

AMERICAN INSTITUTE FOR MAGHRIB STUDIES

The American Institute for Maghrib Studies (AIMS) was established as an American Overseas Research Center (AORC) in 1984; since then, it has developed and administered a steadily expanding array of activities promoting graduate and postgraduate research, scholarly exchanges, and area and disciplinary studies in North Africa. AIMS is the only American Overseas Research Center to represent an entire region rather than one country and to administer its programs through overseas research centers located in two countries: the Centre d'Etudes Maghrébines à Tunis (CEMAT) in Tunisia and the Tangier American Legation Museum (TALM) in Morocco.

AIMS promotes the study of North Africa in American universities and colleges while working to increase the professional contacts between American and North African scholars. While AIMS primary goal is to facilitate the training and work of U.S. scholars in North Africa, an important additional goal is to introduce North Africans to U.S. scholarship and to American values of representation, accountability, and the open and free exchange of ideas.

AIMS's programs have eight major components: 1) research grants; 2) international conferences and conference publications; 3) intensive summer study of Arabic; 4) collaborative research projects; 5) scholarly journal; 6) graduate student organization and dissertation workshops; 7) Maghribi scholar grants to ORC's; and 8) an international scholarly society with a newsletter and web site. This complex of components is designed to produce a coordinated, on-going, and mutually reinforcing set of academic programs supporting language study and the professional development of American students and scholars, including developing ties with North African researchers and assisting them as possible. All programs are administered with the assistance of CEMAT and TALM, and most activities take place in either Tunis or Tangier. Accordingly, our overseas centers and their resident directors are the foundation of AIMS's work.

To enable AIMS, through CEMAT and TALM, to continue and expand its programs, we are applying for administrative funds for salaries, equipment, supplies, and maintenance for our overseas research centers and funds for our research grant, language study, and collaborative research programs. We appreciate the Department of Education's willingness to fund AIMS, to support the study of the critical area of North Africa, and to assist in information sharing among American researchers who use AIMS's centers.