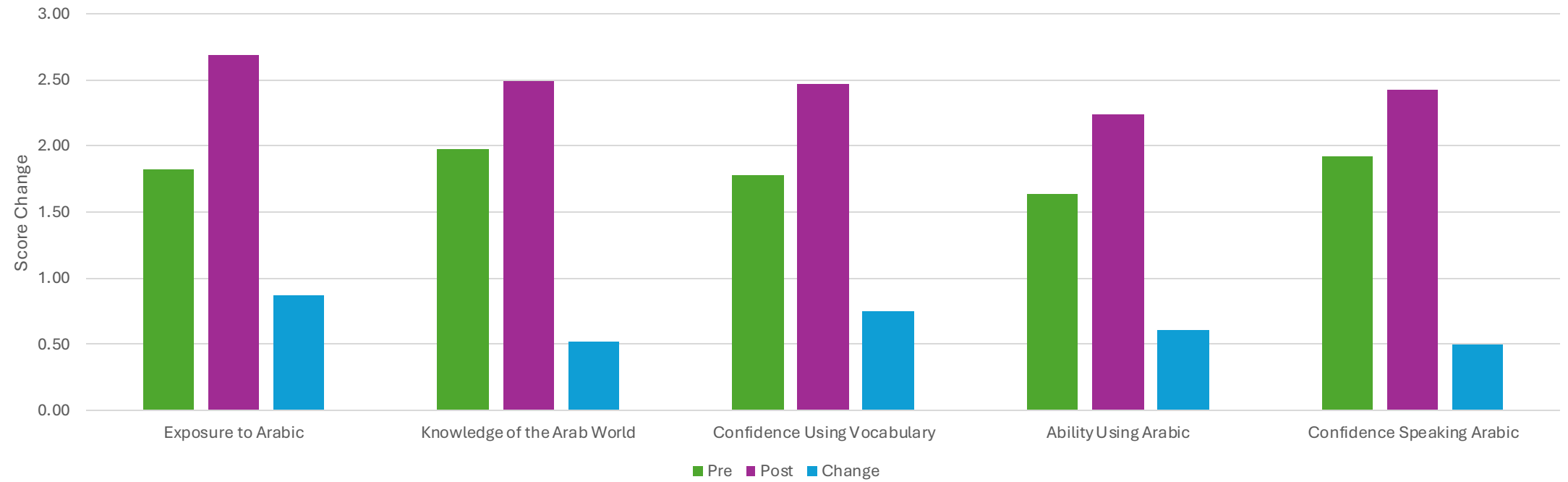
Successes

- Teachers were well prepared, with music and videos to welcome students, lessons were engaging, students were involved
- Heritage students well engaged with the project based CLIL approach, they didn't want to leave
- Very nice balance of students from different back grounds, got on well, established friendships
- We were able to assess students pre and post programme
- Strong participation in all activities

Pre and post survey

- How would you rate your exposure to Arabic?
None A little Some A lot
- How much do you know about the Arab world?
- How much confidence do you have in your ability to learn new vocabulary in Arabic?
- How would you rate your ability to use Arabic?
- How confident are you about your ability to become an Arabic speaker?

All Groups



History and future

- Qatar Foundation International (QFI), intends to have grant funding to support Summer Immersion Programmes in the summer of 2026
- Warwick, Northumbria and Durham have partnered with QFI in various capacities.
- **This is one model, but you can adjust for your university's context and make this your own.**
- **Why not consider getting your university to apply?**

Any Questions ?



شكراً Thank You



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