

# Graduate Certificate in Islamic Studies (GCIS)

كلية الدراسات الإسلامية  
College of Islamic Studies

جامعة حمد بن خليفة  
HAMAD BIN KHALIFA UNIVERSITY





# Graduate Certificate in Islamic Studies (GCIS)

The Graduate Certificate in Islamic Studies (GCIS), offered in Arabic, is a comprehensive program designed for individuals interested in understanding Islam and its impact on Muslim communities worldwide. This certificate offers a unique opportunity to explore the interdisciplinary nature of Islamic Studies, and gain a better understanding of Islamic history, theology, philosophy, law, and ethics.

The insights gained from the program can be practically applied to professional and educational settings, while widely contributing to the development of more inclusive and diverse communities. The certificate also serves as a bridge program for students who may consider pursuing a Master's degree in Contemporary Islamic Studies offered at the college.

## Program Focus

The GCIS aims to promote a deeper understanding of Islamic thought and its features of moderation, ease, and openness. It equips students with the ability to follow and interact with Islamic jurisprudence, its traditional and contemporary texts, and its constant and changing principles. A strong foundational grasp of Islamic studies enables students to understand intellectual nuances, identify their own positions in various discourses, apply theories to their own realities, and engage positively with other cultures, religions, and philosophies.

## Curriculum

**An 18-credit graduate certificate program taught over one year in Arabic that includes:**

### Six core courses (18 credits)

- ▶ Foundations of Islamic Thought
- ▶ Contemporary Quran and Hadith Studies
- ▶ Applied Research Methodologies in Islamic Studies
- ▶ Non-Textual Legal Sources
- ▶ Fatwa, Family and Society
- ▶ Islamic Jurisprudence, Politics and the State



Core Courses

Code	Credits	Course Title	Description
CIS 600	3 credits	Foundations of Islamic Thought	The course provides an in-depth investigation of multiple intellectual traditions and debates within the Islamic civilization before the onset of modernity. The course is based on readings of key primary texts in philosophy, theology, law, Sufism, and social thought. The course identifies major trends and directions of Islamic scholarship, demonstrates connections between fields of knowledge, highlights the changing cultural assumptions that have historically shaped the discourse of Muslim scholars, and explores the contemporary relevance of their works.
CIS 601	3 credits	Contemporary Studies of the Quran and Hadith	This course provides a contemporary treatment of the major scriptural sources in Islam, including the Quran, and the Hadith, and the salient methodologies for working with them. The course examines competing epistemological approaches to the history, composition, and content of these sources, as well as the interplay between them. Contemporary methodologies for working with these sources and their functions in modern Muslim societies are then analyzed.
CIS 602	3 credits	Applied Research Methodologies in Islamic Studies	The course introduces students to the field of Islamic studies and teaches them how to design and prepare a research project that can make a meaningful contribution to this field. The particular focus of this course is on writing research-based papers. After situating Islamic studies in the broader context of academic disciplines, basic research skills are reviewed and applied in the context of a self-identified research project. Major approaches in the field of Islamic studies are surveyed, taking the case of canonical prayer; and significant contributions to ongoing debates about orientalism are reviewed.
CIS 615	3 credits	Non-Textual Legal Sources	This course provides a comprehensive treatment of the sources of Islamic law that are disputed with Islamic legal theory and clarifies their significance in contemporary ijtiḥad. The course clarifies the need for such sources as a criterion for deducing legal rulings in a way that counters the evident errors of literalism which characterizes religious extremism. Thus, the course discusses the following non-textual legal sources: the actions of the Prophetic Companions, public interest and its categories, juristic preference and its types, customary practice, preemptive prohibition, Madinan practice, and the presumption of continuance.
CIS 616	3 credits	Fatwa, Family and Society	This course discusses the fatwas related to the most significant contemporary issues concerning the family and society. It focuses on a methodological study of fatwa issuance, including the principles and modality of assessing such fatwas, while also considering the higher objectives of the Shari’a and the changing practices of both families and societies. The course discusses issues such as the financial excesses of marriage expenses, divorce, female employment, and the wife’s rights to the family assets, from the perspective of Islamic jurisprudence and contemporary social studies.

Core Courses (continued)

Code	Credits	Course Title	Description
CIS 617	3 credits	Islamic Jurisprudence, Politics and the State	This course concerns the relationship between Islamic jurisprudence, politics, and the state and covers three main debates: Islamic jurisprudence and political authority, politics and the law, and Islamic jurisprudence and the state. The first debate examines jurisprudential theories regarding society, the rulings related to political authority and the ruler, the effect of political change on the jurist and his understanding of his relationship with the state. It also discusses contemporary attempts to synthesize the political discourse that existed before the notion of the modern nation state, and those produced consequently. The second debate concerns the difference between politics and Islamic political theory, the ethical principles that guide politics, and the application of public interest to politics. The third debate is related to differing manifestations of political authority such as the state and the caliphate, and how such concepts impact subsequent Islamic legal rulings, whether they be in theory or in practice.

Faculty

Dr. Alexandre Caeiro	Program Director, Associate Professor of Islamic Studies
Dr. Dheen Mohamed	Professor of Comparative Religion
Dr. Emad El-Din Shahin	Professor of Islamic Studies
Dr. Ibrahim Zain	Executive Dean, Professor of Islamic Studies and Comparative Religion
Dr. Joseph Lombard	Associate Professor of Quranic Studies
Dr. Mohamed El-Gammal	Professor of Practice of Comparative Fiqh
Dr. Muhammad Modassir	Assistant Dean of Student Affairs, Senior Researcher
Dr. Usaama al-Azami	Assistant Professor of Islamic Studies





### Admission Requirements

Applicants seeking admission to the Graduate Certificate in Islamic Studies (GCIS) should have a bachelor’s degree in a related field from a recognized institution.

Please refer to the following table for a summary of the admission criteria:

Program	Graduate Certificate in Islamic Studies (GCIS)
Required Field of Study	All fields
Language Proficiency	Must demonstrate proficiency in Arabic through previous studies (e.g. completing an undergraduate degree in which the language of instruction was Arabic or by an interview-based test with CIS). In addition, students need to prove their English language proficiency by providing a score equivalent to TOEFL 35-45 or IELTS 5. Exemption is possible if applicants have studied in English.

### Application Requirements

A completed online application form: [admissions.hbku.edu.qa](https://admissions.hbku.edu.qa)

#### Academic transcripts

Official electronic copies of transcripts should be submitted as part of the online application. Final transcripts and graduation statements are required for all previous university studies. All transcripts submitted should include an explanation of the grading system. For those who have not completed their current studies, transcripts must include results from the last completed semester of coursework. Transcripts in languages other than English or Arabic must be accompanied by an official translation. Applicants who are admitted to the program based on copies of or incomplete transcripts will be required to provide original transcripts upon enrollment in order to register for courses.

#### Standardized test results

- Official copies (where required) must be sent directly to HBKU. Please refer to the institutional codes below:
- ▶ GRE: 7551
  - ▶ GMAT: H6S
  - ▶ TOEFL: 4981
  - ▶ IELTS: No code required. Students should ask the IELTS center where they tested to send the IELTS TRF to HBKU

Applicants should also submit copies of their test scores with the online application.



### Letters of recommendation

Applicant should submit two letters for recommendation, one of which must be from an academic referee. Please visit [admissions.hbku.edu.qa](https://admissions.hbku.edu.qa) for further information about the submission process.

### Personal statement of interest

Applicants should submit a personal statement as part of the online application. The statement should explain why the candidate is applying to the program, and how their studies will contribute to the achievement of their personal objectives, including information about the applicant's research interests and achievements (minimum of 300, maximum of 500 words).

### Resume/Curriculum vitae

Applicants should submit a copy of their current resume or curriculum vitae as part of the online application. This should include the following information:

- ▶ Academic qualifications
- ▶ Professional experience
- ▶ Publications
- ▶ Research projects
- ▶ Academic awards or honors
- ▶ Conference presentations

### Identification document

Applicants should submit an electronic copy of their passport as part of their online application. Nationals and residents of Qatar should also submit their valid Qatar ID.


### Tuition fees


Program	Graduate Certificate in Islamic Studies
Total Program Tuition Fees	QAR 36,000
Tuition Fees per Credit Hour	QAR 2,000
Total Program Credit Hours	18
Program Duration	1 year


### Contact Information


#### Admission inquiries

[admissions.cis@hbku.edu.qa](mailto:admissions.cis@hbku.edu.qa)

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 College of Islamic Studies (CIS) at HBKU

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