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My name is Maddalena Tartarini and I am an Italian student studying political science at the Free University of Berlin. After taking an Arabic course for a year and a half at the university in Berlin, I was very motivated to spend one semester of my Bachelor in a Middle Eastern country. In the various university country lists, I chose Sultan Qaboos University in Muscat for several reasons. For instance, Oman is not mentioned very often in Europe, so I became very curious and started searching in the internet for news about the country and the university. After getting informed I realised how enriching an experience in this country could have been and so I decided to go to Muscat and study at the Sultan Qaboos University.

It was my first trip to the Middle East and I was honestly a little anxious, due to all the news we read in Europe about the region. Nevertheless, as soon as I arrived, I realised that I was in one of the safest countries. As soon as I started university, I found helpfulness and kindness with which Omani professors and students welcomed me. Out of the blue, I knew I made the right choice and that is why I am now writing this article for Sultan Qaboos University.

My university experience in Oman was very enriching and interesting as I was able to study political science focusing mainly on the Middle East, without having any influence from the Western world. This greatly expanded my academic and general knowledge of the region. Thanks to Arabic courses, I was able to improve my language and thanks to the students and professors I met, I always felt very welcome.

The experience in Oman has enriched my journey as a student and therefore, I recommend to all students who want to learn about a different culture and at the same time, feel almost at home, to go studying at Sultan Qaboos University.

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