



THE UNIVERSITY OF
CHICAGO



ADVANCING ARABIC & PERSIAN PEDAGOGY THROUGH CURRICULUM INTEGRATION

A Partnership between NaTakallam and the
University of Chicago, Department of Middle
Eastern Studies



Partnership Overview

Since **2021**, NaTakallam has partnered with the **University of Chicago's Department of Middle Eastern Studies** to provide a deeply integrated solution for native-level language immersion. Rather than serving as a supplemental resource, NaTakallam sessions are embedded as a mandatory component of the Arabic and Persian curricula, precisely aligned with the University's academic quarters.

Through an annual partnership model, instructors across multiple course levels integrate NaTakallam sessions into course planning, assignments, and learning outcomes, creating a scalable and consistent conversation practice experience. To date, this partnership has supported over **1,200** students and delivered more than **4,150** faculty-guided sessions.



The Challenge

Prior to formalizing this integrated model, the CMES department faced logistical hurdles in maintaining high-level immersion within a rigorous quarterly system:

Curricular Synchronization

The fast-paced nature of academic quarters requires a partner capable of immediate alignment with shifting syllabi and term deadlines.

Grading & Oversight

Manually verifying completion for hundreds of students across various sections was an unsustainable administrative burden for instructors.

Administrative Fragmentation

Coordinating sign-ups and follow-ups for a large student body often distracted faculty from core teaching responsibilities.

Standardization across Levels

The department required a centralized system where multiple instructors could simultaneously utilize the same high-quality resource.



Our Solution

By embedding **NaTakallam** directly into the instructional framework, UChicago has created a seamless bridge between classroom learning and native fluency.

The partnership included:



Strategic Curriculum Integration

NaTakallam is a core part of the academic assignment structure. Our annual contract model allows instructors to plan their curriculum in advance, ensuring that 1-on-1 sessions reinforce specific quarterly benchmarks.



Live Progress Tracking for Faculty

Instructors are provided with a live session completion dashboard. This visibility allows faculty to monitor each student's progress in real-time, providing the objective data needed for seamless grading and performance tracking



Dedicated Program Coordination

NaTakallam provides a dedicated Program Coordinator to manage the entire student sign-up process. This includes proactive outreach and reminders to ensure students complete their sessions before the end of each academic term.



Institutional Reliability at Scale

The partnership's longevity underscores NaTakallam's ability to meet the strict administrative, procurement, and data security standards of a premier global research university while requiring minimal oversight from department heads.

The Impact

The integrated model has strengthened both language learning outcomes and departmental operations.

1,200+

STUDENTS

participated in curriculum-integrated language practice

4,150+

SESSIONS

+3,010 Arabic
+1,135 Persian sessions

80%

COMPLETION RATE

through proactive student coordination and reminders.

STUDENTS' VOICE

"Natakallam is a great platform to learn Persian. Conversations with the conversation partner help students develop spoken proficiency and acquire technical, grammatical skills. Personally for me, it augmented my formal learning of the language well by providing me with a medium not only to practice conversation but also clarify grammatical issues and therefore hone my overall language skills."

-a student from UChicago.



80%

STUDENT SATISFACTION

with their language & cultural learning experience

86%

WOULD RECOMMEND

NATAKALLAM TO OTHERS



Whether you're looking to strengthen language proficiency, reduce administrative workload, or integrate authentic conversation practice into your curriculum, **NaTakallam** partners with higher education institutions to build scalable, curriculum-aligned language learning experiences.

Explore what this could look like for your institution:
academics@mail-natakallam.com

At NaTakallam, Language Is Life-Saving

LANGUAGE LESSONS | CULTURAL TRAINING | TRANSLATION & INTERPRETATION