

JOINING INSTRUCTIONS

EMPLOYABILITY, SKILLS AND OPPORTUNITIES
FOR YOUNG PEOPLE IN THE ARAB WORLD

27-28 January 2015 | Cairo, Egypt

www.britishcouncil.org.eg/symposium



WELCOME

Firstly, a very warm welcome to you in the lead up to the Employability, Skills and Opportunities for Young People in the Arab World Symposium in Cairo. Below is the information you will need prior to the event, so please take a few minutes to read it.

The Symposium will be a two-day event of speaker led sessions, interactive knowledge-sharing and discussions on how the state and private sector can better prepare young people to enter the world of employment. It will be structured around a series of plenary presentations on key subjects, panel discussions and smaller group break-out sessions on specific topics.

We aim to prioritise networking opportunities through which case studies and examples of best practice can be shared and discussed.

For more information please visit www.britishcouncil.org.eg/symposium

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TIMETABLE AND LOCATION

If you are coming from outside Egypt, you should aim to arrive at the hotel in Cairo on 26 January 2015 in the evening. This will enable you to settle in, relax and prepare for the Symposium start on 27 September.

The Symposium will take place on 27-28 January 2015 at the hotel venue, the Fairmont Nile City Hotel, and registration will start at 08.00 with formal inauguration 09.00 on 27 January.



HOTEL DETAILS

Our venue is the Fairmont Nile City Hotel, Cairo

Fairmont Nile City Hotel

The Fairmont Nile City Hotel is the venue for the Symposium and provides the delegates' accommodation for the event.

Address and Contact Details:

Nile City Towers - 2005 B, Corniche El Nil,
Ramlet Beaulac - Cairo, Egypt - 2466.

T +20 22 461 9494

F +20 22 461 9595

For more information about the hotel:

www.fairmont.com/nile-city-cairo/
or consult the Hotel Fact sheet in Annex B.

Please note that smoking is not allowed in any of the hotel's meeting/conference rooms. However, there is a large terrace off the main hall for smokers and the hotel's public areas are smoker-friendly.



ARRIVAL AND TRANSFER TO YOUR HOTEL

On arrival at Cairo airport you will be met by a representative of the **Symposium Event Management Company**. Upon entering the arrival hall of the airport, look for a sign board with the logos of the British Council and the League of Arab States Symposium.

Once you have passed through passport control, your representative will direct you to your driver who will then transfer you to the Fairmont Nile City Hotel.

DEPARTURE

We will also arrange transfer for you from the hotel to the airport at the end of the Symposium.

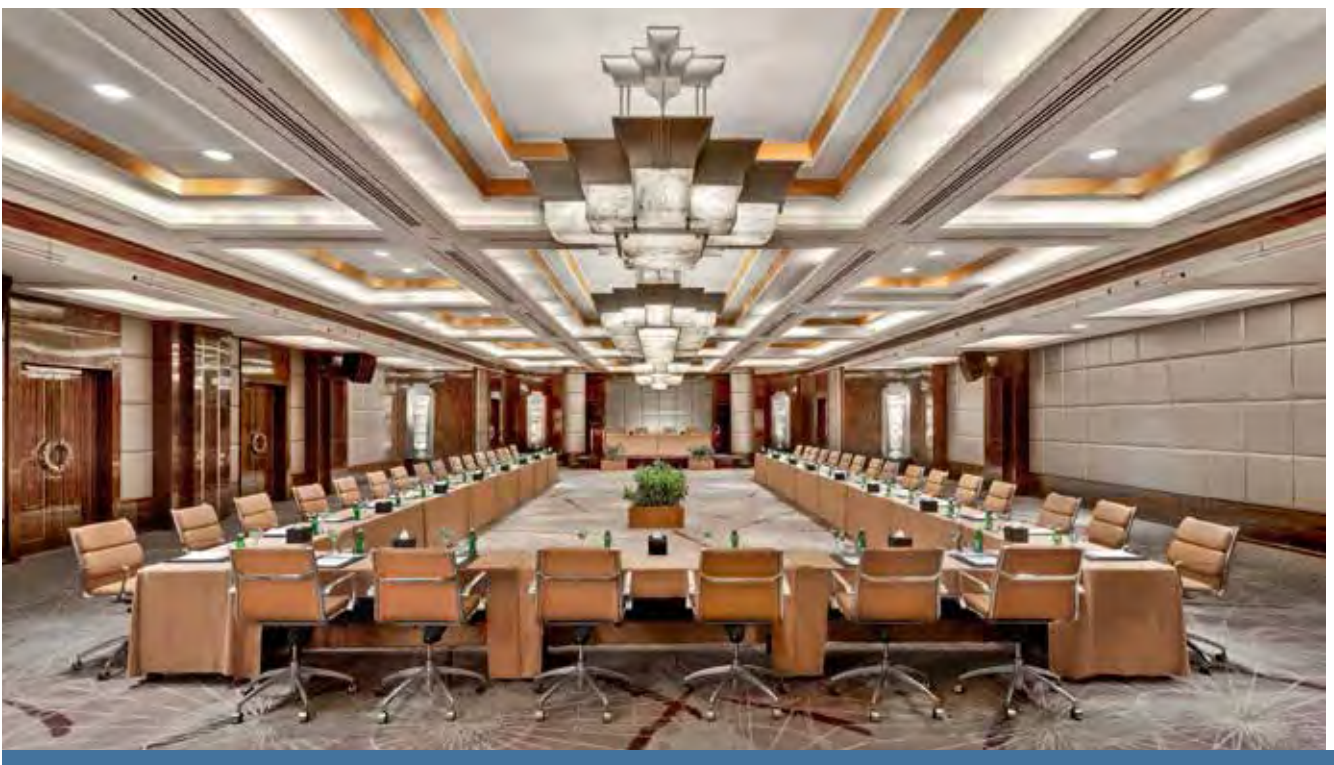
NOTE: You will be collected from the hotel three hours prior to your flight departure time. A representative will be waiting with the same pick up sign board in the lobby of the Fairmont Nile City Hotel.

WELCOME PACKS

You will receive a Symposium welcome pack when you check in at the venue hotel. This will include the Symposium Programme and other useful information that you may need.

SYMPOSIUM REGISTRATION

The official inauguration of the symposium will begin on January 27 at 09:00 in the Magenta Ballroom, Ballroom Level (BR). Registration will begin from 08:00 in the foyer area of the Magenta Ballroom where you will receive all related symposium materials and your Symposium name badge (which you are requested to wear at all times).





TRAVEL, ACCOMMODATION AND MEAL ARRANGEMENTS

British Council local offices will be responsible for making flight bookings and issuing air tickets for their country delegates, as well as subsistence payments. The current subsistence rates for Egypt are LE 60 lunch, LE 100 dinner and LE 50 for overnight incidental expenses.

All accommodation costs in Cairo associated with the Symposium will be covered by a Regional British Council budget. This will include any essential early arrival on 26 January or late checkout on 29 January as dictated by flight schedules.

The following will be the responsibility of individual delegates and will not be paid by the British Council: use of telephones or mini-bar, business centre costs or use of the hotel spa or any other facilities not related to the Symposium.

All meals are covered during your stay on 27 and 28 January 2015. Please advise the British Council of any special dietary requirements you have by **18 January 2015**. Your hotel booking is on a bed and breakfast basis. Any additional dinner allowance and/or incidental expenses will be arranged in advance with your British Council local office.

Self-funding Delegates

Self-funding delegates from the region will be responsible for booking and paying for their flights and inform the British Council of the details as soon as possible. Hotel bookings will be made by the British Council and will be paid by the self-funding delegate to the British Council travel agent on the first day of the Symposium. You will need to inform the British Council of the duration of the stay to make the booking; the rate for the hotel per night is USD 120 on bed and breakfast basis.



SPEAKERS

If you are a speaker at the Symposium the presentation room allocated to you will be equipped with a computer, data projector and screen.

All papers/presentations will have 40 minutes allocated (that includes time for your presentation and discussion time). Plenary sessions will extend over 60 minutes, including time for discussion after the presentation.

We would encourage you to send your presentation to us in advance of the Symposium by **10 January** at the latest. Bring your presentation with you on a USB stick if you make any amendments to it, which can then be loaded onto the computer prior to your session. This is very important, since the schedule is strict and we would not want to waste time during your session loading your presentation and dealing with any problems that may arise.

If you wish to provide handouts please ensure you produce these in advance and bring the material with you – we will not be able to make extensive photocopies or printouts for you. For any queries and/or requirements related to your talk/presentation, please consult the Symposium Secretariat team who will be present in the venue throughout the Symposium.

All invited speakers should submit an invoice to Dalia Adel of British Council Egypt within two weeks of the end of the Symposium. Country delegate speakers should submit an invoice to their local British Council office within two weeks of the end of the Symposium.

If you have any queries about your presentation or the symposium programme before or during the event please contact Ahmed El-Ashmawi, Symposium Lead at **ahmed.elashmawi@ly.britishcouncil.org** or **aleashmawi@gmail.com**.



THE SYMPOSIUM

The Symposium will be a bilingual event and will have simultaneous interpretation Arabic – English, English – Arabic throughout the two days.

The **Symposium Inauguration Ceremony** will begin at 09.00 in the Main Hall (Magenta). We will begin with opening addresses from the Assistant Secretary-General of the League of Arab States, the Regional Director of the British Council, the British Ambassador to Egypt, and a keynote address from HE Mohamed Yousef, the Deputy Minister of Education in Egypt.

One of the Plenary Speeches will be made by Simon Perryman, Executive Director of the UK Commission for Employment and Skills. He will be talking about engaging employers in developing skills and employability in the UK.

This will be immediately followed by a number of parallel sessions where delegates will explore specific examples of activity under the themes of the Symposium.

The Symposium will also include a number of panel discussions on issues of importance which will provide an opportunity for wide-ranging discussion and participation.

At 19.30 on 27 January the **Symposium Gala Dinner** will take place at the Al Saraya Restaurant in Zamalek, Cairo. Transportation will be available at 19.00 to take delegates from the Fairmont Hotel to the gala dinner.

Please ensure you inform your local British Council contact person if you require a vegetarian option by [18 January 2015](#) at the latest so that this can be taken into consideration.



SYMPOSIUM PROGRAMME

The Programme will be available to view on the website from the middle of December. A copy of the final Programme will also be in the conference delegate folder which you will receive when you register.



LOCATION OF SESSIONS

All sessions for the Symposium will take place in the Fairmont Hotel Ballroom Level (first floor mezzanine floor) conference area.

Signage will be displayed to help you navigate your way around. A map of the rooms we will be using is attached in the **Annex C** to these joining instructions.



QUERY CONTACT DETAILS

If you have any queries about accommodation and travel matters relating to the event please contact your local British Council office contact or Dalia Adel dalia.adel@britishcouncil.org.eg and Noha Waleed Noha.Waleed@britishcouncil.org.eg at British Council Cairo.



ANNEX A

The Context of the Symposium

People with good English and well-developed soft skills are more able to interact with and help drive the global economy, have better access to internationally provided education and are more likely to become globally aware and internationally connected, developing the additional contacts and skills which will help them find employment. This applies equally to good language skills (especially English, as the language of international business) as well as technical and 'soft' skills.

With those enhanced networks, connections and skills, they are also able to contribute to the growth of the businesses they join or start their own enterprises, creating further employment in the process.

Good English skills are a contributing factor in fostering economic development in a globalised world. Ensuring that students develop English skills through all levels of their education is a key responsibility of governments, through the continuous professional development of teachers and the provision of appropriate resources to provide quality education. It is also a responsibility of the private sector to identify the kinds of skills they need to grow their businesses and communicate the demands of the workplace to policy makers, planners and educators. The creation of education systems that are fit for purpose requires the supply and demand aspects of skills development and employability to be brought together. Better alignment and implementation of skills training with the future needs of industry will help to address the youth employment challenge in the Middle East and North Africa.

The Symposium will provide a forum for analysing young people's employability needs across the countries of the Arab World, highlighting the development of technical, language (especially English) and other transferable skills as key contributing factors to enhanced employment opportunities.

The Symposium will consider both the policy and implementation dimensions of connecting supply and demand factors to enhance opportunities for young people. The Symposium will cover three interlinked themes:

EMPLOYABILITY

the interaction of individuals, education, business and the labour market

- English (and other language) skills and the world of work
- Soft skills development
- Skills gaps and mismatches
- Higher education, language policy and employability

SKILLS

the dimension of teaching methodology and pedagogy

- How skills are planned for and implemented in education reform around the region
- Dimensions of skills provision and delivery in the education system, including:
- Classroom and training room practice;
- Training for education professionals
- Curriculum reform
- Qualifications and certification – implications for teaching and learning

OPPORTUNITIES

the needs and challenges of the labour market across the MENA region

- The socio-economic context of education, skills development and employability across the region: human development, social equity and livelihoods challenges
- Social entrepreneurship
- Twenty-first Century skills: STEM skills in the MENA region
- Social learning platforms for young people
- Core Skills for Work framework
- Qualifications and certification – pathways for skills development and employment.

Input from invited speakers will stimulate discussions around key issues, moving from a consideration of the wider socio-economic contextual issues and then narrow the focus to the skills, employability and opportunity sub-themes, the role and needs of the private sector and how greater interaction between the worlds of work and education can bring benefits to the quality of skills development in schools, colleges and universities and employment opportunities for young people.

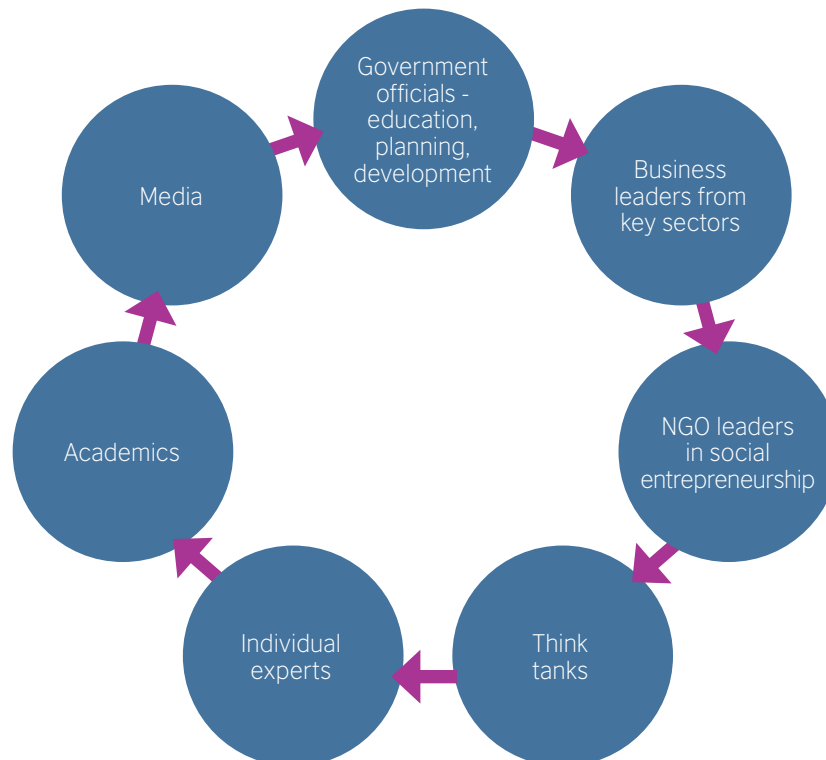
Discussions and knowledge-sharing will provide delegates with the opportunity to influence action to improve skills development and provide targeted support to human development reform initiatives across the Middle East and North Africa.

1. Participants

The total number of participants attending the Symposium will be around 80-100, including invited speakers. They will be made up of decision-makers, influencers and thought leaders from the following fields:

Representatives of these groups will comprise:

- Officials in ministries of education, economic development, labour or planning with decision making powers and expertise in the areas of education policy and planning; labour market strategies, or research and development;
- Officials from UK government;
- Specialised regional organisations concerned with education research and/or provision;
- Business leaders;
- Members of the Arab and international media – including specialist media;
- Representatives of large NGOs active in entrepreneurship (social and commercial), youth development, enterprise development, and education; and
- Representatives of international organisations active in the fields of human development, skills and employability.





ANNEX B

Hotel Factsheet

Fairmont Nile City

Modern meetings, ancient wonders.

At the center of Egyptian culture and business

On the banks of the famed Nile River, the city of Cairo - 'The Triumphant' in Arabic - is the centre of Egyptian culture and commerce. For the finest in event venues in this majestic city, look no further than the gracious hospitality of Fairmont Nile City, Cairo, part of the prestigious Nile City complex.

Equipped with the most advanced design and technology to serve the needs of the discerning traveler, combined with 9,900 square feet (925 square meters) of dedicated meeting and convention space, the hotel also offers sweeping panoramas of the Nile River, with the Pyramids in the distance.

With the city's finest restaurants, a unique rooftop pool and bar, and a full-service Willow Stream Spa, every meeting or event at Fairmont Nile City is certain to be a memorable experience that exceeds expectations.

Nile City Towers—2005 BCorniche El Nil,
Ramlet Beaulac Cairo, Egypt

T +202 2461 949 4

F +202 2461 9595

E nilecity@fairmont.com

GUEST ROOMS AND SUITES

Art deco and contemporary style combine to provide timeless elegance and sophistication, as reflected throughout our 504 guest rooms and suites.

All guest rooms provide generous comfort and are complemented by stunning views of the city or the Nile River.

ROOM AND SUITE SELECTIONS

- Fairmont Room
- Deluxe Room
- Deluxe Nile Room
- Signature Room
- Nile Suite
- Deluxe Nile Suite
- Presidential Suite

GUEST ROOM AMENITIES AND FEATURES

- 100 per cent Egyptian-cotton duvets
- Bathrobes
- Wireless high-speed Internet access
- Interactive TV system
- In-room safes
- Individual temperature control
- Le Labo bath products

GUEST ROOM FACILITIES AND SERVICES

- 24-hour concierge service, including babysitting, and kids' and teens' concierge
- 24-hour valet service
- 24-hour in-room dining
- Safety deposit boxes
- Complimentary daily newspaper
- Complimentary shoeshine service
- Limousine and car-rental services
- Valet parking spaces available for all guests



ANNEX C

Map of Symposium Ballroom Level (mezzanine) Conference Floor

People with good English and well-developed for skills development and employment.

Throughout the two days we will have sole access and use of the conference floor at the hotel. We will be using the main hall and the various breakout rooms. *Please note that the Symposium meeting rooms are non-smoking.*

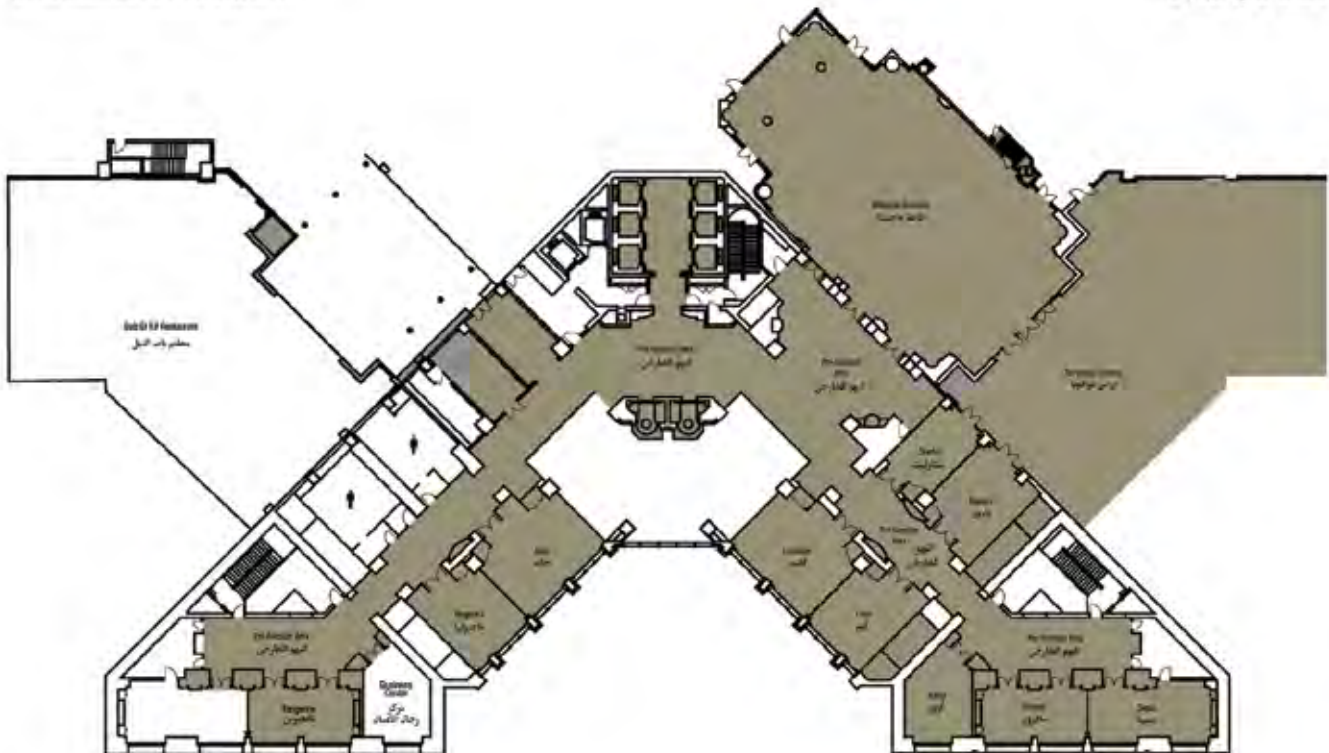
As well as the Main Hall ('Magenta') we will be using the following breakout rooms:

- 'Lavender & Lime'
- 'Magnolia & Jade'
- 'Scarlet & Maroon'
- 'Saffron & Sepia'.

There will also be a press room 'Azure' which will be used for media interviews.

CONFERENCE FLOOR LAYOUT

تخطيط طابق المؤتمرات





ANNEX D

Notes for Short-term Visitors to Cairo



TRAVEL ADVICE TO EGYPT

The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) advise against all travel to:

- the Governorate of [North Sinai](#) due to the significant increase in criminal activity and recent terrorist attacks on police and security forces that have resulted in deaths

The FCO advise against all but essential travel to:

- the Governorates of Beni Suef, Minya, Asyut and Sohag
- the Governorate of [South Sinai](#), with the exception of the area within the Sharm el Sheikh perimeter barrier, which includes the airport and the areas of Sharm el Maya, Hadaba, Naama Bay, Sharks Bay and Nabq
- within 50km of the border with Libya (excluding the town of Siwa)
- the desert areas in south-west Egypt, including the oases at Farafra, Dakhla and Bawati

Protests and demonstrations

- Protests, marches and demonstrations are common across Egypt. Demonstrations often happen on Fridays, but can occur at any time and with little prior notice.
- The atmosphere at demonstrations can change quickly and without warning.

Police may use water cannon, tear gas, birdshot or live ammunition for crowd control.

- There have been several violent clashes since July 2013 resulting in a large number of deaths. Most of the clashes have taken place in Cairo and Alexandria. At protests in Cairo, Alexandria and Fayoum on 24 and 25 January 2014 there were reports of around 80 deaths. There are ongoing protests and clashes within university campuses across the country.
- If you become aware of any nearby protests, leave the area immediately. Do not attempt to cross road blocks erected by the security forces or protesters. **Make sure you keep valid photographic identification with you at all times.** Take particular care in areas with a history of regular protests. At protests on 24 and 25 January westerners, including British Nationals, were singled out and attacked by some protestors. [See Safety and security](#)
- There is a risk of violence and sexual assault at demonstrations. NGOs report more than 100 rapes and sexual assaults against women in demonstrations since 30 June 2013. Foreign and Egyptian women have been attacked. [See Safety and security](#)

Travel Insurance

- Take out comprehensive [travel and medical insurance](#) before you travel.



ENTRY PROCEDURES

These have relaxed considerably in the last few years in line with the Government's wish to encourage and expand tourism. 'Tourist' visas are now available on arrival at all main points of entry into Egypt and are valid for up to four weeks. The price is US\$25 and is payable in foreign currency.

Visitors are not required to change any money on arrival unless you are carrying particularly large sums of foreign exchange no currency declaration need to be made.

Import restrictions and customs regulations are strict and bureaucratic. Cameras, radios, portable computers etc for personal use, are usually allowed through, but sometimes are simply registered in your passport so as to be identified on departure. However, should you be bringing in equipment or materials likely to cause problems, please notify the British Council in advance. Special arrangements may be possible and advice can certainly be given. Such items as video recorders, videos, drugs, chemicals and major items of electronic equipment fall into this category.

SAFETY AND SECURITY

- Egyptian society is conservative and women should dress modestly.
- We strongly recommend that you obtain comprehensive travel and medical insurance before travelling.

Egypt's police and security forces have made a considerable effort to ensure the safety and security of foreign visitors by increasing security in Sinai and around other tourist sites. They may insist on escorting travellers in some areas.

HEALTH

New arrivals have little local immunity and it is usual to pick up a mild infection of which the principal symptom is diarrhoea. This normally lasts no longer than twenty four hours and leaves no after-effects.

Visitors can nevertheless minimise the risk of spoiling part, or of all their stay, in Egypt by taking sensible precautions and still enjoy themselves without being paranoid about what they eat and drink. A ritual washing of hands before eating, the avoidance of street food, peeling of fruit and a suspicion of seafood and green salads during the summer months, are the main recommendations for a healthy stay.

Pharmacies in Egypt are well stocked with many European patented drugs, although if you are currently taking a particular medicine it is only sensible to bring the necessary supplies with you.

In the event of a bad stomach upset there are very good medicines available at any pharmacy without a prescription.

You should watch your diet carefully if you do get an upset stomach, and avoid fatty foods, salads and dairy products.

Drink lots of fluids, but avoid fruit juices. Most visitors stick to drinking the good and cheap mineral water available locally rather than tap water.

CLIMATE

Climate in Cairo - summer temperatures, (May to October) reach 30-45C. In winter, November to March, daytime temperatures are 10-20C but at night can drop to around 4-6C. Humidity in Cairo is low except from June to August and it rains only during the winter months on about 10-15 days.

Alexandria has a less extreme climate, but a lot more rainfall. Southern (upper) Egypt is markedly hotter (except January – February) but the climate is much dryer.

Clothing requirements are therefore seasonal. Light winter clothing is necessary during the winter months. Buildings and offices are uninsulated, unheated and draughty and feel a lot colder than they really are. Lightweight cotton is ideal for the long summer months.

Egyptians with whom you will have contact will generally dress modestly, fairly formally and conservatively with many men wearing a suit and tie to the office.

A sensitive respect for local customs would therefore exclude shorts and shoulderless dresses from the visitor's working wardrobe, these being kept for the beach or around the hotel pool.

MONEY

You can expect to find only the one official rate of exchange wherever money is changed in Egypt. Cash, traveller's cheques and Euro cheques can be changed and most credit cards can also be used in main hotels. If you pay hotel bills in Egyptian currency they are officially required to see an exchange receipt from a bank. All other personal transactions in Egypt are usually in cash. Banks in major hotels are open 24 hours a day.

The devaluation of the official rate of exchange over the last few years has practically killed off the black market. However, if you are approached on the street to change money, do not do so; it is illegal.

INTERNAL TRAVEL

Taxis are generally plentiful and cheap.

A few general rules for the sensible and economical use of taxis include:

- carry plenty of small denomination notes
- flag down taxis on the street rather than use those waiting outside the large hotels
- You can take the White Taxi which has a meter. It's safe and credible as you pay the fee shown on the digital meter.

You can also book the city cab through dialling 16516 (its colour is yellow)

POST AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS

Airmail between Egypt and Europe usually takes less than seven days. Stamps are sold and letters can be posted in major hotels as well as at post offices. However, do ask the Council for advice if anything more substantial or valuable than a letter has to be received or sent.

Telecommunications within Egypt in general and from Cairo in particular have improved greatly over the last few years. The internal direct dial network is good and international telephone and fax facilities are available at main hotels. Many organisations now have e-mail addresses.

HOTELS, RESTAURANTS AND OFFICES

Hotel standards and prices vary considerably. The top hotels are part of international chains with standards and prices at a European level. More down-market, most major cities and tourist centres offer a reasonable selection of medium priced hotels. Standards of plumbing and electrical installation, however, sometimes leave a lot to be desired. Much the same applies to restaurants, with the major cities and tourist centres offering a range of good restaurants, with Egyptian or international cuisine, whereas elsewhere the quality, choice and variety of places in which to eat is often poor.

Alcohol is generally widely available in the main cities, with cheap locally-produced beer and expensive imported spirits offered in most large hotels and restaurants.

Friday is the Islamic day of rest when all government offices and many private businesses are shut. Some offices are also closed on Saturday. Office hours are generally from 08.00 until around 15.30.

LIST OF RESTAURANTS NEAR THE BRITISH COUNCIL IN CAIRO

<p>Maison Thomas Famous for its pizza, Thomas also prepares smaller dishes to eat in or take out, including squid or mushroom salad, burgers, and various sandwiches based on local and imported cheeses and cold cuts available in the deli section. Beer is sold to go only.</p>	<p>157, 26th of July St., Zamalek Tel: +(202) 2735 7057 Opening Hours: 24 Hours</p>
<p>Euro Deli Euro Deli offers an extensive international menu, including breakfast omelets, bagels, sandwiches, wraps and hot platters. Euro Deli also boasts a wide-ranging selection of coffees and juices.</p>	<p>22a Dr. Taha Hussein Street, Zamalek Tel: +(202) 2736 6112 Opening Hours: 24 hours</p>
<p>Abou El Sid Abou El Sid serves authentic Egyptian cuisine. The menu features a variety of mezzes (appetizers), along with meat, chicken and seafood entrees. Abou El Sid is famous Mulukheya served with chicken or pigeon. At meals end, go for the creamy Om Aly with mixed nuts.</p>	<p>157, 26th of July St., Zamalek Tel: +(202)-7497326 Opening Hours: 13.00 - 02.00 www.abouelsid.com</p>
<p>La Bodega La Bodega is tucked away on the second floor of a beautiful old Baehler's Mansions building in Zamalek; there is no sign indicating the resto/bar, you just head upstairs and there it is. The cuisine is mainly intercontinental, but with strong French and Mediterranean overtones. The décor is lovely with dark wood, a copper bar, and exquisite pieces of art adorning the walls. If you are planning a night at La Bodega, it's best to dress up as this is an exclusive venue; reservations are recommended.</p>	<p>157, 26th of July St., Zamalek Tel: +(202) 2735 0543 Opening Hours: 12.00 – 02.00 labodegaegypt.com</p>
<p>Nile City Stand Boat With its five different restaurants and amazing views of the Nile, the Nile City is a great place to visit for lunch or dinner.</p> <p>Chilli's, a Tex Mex restaurant, an upbeat and casual atmosphere with loud overhead music, booth seating and fast service with indoor and outdoor seating, both with good views of the river. Johnny Carino's offers Italian cuisine including pastas, pizzas, soups, and salads. Studio Misr offers a twist to the common traditional oriental cuisine: to walk through the door is to walk back in Egyptian cinematic time. The eatery has a rustic vibe with memorabilia covering the walls. There is also The Fish Market with a lovely terrace and a sundeck café with a great view of the sunset.</p>	<p>El Nahr St, Zamalek Tel: +(202) 2735 3126</p>
<p>The Crave The Crave serves international dishes – Pasta and pizzas from Italy, burgers from the US, Jalapeno-stuffed mushrooms from Mexico. This restaurant is known for its exceptional chocolate fondant.</p>	<p>17, El Mansour Mohamed street, Zamalek Tel: +(202) 2736 3870</p>
<p>Le Pacha 1901 Stand Boat Originally a floating palace from the turn of the century, Le Pacha was transformed into a magical place featuring 10 restaurants that offer international cuisines and spectacular views of the Nile and the city. Restaurants include Le Tarbouche: Oriental/Egyptian, Le Steak: French/European, Il Piccolo Mondo: Italian, Johnny's: Pub, L'Oasis: International Cuisine, L'Asiatique: Asian, Carlos: International, Maharani: Indian/Asian</p>	<p>Saray El Gezira Street, Zamalek Tel: +(202) 19982 lepacha.com</p>
<p>Maxim Restaurants Nile Maxim Cruising Restaurant, 2 daily dinner cruises, only one serving 'A La Carte' International cuisine. Nile Maxim live entertainment includes Band, Belly Dancer and the Folkloric Tanoura show 'Spin Man'. Veranda Restaurant and Lounge where you can enjoy the taste of different cuisines along with the largest well selected varieties of hard and soft beverages and cocktails. Khulkhal Arabian Restaurant, located on the deck of Maxim Compound, has a splendid panoramic view of the River Nile. Khulkhal offers Egyptian and Lebanese cuisine along with some Moroccan and Gulf menus.</p>	<p>Saray El Gezira St., Zamalek In front of Cairo Marriott Hotel Tel: + (202) 2738 8888 www.maximrestaurants.com</p>

SHOPPING

Cairo is a shopping haven, with several malls full of trendy and traditional clothes, jewellery, accessories, appliances and more. Malls are full of coffee-shops where you can enjoy traditional and international drinks and foods.

Most Shopping malls have cinemas playing the latest international and local films.

There are several showings per day, including a midnight show. Tickets usually range between LE 30 and LE 60.

Most malls and shopping centres are open all week long including the weekends; only few shops are closed on Sunday. Shops are usually opened all day, but some shops close during the afternoon and re open again until around 22.00 or 23.00.

LIST OF RESTAURANTS NEAR THE BRITISH COUNCIL IN CAIRO

Shopping Mall	Location	Telephone	Opening hours
First Mall	35 El Giza St., Giza	3573 0609	09.00 – 00.00 (summer) 09.00 – 23.00 (winter)
Dandy Mall	Km28 Cairo/ Alexandria Desert Road, Giza		10.30 – 01.00
Nile Towers Mall & Cinema	Cornich El Nil, Down Town	2461 9000/02	10.00 – 00.00
Ramses Hilton Annex & Cinema	Downtown	25747435/6	10.00 – 22.00
City Stars Mall & Cinema	Omar Ibn El Khattab St., Heliopolis	24802012/13/14/15	11.00 – 23.00
Maadi City Centre	Ring Rd., El Mearag City, Maadi	25204000/1/2/3	10.00 – 00.00 (Fri 14.00 – 00.00)
Maadi Grand Mall and Cinema complex	Rd. 250 Maadi Grand Mall Sq., Maadi	25195380	11.00 – 23.00 (Thurs until 00.00)

LIST OF BOOK STORES

Book Store	Location	Telephone
Diwan Book store	- Zamalek Branch: 159, 26th July St. - Heliopolis Branch: 105, Abu Bakr El Seddiq St. - Diwan Alexandria Branch: City Centre Mall Hours: 09.00 to 23.30	+(202) 2736 2582/98 +(202) 2690 8184/85 +(2018) 500 2664
Zamalek Bookstore	19, Shagaret El-Dorr St. Zamalek	+(202) 2736 9197
American University in Cairo Bookstore	AUC Hostel, 16 Mohamed Thakeb Street, Zamalek Hours: Saturday–Thursday: 09:00 am – 06:00 pm, Friday: 01:00 pm – 06:00 pm	+ (202) 2739 7045
Virgin Megastore	City Stars Mall. Omar Ibn El Khattab St., Heliopolis	2480 2244
EL Shorouk Bookstore	1 Talaat Harb Sq., Down Town City Stars Mall. Omar Ibn El Khattab St., Heliopolis	+(202) 2393 0643

TIPPING

Much has been written about the importance of tipping in Egypt. In the main, visitors should tip in the same circumstances as they would elsewhere in the world (but you do not tip taxi drivers); it is probably useful to remember,

however, that for many employees in hotels, restaurants, and so on, 'baksheesh' is a vital addition to often very low basic salaries (LE 75 -100 per month).

LEISURE

For visitors to Cairo and Alexandria, there are major tourist sights that are interesting, photogenic, not to be missed and that can easily be reached by taxi or hotel car.

Places to visit for visitors to Cairo

PYRAMIDS OF GIZA

The Giza Pyramids, built to endure an eternity, have done just that. The monumental tombs are relics of Egypt's Old Kingdom era and were constructed some 4,500 years ago. Egypt's pharaohs expected to become gods in the afterlife. To prepare for the next world they erected temples to the gods and massive pyramid tombs for themselves—filled with all the things each ruler would need to guide and sustain himself in the next world. Pharaoh Khufu began the first Giza pyramid project, circa 2550 B.C. His Great Pyramid is the largest in Giza and towers some 481 feet (147 meters) above the plateau. Its estimated 2.3 million stone blocks each weigh an average of 2.5 to 15 tons. Khufu's son, Pharaoh Khafre, built the second pyramid at Giza, circa 2520 B.C. His necropolis also included the Sphinx, a mysterious limestone monument with the body of a lion and a pharaoh's head. The Sphinx may stand sentinel for the pharaoh's entire tomb complex. The third of the Giza Pyramids is considerably smaller than the first two. Built by Pharaoh Menkaure circa 2490 B.C., it featured a much more complex mortuary temple. Each massive pyramid is but one part of a larger complex, including a palace, temples, solar boat pits, and other features.

SPHINX OF GIZA

The Sphinx is a lion with the face of a pharaoh, towers above the Giza Plateau. It is a four-and-half-thousand-year old puzzle, but now the latest science is offering new clues. The first Sphinx was sculpted around 2500 B.C. The Sphinx's body was created by carving limestone away to create the form of a lion. The Egyptians made a temple in honour of the Sphinx using the excess stone. The empty space around the Sphinx filled entirely with sand over a long period of neglect. For that reason, only the head and top part of the Sphinx's back are shown in pictures of Giza. The body of the Sphinx, resembling a lion, was carved at a scale of 22:1 and the head at a scale of 30:1. It is also thought that the body of the Sphinx was stretched out of proportion due to three large fissures inside the stones. These fissures would have barred sculptors from finishing the bottom of the Sphinx, so it was logical to elongate the body instead. Evidence suggests that at one time the Sphinx was colourfully painted. The first known pictures of the Sphinx were created by the Egyptians when the Sphinx was over 1,000 years old.

SOUND AND LIGHT PYRAMIDS

The legendary Sound and Light shows are playing at world renowned Pyramids of Giza, Temples of Karnak, Philae and Abu Simbel; four of the UNESCO World Heritage sites. Their historical and cultural values are simply beyond description. Latest lighting, laser and projection technologies are utilized to visualize mysteries of the Pharonic civilization. Every year, hundreds of thousands attend these magnificent spectacles to relive the legend. For more information please follow this [link](#).

SAQQARA PYRAMID

Intended to hold his mummified body, Pharaoh Djoser's Step Pyramid at Saqqara began as a traditional, flat-roofed mastaba. But by the end of his 19-year reign, in 2611 B.C., it had risen to six stepped layers and stood 204 feet (62 meters) high. It was the largest building of its time.

EGYPTIAN MUSSUEM

The Egyptian government established the Egyptian Museum, located in Cairo, in 1835. They began the museum as an effort to stop all of the plundering and looting that was going on at all of the different archaeological sites in the area. The museum would protect the priceless artefacts that trace Egypt's past. The museum has a number of wonderful items in their collection. When you visit Cairo, you must stop by the museum and take a look at everything it has to offer.

CAIRO TOWER

The Cairo Tower stands in the [Zamalek](#) district on Gezira Island in the [River Nile](#), close to the city centre. At 187 m (610 ft), it is 43 metres (140 ft) higher than the [Great Pyramid of Giza](#), which stands some 15 km (9.3 mi) to the southwest. It is one of Cairo's most famous and well-known landmarks. The Cairo Tower was built from 1956 to 1961, reportedly to convince a sceptical world the nation had the capability to construct the Aswan Dam. Designed by the Egyptian architect Naoum Chebib, the tower's partially open lattice-work design is intended to evoke a lotus plant. The tower is crowned by a circular observation deck and a rotating restaurant with a view over Cairo. One rotation takes approximately 70 minutes. For more information please follow this [link](#).

CAIRO OPERA HOUSE

The National Cultural Centre is part of the Ministry of Culture and serves as an umbrella organization for all the music or dance companies, galleries, museums and the educational programs of the Cairo Opera House. It was established in 1988 with the inauguration of the new Cairo Opera House. Its goal is to promote the arts of music and dance and to preserve and renew traditional Arab music. In order to be more than just a place where music and art are performed the National Cultural Centre wants to give space to learning and inspiration, to the exchange of ideas, the respect of a common cultural heritage, and a shared passion for the arts. It encourages interest for music and art in the younger generation by offering ballet, voice or instrumental classes for talented children or youths. For more information please follow this [links](#).

SALAH EL DIN AL AYOUBI CITADEL

The citadel was constructed by Salah El Din on the Moqattam hills in 1183 AD. Salah El Din appointed to be the governor of Egypt after the death of the Sultan of Damascus, Noor-el-Din. It was built to defend Cairo from the armies of the Crusaders 573H and to become the centre of Salah El Din's government. After the death of Salah El Din, his nephew, Al Kamel, reinforced the Citadel by enlarging several of the towers. The citadel has two entrances: one opening on Salah Salem road and the other is the old gate that has existed since Salah El Din's age.

HANGING CHURCH

The Hanging Church (El Muallaqa, Sitt Mariam, St Mary) derives its name from its location on top of the southern tower gate of the old Babylon fortress (in Old, or Coptic Cairo) with its nave suspended above the passage (Muallaqa translates to 'suspended'). It is the most famous Coptic Christian church in Cairo, as well as the first built in Basilcan style.

It was probably built during the patriarchate of Isaac (690-92), though an earlier church building may have existed elsewhere dating as earlier as the 3rd or 4th century.

However, the earliest mention of the church was a statement in the biography of the patriarch Joseph (831-49), when the governor of Egypt visited the establishment.

The church was largely rebuilt during by the patriarch Abraham (975-78) and has seen many other restorations including one very recently, after which objects of historical interest that were no longer of service went to the Coptic Museum.

KHAN EL KHALILI BAZZAR

Khan el-Khalil, once known as the Turkish bazaar during the Ottoman period, is now usually just called the 'Khan', and the names of it and the Muski market are often used interchangeably to mean either. Named for the great [Caravansary](#), the market was built in 1382 by the Emir Djaharks el-Khalili in the heart of the Fatimid City.

Together with the al-Muski market to the west, they comprise one of Cairo's most important shopping areas. But more than that, they represent the market tradition which established Cairo as a major center of trade, and at the Khan, one will still find foreign merchants.



Perhaps, this vary market was involved in the spice monopoly controlled by the Mamluks, which encouraged the Europeans to search for new routes to the East and led Columbus, indirectly, to discover the Americas.

During its early period, the market was also a center for subversive groups, often subject to raids before the Sultan Ghawri rebuilt much of the area in the early 16th century. Regardless, it was trade which caused Cairo's early wealth, even from the time of the Babylon fort which was often a settlement of traders.

AL AZHAR MOSQUE

Located in El Hussein Square, the Al-Azhar Mosque (the most blooming), established in 972 (361 H) in a porticoed style shortly after the founding of Cairo itself, was originally designed by the Fatimid general Jawhar El-Sequili (Gawhara Qunqubay, Gawhar al-Sakkaly) and built on the orders of Caliph Muezz Li-Din Allah.

Located in the center of an area teaming with the most beautiful Islamic monuments from the 10th century, it was called "Al-Azhar" after Fatama al-Zahraa, daughter of the Prophet Mohamed (Peace and Prayers Be Upon Him).

It imitated both the Amr Ibn El-As and Ibn Tulun mosques. The first Fatimid monument in Egypt, the Azhar was both a meeting place for Shi'a students and through the centuries, it has remained a focal point of the famous university which has grown up around it. It was under Yaqoub Ibn Cals that the mosque became a teaching institute.

This is the oldest university in the world, where the first lecture was delivered in 975 AD. Today the university built around the Mosque is the most prestigious of Muslim schools, and its students are highly esteemed for their traditional training.

While ten thousand students once studied here, today the university classes are conducted in adjacent buildings and the Mosque is reserved for prayer. In addition to the religious studies, modern schools of medicine, science and foreign languages have also been added.





DEPARTURE

You are asked to check in three hours before your international flight departure. At the airport's new terminal, you will probably be through the procedures in less than half an hour and be wondering whether this was just a ploy to raise the revenue of the coffee shop. We strongly advise you nevertheless to allow plenty of time. Extra security checks and suddenly overcrowded check-in desks are common.

There is currently no airport tax payable on departure. Major hotels operate a fixed price limousine service to the airport, 24 hours a day. This costs around LE 70 – 100 per car.

There are three international terminals at Cairo airport. (T3) handles all Egypt Air, Austrian Airlines, BMI, Lufthansa, Swiss and Singapore flights; (T2) handles the major Western European and long-haul carriers. The old (T1) handles all Eastern European and some African carriers.

In Alexandria there are two international airports (Nozha and Borg El Arab); however Borg El Arab airport is not operating at the moment due to maintenance and construction work that are being undertaken. Alexandria airport however handles only a few International airlines, such as Olympic airlines, Qatar airlines, Egypt Air, Royal Jordanian airlines and Saudi airlines.



GENERAL COMMENTS

Egypt is a conservative society. You should dress modestly and especially when visiting traditional areas like mosques and souqs (markets). Women's clothes should cover their legs and upper arms. Public displays of affection are frowned upon.

Notwithstanding the comments above about the threat to security from terrorism, Cairo and Alexandria are still two of the safest cities in the world for a foreign visitor. Women may experience some verbal harassment, especially from younger, usually middle class, males.

Visitors can find themselves hassled, as anywhere in the world; if this happens, you do not have to accept it, any more than you would at home. Car users should not leave briefcases or packages visible inside parked vehicles, especially in Cairo and Alexandria. Otherwise you would be unlucky ever to feel threatened on the streets, and theft and violence are very rare. Egyptians are hospitable and generous, ever-willing to return a smile and most visitors find they are able to make good personal contacts during their stay.



EQUAL OPPORTUNITY

The British Council creates international opportunities for the people of the UK and other countries and builds trust between them worldwide. Working effectively with diversity is an essential part of the British Council's work. Our Equal Opportunity Policy commits us to ensuring that there is no unjustified discrimination in the recruitment, retention, training and development of staff on the basis of age, disability, gender including transgender, HIV/AIDS status, marital status including

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