

Lifting the Veil: Iranian Relationships and Courtship



Project Title	Lifting the Veil: Iranian Relationships and Courtship
Project Summary	Do you want to learn more about Iranian culture? Do you want to apply the knowledge you already have to promote a greater understanding of Iran? In this project, you will use a combination of resources (social media, personal interviews, etc.) to report on modern Iranian courtship and relationships.
Country	Armenia
Agency	Department of State
DoS Office	N/A
Post	YEREVAN
Section	CONS
Number of Interns	5

Project Description

Traditionally, Iranian marriages were arranged by the families of the bride and groom. They were also highly ritualized affairs, consisting of about a dozen different ceremonies before and after the wedding itself. However, attitudes towards courtship are shifting, and traditional marriage practices are increasingly eschewed for more Western-style dating. While attitudes may be changing, Iran remains a closed society, and accurate accounts of the romantic practices of young Iranians are rarely published. A greater understanding of these practices will help to inform a variety of U.S. policies.

U.S. Embassy Yerevan seeks a team of 2-5 Virtual Student Foreign Service eInterns to research and report on the current courtship practices in Iran. While eInterns are encouraged to use all resources available to them, participants should also collect first-hand accounts by native Iranians living in the United States or Canada.

Desired Skills Interests

Skill

Writing

Additional Information

Relationship narratives of the recently married, engaged, or dating should be acquired via online or, if possible, in-person interviews. These interviews will be collected with complete anonymity for participants, changing irrelevant aspects (names and specific dates) as necessary to ensure privacy. Participants will receive full disclosure that their information will be part of this study. eInterns will work to document relevant facets of their subjects' relationships, from how they met their partner, how they stayed in touch if separated by long-distances, and what pre- and post-wedding ceremonies they performed. From these interviews and other resources, the eIntern team will produce a series of reports explaining the structure and trends of typical modern Iranian relationships.

The language requirement is necessary for at least two of the group members. Additional members may have a lower level of proficiency, or none at all.

Language Requirements

<u>Language Speaking Proficiency</u>	<u>Reading Proficiency</u>	<u>Importance</u>
Persian-Farsi	Minimum professional proficiency	Minimum professional proficiency Required