

# Gaining Cultural Competency Through Partnering with the University of Mosul

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## What is Mosul?

Mosul is a city in northern Iraq. It sits on the Tigris River. Residents from Mosul that speak the specific dialect are known as Maslawi.



## Future Collaborative Potential

Choose a team in which you take part. Pair this team with a team from Mosul, Iraq. Create a partnership in which both teams will have gained something at the end.

Description: Partner Lindenwood Field Hockey with the University of Mosul's Women's Table Tennis team

Objectives: Gain cultural competency, learn women's experiences as an athlete in a different country

### Process:

Group chat on Telegram  
Zoom meetings  
Few women travel to Mosul

Restrictions and Limitations:

Mosul is 9 hours ahead of CST. Mosul's weekend is considered Friday and Saturday, rather than Saturday and Sunday.

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## Cultural Competency

Cultural competency is the ability of individuals to understand and respect another individual's values, behavior, and attitudes based on their culture.  
- ability to understand and interact with people from different cultures

## The University

The University currently has 70,000 students, 24 colleges, 143 departments, 7 research centers, 2 museums, and 33 libraries.

## Partnership Background

I partnered with Saud Reid from the University of Mosul, to learn more about Mosul's culture and history. Through speaking with Saud, I was able to improve on my own cultural competency and provide insight into American culture for him.

In class, we discussed the meetings with our partners, and compared/contrasted our partners' experiences/opinions, to understand various upbringings.

Specifically, Saud was able to help me understand how a proper greeting and conversation would go between the two teams for my proposed partnership. He also discussed various behavior and topics to avoid.

## Mosul's Culture

Important aspects of Mosul's culture include language, religion, clothing, media, sports, family, and food.

Language: The people of Mosul speak Arabic. They specifically speak the Maslawi dialect. Arabic speakers appreciate when non-Arabic speakers attempt to speak the language. A popular greeting is Mar-ha-ban.

Religion: Islam is the religion of Iraq. The Quran is the sacred text, and the prophet Muhammad started Islam. Sunni and Shia are the sects of Islam, and people who follow Islam are called Muslim.

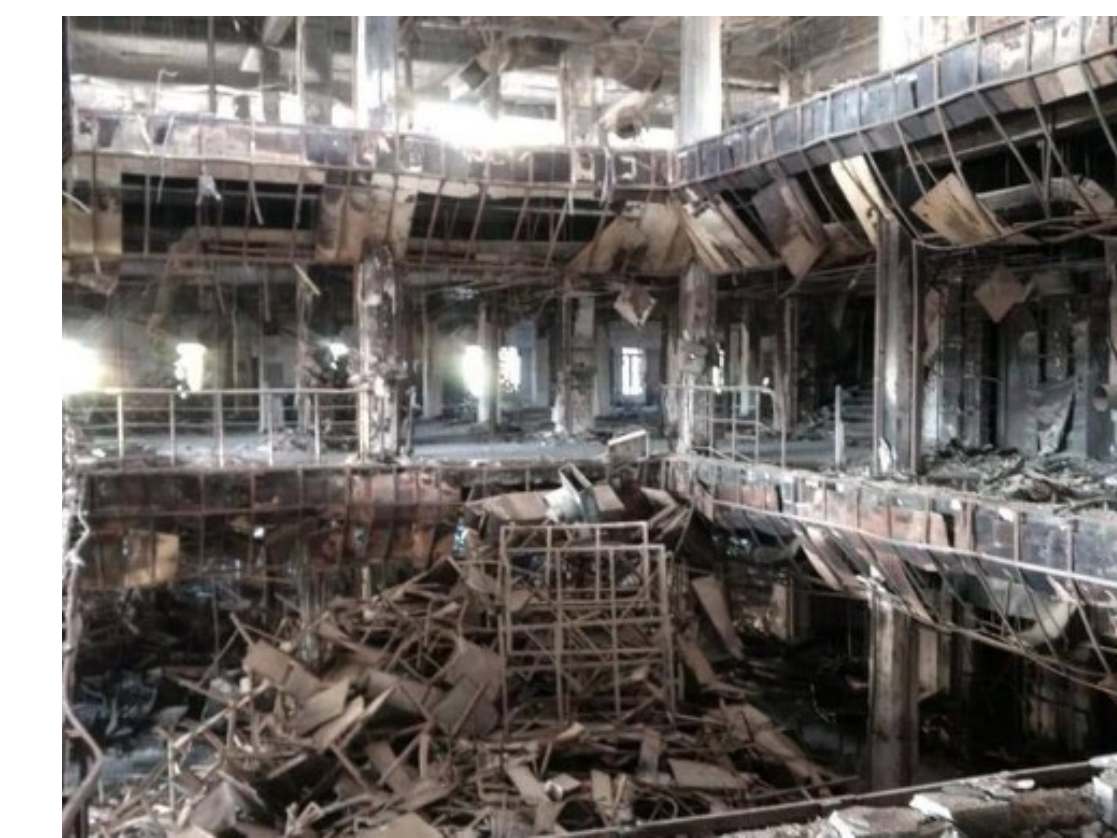
Clothing: Traditional clothing is modest. Clothing plays a role in religion. No tight clothing, cover skin, most women cover hair

Media/Sports: Social Media presence, Political media presence; Soccer is the most popular sport. Maslawis watch European and Arabian soccer. Soccer is referred to as fútbol. Women play non-physical sports (table-tennis).

Family/Holidays/Food: Family is a big presence. Iraq is a collective society. Extended family gathers once a week. Holidays revolve around Islam. A popular food is Dolma, which is stuffed vegetables with lamb and rice.

## History

Key details of Iraq's history include Saddam Hussein. Mosul, specifically, was occupied by ISIS from 2014 to 2017. The rebuild of the city led to new hope and faith in the city.



## Norms

Norms include gender roles, alcohol, collectivism and households, and honor versus shame.

## Etiquette

Etiquette involves use of hands, gift giving, prayers, greetings, punctuality, and use of cameras.

