

Curriculum Vitae

Personal information:

- Name: Ahmad Barakat
- Nationality: Syrian British
- Marital Status: Married, with three children
- Date and place of birth: January 3, 1976, Damascus, Syria
- Address: 156 Poole Crescent, Harborne, West Midlands, Birmingham, B17 0PD, UK
- Tel: 00447472750596
- E-mail: barakat.ahmad@gmail.com ahm_barakat@hotmail.com

Professional Summary:

Dedicated and accomplished Political Science and International Studies scholar with a Ph.D. from the University of Birmingham. Extensive experience in academia, diplomacy, and research, contributing valuable insights to the fields of Middle East politics, global security, and migration.

Education:

- PhD in Political Science and International Studies from the University of Birmingham, 2014-2019
- MA in International Studies with Merit from the University of Leeds, 2004-2005
- MA in Literary Studies from Damascus University, 1999-2000
- BA in English Language and Literature from Damascus University, 1994-1998

Professional Experience:

- Visiting lecturer at the University of Birmingham, 2015-2025

Designed, developed and delivered a Master's module titled "Realising International Agendas" for the Public Administration program, focusing on practical applications of political strategy and agenda setting.

Taught a diverse range of modules across undergraduate and postgraduate programs in the School of Government, including the departments of Political Science and International Studies, Institute of Local Government Studies, and the International Development Department. Modules included:

Core Areas: Public Administration, International Development, International Relations Theory, Analysing Political Worlds, Strategy & Leadership, Foreign Policy, and Global Security.

Specialized Topics: Conflict, Statehood, and Sovereignty; World Politics; Diplomacy Post-1945; World History; Research Skills in Social Science (Philosophy & Method); and International Relations in the Middle East.

Focused Studies: Diplomacy of the Arab-Israeli Conflict, The Political Economy of Russia, and Pre-sessional English.

- Research Assistant at the University of Birmingham, 2015-2025
Researching a variety of areas including: the politics of the Middle East; the political economy and dynamics of power; the Arab-Israeli conflict; the Arab Spring; ISIS; and the refugee crisis.
- Diplomat in the Syrian Foreign Office, 2003-2013
Serving in: International Organisations Department; Legal Department; Foreign Media Department; Minister's Cabinet.
- Human Rights Expert at the League of Arab States in Cairo, 2011
Representing Syria in the Arab Permanent Committee of Human Rights.
- Administrative Coordinator and Human Resource Officer in the Ministry of Presidential Affairs in Abu Dhabi, 2007-2008
- Caseworker and Focal Point in the UNHCR, 2006–2007
- Lecturer at Damascus University, 2000–2012
Teaching a variety of modules including Arabic-English Translation, English Language, Grammar, and Phonetics.

Publications:

- Barakat, A. (forthcoming) Orientalism and hierarchy of victims – Comparative study of Ukrainian and Syrian refugees' representation in UK media, *Journal of Communication and Media Studies*.
- Barakat, A. (2024), 'The Syrian refugee crisis and global security threats – A case study of Germany'. *The University of St Andrews*, Vol. 15 No. 2 (2023). [Online]. Available from: <https://ojs.st-andrews.ac.uk/index.php/syria/article/view/2730>
- Barakat, A. (2022), 'The Arab World and the Conflict'. In Siniver, A. (ed.), *The Routledge Companion on the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict*. Abingdon: Routledge.
- Barakat, A. (2021), 'The Images of Syrian Refugees in the Mainstream Narrative: A Case Study of Lebanon'. *The University of St Andrews*, 12(1): 203-229. [Online]. Available from: <https://ojs.st-andrews.ac.uk/index.php/syria/article/view/2170>
- Barakat, A. (2020), 'Nizar Qabbani'. *Oxford University Press*. Available from: <https://www.oxfordbibliographies.com/view/document/obo-9780195390155/obo-9780195390155-0272.xml?rskey=qssHvH&result=1&q=nizar+qabbani#firstMatch>
- Barakat, A. (2006), 'International Law and War on Iraq'. *Daily Tishreen*. Available from: <http://tishreen.news.sy/>
- Barakat, A. (2004), 'World Food Programme Celebrates the Rural Woman's Day'. *Daily Tishreen*. Available from: <http://tishreen.news.sy/>

- Barakat, A.; Foley, S. (2004), 'Syria: Syria'. *Daily Tishreen*. Available from: <http://tishreen.news.sy/>

Secured Funding:

- Mellon Fellowship, 2022-2023, Columbia Global Centres, Columbia University.
- Research Sponsorship, 2014-2019.
- Chevening Award, 2004-2005, Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

Awards:

- UNESCO Inclusive Policy Lab expert and fellow 2022 UNESCO.
- HEFI Teaching and Learning Award, 2020 The University of Birmingham.
- Full Member, Chartered Institute of Linguists (CIOL), 2025–present. Membership No. 93979
- Sworn Translation Accreditation, 2006, Syria's Ministry of Justice.
- International Visitor Programme Award, 2003, United States Department of State.

Reviews:

- Judge in The Global Undergraduates Awards. <https://undergraduateawards.com/>
- Guest peer reviewer in the Middle East Journal of Culture and Communication. <https://brill.com/view/journals/mjcc/mjcc-overview.xml>
- Guest peer reviewer in ST. Antony's International Review, the University of Oxford. <https://www.stairjournal.com/>

Affiliations:

- The Centre for Elections, Democracy, Accountability and Representation (CEDAR).

Training:

- Introduction to Learning and Teaching in Higher Education for Postgraduates; Laboratory-Based Teaching for Postgraduates; Small Group Teaching for Postgraduates; Supporting Diversity for Postgraduates; Giving a Lecture for Postgraduates: The University of Birmingham, 2020
- Equality and Diversity; General Data Protection Regulation; Information Security Training; Fire Awareness Training; Health and Safety Awareness; Recruitment and Selection Training: The University of Birmingham, 2020
- Protocol and Diplomacy training: The Syrian Foreign Office, 2003
- Media training: The Syrian Foreign Office, 2003

Conference activities:

- The International Politics of Middle East Migration: Problems, Policy, and Practice was organised by the British Academy for the Humanities and Social Sciences and the University of Birmingham between March 8 and 9, 2019. Presented: “The Image of Syrian Refugees in the Mainstream Narrative: A Case Study of Lebanon”.
- Middle East Research Group. organised by the University of Birmingham on September 26, 2017. Presented: “The internal dynamics in Syria between 1970 and 2000”.
- Middle East Class was organised by the University of Nashville on November 9, 2016. Presented “The development of political power in Syria between 1970 and 2000”.

Conference attendance:

- Displacement: The Human Cost of War and Climate Change, organized by The New School, New York City, March 28–29, 2024.
- Remembering or imagining terror in Europe, organized by the University of Birmingham, September 14–16, 2022.
- 30th Anniversary Conference of the Geneva Summit, organized by the University of Birmingham, November 19, 2015.
- Conference on Intersecting Discourses on Migration in the UK, Germany, and Russia, University of Birmingham, November 5, 2015.
- 31st Islamic Conference in Istanbul, organized by the Organisation of the Islamic Conference, June 13–16, 2004.

Languages:

- Arabic: mother tongue.
- English: Excellent (speaking, writing, listening, and reading).
- French: good (speaking, writing, listening, and reading).
- Spanish: fair (speaking, writing, listening, and reading).

References:

- Professor William Scott Lucas, School of Government and Society, Department of Political Science and International Studies, University of Birmingham Email: scottlucasbham@gmail.com
- Dr. Laurence Cooley, School of Government and Society, Department of Political Science and International Studies, University of Birmingham: Email: l.p.cooley@bham.ac.uk
- Dr. Emma Foster, School of Government and Society, Department of Political Science and International Studies, University of Birmingham, Email: e.a.foster@bham.ac.uk
- Professor Sean Foley, Department of History, Middle Tennessee State University Email: sfoley@mtsu.edu, foleyse@gmail.com