

Contact Information

Director

Eric Calderwood
ecalderw@illinois.edu

Faculty Director for South Asian Studies

Rini Bhattacharya Mehta
rbhhtehr@illinois.edu

Associate Director

Angela Williams
aswillms@illinois.edu

Outreach Coordinator

Maha Chahine
chahine2@illinois.edu

Office Support Specialist

Samuel Ham
sham3@illinois.edu

CSAMES Office

305 Coble Hall
801 S Wright St. Champaign IL 61820
Phone: (217) 244 -7331
Email: esames@illinois.edu
Web: www.esames.illinois.edu



**Center for South Asian
& Middle Eastern Studies**

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

**Center for
South Asian &
Middle Eastern
Studies**

305 Coble Hall
801 S. Wright St.
Champaign, IL 61820
Phone: (217) 265 -244 -7331
Email: esames@illinois.edu
Web: <http://www.esames.illinois.edu>

Our Mission

The Center for South Asian and Middle Eastern Studies (CSAMES) promotes research and scholarship on South Asia and the Middle East. Through funding from the U.S. Department of Education Title VI grant, CSAMES is a designated National Resource Center for the study of the Middle East, enabling us to further strengthen our commitment to knowledge and understanding of a region that is home to some of the world's oldest civilizations.

CSAMES works closely with more than a dozen departments and about 70 affiliated faculty who bring to the Center their expertise and diverse areas of interest. Some of the disciplines that CSAMES faculty are associated with are contemporary and historical studies of South Asia and the Middle East, and inquiries into such topics as cultural diversity, technology, social identities, cultural values, literary expression, and politics.



MA program

CSAMES administers the MA program in South Asian and Middle Eastern Studies. Students focus on either South Asian Studies or Middle Eastern Studies. The MA program provides basic preparation in language and area training for students intending either to continue in a Ph.D. program in a related discipline or to enter a professional career.



Minor studies

Apart from the Master's program, CSAMES also offers interdisciplinary minors in South Asian Studies and in the Study of the Islamic World. These minors are especially suited for students interested in having either of these areas as a complement to their disciplinary study. The structure of the minor provides flexibility, and possible areas of emphasis include language and literature, history and social sciences, and religious studies.

Language studies

CSAMES offers Foreign Language and Area Studies (FLAS) Fellowships for Arabic, Persian, Hebrew, and Turkish, funded by a 2022-2026 U.S. Department of Education grant, and invites students from all disciplines to apply. CSAMES-affiliated faculty also teach these languages.



Outside the classroom

CSAMES organizes campus events to facilitate discussions on current Middle Eastern and South Asian issues, including regular and co-sponsored lectures with various campus units. We also collaborate with community organizations to host film screenings and art exhibits. Beyond these public events, CSAMES participates in and sponsors local community activities and supports K-12 teachers through classroom visits, online curriculum units, and workshops.

