



### **Clothing in Oman**

The dress of most Omani's is on the conservative side with men wearing long sleeves and long pants. Increasingly short sleeves are worn by Omani men, especially in Muscat, the capital of Oman and where our program is located. Many Omani men wear traditional clothes, including the *Dishdashas* (long white robes) with *Kuma* (embroidered cap) or *mussar* (turban). Many Omani women wear traditional clothes as well, which consist of *abayas* (long black robes, sometimes with decorated sleeves) and *hijab* (head scarves). In Muscat more and more women are not wearing traditional Omani clothing, but still wear conservative clothing. Modest, opaque, loose-fitting, long sleeve shirts with skirts or slacks below the ankle or to the floor are common and almost all women cover their hair. Omani citizens also take a lot of pride in their appearance, so clean, pressed clothing is almost always worn.

Students going on the CISabroad Semester in Oman program are encouraged to wear the traditional clothing of Oman and can expect to receive very positive reactions from Omani's when doing so! In general, students should wear conservative and modest clothing at all times. Foreign women are not expected to cover their hair, unless visiting a mosque, but should plan to dress with long-sleeved, loose, opaque tops that do not show any midriff or have a neckline below the collar bone. Slacks and jeans are acceptable as long as they are not tight. Any tight pants, like skinny jeans or leggings, can be worn, but only with dresses. Foreign men can wear polo shirts, but should plan to wear mostly long-sleeved shirts. Button down shirts are the norm for school days and whenever visiting a temple or government area. Nice jeans are acceptable but the most common pants are slacks or khakis. Having an extra scarf or loose fitting button down shirt around at all times is a good idea, in case a situation becomes more formal.

There will be situations in which dressing more casually is acceptable. In the center of Muscat, where many foreigners live, and in western-style pools or beaches many people wear western clothing. This includes board shorts or modest bathing suits with t-shirts for swimming and capri pants with sneakers for hiking.