

# Master of Arts in Applied Islamic Ethics

كلية الدراسات الإسلامية  
College of Islamic Studies

جامعة حمد بن خليفة  
HAMAD BIN KHALIFA UNIVERSITY



# Master of Arts in Applied Islamic Ethics

The first program of its kind worldwide, the Master of Arts (MA) in Applied Islamic Ethics addresses how Islam, as a world religion with a rich moral heritage, engages with and contributes to global moral discourses. Combining theoretical rigor with practical application, this interdisciplinary program is rooted in the Islamic tradition and culturally sensitive contexts. This leverages its distinguished faculty who are experts in their specializations and active consultants to national and international policy bodies.

Graduates of this program will have the skills to engage with pressing ethical issues in a manner that is both critical and compassionate. They can pursue further academic studies at the PhD level in the various fields covered in the program or choose to work in a professional environment. Graduates may regulate ethical guidelines and policies in government and private institutions active in a wide range of areas, including biomedical sciences, engineering, business, politics, family, migrant labor, and human rights, in both Muslim and Western contexts.

## Program Focus

The MA in Applied Islamic Ethics is designed to develop a strong foundation in moral frameworks and theoretical ethics in order to equip students with the skills to address pressing ethical dilemmas in today's unprecedented age.

The overall structure of the program fuses two main aspects: 'the academic aspect' of Islamic ethics, rooted in the Islamic scholarly tradition; and 'the applied aspect', aimed at improving students' skills in addressing the vexing ethical dilemmas and questions that people face in contemporary times. This structure adds critical value to professional qualifications.

## Curriculum

**A 36-credit degree program taught over two years in English that includes:**

### Two foundation courses (6 credits)

- ▶ Islamic Ethics: Mapping the Field
- ▶ Research Methods and Sources on Ethics

### Two core courses (6 credits)

- ▶ Scriptural Ethics: Ethics in Qur'an and Sunnah
- ▶ Theological and Philosophical Ethics

### A choice of five electives out of 13 options (15 credits)\*

- ▶ Art and Ethics
- ▶ Business Ethics
- ▶ Comparative Religious Ethics
- ▶ Environmental Ethics
- ▶ Ethical Issues in Psychology
- ▶ Ethical Reasoning and Moral Decision-Making
- ▶ Ethics in Science and Technology
- ▶ Ethics of Migration and Human Rights
- ▶ Gender and Islamic Ethics
- ▶ Islamic Bioethics
- ▶ Islamic Ethics and Artificial Intelligence
- ▶ Islamic Ethics of Pandemics
- ▶ Peace, War, and Politics of Ethics

### Thesis (9 credits)

\*With approval, students can also choose either a tutorial or an internship as an elective.



Foundation Courses

Code	Credits	Course Title	Description
AIE 610	3 credits	Islamic Ethics: Mapping the Field	This course covers key concepts, theoretical principles, and doctrines of Islamic Ethics. The course examines how these principles and their applications can address contemporary issues related to various fields, including finance and business, social and political affairs, inter-cultural issues, and biomedical sciences. By the end of the course, students will develop a framework for ethical reasoning around a specific ethical dilemma, as part of their training in problem-solving.
AIE 611	3 credits	Research Methods and Sources on Ethics	The course teaches students how to work with the major sources and methodological approaches in ethics research with a particular focus on research-based writing. After situating Islamic studies and ethics within the broader context of academic research, basic research skills are reviewed and applied. The course provides an overview of methodological approaches and major sources on ethics and leads students to develop a research proposal on ethics.

Core Courses

Code	Credits	Course Title	Description
AIE 630	3 credits	Scriptural Ethics: Ethics in Qur'an and Sunnah	This course provides a foundation in scriptural ethics by examining various approaches to the two major scriptural sources in Islam, namely the Qur'an and the Hadith. In Quranic ethics, attention is given to morality in Quranic discourse and commentaries. As for Sunnah, morality in canonical collections of Hadith is examined. The relationship between these two sources of ethics is analyzed through the lens of classical and modern scholarship.
AIE 631	3 credits	Theological and Philosophical Ethics	This course presents a comprehensive survey of ethics in Islamic theology and philosophy. The main focus here is to examine the ontological and epistemological questions related to ethics. This course covers different theological approaches to human action, obligation (taklīf ), and ethical judging. In the philosophical part, the course covers the main Greek ethical themes and their effect on classical Islamic philosophy and later developments. In this course, students gain knowledge of the history, concepts, doctrines, and philosophers in the Islamic tradition. It not only discusses the classical period but also the modern and contemporary trends of moral philosophy.

Elective Courses

Code	Credits	Course Title	Description
AIE 632	3 credits	Ethical Reasoning and Decision-Making	This course covers reasoning in the Islamic tradition, covering the transition from discipline-centered reasoning to interdisciplinary reasoning. It examines the principles and priorities of ethical reasoning, the arguments for a goal-oriented or a value-oriented approach to ethics, the contemporary emphasis on the context of the ethicist, and reconfiguring the sources of understanding good and bad. Students will learn how to critically analyze argumentation in ethical judgments in applied case studies.
AIE 633	3 credits	Islamic Bioethics	This course offers a rigorous engagement with the nascent field of Islamic Bioethics. On the one hand, the attempt here is to do service to the field of Bioethics by maintaining the rich meaning of the term bioethics - a field of ethics concerned with life (bios). We examine biomedical sciences and the value systems that shape and guide the scientific enterprise within the larger context of planetary health, climate change, and environmental concerns. On the other hand, this broad approach to Bioethics is linked with the richness of the Islamic tradition, according to which ethical questions and dilemmas should ideally be approached at macro levels and through the prism of communitarian and responsibility-oriented perspectives, rather than individualistic ones.
AIE 634	3 credits	Ethics of Migration and Human Rights	This course analyzes the relationship between Islam and migration in an ethical and contemporary context. Two semi-autonomous areas are explored: (1) Forced Migration (displaced, asylum seekers, and refugees) and (2) Voluntary Migration (economic migrants). Theoretically, the course compares migration discourses in Islam with modern Western theories of migration with a particular focus on international human and labor rights conventions. Students are given applied case studies to analyze and provide innovative solutions that include gender-based problems of migration.
AIE 635	3 credits	Business Ethics	The course covers both theoretical and applied ethics in business and a critical analysis comparing Western business ethics, Islamic tradition, and contemporary field of Islamic economics. First, the general conceptual field asks: “What is Islamic in Islamic finance, Islamic economics and Islamic banking?” Second, the ethical foundations of business, based on perspectives from Islamic law and the new field called business ethics. The third dimension challenges students to apply the ethical principles to practical applications in individual and organizational behavior from the region.
AIE 636	3 credits	Peace, War and Political Ethics	This course introduces the multiple dimensions of Islamic ethics in politics, peace, and war from a comparative perspective. It covers theoretical and applied aspects while addressing historical and contemporary political values. The first part discusses issues related to state and society, including the public good, political legitimacy, and good governance. The second part places Islamic political ethics within the broader global context, shedding light on the borders of the Muslim moral community with the challenges of consistency, humanism, and ethical pluralism. The third part focuses on the ethics of peace and war in historical and contemporary discourses.



Elective Courses (continued)

Code	Credits	Course Title	Description
AIE 637	3 credits	Gender and Islamic Ethics	This course familiarizes students with the principles of gender research. It contains four parts: (1) Feminist Theory: from liberal feminism to Marxist, post-structural, and post-colonial as well as feminist epistemology and its explanatory power; (2) Masculinity Theory: covering the theorization of hegemonic masculinity and subsequent critiques and modifications. Specific focus is given to masculinity in the Muslim world; (3) Islam & gender as an ethical approach: the Islamic perception of gender and related concepts such as matrimony, personal status, and equality; and (4) contemporary gender issues in the Islamic world: ethics and feminism; a woman’s right to her own body; gender bias in politics, law, and media; and empowerment policies.
AIE 640	3 credits	Islamic Ethics of Pandemics	This course provides students interested in Islamic Ethics with the necessary knowledge and skills to critically engage with the global bioethical discourse on pandemics including COVID-19. It is divided into five main parts: (1) a historical overview of the ethical discussions on early plagues; (2) the types of ethical approaches and discourses on COVID-19; (3) key ethical issues; (4) critical reading of relevant texts; and (5) a research paper.
AIE 641	3 credits	Islamic Ethics and Artificial Intelligence	This course focuses on the moral questions raised by Artificial Intelligence (AI). It is of interest to a wide range of students who are eager to understand how the rich Islamic moral tradition engages with global ethical discussions on cutting-edge technologies. It comprises five main parts: (1) a prelude: Artificial Intelligence (AI) & AI moral discourse; (2) governing policies and principles; (3) philosophical foundations & challenges; (4) main issues, approaches, and applied fields; and (5) a research paper.
AIE 660	3 credits	Tutorial	Tutorial students have in-depth one-on-one supervised reading of key and impactful writings (classics) in the field of Islamic Ethics. The program makes use of the research output and publications of The Research Center for Islamic Legislation and Ethics (CILE), including the <i>Journal of Islamic Ethics</i> and the book series <i>Studies in Islamic Ethics</i> , giving students access to (and reviews of) key publications in the field. The tutorial may be used as a remedial program to assist students who are having difficulties in keeping up with readings. It may also be used to assist students in thesis-related issues.
AIE 661	3 credits	Internship	The Internship is a program tailored for the students’ future work plans. Students benefit from existing approved institutions that may later provide them with employment opportunities after graduation.

Thesis

Code	Credits	Course Title	Description
AIE 695	9 credits	Master’s Thesis Hours	This course gives the student an opportunity to produce and defend a thesis under direct supervision which assists students to complete high-quality, innovative and cutting-edge research theses in theoretical and applied Islamic Ethics. The thesis supervisor is allocated according to the student’s specialized interest and the expertise of the faculty member. The thesis proposal must be defended, followed by a defense of the thesis itself with an external examiner.

Faculty

Dr. Mutaz Al-Khatib	Program Director, Associate Professor of Methodology and Ethics
Dr. Mohamed Ghaly	Professor of Islam and Biomedical Ethics
Dr. Samer Rashwani	Senior Researcher and Lecturer in Scriptural Ethics

Admission requirements

Applicants seeking admission to the Master of Arts in Applied Islamic Ethics should have a bachelor’s degree in a related field with a strong academic record (minimum 3.0 GPA out of 4.0) from a recognized institution.

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

Program	MA in Applied Islamic Ethics
Required Field of Study	All fields
Language Proficiency	IELTS: 6.5 or TOEFL: 79 Further details about the language proficiency requirement and the process to seek exemption (where this s an option) are available on the website: <a href="https://admissions.hbku.edu.qa">admissions.hbku.edu.qa</a>

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 with 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

Applicants should submit two letters of recommendation, one of which must be from an academic referee. Applicants should include their referees' names and email addresses in the online application. Referees will receive an email requesting them to complete their references.

### 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.

### Student funding

The College of Islamic Studies provides opportunities for scholarships and funding on a competitive basis. Further information will be provided to applicants who are admitted to the program.

### Tuition fees

Program	Master of Arts in Applied Islamic Ethics
Total Program Tuition Fees	QAR 90,000
Tuition Fees per Credit Hour	QAR 2,500
Total Program Credit Hours	36
Program Duration	2 years

### Contact Information


#### Admission inquiries

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

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