



**Doaa Atamna, the 2018-2019  
EWJ Gateway Fellow  
at International House, UC Berkeley**



My name is Doaa Atamna, and I am a first year doctoral student in the Near Eastern Studies department. I completed my undergraduate studies at UC Davis, in English and in French, and I've presented my research at conferences across California, including at Stanford University. My academic interests are primarily in poetry, comparative literary theory, and in translation.

I'm excited for so many things this year, especially academically, and I look forward to meeting new people through living at I-House. This opportunity to reside in and learn alongside a diverse cohort of students in Berkeley is so valuable to me, and I want to make the absolute most of it. Thank you so much for this opportunity, and thank you so much for the fellowship I've received! I couldn't experience this without your support!

*From her Graduate Adviser's Nomination:*

I have asked Ms. Atamna if she wanted to live in I-House and she responded very enthusiastically to the affirmative. One passage in her background statement typifies the spirit of interdisciplinary collaboration, personal energy and sharing that has shone in both our email correspondence and her graduate application as a whole. She says, "I remembered discussing my ideas with a few family friends who were interested in what I was up to at university, but I had no idea the impact my interest had. Suddenly, people who I never knew loved poetry began sending me selections of their own favorites that they had not read in years. It was a micro-renaissance [of interest in Arabic poetry], but it remains a reminder of why I love literature and literary criticism so much in the first place. The environment that I was raised in thrived on curiosity and passion, and it has played an integral role in making me a unique and driven student and writer." Her recommendation letters speak highly of her ability to contribute insightful ideas in class discussion, while remaining sensitive to all her peers. She is fluent in English and Arabic, and has strong abilities in French. I believe Ms. Atamna would be a vibrant member of the I-House family, sharing her truly unique past and present experiences with its residents, while drawing great value herself from such exchanges.



**The EWJ Gateway Fellowship** was established in 2004 by donor who prefers to remain anonymous. This Fellowship supports incoming or continuing doctoral students, from around the world, pursuing studies in any academic field of study for up to two consecutive years.