



ISLAMIC ONLINE UNIVERSITY

INSIGHTS

MAGAZINE



**IOU OFFICES
AROUND THE
WORLD**

**BEHIND THE IOU
DIPLOMA CURTAIN:
COURSE FACILITATORS**

IOU DEPARTMENTS

**SUMMARY OF THE FREE
DIPLOMA PROGRAMS**

**IOU
GAINS MEMBERSHIP
TO THE FUIW**

We Are the Nation of Mercy

There is no religion on earth that preaches peace and tolerance more than Islam. And there is no soul on earth that was created with a better character than Prophet Muhammad ﷺ. He was sent as the last and final messenger of Allah to the whole of humanity to exhibit and demonstrate the best ways to practice the *Deen*. Even Allah testifies to his uniqueness, “Indeed you (Muhammad) stand on an exalted standard of character” (Quran 68:4).

Among his exceptional characteristics was his tolerant and calm nature, which goes hand in hand with the nature of our religion—*Deen Al-Rahmah* (the religion of mercy). “And We have not sent you, [O Muhammad], except as a mercy to the world” (Quran 21:107).

For this reason, it is very

unfortunate to note here that for many generations our Ummah has been afflicted with harsh and hard hearts. Some Muslims have become intolerant to the rest of the world and even to fellow Muslims. Perhaps it is because we have allowed this world, with what it possesses, to move into our hearts and thereby making ignorance of the *Deen* creep in. It seems some of us are so much confined to our microcosm that anything outside of it is viewed as a threat. This is not our *Deen*. This is not the teaching of our Noble Prophet ﷺ.

Any Muslim who is hostile to his neighbor is not a practicing Muslim. He is most assuredly steered by ignorance or a half-baked knowledge of the *Deen*.

Hence, it is important to seek authentic Islamic knowledge in order to taste the true meaning of

peace and tolerance within others and ourselves. And as ambassadors of the *Deen*, we are urged to uphold the below hadith of the Prophet ﷺ by displaying it in our day-to-day dealings with others.

“He will not enter heaven whose neighbor is not safe from his troubles.” (Muslim, 66); and “There is nothing in the balance heavier than the good morals. Indeed the person of good morals will reach by them the rank of the person of fasts and prayers” (At-Tirmidhi, 1926).

As Muslims, we should always strive to live harmoniously in our communities and let others live in peace.

-By Veronika Matulova & Mutiu Olawuyi



MEET THE TEAM

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YOUR VIEWS

We would love to hear from you. Please let us know what you liked or would like to see in the magazine. If you would like to submit a valuable contribution to IOU Insights, please email: info@iou-insights.com.

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IOU'S DIPLOMA SECTION

Islamic Online University's (IOU) Diploma Section is an open campus, which offers courses absolutely free of charge. These courses can be completed at each individual student's pace and are not bound by deadlines or timeframes. Due to its flexible nature, we have students enrolled from across the globe and from all walks of life; qualified professionals, busy mothers, retired elders, inquisitive pre-teens, as well as physically challenged brothers

and sisters who don't consider their disability a drawback.

Canada, Columbia, United Kingdom, France, Italy, United Arab Emirates, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, China, Australia and Taiwan.

We have over 190,780 registered students from all over the world

Alhamdulillah, since its inception in 2007, we have seen over 200 students graduate with the General Diploma in Islamic Studies (GDIS). These graduates came from many different parts of the world: USA,

Our students range in ages from as young as eight years old to as old as 80 years of age. Presently, we have over 190,780 registered students from all over the world that are diligently seeking the knowledge of their *Deen*.

Joining IOU Diploma as a student is very easy. All you are required to do is



create an account and start enrolling in the courses that interest you. It is really that simple. There are no prerequisites, apart from learning for the sake of Allah and an eagerness to gain beneficial knowledge. To make it easy for students, the IOU Diploma is systematically divided into varying degrees of study, starting from New Muslim Courses, to Level 1 through to Level 6. Currently, the IOU Diploma also has turned the Special Workshops into courses and categorized them separately. It also offers a few exclusive paid courses, which do not count towards the GDIS.

Once you are a student in any course, you will have access to the study materials (texts, and audio and/or video resources) and student support through the forums and email communication with the respective Course Facilitator. After studying a particular module, students must take the corresponding test before proceeding to the next module. This process continues until the end of the course. At this point, students must attempt a final exam, which will enable

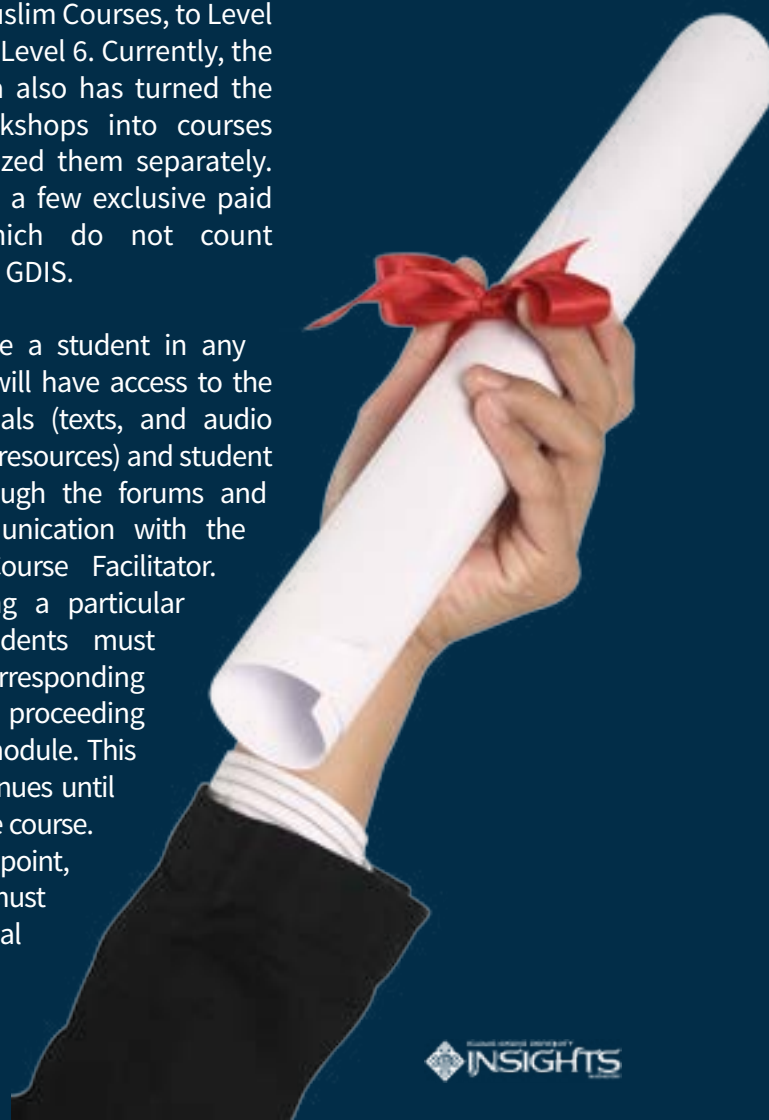
them to secure the course certificate, provided that they have an overall grade of 80% including the final exam.

In order to keep the students engaged and active, the Course Facilitators conduct weekly quizzes and monthly essay competitions. The winners receive badges, which will

be displayed in their student profiles, whereas the runners-up receive e-prizes in their personal inboxes.

Successfully completing any 24 courses out of the available 33 courses (and growing) will make a student eligible for the GDIS certificate. The student can request a soft copy or a hard copy at a nominal fee.

IOU Diploma opens its doors to all GDIS graduates for the post of Course Facilitator so that they can continue their journey with us, that began as a student and gradually culminated into a mentor.



By
Umm Afraz

Sr. Umm Afraz is the Head Facilitator at IOU's Diploma Section. She volunteers as a Tamil counselor at Solace Islamic Assistance, and is the Ameerah-cum-Counselor at ArRajaa: The Hope Counseling Service. She has completed the IOU BMAIS program, and is currently authoring an Islamic fiction book.



SUMMARY OF THE

FREE

DIPLOMA PROGRAMS

Level 1:

This is the fundamental level of the Diploma in Islamic Studies. The basic solid foundation laid at this level introduces students to the concepts of Aqeedah, Fiqh, and the Arabic language. It covers three courses on Aqeedah alone, which gives students a reliable introduction to the fundamental concepts from which the foundations of the main fields of Islamic knowledge are built.

Continuing with the theme of basics, the Fiqh course on Taharah falls perfectly in place as, “cleanliness is half of faith” (Saheeh Muslim). Finally, it also includes a fundamental course that focuses on teaching the proper articulation of all the Arabic letters and vowels (tajweed), so that from the beginning students can learn how to recite the Quran correctly.



Level 2:

The next level of the Diploma program consists of an interesting mix of courses on Aqeedah, Tafseer, Fiqh, and Hadeeth. The Aqeedah course at this level above the basics covers all the essential principles of Aqeedah that a Muslim is required to know and practice—from the categories of Tawheed to what negates and defies it, like Shirk, Kufr, Nifaq, Fisq, Riddah, and Bid’ah.

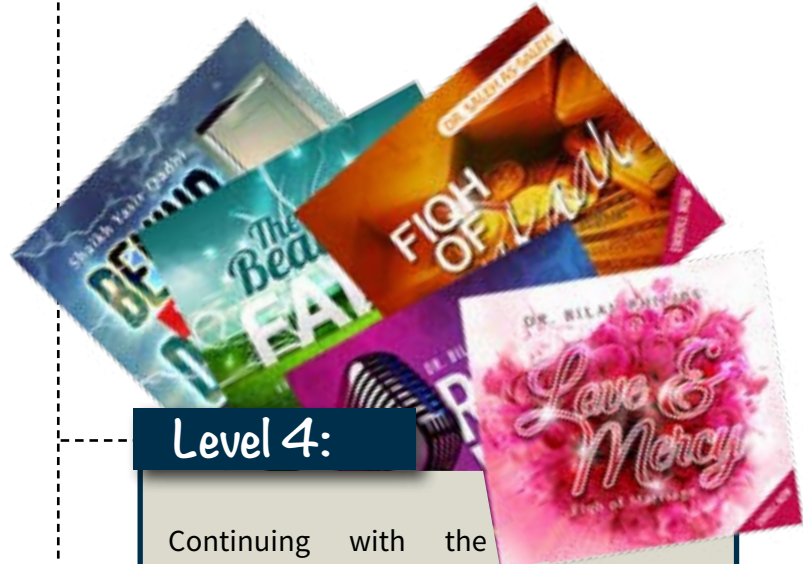
As for Fiqh, the next level after Taharah is Salah. The Fiqh of Salah course is divided into two parts and is taught in the light of the Quran and the authentic Sunnah of the Prophet Muhammad ﷺ.

A very interesting discipline covered at this level is Tafseer and its related courses. Usool at-Tafseer addresses the actual step-by-step methodology of interpreting the Quran to ensure that interpretations are not merely the result of human whims and fancies, and *The Three Shelters* is a commentary on Surahs al-Ikhlaas, al-Falaq, and an-Naas. Furthermore, there is an informative course on the explanation of Hadeeth about Ramadan and Fasting.

Level 3:

As a continuation of the Hadeeth course about Ramadan and Fasting in Level 2, Level 3 commences with the legal issues related to the religious rite of fasting in Islam. This level focuses more on Hadeeth and Tafseer, covering the sciences of interpreting Hadeeth, and an in-depth explanation of Imam Nawawi's *Forty Hadeeth*, while integrating the sciences of the Quran in *Uloom al Quran*, which includes understanding the meanings and interpretations of the Quran.

This level concludes with a beautiful course on the explanation of the book, *Kitab at- Tawheed*, which is an easy and simple guide for Muslims from every walk of life to understand the correct Islamic Aqeedah; so that they may internalize and practise it in order to save themselves, their family, and friends from the Hellfire.



Level 4:

Continuing with the courses offered in the Diploma program, Level 4 covers an extensive tafseer of Surah Yusuf. The Fiqh courses at this level discuss the Fiqh of Zakah in detail and contain a very interesting course on the Fiqh of Marriage. The main goal of this course is to understand what Islam says about marriage, along with the rules and regulations related to it.

This level offers a wide range of disciplines, including Aqeedah and Da'wah, with the former discussing the six fundamental pillars of Islam and the latter designed basically to give every Muslim an adequate background built upon a solid foundation to empower him/her to do da'wah work.

Level 5:

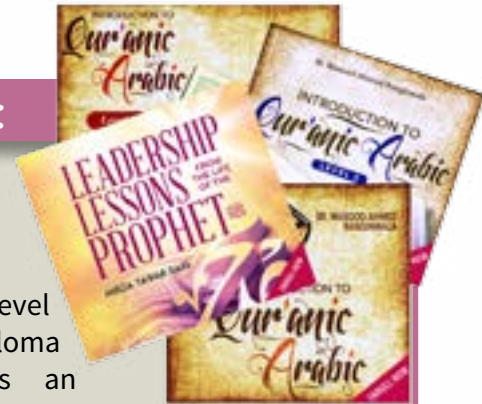
Level 5 is designed around the theme of Aqeedah and Fiqh. It includes two interesting courses on Hajj, that serve as a wake up call to the Ummah from the state of ignorance and obsession with rituals, while at the same time being unconscious of the goals of the rituals, and also deals with the Fiqh of Hajj.

Besides this, it also touches upon sensitive, yet intriguing topics of funeral rites, qadr and the nullifiers of Islam. The level also focuses on Usool-us-Sunnah which deals with the pure Islamic Aqeedah (Creed) and correct Minhaaj (Methodology) of the early generations of the Muslim Ummah.



Level 6:

The last level in the Diploma program is an eclectic combination of two major themes - leadership lessons from the life of Prophet Muhammad ﷺ and Quranic Arabic. This important level will expose you to the life of the greatest leader, past and present, to walk the face of this earth, Prophet Muhammad ﷺ. It also covers the fundamentals of Quranic Arabic and its grammar. The goal of learning Arabic should be to comprehend the Quran, which should overshadow everything else relative to Arabic learning.

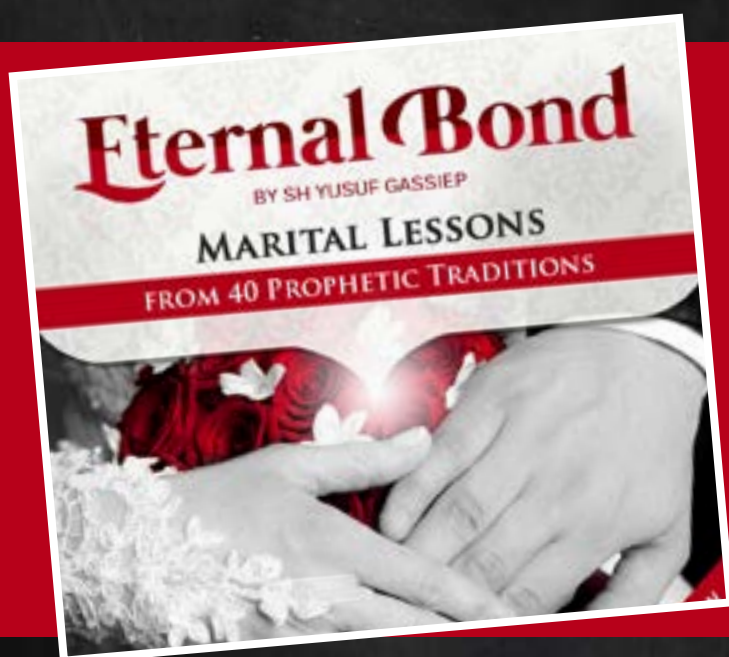


By **Aishah Ahmad**

Sr. Aishah is a postgraduate chemist pursuing her B.A. in Islamic Studies at IOU where she is the IOU Chat-Info-HelpDesk Officer. Sr. Aishah also serves as the Head of the Islamic Studies Department at Hikmah International School, Bangalore.

ISLAMIC ONLINE UNIVERSITY'S WORKSHOPS

The Islamic Online University has several free workshops that its students and guests can register for to increase their Islamic knowledge through this beneficial resource. Each workshop has its own instructor who will work diligently to lead each participant through the course material from start to finish. Choose from the following workshops to increase your Islamic knowledge and fortify your faith, *in sha Allah*.



Learn about what qualities an ideal spouse should possess, the ways to follow the Sunnah as guidelines when getting married and how Islamic values can be applied to modern marriage contracts. This helpful workshop will teach marital lessons from the traditions of our noble Prophet Muhammad ﷺ to help would-be-couples learn how to lay a healthful, marital foundation right from the start!

Sh. Yusuf Gasseip, an Instructor for the Islamic Online University, conducts the workshop. He is the first Imam of the Town Center Mosque in Cape Town, South Africa.

Learn about psychological well-being in this carefully planned workshop, which is based upon IOU's first ever online mental health conference, Solace. Some of the topics covered in the workshop include "Increasing Self-Esteem", "Dealing with Disasters", and "Discrimination Faced by Muslims Today". It will be a unique experience for anyone who takes the workshop and he/she will obtain invaluable information that will last a lifetime.

This workshop is taught by a variety of instructors who bring their own unique perspectives and educational backgrounds to the table. Those interested will learn from Sr. Hannah Morris, Sr. Haleh Banani, Sr. Ameera Aidrus, Sr. Soha Rajeev, Sr. Kashmala, Imam Hassan, Br. Tahsin Floyd, Imam Rizwan Butt and others.



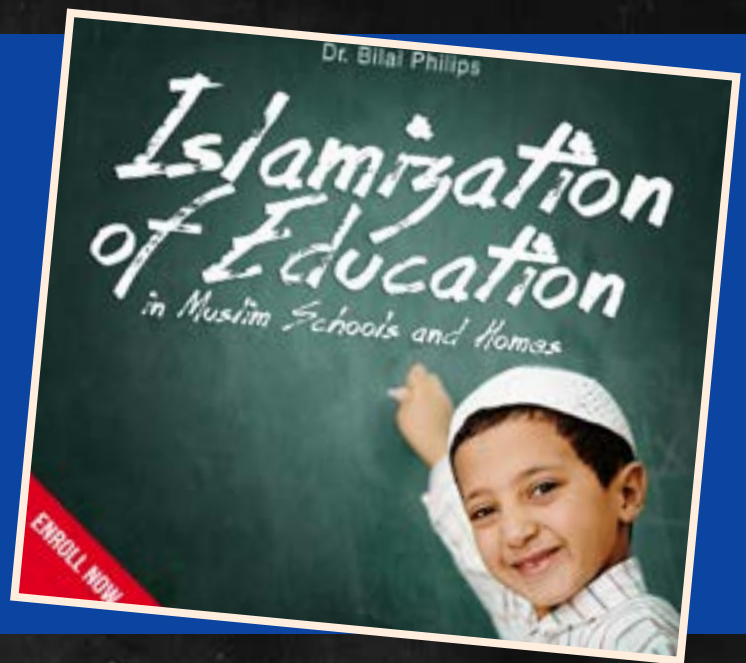


Embark upon a transformational journey with this workshop that seeks to empower tomorrow's leaders starting today! Using Islamic principles as the base, this workshop will give you all the tools you need to be a productive Muslim and a leader in your community. You will benefit from topics such as Islamic Ethics, Purification of the Soul, Emotional Intelligence, and so much more! It also includes useful techniques that will enhance your active learning, including Personality Assessment Tests, Progress Tracking, and Team Projects.

This program is taught by a variety of instructors including Nihal Javed, Dawood Vaid, Dr. Khalid Dossary, Abdul Lateef Atear, Mushtaq Rehman, Ahmad Nouruddin, Ismail Kamdar, and Nadim Sohail.

This constructive workshop embodies an ideal balance of educational norms combined with Islamic values. It will teach how Islamic knowledge can be incorporated into lesson plans, as well as various educational institutions. Whether you are a teacher, in a formal setting or at home, this workshop will give you an advantage when it comes to teaching in the light of the Quran and Sunnah.

Taught by scholar, teacher, author, speaker and IOU's Chancellor, Dr. Bilal Philips, this workshop is a golden opportunity to enhance/hone in on your teaching skills and proficiency in the art of teaching. Dr. Bilal Philips explains how to mesh Islamic values within secular education to give students the best of both worlds in one workshop!



Have you always wanted to learn Arabic? This workshop was specially designed for English speakers who have little or no knowledge of the Arabic language. It is an exceptional workshop that will guide you through learning conversational Arabic and help you understand Arabic grammar as well. Each student will benefit from carefully/meticulously prepared audio and visual presentations to facilitate the learning process. Using a systematic learning approach, you will be surprised at just how quickly you can learn the Arabic language and progress steadily through subsequent levels of Arabic language learning.

Sh. Mukhtar Raban, who is an established Khateeb serving as the Vice-President of the South African Council of Islamic Affairs, teaches this workshop. He is currently a lecturer at the Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University in Port Elizabeth, South Africa, and a member of the Shariah Advisory Council in the Eastern Cape, South Africa.



Spreading the message of Islam is one of the noblest deeds that any Muslim can embark upon. This workshop will provide him/her with the necessary tools needed to convey the message of Islam with intelligence, wisdom, and passion. It has been expertly designed to give those engaged in dawah work the means and knowledge necessary to make sound arguments based on the Quran and Sunnah. It will empower them with the ability to address erroneous modern ideas about Islam propagated by non-Muslims with sound reasoning. Therefore, take this valuable workshop and learn how to call people to the Islamic faith with understanding and grace.

Hamza Andreas teaches this workshop and, as a leader in dawah, works diligently to call non-Muslims to Islam using well-thought out dialogues based on the Quran and Sunnah.

Life can be hard and the constant challenges facing us as humans can toughen our hearts causing us to be indifferent to the suffering of others. In this workshop, Sh. Yusuf Gasseip delves deeply into chapter 81 of *Saheeh Al-Bukhari: The Chapter of "Al Riqah"*. This workshop will provide students with excellent reminders that will soften their hardened hearts—hearts that have become hardened from dealing with life's injustices in this fleeting world. Prepare yourself to leave this workshop transformed and able to reflect upon all the successful ways that you can preserve your heart and maintain its compassion.



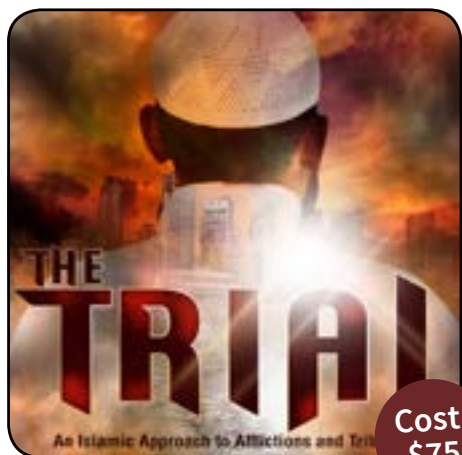
By **Sumayyah Meehan**

Sr. Sumayyah is a Content Editor for Islamic Online University. An American revert to Islam for over 20 years with a B.A. in Criminal Justice, she has been published in both Islamic and secular magazines around the world. She is also a marketing expert and a graphic designer.



Summary of the Paid Diploma Courses

IOU is delighted to present a selection of enlightening topics that are a MUST for every Muslim! Delivered through informative yet enjoyable sessions, words of wisdom and life-transforming lessons, these courses await all those who enroll to seek beneficial knowledge, *in sha Allah*. The courses can be found on IOU's Diploma Page, with the costs ranging from \$20 - \$99.



The Trial: An Islamic Approach to Afflictions and Tribulations

The Trial, a groundbreaking course by Shaykh Yosof Wanly, is an explanation of *Kitab ul Fitan* (The Book of Tribulations/Afflictions) from *Saheeh al Bukhari*, designed to help anyone understand how to wade through turbulent times in this world, the dunya that is glittered with trials and tribulations of various kinds. The appearance of Dajjal, Ya'juj and Ma'juj, and many more topics are discussed in this course.

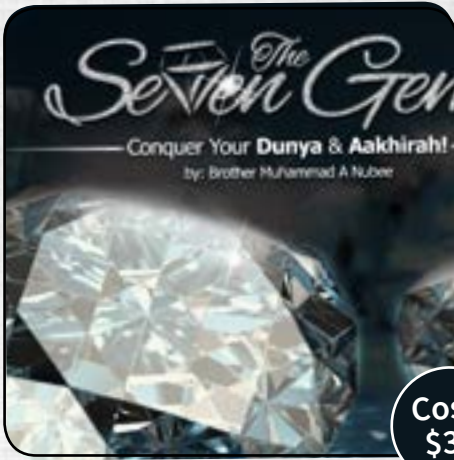
Cost:
\$75

TALK - Master the Art of Public Speaking

This inspirational course by Brother Dawood Vaid is exclusively for those who are passionate about speaking for Islam. It equips one with the essential tools to give the best talks, while tackling stage fright in order to deliver insightful speeches with great oral mastery!



Cost:
\$20



The Seven Gems: Conquer Your Dunya And Akhirah!

This life-transforming course by Brother Muhammad A. Nabee inspires success in one's professional and personal life by combining hidden talents with the power of Islam! The barriers that stand in the face of achieving success are unearthed in just seven powerful sessions, where these precious gems will change one's perspective on life forever, transforming it from the mundane to the extraordinary!

Cost:
\$30

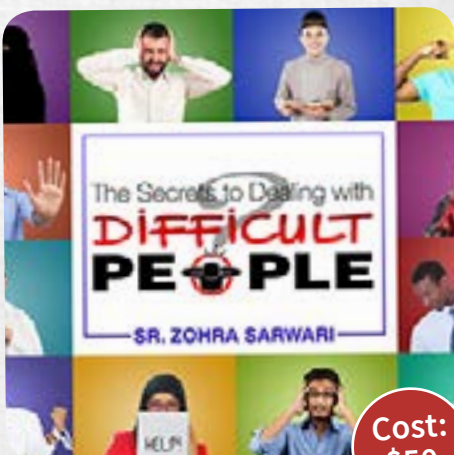
\$75-\$99 [Interactive workshops/consultation]

Al-MUMINAAT: Re-writing the Female Legacy with Our Glorious Past

In this enlightening course, Sister Alima Ashfaq talks about the rich female legacy in Islamic history brought about by the evolutionary impact of Islam on the status of women. Then she contrasts and explores in depth the treatment women received during the pre-Islamic period. Through the study of countless examples of inspirational Muslim women and an appreciation for their legacy, important issues surrounding Muslim women in contemporary times are tackled!



Cost:
\$99



The Secrets to Dealing with Difficult People

A phenomenal course packed with words of wisdom by Sister Zohra Sarwari, through which the correct approach to dealing with difficult people can manifest itself in one's life! In the light of the Quran and Sunnah, these powerful sessions are intricately designed to help overcome obstacles in relationships. These valuable gems are all that is needed to live a stress-free life when interacting with others!

Cost:
\$50



Cost:
\$20-50

Jam-Packed June with Shaykh Furqan Jabbar

In these three intensive, yet enthralling, courses Shaykh Furqan Jabbar shares enlightening material on topics that are of vital importance to every Muslim. **'The Accursed Enemy: SATAN'** exposes the origins of Satan, his nature and how he continuously works against the children of Adam (peace be upon him). **'ZAKAH & its Principles'** sheds light on the third pillar of Islam, the hidden wisdom behind it, those obligated to pay Zakat, and how to accurately calculate it. The third course is exclusively dedicated to insights into Laylatul Qadr, helping one to prepare for the blessed month of Ramadan.

Quest of Knowledge with Shaykh Tariq Appleby

This course comprises of two captivating subjects: the Islamic Historical Method and Marital Harmony. The course **'Islamic Historical Method'** by Shaykh Tariq Appleby teaches the interpretation of historical events and skills that every student of Islamic history needs to understand. It identifies the main differences between the Islamic isnad system and the Western historical methodology. **'Marital Harmony'** is a captivating course illustrating the elements of a happy, harmonious marriage as it uncovers the main reasons why couples experience marital discord and how to avoid them.



Cost:
\$20-50

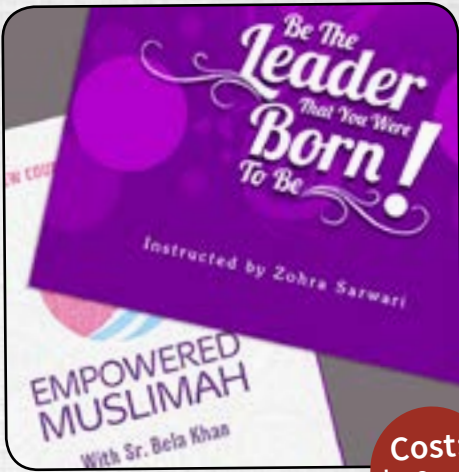


Cost:
\$50

Riba Buster - Introduction to Islamic Finance

A powerful course by Brother Mansoor Danish, dispels all the myths revolving around riba and the degree of permissibility in the daily transactions of a Muslim. The sessions shed light on the topics of Islamic Commercial Law and Islamic Finance while providing halal alternatives for those involved in monetary transactions. This is an eye-opening course that is a must for every Muslim!

Sisters' Exclusive Courses/Programs

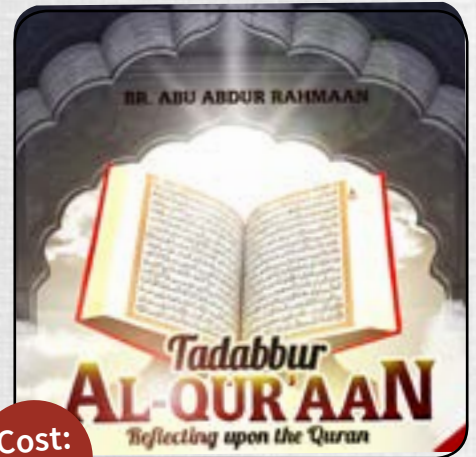


Cost:
\$30 each

- **Special Coaching Programs:** Sister Bela Khan presents the course, '**Empowered Muslimah**', directing women to become great leaders, mainly for themselves and their families, but also for their individual communities. This course really inspires them to fulfill the potential that Allah has created them for, thereby developing within themselves leadership qualities so they can truly become empowered Muslimahs!
- The second program is entitled, '**Be the Leader That YOU Were Born To Be**', taught by sister Zohra Sarwari. This course presents a unique set of skills for those who aspire to become future leaders, *in sha Allah!*

Tadabbur al-Quran (Reflecting upon the Quran)

Tadabbur al-Quran is comprised of two mind-expanding courses taught by Brother Abu Abdur Rahmaan. Word-for-word tafsirs of Surah 'Aal 'Imraan and Juzz 'Amma are explored in minute detail and by referring to excerpts from Tafsir of Sheikh Saadi and Sheikh al-Uthaymeen, the course inspires understanding of the Quran in Arabic and how we can learn abundant lessons to live a blessed life leading to Jannah, *in sha Allah*. A course that will increase your love of Allah, your fear of Him, and your hope in Him. It should not be missed!



Cost:
\$30

By Ibtihal Al Khalifin

Sr. Ibtihal is currently majoring in Islamic Economics at IOU with the intention of spreading awareness about Islamic Shariah law in this field, *in sha Allah*, and she is a passionate writer of Islamic articles.

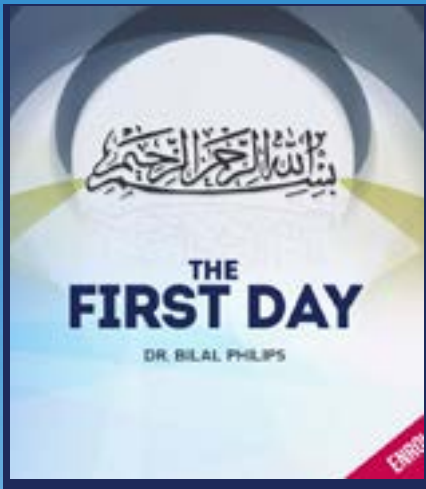


Summary of the

NEW

Muslim Courses

My dear Brothers and Sisters in Islam, embark upon an enriching journey into the vast world of Islamic knowledge with a series of short but comprehensive courses designed especially for YOU in a structured program of study arranged by Dr. Bilal Philips himself. The New Muslim Course (NMC 101-102) explains some of the most important points that new Muslims should be conscious of on the very first day and in the very first week of their conversion to Islam.



The purpose of **The First Day programs (NMC 101)** is to make every new Muslim's entrance into this new way of life—the Islamic way of life—easier and smoother. In this course, Dr. Bilal focuses on the ten most critical concepts, which new Muslims should grasp during their transition into practicing Muslims. They will also obtain some practical advice and guidance that will help to empower them to face the major challenges they usually confront when they first embrace the Islamic faith.

- Module 1 Your Conversion to Islam
- Module 2 Ablution (Wudoo)
- Module 3 Prayer (Salah)
- Module 4 The Acts of Salah
- Module 5 Pairing The Convert
- Module 6 Letter to the Imam
- Module 7 The Ghusl
- Module 8 Covering the 'Awhrah
- Module 9 Major Muharramat
- Module 10 Hiding Islam
- Module 11 Seasonal Acts of Worship
- Module 12 The Gift

The First Week program (NMC 102) is an extension of The First Day course.

With the guidance of Dr. Bilal, the new convert learns some basic essentials related to prayers, dietary guidelines, dress codes, and the moral principles underlying the pillars of Islam and Faith in order to help him/her handle the weeks ahead. This course focuses on the critical issues which the new Muslim should learn during the first week after his/her conversion and which are often neglected. It provides vital knowledge which will play a crucial role in helping the new convert adopt the new Islamic way of life on a continuous basis until Islam becomes second nature. It will also provide a solid foundation for the continual building of his/her knowledge of Islam.

- Module 1 Introduction and Salah (Formal Prayer)
- Module 2 Commentary on Al-Fatiha and Al-Ikhlās
- Module 3 The Natural Way
- Module 4 Toilet Manners
- Module 5 The Major Muharramat (part 2)
- Module 6 Invalidators of Islam
- Module 7 Muslim Character (Righteousness)
- Module 8 Muslim Character (Suspicion)
- Module 9 Muslim Character (Envy)
- Module 10 Muslim Character (Deception)
- Module 11 Muslim Character (Muslim Dress Code)
- Module 12 Muslim Character (Muslim Dress Code part 2)
- Module 13 Eating Etiquette
- Module 14 Moral Principles Behind

the Pillars of Islam

Module 15 Moral Principles Behind the Pillars of Iman



I personally recommend this course not only to new Muslims, but also to Muslims in general. Those raised as Muslims are often taught basic Islam at a very young age, thus, cannot or do not comprehend it very well. Many acts of worship are learned by observing Muslim family members or the Muslim community around them and this method of accepting Islam results in born Muslims not delving into the beauty and wisdom behind these rituals. This basic knowledge is so crucial for new Muslims and is often times unknown, overlooked or neglected by born Muslims. Furthermore, it is extremely important that long-standing Muslims know how to interact as well as react properly to a new Muslim's behavior and questions. Our relationship with them must go beyond a congratulatory embrace upon their acceptance of Islam. In this complete New Muslim Course, the new Muslim will benefit from every module—some information will be a blessed refresher or reminder while other information will leave him/her amazed and dazzled.

The following is an excerpt from Module 14, *Moral Principles Behind the Pillars of Islam, The First Week* course:

“So far, after looking at the foundations behind the declaration of faith, we looked and focused on salah, the daily prayers, but as I explained to you earlier, in our previous lesson, there is a goal behind the daily prayers, the fast, Hajj, and all of these pillars.

God does not need our prayers. He does not need us to declare our faith. He does not need us to fast, to give up food and drink, nor does He need us to give away the wealth, which He (initially) gave us. And He does not need for us to make the pilgrimage to Makkah. He is not in need of any of this. When we studied the commentary on Surah Al-Ikhlās, the 111th chapter of the Quran that you need to learn for

your daily prayers after the first chapter known as Al-Fatihah, the second verse reads ‘Allahu Samad,’ Allah is Self-Sufficient, One without need. He was not in need of anyone to bring Him into existence.

He always existed and He is not in need of anyone to keep Him from going out of existence. He is not increased nor is He decreased in any way by anything that we as

human beings do. He does not lose anything or gain anything from us. Therefore, the five pillars of Islam which He prescribed, are for our benefit. We are the ones who need these five pillars. So when we look at the pillars and when we look at the actions and elements which are involved, we have to understand that there is a goal behind these pillars and that they are the means to the goal and not a goal in and of themselves.

“I was only sent to humankind in order that I would perfect for them the highest of moral character traits, as the prophets before me did.” All of the Prophets (on whom be peace) had the same job, and that was to bring Islam to people and the essence of Islam is, in fact, a moral message. It deals with our relationship with the Creator, our relationship with other human beings and our relationship with the world in which we live and we relate to God in the highest

possible, morally-correct way. Fundamentally, it teaches how we should relate to other human beings—in the most morally-upright way, as well as how we should treat the world. We feel a moral obligation to look after this world, to benefit from it without destroying it.”

God does not need our prayers. He does not need us to declare our faith.



When people think they are just goals, these pillars become just mere rituals. They are just doing what everybody else does. People might ask, “Why do you do it?” and most will just answer, “I am a Muslim, and this is what Muslims do.” They have no idea of the goals that these various rituals were designed to direct us to and to help us achieve.

The Prophet Muhammad ﷺ said,



By **Veronika Matulova**

Sr. Veronika is the IOU Insights Managing Editor. She holds a B.A. in Islamic Studies from the IOU and is currently pursuing her M.A. in Islamic Studies while on the path of perfecting her Quranic recitation.

Course Facilitators



**Fathima Zohara «Umm Afraz»
India**

is the Head Facilitator of the IOU Diploma. She completed her B.M.A.I.S. in the Fall of 2016 and works as an Islamic counselor at Solace Islamic Assistance and Ameerah-cum-Counselor at ArRajaa: The Hope Counseling Service, which is a free online organization for sisters and run by them as well. She is currently writing an Islamic fiction novel that will be released later this year, *in sha Allah*. She is also a mother to three children and spends her free time reading books and engaging in graphic design.



**Juned Ansari
India**

is a Mechanical Engineer and an Energy Management professional who favored studying Islamic sciences ahead of career pursuits. After falling in love with the Arabic language three years ago, he has been learning and teaching it ever since. Currently pursuing his Master's Degree at IOU, he delivers

Tafsir lessons every Friday. He is the facilitator of Introduction to Quranic Arabic - Level 1 (ARB 031).



**Ferdousy Akhter Tani
Bangladesh**

is a pharmacist by education and an educator by profession (science coordinator). She will finish her B.A.I.S. this semester, *in sha Allah*. She likes to write articles in her spare time. She is the facilitator of Moral Foundations of Islamic Culture (IIS 012), Fiqh of Hajj (FQH 042), and Soul of Hajj (FQH 053).



**Noha Mohammed
Mohammed Foad Amin
Egypt**

is an M.A. researcher in English literature at Al-Azhar University. She has completed two years of higher studies in English Literature from the Department of English Language and Literature, Faculty of Humanities, Languages & Simultaneous Translation at Al-Azhar University. Additionally, she works as a translator (from English to Arabic and vice versa). She has experience working as a lecturer

and Quran/Tajweed teacher. She is the facilitator of Arabic Reading and Writing Made Easy (ARB 011) and Arabic Speech Simplified! (ARS 100).



**Soraiya Baig
Pakistan**

is working towards completing her final semester of M.A.I.S. and plans to pursue Islamic counseling once she graduates. She is a mother and loves to read as well as write poetry. She is the facilitator of The Three Shelters (TAF 031).



**Abdussamad Bello
Nigeria**

is a level-three student at Islamic Online University's Diploma Program. He completed IOU's Youth Leadership Development course (YL360) in 2015 and 2016. He is also a volunteer at the Muslim Student Association and a muadhin in the university. He is currently studying electrical and electronic engineering. He is the facilitator of the 360 Degree Young Leadership Development Program (YL 360).



Mubeena Ifthikaruddin
India

is currently working as a lecturer in the Education Department of IOU. Previously, she worked as a teacher in the Faculty of Science. In addition, after completing her education in Islamic Sciences, she worked as a volunteer teacher at the Islamic Educational Institute in Dubai. During her free time, she enjoys engaging in various artistic endeavors. She is the facilitator of Aqeedah At-Tawheed (AQD 021).



Saphiath Mohamed Jalaludeen
India

is currently pursuing B.A.I.S. at IOU after reviving her interest in Islamic studies. With a Bachelor of Dental Surgery, she is a dentist by profession and spends her spare time researching various topics of importance. She is the facilitator of Final Destination: Funeral Rites in Islaam (FQH 041).



Yulia Marenich
Russia

is an IOU B.A.I.S. student, who loves to study and volunteer for IOU. She is the facilitator of Prophetic Reflections on Ramadaan (HAD 033), Fiqh of Fasting (FQH 031), and Fiqh of Zakaah (FQH 032).



Shafer Ban «Bint Najem»
India

is an Islamic Counselor at Solace Islamic Assistance and Aspiring Counselors' Club with B.Sc Psychology. Currently pursuing a Bachelors Degree in Islamic Psychology, she takes great pleasure in teaching Tajweed to children and loves to read. She is the facilitator of Visionary Parenting (VF 101), Healing the Soul: Curing Modern Illnesses (PSY 001).



Naseera PM «Umm Ayman»
India

holds a B.Tech in Computer Science Engineering. She works diligently to provide help to various Islamic institutions. As a busy mom of two children, she spends much of her free time memorizing the Glorious Quran. She is the facilitator of Garments of Love and Mercy: Fiqh of Marriage (FQH 051).



Masood Ahmed Ranginwala
USA

studied the Arabic language at the Qibla Institute and teaches basic Quranic Arabic at the Islamic Learning Foundation, which is an institution of the Islamic Circle of North America (ICNA). He has also authored the "Essentials of Quranic Arabic" book series. With M.S. Biology, and D.O. Medicine; he works as an emergency room physician. As a husband and father, he enjoys spending time with his family when possible. He is the facilitator of Introduction to Quranic Arabic - Level 2 (ARB 032), and Introduction to Quranic Arabic - Level 3 (ARB 033).



Anam Quadrat
Pakistan

holds an H.BSc, Ph. D. in Biomedical Engineering. She is the facilitator of Contemporary Issues (AQD 042).



By Nasmaera Firdous

Nasmaera Firdous has a Master's Degree in Food Science and Nutrition and is a writer by profession. She currently works for Islamic Online University in the Social Media Promotions department, and heads the IOU's Blog.



What does it take to be a **FACILITATOR**

When asked the question, “What does it take to be a facilitator?” my response is, **“The same qualities it requires to perform any job in life.”**

It requires a great deal of passion, commitment, and dedication to be effective in life. This is a fact no sensible person would argue about.

Narrated Anas bin Malik: The Prophet ﷺ said, “Facilitate things for people (concerning religious matters), and do not make it hard for them, and give them good tidings and do not make them run away (from Islaam).” (Sahih Muslim, Book 3, Hadeeth Number 69)

A facilitator is someone who facilitates or makes a task easier by following a set route to achieve the intended goals of the task, as well as fulfilling the goals of the participants. This is the exact job description of The IOU’s Open Campus Facilitators; a dedicated team working around the clock at the Open Campus, to help students easily understand and perform their tasks while keeping them motivated and upbeat.

Course facilitators at the IOU Open Campus are more than just educators; they are game changers, they are life coaches, and above all, they are genuine. Most of the facilitators are dedicated volunteers, working to please Allah alone, recruited

after a strict background check and rigorous screening about their Islamic beliefs and life philosophies. Each facilitator is required to finish his/her respective course in record time while scoring above 90 percent in the final exam, to qualify for the role. “Team IOU Facilitators” are parents, students, homemakers, professionals, learners and educators, combining multiple roles while focusing on making the best of both worlds. They are striving to uphold the *du’a* of the true believers.

As Allah Almighty says in the Quran:

“Our Lord! Give us good in this world and good in the Hereafter, and defend us from the torment of the Fire!” (2:201)

Any human being without a soul is deemed lifeless. Hence, in order to actively bring about positive change, it is essential to not only believe in the message to ensure it penetrates the core of the receiver but also to implement it in our lives. The most challenging element of being a facilitator in a world full of bots, automated messages, and emerging Islamic apps, is perhaps to connect to the students in the most realistic way. Team IOU Facilitators are creative curators of authentic Islamic knowledge and present it to diploma students in a manner that touches their hearts and souls while working as catalysts to transform Islamic personalities. The team's humble efforts, coupled with gentle reminders, nourishes curious minds and feeds hungry souls. Religious knowledge is not just information or facts to be understood or memorized. It is a necessary "soul food" that provides invaluable sustenance for the human soul and is to be acted upon by the human body if understood in the correct manner.

Abu Hurairah reported: The Messenger of Allah (peace be upon him) said, "Allah makes the way to Jannah easy for him who treads the path in search of knowledge." [Muslim, Book 13, Hadeeth Number 1381]

As most of the students and teachers are aware of the virtue of the type of self-discipline required specifically for online education, be it teaching or studying, this truly dedicated team of Course Facilitators is blessed by Allah to be motivated by the promise of the highest station in Jannatul Firdaus in return for their humble efforts.

Allah makes the way to Jannah easy for him who treads the path in search of knowledge.

The responsibilities of a Diploma Course Facilitator are comprised of a variety of tasks that include planning monthly agendas for their respective courses, development, and release of weekly quizzes, innovation of interesting weekly topics of discussion and the creation of daily reminder themes. Additional tasks may also include, the creation of special announcements, communicating upcoming activities, monthly quiz results, replying to student queries, emails, and filing weekly reports.

These tasks are all a part of the duties of a course facilitator. And of



course, creativity in communication by the course facilitators is the key to making sure that all the students feel connected.

Having been a part of IOU since 2012, and having played many roles, including that of the student, representative, student committee member, and volunteer, has helped



me immensely in comprehending my beautiful religion of Islam. Previously, it was a religion that I had only inherited from my parents and did not understand. Furthermore, it propelled me into a long awaited dream of resuming academia.

I, as a course facilitator, dedicate my humble efforts to IOU, the institute which has given me so much and to this one cause I will stay loyal for the rest of the days of my life for the sake of pleasing Allah alone, *in sha Allah*.



By Soraiya Baig

Sister Soraiya is a Course Facilitator at the IOU Free Diploma Section. She is currently in her final semester of the Master's degree in Islamic Studies program at IOU.

IOU Gains Membership to the FUIW

Through the grace and bounty of Allah, The Islamic Online University has obtained membership to the world-renowned Federation of Universities of the Islamic World (FUIW), a branch of the Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (ISESCO), in November 2016.

Shaykh Mukhtar Raban, IOU's Director of Teaching and Learning, represented IOU officially at the FUIW international conference held at the ISESCO Headquarters in Rabat, Morocco in February 2017.

The FUIW is a branch of ISESCO that seeks to consolidate and harmonize partnerships between Muslim-run universities.

The conference hosted about 250 delegates from all member universities of the FUIW. The conference was the first in which IOU was invited, owing to the recent acceptance of IOU as a member university to the FUIW, ISESCO.

The conference was opened and chaired by Prof. Dr. Suliman bin Hamoud bin Abdullah Aba Al-Khail, Rector of Al-Imam Muhammad Ibn Saud Islamic University, Chairman of the Executive Council of the Federation, President of the General Conference of the Federation.



ISESCO Headquarters, Rabat, Morocco



FUIW Conference preparing for the opening



Sh. Mukhtar Raban with Prof. Ahmed Barrgaan (Al Andalus University for Science and Technology)



Sh Mukhtar Raban with the delegation from Jamia Nadwiyya (India).



Sh. Mukhtar Raban in IOU's seat in the conference hall.



Acceptance of IOU to FUIW



By **Mukhtar Rabban**

Sh. Mukhtar is the Director of Teaching and Learning at IOU. He is a Shariah graduate of the Islamic University of Madinah, currently completing a Ph.D. in Education. He also serves as the Vice-President of the Council of Islamic Affairs and an advisor to the Council of Universities, South Africa.



International Conference at Islamabad: Social Reforms Through Education

We have been working at the Islamic Online University on social reforms and creating awareness about it through education for several years. This February 2017, Allama Iqbal Open University (AIU), Islamabad, Pakistan, organized the 2nd International Conference on Research and Practices in Education (ICRPE). It was a wonderful initiative and a great platform to showcase our work as this year's theme of the conference was "Rethinking Education for Social Change."

Scholars and thinkers gathered at this conference to discuss the educational impact of bringing social change. In pursuit of academic excellence, the universities could not keep up with

the necessities of the society at large. The widening gap between the university and community has been such that, to a great extent, they operate in isolation with each other. This may be particularly more true in the context of the developing countries. At the conference, the possibilities of community-university linkages and practices were explored.

The paper presented by the IOU was entitled, "Globalizing Islamized Education and Fulfilling Social Responsibilities: A Case Study of The Islamic Online University."

In the paper, we discussed making quality education accessible and affordable for the masses and the role that the Islamic Online University has played in this regard. The University was

established in April 2007 and it completed its first decade in April 2017. In these 10 years, IOU has been working its way through social reforms particularly in light of education. We presented a qualitative research (poster presentation) with IOU as a case study. The tuition-free model of IOU was discussed along with the focus of the University to spread Islamized education, contributing further to social reform.

This was a praiseworthy initiative of Allama Iqbal Open University (AIU) to focus on the theme of social reforms through education and to encourage university-community linkages. Special thanks and gratitude is also due to the main organizer of the event, Prof. Dr. Nasir Mahmood, Dean of Faculty of Education, and his entire team.



By **Hunain
Aijaz**

Br. Hunain is the Lecturer in the Department of Islamic Studies at IOU. He is a graduate from the University of Karachi where he attained his M.A. in Islamic History.



By **Syeda
Madeeha
Bokhari**

Syeda Madeeha Bokhari is the Associate Registrar of IOU. She has a B.Sc. in Computer Engineering, and has also completed her B.A. and M.A. in Islamic Studies from IOU. She is currently pursuing Graduate studies in Quality Assurance in Tertiary Education at the University of Melbourne, Australia.



Globalizing Islamized Education and Fulfilling Social Responsibilities: A Case Study of the ISLAMIC ONLINE UNIVERSITY

Hunain Aijaz, Syeda Madeeha Bokhari | Islamic Online University, the Gambia

BACKGROUND

- ▶ **THE MUSLIM WORLD:**
 - o Population: 1.6 billion (22%)
 - o Land area: 149 million km² (24%)
 - o Blessed with natural resources and minerals → huge economic and overall growth potential.
 - o Political instability and continuous wars.
- ▶ **HIGHER EDUCATION OPPORTUNITY IN THE MUSLIM WORLD:**
 - o Higher education is a relatively recent aspect.
 - o Before 2000 CE, only 14.7 million students registered for tertiary education.
 - o According to SESRIC's report, a two-fold growth has taken place between 2000 and 2013.
 - o Despite the increase, Muslim countries are greatly lagging behind to provide higher education opportunities to the youth.
 - o A small window of age 14-18 years to choose their future path.
- ▶ **RESEARCH IN THE MUSLIM WORLD:**
 - o Very low percentage of resources spent on research in the Muslim world in comparison to the worldwide average.
 - o Papers from Muslim countries are cited less frequently → lower quality research
 - o Throughout the past 105 years, Muslims, representing 25-30% of the world population, had only 9 persons/entities winning the Noble prize.
- ▶ **ESTABLISHMENT OF THE ISLAMIC ONLINE UNIVERSITY (IOU):**
 - o Vision & Mission: *Changing the Nation Through Appropriate Education.*
 - o Accessibility, affordability, and community.

OBJECTIVES

- Explore the impact of the tuition-free model implemented by the Islamic Online University (IOU).
- Evaluate the efforts of the Islamic Online University (IOU) in community development.
- Evaluate IOU's role in educational reform through offering Islamized education.

RESEARCH QUESTIONS

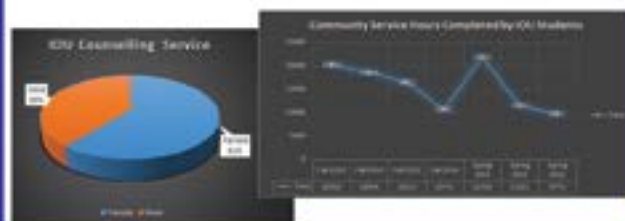
- How effective is the tuition-free model adopted by IOU?
- Can Islamization of education be introduced on a global scale?
- As an online university, is the Islamic Online University able to carry out social responsibilities towards the communities?

METHODOLOGY

- Single Case Study.
- Multiple Sources and Instruments:
 - o Interviews
 - o Archival Records
 - o Documents
 - o Participant Observation
 - o Direct Observation

RESULTS

- ▶ Successful and effective implementation of the tuition-free model by the Islamic Online University (IOU):
 - o Affordability is playing a significant role in attracting potential students from all over the world.
 - o Providing quality education is not mutually exclusive to affordable education.
- ▶ Successful introduction of Islamized education at a global level in higher education.
- ▶ Effective efforts in bringing quality community projects by IOU:
 - o IEC program in Africa for the Madaris graduates: equipping them with necessary English language skills to pursue higher education.
 - o Providing counselling for the youth (free), victims of domestic violence and other afflicted individuals.
 - o Prison initiative in the USA for the incarcerated Muslims to provide education opportunities.
- ▶ Introduction of a global movement of community service by the students at IOU.



CONTACT INFORMATION

Hunain Aijaz, Chief of Academic Services (cas@iou.edu.gm)
 Syeda Madeeha Bokhari, Associate Registrar (associate.registrar@iou.edu.gm)
 ISLAMIC ONLINE UNIVERSITY
 21 Kanifing Mosque Road, P.O. Box 2340, Kanifing South, KMC, The Gambia. (info@iou.edu.gm)

TOTAL REGISTERED STUDENTS
287,495





May *Allah* Bless you. *Thankyou.*

As-salamu 'alaykum wa rahmatullahi wa barakatuhu.

“And establish prayer and give zakah, and whatever good you put forward for yourselves - you will find it with Allah. Indeed, Allah of what you do, is Seeing.”

-Quran 2:110

Dear IOU Donors and Supporters,

We would like to thank you all from the bottom of our hearts for supporting us over the years with your donations and *du'as*.

We would not have been able to provide education to over four hundred thousand students without your kindness and generosity.

May Allah multiply your blessings and accept your sadaqa.

With greetings of peace,

*- Dr. Bilal Philips, Chancellor of the Islamic Online University,
with IOU Administration and Staff*





IOU Regional Director - AFRICA Attends International Islamic Economy Summit in Kenya

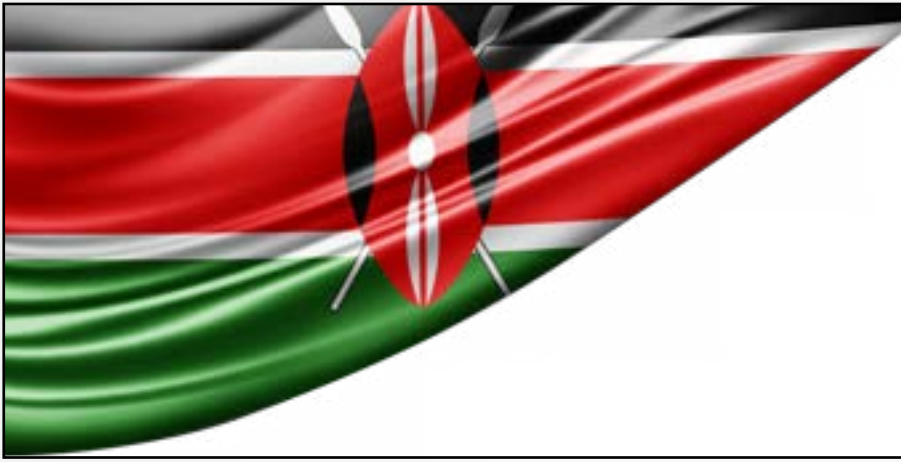
The IOU Regional Director - Africa, Saed Abdillahi Saed, attended the 2017 International Islamic conference held in Nairobi, Kenya between the 10th and 11th of April.

This regional conference, themed “Tapping into the Potential of the Islamic Economy for the East Africa Market,” was organized by GBS Africa with the main aim of promoting Islamic banking and finance in the East African region, perhaps by bringing together experts and stakeholders across the region and beyond. Most of the participants were drawn from countries like the UK, UAE, Kuwait, Singapore, Mauritius, Pakistan, Qatar, Italy, Belgium, Germany, Nigeria, Somaliland, Uganda, et



cetera. Most of the speakers at the summit were drawn from governments, international experts on Islamic Finance and Economy, banking sector leaders, regulatory authorities, and

academic professors. And as a member of the panelists at the summit, Mr. Saed Abdillahi Saed shed light on the importance of a halal economy and how it can serve as a mechanism for



economic diversification and financial inclusion most especially for East Africans.

While unleashing potentials for a halal economy in the East African region in his speech, the IOU Africa Lead discussed the latest innovations and developmental trends in halal products and services across the globe, especially in the Shariah compliant settings. He further elaborated on social corporate responsibility and impact involved in the development of halal products and services.

Mr. Saed left the summit with a fruitful meeting with prospective individuals and companies that showed a strong willingness to partner with the Islamic Online University.

Some of the key people in attendance were: Anna Maria Aisha Tiozzo, President, World Halal Development based in Italy, Chris Nader, Vice President – Development, Shaza Hotels in UAE, Muhammad Zubair, Chief Executive Officer, ALHuda Center of Islamic Banking and Economics in UAE, and Zineb Bensaid, Senior Consultant from Belgium.



Before departing to his base in Somaliland, he also attended the annual Journey of Faith Conference organized by notable Islamic English speakers across the globe. Among those in attendance were Sh. Saed Rageah, Sh. Yusuf Estes, Sh. Mohammed Salah, Bona Mohammed, Sh. Assim ALHakeem, and Sh. Abu Usama Attahabi.

Br. Saed sealed his visit with a meeting with the IOU leadership team in the region and discussed extensively strategies for promoting da’wah and education in the region for the betterment of the Muslim communities.



By Saed Abdillahi Saed

Br. Saed has completed his Bachelor’s degree in Economics & Political Science with a minor in Management at the University of Hargesia and is currently working on the thesis paper of his MSc in Islamic Banking and Finance. He is also a certified expert on Islamic banking and finance.



By Mutiu Olawuyi

Br. Mutiu is the Academic Head of IOU Intensive English Course (IEC) Horn of Africa chapter. He is an applied linguist, author of five books, editor of over 15 books, academic journals and newspapers, writer of a story without a verb, freelance journalist, literary activist, and peace advocate.



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SETTING UP IOU OFFICE

in Sierra Leone

It has been a little over a year since I was asked by the IOU'S Global Representative to serve as the IOU representative in my country, Sierra Leone. I still recall feeling apprehensive about the job, given the challenges that would come with it, such as a poor electricity supply and an unreliable internet connection. In a country where 70% of the people are uneducated, I knew I would have my work cut out for me. Yet, I was committed to fulfilling the IOU's mission to educate nations through education and immediately set to work.

Despite having a limited

knowledge of computers, I set up a 'mobile office' with only my iPad and laptop at a variety of places including my home, the mosque, and social gatherings, such as weddings, naming ceremonies, etc. However, one of the first obstacles I encountered was the fact that most students did not have an email account.

Hence, I developed an offline method of registration using the Somaliland "Developed Application" form that was created with the advice of Dr. Bilal Philips, the Chancellor of IOU. First, I gave the form to all of our potential students. Next, I created email addresses and an IOU

Today, alhamdulillah, IOU has an office in the City with internet facility.

account for each one of them. Most of the students are enrolled in IOU's Bachelor's program, but we have two students in B.M.A.I.S. and one in M.A.I.S.

As a result of this experience, I learned a lot from my other IOU colleagues in Africa regarding the different concepts they utilized to establish IOU Learning Centers in their respective countries and how they worked with the other institutions around them.



By the Grace of Allah Almighty, IOU affairs in Sierra Leone are improving because the new IOU Learning Center is in a central location and easily accessible. Regular activities at the premises are consistently attracting media interest that, in turn, provides free advertising.

However, it is the IOU students who are benefiting the most from the learning center. It is equipped with an internet facility, so now students can study and take their exams in this office, which is operated by a hard working staff.

Our office receives a steady stream of visitors, and we also extend invitations to the community to attend different events like seminars, workshops, and conferences. The IOU has a mutually reciprocal relationship with the community and welcomes visitors from all walks of life. Quite notably, the National Council for

Technical, Vocational and Other Academic Awards (NCTVA) has accredited the IOU.

The IOU in Sierra Leone hopes to achieve even higher goals as the office works closely with the Tertiary Education Commission (TEC) and the Ministry of Education, Science & Technology (MEST) to gain higher accreditation, *in sha Allah*.



**By Sheikh
Alie Y. Kallay**

Sheikh Alie is the IOU Sierra Leone Representative, holder of a B.A. in Da'wah from the Medina Islamic University, an M.A. in Mass Communication, currently pursuing an M.A. in Islamic Studies. He is the Managing Editor of the Muslim Journal newspaper, a Chief Imam, and a Lecturer.

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IOU Learning Centers around the World

Alhamdulillah. The Islamic Online University (IOU), which began as a sincere struggle to educate the Muslim Ummah, has not only succeeded in reaching out to the Ummah through a virtual medium, by the Grace of Almighty Allah, but has also succeeded in establishing on-the-ground learning centers in various parts of Africa.

A synopsis of these learning centers and their functions is as follows:



Headquarters Gambia:

The heart of IOU, the Global Headquarters, is located in the Gambia, at 21 Kanifing Mosque Road, Kanifing Municipal Council. It is about 30 minutes' drive from the Banjul International Airport and 15 minutes from the capital city—Banjul.

In 2013, The Global Headquarters was set up in Tallinding but two years later was shifted to Kanifing South. *Alhamdulillah*, this move became necessary due to an increasing need for expansion. The new location features three floors with eight classrooms, eight offices, one IT lab and a tearoom.

The year 2017 marks the fourth year of operation in The Gambia. The IOU-Gambia office provides quality and accessible tertiary education to Gambians and other nationals around the globe with affordable tuition fees and a convenient study space. It also serves as a da'wah center for Muslims and non-Muslims.

Other members of staff work on weekends, thereby providing a 7-day-a-week service to Gambians in order to ensure that the diverse student body has access to IOU facilities every day of the week.

Currently, the total number of registered students, on the degree campus, is 1596 from Gambia, out of which 202 are enrolled in the prestigious Intensive Arabic Program.

Somaliland:



IOU Somaliland was first learning center established with one room in 2012. It now has two campuses, which are both in the downtown area.

Director oversees a staff of five dedicated employees at the main campus “IOU Building” which has two floors consisting of five staff offices and seven classrooms. It is located on the main street near the bridge of Hargeisa. The other building has two staff offices and five classrooms. It is located on Tog-Dheer Street.

IOU campuses facilitate the IOU online programs and provide the Intensive English Course (IEC) for its students.

Currently, the total number of registered students from Somaliland is 2427, on the degree campus, out of which 84 are enrolled in the Intensive Arabic Program. 2000 students are enrolled in the Intensive English Course.

Ghana:



Islamic Online University Ghana was established in August 2014. The office is a three bedroom self-compound house. There are three offices, a study area, and a library. The office is located at Madina in the La Nkwantanan District in the Greater Accra Region. The exact address is House Number 4, Akwei Allah Road, behind HFC Bank.

The office is currently functioning as an Islamic English library that primarily houses Islamic books in English, in order to assist Arabic and non-Arabic students, and researchers pursuing Islamic Studies. The office also serves as a study center, which provides access to both the internet and course content for students in need of such facilities as well as an exam center for students.

Currently, the total number of registered students from Ghana is 2179, on the degree campus, out of which 141 are enrolled in the Intensive Arabic Program.

Sierra Leone:



Located at 8 Steward Street off Kroo Town Road in Freetown, the learning center is spread over two and a half floors and is comprised of four classrooms, the main hall for offline classes, reception area, and the registrar’s office. Parking facilities are also available. The staff

includes an office secretary, financial assistant, IEC teacher, registrar, and board of governors/directors.

The dedicated team facilitates daily activities for students such as downloading course content, studying, providing basic computer literacy instruction, and offering the Intensive English Course (IEC) offline. Currently, the total number of registered students from Sierra Leone is 349, on the degree campus, out of which 16 are enrolled in the Intensive Arabic Program.

Malawi:



The Malawi learning center, in operation since February 2016, is located in Blantyre, opposite the National Library in Pacific House. The IOU Malawi branch has administrative and IT departments, which assist the students with registration, enrollments and studying course content. The departments also work toward promoting the IOU in Malawi. Furthermore, IOU Malawi has a computer lab that helps provide students with an internet facility to manage the essential elements of their studies.

Additionally, the IOU Malawi has branches all over the country:

- Limbe Study Center in Blantyre at the Islamic Information Bureau Office
- Lilongwe Study Center in Lilongwe (Capital City) at Islamic Information Bureau
- Mzuzu Study Center in Mzuzu City

- Zomba Study Center in Zomba City at Zam Zam House
- Mangochi Study Center in Mangochi District at the Main *Masjid*
- Mama Khadija Study Center in Namwera in the Mangochi District
- Assalaam Complex Study Center in the Mangochi District
- Nkhotakota Study Center in the Nkhotakota District
- Karonga Study Center in the Karonga District

Currently, the total number of registered students from Malawi is 848, on the degree campus, out of which 21 are enrolled in the Intensive Arabic Program.

Nigeria:



Nigeria has become one of the IOU's largest student body since its inception more than a decade ago. The Northern Nigerian learning center is located at Minna, in the Niger State of Nigeria.

The office was previously run by a local NGO and was taken over by IOU in 2014. It is located on the first floor of A&S printers complex, Randan Ruwa, Bosso - Minna, Niger State, Nigeria.

Since its establishment, the center has been playing an active role in promoting IOU courses and providing exam center services and a meeting place for students' committee. Moreover, it serves as a service center for IOU students living

within the Northern states of Nigeria. IOU has a second office at VGCI, Plot 29/30 commercial road, Victoria Garden City, Ajah, which is mainly the exam center run by the regional coordinator.

The total number of registered students from Nigeria is 100065, on the degree campus, out of which 715 are enrolled in the Intensive Arabic Program.

Kenya:



Islamic Online University - Kenya has a new headquarters that has just been acquired. Located in the heart of Nairobi, at South C, the center is in a one-story building, with arrangements for separate study areas for male and female students, a prayer area, a library in addition to a communication room and a meeting room. The center is set to be run by a staff member in the near future.

There is also the Mombasa Learning Center in Mombasa, run by a staff of two members, which was the first IOU Center in Kenya, established in 2013 and located along Haile Selassie Road. It has a library/office, a separate study area for male and female students, and a meeting room.

Both centers are well equipped for assisting students in their everyday study needs including registration, enrollment, collecting fees and depositing the same for students, using the library for studying, meetings, and promoting IOU programs in Kenya.

The total number of registered students from Kenya is 10065, on the degree campus, out of which 715 are enrolled in the Intensive Arabic Program.

Tanzania:



The IOU Center in Tanzania was established in 2011. Currently, the center is located at Lumumba and Tandamti Street, between Lumumba Garden Hotel and Binslum Store, opposite Mnazi Mmoja ground, at Plot No. 5, Block No. 72. 2nd Floor, Dar es salaam.

The center, managed by the IOU representative, has one room that serves as the representative's office and a small hall that serves as a study/exam area. It provides services in accordance with the limited availability of resources. The services included are an introduction to computer application courses, student counseling and computer maintenance, which are all free services offered to the IOU students.

The total number of registered students from Tanzania is 1087, on the degree campus, out of which 76 are enrolled in the Intensive Arabic Program.

Philippines:



The Islamic Online University Learning Center in Maddela, located

on the 2nd floor of the Public Market Building, Poblacion Norte, Maddela, Quirino—was recently established in May 2017.

The second learning center is located at the Mindanao State University-Main Campus, which is a public co-educational institution of higher education and research. It is run by a regional representative and a committed staff that includes a teacher, teacher’s assistant, and an assistant librarian.

The center’s main area is divided into two parts—the reading area and the waiting area—for students to engage in collaborative learning, comparing and clarifying lecture notes, reviewing textbook readings and discussing key course concepts.

Furthermore, the inner part of the office also serves as the learning area where three desktop units are located for students free access to the internet. The fully air-conditioned office also has its own printer for printing learning materials, IOU flyers, etc.

Moreover, the center functions as an Arabic-English center, an exam center, and a library that is open to IOU students and also other students interested in seeking more knowledge to enhance their understanding of Islam.

Currently, under construction, there is a new learning center being built in Manila. It is located at #44 Everlasting St., Payatas A., Quezon City, Philippines. This center has two rooms and a playground in front of the center to entertain youngsters while their mothers and fathers are completing their exams.

The total number of registered students from the Philippines is

1553, on the degree campus, out of which 133 are enrolled in the Intensive Arabic Program.

 **Malaysia**



Currently, the IOU has a temporary learning center at the Yayasan Ta’lim located at Taman Tun Dr Ismail in Kuala Lumpur, which is also an IOU approved exam center. The IOU is currently working to set up a permanent facility at the Islamic Information Center (run by Saba Media Center), *in sha Allah*. However, access for use is given upon request and it is not yet active.

The total registered and enrolled students since the beginning of IOU in Malaysia are 1968 (376 enrolled).

 **Uganda**



Established in June 2016, the IOU learning center in Uganda is located at the Uganda Muslim Supreme Council - Gaddafi Mosque, Old Kampala.

It features a computer lab; however, there is no existing internet connection at this facility. Students need to bring their own portable wifi in order to connect to the internet.

In Jinja, there are two learning centers, which are not yet

operational that are located:

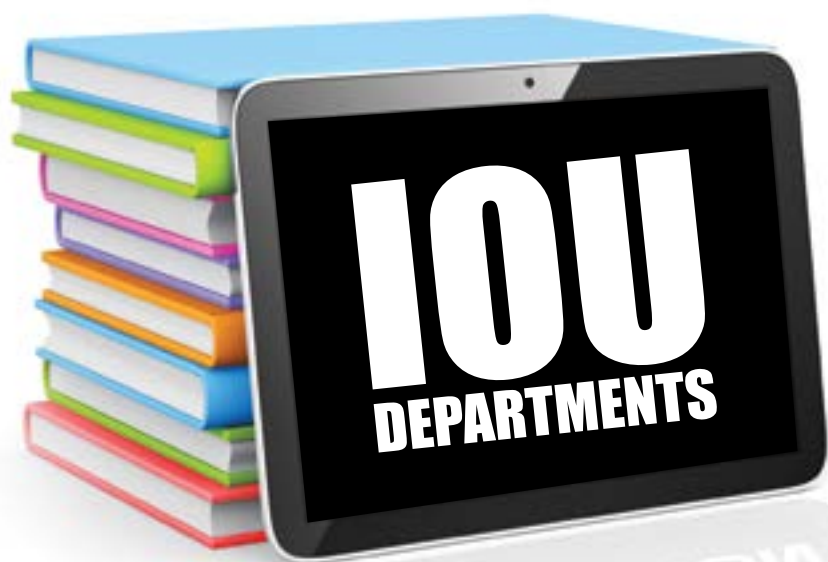
- Ashraf Islamic Center - Magwa Road, Jinja
- Lady Alice Muloki library - Kyabazinga Road in Bugembe, Jinja
- The total registered students since the beginning of IOU in Uganda are 474, out of which 38 are enrolled in the Intensive Arabic Program.



By Sara Tariq Sheikh

Sr. Sara is the IOU Student Affairs Officer; primarily responsible for communication with the students. She is currently undertaking training in Early Childhood Education and is working on her first book that will highlight habit training in Muslim children.

IOU has eight departments to choose from:



1. Department of Islamic Studies
2. Department of Education
3. Department of Psychology
4. Department of Islamic Banking, Economics and Finance
5. Department of Information Technology
6. Department of Business Administration
7. Department of Arabic Language and Linguistics
8. Department of Quran Memorization

Dean and Heads of IOU Departments

Dean:



Faculty of Advanced Studies and Research

Dr. Muhammad Ahsan is a distinguished research scholar based in England. He has over two and half decades' experience in research, teaching, and training in the fields of education, developmental studies, and globalization. With degrees from universities in four countries, he has also authored books and written countless research papers. He travels extensively to lecture and attends international conferences around the world.

Heads of the Departments:



Head of the Department of Psychology

Professor Dr. G. Hussein Rassool holds a Ph.D. in Psychology and Education (University of London), M.Sc. in Health Education, and a B.A. in Psychology. He is an academic advisor, a lecturer in psychology, an independent consultant in addiction and mental health, and a Clinical Consultant/Executive Director of Sakina Counselling Institute & Research. He has written research papers and published books including Cultural Competence in Caring for Muslim Patients.



Head of the Department of Information Technology

Dr. Adnan Ashraf earned M.Sc. and M.S. degrees in Computer Science from Mohammad Ali Jinnah University, Islamabad, Pakistan in 2003 and 2006. He also earned a Ph.D. degree in Software Engineering from Åbo Akademi University, Turku, Finland in 2014. Currently, he works as a postdoctoral researcher in the Software Engineering Laboratory at Åbo Akademi University. He has written more than 20 research publications.



Head of the Department of Islamic Economics, Banking and Finance

Dr. Nissar Ahmad Yatoo is a faculty at the University of Kashmir. Dr. Nissar has completed a Master of Finance and Control (MFC) from the Department of Business and Financial Studies, University of Kashmir, and he holds a Post Graduate Diploma in Statistics and Research Methodology (PGDSRM). He earned a Ph.D. in Islamic Finance from the Pondicherry University and has written several papers about Islamic Finance.



Head of the Department of Education

Dr. Jamila Jones has a Doctorate of Philosophy in Linguistics from Michigan State University, a Master's Degree in TESOL from Nova Southeastern University, and a Bachelor's of Education from Wayne State University. Her career includes K-12 administration, higher education in the United States and internationally, and eleven years of experience as an Islamic school principal. She has written three Islamic books.



Head of the Department of Islamic Studies

Born in Fiji, **Dr. Muhammad Anwar Sahib** has a Ph.D. in Quranic Exegesis from the Islamic University of Madeenah, Saudi Arabia. He has presented Islamic programs in New Zealand, Saudi Arabia, USA, Australia, Fiji, Malaysia, India, Qatar, Papua, New Guinea, and Solomon Islands. Currently, he is an Imam, Khateeb, Secretary for the Ulama Board of New Zealand, and advisor for Halaal issues to the NZ government.



Head of the Department of Arabic

Dr. Ebraheem Dawy earned a Master's degree from the Faculty of Arts at Menofia University, Egypt. He studied at Ain Shams University and earned a Ph.D. from the Arabic department of the Faculty of Arts in 2008. Dr. Ebraheem is an Arabic teacher for the Ministry of Education and a faculty member of the University of Netherlands which teaches Arabic online.



Head of the Department of Business Administration

Mansoor Danish is an ex-banking professional with over 12 years of working experience. He holds a Master of Business Administration from the prestigious Globsyn Business School, Kolkata. Besides being a private wealth consultant, Sh. Mansoor has been working with Islamic Online University since 2014 in different roles—lecturer, instructor, and student recruitment team's supervisor.



Department of Arabic Language & Linguistics

All praise be to Allah, we praise Him, seek His help, and ask for His guidance and His forgiveness. We seek Allah's refuge from the evil that comes from our own selves and results from our actions. Indeed, whomsoever Allah guides, then none shall lead him astray; and whomsoever He leads astray; then, he has none to guide him. We testify that Muhammad ﷺ is Allah's Messenger and servant—the best of Allah's creation and His most beloved.

One of Islamic Online University's (IOU) main priorities is to teach its students the classical Arabic language because Arabic is the language chosen by Allah for His final message—the Quran. Almighty Allah said, "Indeed, We have sent it down as an Arabic Quran that you might understand." (Quran 12:2). Thus, Allah revealed the Quran in Arabic because it is the most eloquent language. In addition to this, there is no language that compares to classical Arabic in its richness of meanings.

The recitation of the Quran is only acceptable (considered

an act of worship) if it is recited in Arabic. Reading a translation of the meaning of the Quran in any other language does not have the same status or gain the same reward as the Arabic recitation. Thus, no other language can replace or substitute for the Arabic language. Therefore, since the Noble Quran can only be recited in Arabic, the reward is achieved in reciting it in the way it was revealed by Almighty Allah in the Arabic language.

It is imperative for any Muslim, who wants to know how to recite the Quran properly and to understand its meanings, to learn and be proficient in the Arabic language. It has been reported that Umar Ibn al-Khattab said, "Learn Arabic, for it strengthens the intellect and increases one's noble conduct." (The Book of Shuab El-Emaan by El-Biheky 1/210 (number 1556)

The IOU has made it a priority to teach its students classical Arabic by hiring highly trained as well as highly qualified native speakers of Arabic as teachers. In doing so, the IOU assists students in the listening and learning classical Arabic from the best sources available. This

results in the students' ability to quickly and easily understand the Arabic instructors from the start. Therefore, the study and learning of the Arabic language become the main tools to help to understand the Noble Quran, as well as the Sunnah of Prophet Muhammad ﷺ. This supports the fundamental reason for which the university was established.

Available programs

- ▶ B.A. in Arabic Language and Linguistics
- ▶ Intensive Arabic Program



By
**Dr. Ebraheem
Dawy**

Head of the Department of Arabic Language

Department of PSYCHOLOGY



“Whoever does righteousness, whether male or female, while he is a believer - We will surely cause him to live a good life, and We will surely give them their reward [in the Hereafter] according to the best of what they used to do.”
(Quran, An Nahl 16:97)

“...and he who relieved a Muslim from hardship Allah would relieve him from the hardships to which he would be put on the Day of Resurrection...”
(Saheeh Muslim, 32/6250)

The Department of Psychology seeks to be an internationally front-runner in the provision of undergraduate and postgraduate education in psychological sciences from an Islamic perspective to the global Ummah.

In accordance with the mission of Islamic Online University, the Faculty of Psychology provides an enriched learning environment with a commitment to excellence in undergraduate and graduate psychological studies. The graduates at Islamic Online University are expected to have the necessary knowledge, competence, and ethical values committed to psychology

from an Islamic perspective and its application to real-world situations. Our educational program provides a foundation for the scientific understanding of behavior and human experiences through collaborative learning and scholarship among its undergraduates and faculty, guided by the core values of our University. Our psychology program provides students with the education needed to enter a variety of careers or to pursue post graduate studies in psychology or related fields.

Psychology is the study of human behaviour, mental operations, and experience. Basically, psychology

studies the way people think, feel, and behave, and how they can improve himself or herself. It also refers to the application of knowledge, which can be used to understand modern dilemmas and events, treat mental health problems, and improve education, employment, human relationships, and communications. The subject is interdisciplinary and involves other areas of study, including humanities, education, and the social sciences.

Everyone uses psychology on a daily basis in human communications, decision-making, interpersonal relationships,

teaching and learning activities even while disciplining their children.

There are many reasons why studying psychology is important

- ▶ **Understanding and building of interpersonal relationships.**
- ▶ **Nurturing well-being and health matters.**
- ▶ **Improving communication.**
- ▶ **Promoting personal development**
- ▶ **Enabling critical and reflective thinking.**
- ▶ **Improving employment prospects.**
- ▶ **More effectiveness at home or at work**

The Faculty of Psychology offers psychology courses at Certificate, Diploma, and Degree level. Some of the courses we offer include:

- ▶ **Child Development**
- ▶ **Psychology of Adolescence**
- ▶ **Client-Centred Therapy**
- ▶ **Islamic Counselling**
- ▶ **Family Therapy**
- ▶ **Client-Centred Therapy**
- ▶ **Cognitive Behavioural Approaches to Mood Disorders**
- ▶ **Stress and coping**
- ▶ **Health Psychology**
- ▶ **Abnormal Psychology**
- ▶ **Social Psychology**
- ▶ **Life-span Development**
- ▶ **Psychology of Personality**
- ▶ **Models and Approaches to Disability**

New courses are under-development and include the History and Development of Islamic Psychology; Psychology of Human Learning; Psychology of Human Communication; Psychology of Trauma, and many others.

All our psychology course contents are developed and taught from an Islamic perspective which is based on the Quran and Sunnah.

Available programs

- ▶ Certificate in Psychology
- ▶ Associate Degree in Psychology
- ▶ B.Sc. Degree in Psychology



**By Prof. Dr.
G.Hussein
Rassool**

Head of the Department of Psychology



Department of Business Administration

The Bachelor in Business Administration (BBA) is considered one of the most advanced streams of undergraduate study based on the curriculum it offers and the subsequent opportunities in career choices and post-graduate studies.

Students undertaking BBA courses are exposed to subjects from Marketing and Finance to Human Resources (HR). These subjects contain and cover important aspects related to Accountancy, Economics, Islamic Economics and Islamic Finance, Marketing, Ethics, Business Studies, Human Resources, etc.

BBA studies can provide an adequate foundation for students wishing to undertake MBA studies in the future. It will also be very beneficial to those students who wish to begin their careers early

(right after undergraduate studies) due to its rich curriculum.

With growing globalization and a keen focus on economic development in many countries across the globe, the need for qualified managers and entrepreneurs is rising. The BBA course would be the appropriate beginning for any student who wishes to become an entrepreneur in the future, *in sha Allah*.

At IOU, students benefit greatly by studying the above subjects with qualified instructors and lecturers. Many of our teaching faculty have professional work experience which is reflected in the course content taught by them. In addition to the above, we focus on imparting the content from an Islamic perspective as well, which ultimately makes the teaching and learning holistic. Therefore, I invite you to join our BBA course now and

benefit from all that this course of study has to offer.

Available programs:

- ▶ Certificate in Business Administration
- ▶ Associate Degree in Business Administration
- ▶ Bachelor Degree in Business Administration



By **Mansoor Danish**

Acting Head of the Department of Business Administration

Department of Information Technology

Why Study Information Technology?

Information Technology (IT) is the application of computers and telecommunication systems to produce, manipulate, store, organize, retrieve, and transmit data. It involves development, installation, implementation, management, and maintenance of computer hardware and software within companies, universities, and other organizations.

As an academic discipline, IT is concerned with issues related to advocating for users and meeting their technological needs within an organizational and societal context through the selection, creation, application, integration, administration, and maintenance of computing technologies. Due to the increasing dependency of our society on technology for every aspect in our lives, from business to social interaction and beyond, IT experts are highly sought after in nearly every industry and in a wide range of capacities.



The BSIT program at The Islamic Online University (IOU) prepares students to meet the information and communication technological needs of government, business, healthcare, universities, and other kinds of organizations. Students learn the underlying theories and state-of-the-art ways to develop effective, efficient, and correct software systems.

IT graduates assume the responsibility of developing and selecting appropriate computer hardware and software products and systems for organizations and installing, customizing, implementing, managing, and maintaining them for the organization's computer users.

IOU offers a unique opportunity to study and gain the knowledge of IT within an Islamic background. As Muslims, we understand that religion must be part of our everyday lives. Hence, studying IT in an Islamic institution allows students to fulfill their religious duties of acquiring Islamic knowledge while pursuing worldly IT knowledge. IOU teaches IT students to convert this knowledge into that which is beneficial in both worlds.

The BSIT program at IOU aims to provide IT graduates with the skills and knowledge necessary to effectively handle appropriate professional positions in IT upon graduation. It will also give

graduates the tools needed to grow into leadership positions or pursue research or graduate studies in the field. IT graduates employ appropriate technologies and methodologies to help an organization achieve its goals and objectives. They can manage IT resources of any organization, anticipate the changing direction of IT, and evaluate and communicate the likely utility of new technologies. IT graduates also understand and contribute to the scientific foundations on which information technologies are built. Therefore, IT graduates can live and work as well-rounded, contributing members of society.

Available programs:

- ▶ **Certificate in Information Technology**
- ▶ **Associate Degree in Information Technology**
- ▶ **B.Sc. Degree in Information Technology**



By **Dr. Adnan Ashraf**

Head of the Department of Information Technology

Department of Islamic Banking and Economics



The Islamic Online University's

lofty and laudable aim is to change the nation through education. Hence, one of their main concerns becomes addressing various economic issues. In order to address these issues effectively requires a clear understanding of global economic policies and mechanisms. The Department of Islamic Banking and Economics (DIBE) has been created to provide students with a basic understanding of economic concepts, theories, issues, and institutions. The DIBE offers the world's first tuition-free programs in Islamic Banking and Economics which are accredited by the International Council of Islamic Finance Educators (ICIFE). The course curriculum is a blend of conventional and Islamic courses, including all major economic, banking and financial courses, in addition to a few courses in business and management. Banks and financial institutions are the main forces working behind all the major economies of the world, hence, a study and understanding of these two occupy a significant position in the curriculum.

The DIBE is committed to providing beneficial knowledge at all levels and opening doors for those seeking careers in the exciting,

expanding and beneficial field of Islamic banking and finance. It brings together teachers and students from all over the world and provides them a virtual platform for a unique teaching/learning experience about global economic issues and problems.

We encourage you to take this global open opportunity to learn all about the world's economic problems at the Department of Islamic Banking and Economics of Islamic Online University. What better way to serve your community than by choosing a career in the field of Islamic banking and finance!



Available programs:

- ▶ Certificate in Islamic Banking and Economics
- ▶ Associate Degree in Islamic Banking and Economics
- ▶ B.Sc. Degree in Islamic Economics, Banking and Finance
- ▶ M.Sc. Degree in Islamic Banking and Economics (Upcoming)



**By Dr. Nissar
Ahmad Yatoo**

Head of the Department of Islamic Banking
and Economics

Chancellor's Message:

IOU Welcomes You with Open Arms

As-salaamu 'alaykum wa rahmatullaahi wa barakaatuh.

I invite you to become a part of the Islamic Online University (IOU) experience in which the various gates of knowledge have been opened for you. Having been made possible by the invention of the internet—a human creation resulting from Divine Inspiration—online study brings knowledge to your very home rather than requiring people to traverse the earth to acquire the sciences known as “Islamic and Islamized studies.”

IOU offers graduate, undergraduate, diploma, and certificate programs in English—carefully packaged to satisfy your needs.

All courses are conducted in virtual classrooms, and communication between staff and students is maintained through emails and telecommunications, thereby allowing students to set their study timetables according to their personal schedules.

Currently, the University has seven departments: Islamic Studies; Psychology; Business Administration; Information Technology; Economics, Banking and Finance; and Arabic Language and Linguistics. In order to enhance the position and reputation of the IOU and maintain excellence in our teaching, learning, and research, we are continuously updating and improving our programs of study so that it can be accessible to all and not simply to a few privileged ones.

The IOU works continuously, throughout the year, to improve the lives of our students to the best of our abilities. Some of our new initiatives and ongoing projects include:

The IOU has provided Gambian College students an avenue to complete their undergraduate degrees in a shorter period of time and at significantly lower cost.

It has also partnered with the Ministry of Basic and Secondary Education so that through IOU's 'Intensive English Language Course' madrasa graduates can pass the standardized English test of the West African Senior School Certificate Examination (WASSCE) and become teachers to support the Gambian mainstream educational system.

Most recently, the 100 Scholarships Initiative was launched to support deserving students who cannot afford higher education in The Gambia. IOU hopes to expand this important initiative to a 1000 scholarships by the next year. *In sha Allah.*

I sincerely hope that you will take full advantage of this unique opportunity to fulfill your religious duty of seeking and sharing knowledge while securing worldly benefits, as I call you to join us in “Changing the Nation through Education.”

Wa salaamu 'alaykum.

Sincerely,

Dr. Abu Ameenah Bilal Philips





THE CAUSES OF DEVIATION IN *Aqeedah*

Part II

In the previous article, I discussed some of the reasons for deviation in aqeedah; ignorance about the correct aqeedah, following the callers to evil and those who lead people astray, following whims and desires, and having an exaggerated belief in righteous people. This article will look at the remaining reasons for deviation in aqeedah, which will conclude the discussion on this topic.

5. Blind following

Blind following means to adopt the ideas and religious practices of one's ancestors, scholars, or elders without divinely guided proof. This erroneous type of behavior has been censured in many verses of the Quran.

Allah the Exalted said: "Rather, they say, "Indeed, we found our fathers upon a religion, and we are in their footsteps [rightly] guided." (Quran 43:22)

He also said, "And they will say, 'Our Lord, indeed we obeyed our masters and our dignitaries, and they led us astray from the [right] way.'" (Quran 33:67)

Allah the Exalted also said, "They have taken their scholars and monks as lords besides Allah." [at-Tawbah: 31] It basically means that some people have followed their scholar's directives while prohibiting what Allah has permitted and permitting what Allah has prohibited.

6. Following misguided paths

People deviate from the truth when they abandon Allah's guidance and the Straight Path, or follow other ways not prescribed by Allah. Thus, He warned us against this, and said, "And, [moreover], this is My path, which is straight, so follow it; and do not follow [other] ways, for you will be separated from His way. This has He instructed you that you may be-

come righteous." (Quran 6:153)

7. Neglecting to ponder over Allah's revelation and His signs in the world

Being heedless of Allah's revelations and His signs in the world is cause for deviation in aqeedah. People who do not reflect on Allah's revelation and His signs in the world do not benefit from the faculties Allah has blessed them with. Therefore, it is befitting that Allah punishes them with the loss of the right aqeedah and guidance.

When people follow Satan, he leads them away from the correct aqeedah.

A number of verses in the Quran prove this point, this idea.

Allah the Exalted said: “Those are the ones over whose hearts and hearing and vision Allah has sealed, and it is those who are the heedless.” (Quran 16:108)

He also said, “And We have certainly created for Hell many of the jinn and mankind. They have hearts with which they do not understand, they have eyes with which they do not see, and they have ears with which they do not hear. Those are like livestock; rather, they are more astray. It is they who are the heedless.” (Quran 7:179)

Allah the Exalted also said, “And how many a sign within the heavens and earth do they pass over while they, therefrom, are turning away.” (Quran 12:105)

8. Pride

Pride compels the person afflicted with it to reject those who profess the truth because he or she will look down on them. Pride was defined in the Hadeeth of the Prophet ﷺ, when he said: “Arrogance means ridiculing and rejecting the Truth and despising people.” [Transmitted by Muslim]

Pride was the reason for Satan’s deviation, disobedience, and final expulsion from Paradise. Allah the Exalted said, “And (remember) when We said to the angels: “Prostrate yourselves before Adam.” And they prostrated except Iblees (Satan), he refused and was proud

and was one of the disbelievers (disobedient to Allah).” (Quran 2:34)

Moreover, pride was the reason for the fall

of previous nations who rejected their Prophets and refused to follow the Straight Path.

Allah the Exalted said, “Then We sent after them Moses and Aaron to Pharaoh and his establishment with Our signs, but they behaved arrogantly and were a criminal people.” (Quran 10:75)

He also said, “As for ‘Aad, they were arrogant upon the earth without right and said, “Who is greater than us in strength?” (Quran 41:15)

9. Following Satan

When people follow Satan, he leads them away from the correct aqeedah. There are many proofs from the Quran and Sunnah that demonstrate that misleading people is his main objective.

The Noble Quran states, “[Iblees] said, “My Lord, because You have put me in error, I will surely make [disobedience] attractive to them on earth, and I will mislead them all.” (Quran 15:39)

Allah the Exalted said, “Indeed, Satan is an enemy to you; so take him as an enemy. He only invites his party to be among the companions of the Blaze.” (Quran 35:6)

Furthermore, Allah stated in a Hadeeth Qudsi, “I have created My servants as one having a natural inclination to the worship of Allah but it is Satan who turns them away from the right religion and he makes unlawful what has

been declared lawful for them and he commands them to ascribe partnership with Me, although he has no justification for that.” [Transmitted by Muslim]

In conclusion, these are the major reasons that cause deviation in aqeedah. However, a Muslim is not left without recourse when challenged by them. Rather, there are means, which a Muslim can take to protect himself from deviation, and these will be the subject of an article in the following issue, *in sha Allah*.



By Shaibu Asali

Br. Shaibu is a Researcher at the Islamic Online University and a Zimbabwe-based caller to Islam. He has a B.A. in Shariah from the Medina Islamic University and an M.A. in Fiqh from the Hamad bin Khalifa University in Qatar.

Awakening the Muslim Inkers

“Recite in the name of your Lord who created - created man from a clinging substance. Recite, and your Lord is the most Generous - Who taught by the pen. Taught man that which he knew not.”

(Quran 96:1-5)

These are the verses first revealed to the Prophet Muhammad ﷺ. The chapter of the Quran simply orders the Prophet and the entire Ummah to read, and likewise encourages them to write with a pen. With a pen, divine books from Allah were recorded, and knowledge was easily passed from one generation to another

which ensured that information was smoothly gathered and disseminated across the globe. Allah taught man what he did not know, saved him from the darkness of ignorance, and led him from a materialistic world to the world of reality through a pen.

Historically, modern writing styles would not have been in existence without acknowledging

the input of Muslim scholars and writers who immensely contributed to what brought about the digital and non-digital book industry today. No doubt, the inks of people like Ibn Rushd

...our pens, as practicing media inkers, should be used to fairly defend and propagate Islam; not to attack or destroy any religion or group.

(Avicenna), Ibn Miskawayah, Humayun Ibn Ishaq, and Al-Fadli Ibn Naubakht paved the way for today's Western civilization that rules the world today.

Today, it is very pathetic to hear Islam fallaciously labeled and attacked, particularly through social and mainstream media. More disturbing is the fact that there are only a few conscientious

Muslim writers that use their pen to defend the religion of Islam. Are there no Muslim scholars who can meet up with modern communicative writing? Or are Muslims ignorant of the essence of media writing in modern da'wah? Or do we want to say there are no rich Muslims in

the modern world that can project the inks of Muslim media inkers across the globe with their wealth? What is wrong with our Ummah?

I see no reason why our pens should be muted or made inkless most especially when the Ummah is in dire need of them. Allah has blessed us with millions of people like Abu Bakr, Ubay Ibn Ka'b, and the likes.



There are Muslim scholars who have written numerous academic and non-academic books and articles. However, what I think is missing is a lack of dynamism in their writing style—especially in light of modern needs. I think our writers are too academic and they forgot to pay more attention to the area where modern autographic da’wah can be more accessible to the public—i.e. (digital/non-digital) the print media, motivational books, and articles.

More importantly, our pens, as practicing media inkers, should

be used to fairly defend and propagate Islam; not to attack or destroy any religion or group. Our styles of news reporting should be unbiased and propaganda free. And we must show tolerance not only with our actions, but also with our inks.

Lastly, Muslim writers should re-sharpen their pens and refill their ink to accommodate modern media writing. This is where da’wah has massively shifted to. And if you cannot write, motivate a talented writer in your midst at the very least.



By **Mutiu Olawuyi**

Br. Mutiu is the Academic Head of IOU Intensive English Course (IEC) Horn of Africa chapter.

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