

Elizabeth Thomas

Provo, UT

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EDUCATION

Brigham Young University, College of International & Area Studies

Dec 2023

Bachelor of Arts, Middle Eastern Studies, Emphasis in Social Sciences

Provo, UT

Minor in Arabic & Digital Humanities and Technology

- GPA 3.99
- Dean's List 2020-2023
- MESA 495: Senior Seminar in Middle East Studies—Conduct original research and produce a 5,000-word research paper on the Kurds during the Syrian Civil War

WORK EXPERIENCE

Brigham Young University/FamilySearch

Jan 2023 – Dec 2023

Arabic Project Assistant (Remote Work)

Provo, UT

- Extract important genealogical data from Arabic handwritten and typed records to develop digitally reconstituted tribes and families
- Input over 3,000 data points from Arabic records into tracking systems to enable research by users
- Identify other documented sources available to use in future research from current sources

Brigham Young University

Mar 2023 – Dec 2023

Arabic Flagship Tutor

Provo, UT

- Coach 6 students from various levels of Arabic study during weekly one-hour meetings in an immersive Arabic language-learning environment
- Create and present tailored lesson plans to help students focus on reading and speaking goals in Arabic language
- Implement changes in curriculum based on student feedback and progress

Brigham Young University

Mar 2022 – Aug 2022

Political Science Research Assistant

Provo, UT

- Collaborated with Dr. David Romney on a study of effects of elite-framing strategies on effectiveness of in-group policing in Israel-Palestine conflict
- Assisted in execution of research protocol, ensuring adherence to ethical standards and research guidelines
- Contributed to design phase of research project and wrote pre-analysis plan for research

VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE

International Rescue Committee

May 2023 – Dec 2023

Digital Access Intern

Salt Lake City, UT

- Engage with clients on behalf of Digital Inclusion team by calling Arabic and Spanish-speaking clients to set up appointments and invite to language-specific computer classes
- Coordinate and provide support for over 30 volunteers and clients participating in the Tech Squad volunteer project focused on helping refugees develop digital literacy and English proficiency
- Train new volunteers and coordinate with manager for improved volunteer/client experience

Brigham Young University

Aug 2022 – Dec 2022

Arabic Intensive Study Abroad

Amman, Jordan

- Demonstrated proficiency in written Arabic through reading and interpreting Arabic newspaper articles daily
- Volunteered with Unified Languages between 2 to 5 times per week to help non-native English learners practice English conversation
- Built positive relationships with people from a variety of background, and created a fun and supportive learning environment

LANGUAGE SKILLS

- Arabic ACTFL Advanced-Mid Speaking Certification
- Spanish ACTFL Advanced-High Reading Proficiency