Master of Arts in Islam and Global Affairs

كليّة الدراسات الإسلاميّة
College of Islamic Studies
جامعة حمد بن خليفة
HAMAD BIN KHALIFA UNIVERSITY

Master of Arts in Islam and Global Affairs

The Master of Arts (MA) in Islam and Global Affairs (IGA) is a highly customizable program that provides an opportunity to analyze the place of Islam in the context of global affairs, and the challenges facing global Muslim communities in an increasingly interconnected world.

The program encourages students to be active, autonomous, and critical contributors in their chosen field of research. Through research and integrative lab assignments, they are able to explore complex, interconnected global issues in collaboration with local and international organizations. Graduates of this program will possess the skills to become multidimensional, ethical global leaders and change-makers.

Students of the program analyze how Islam promotes a concern for human well-being and dignity on a global level. They develop a deeper understanding of how the values of Islamic teachings promote peace and cooperation across cultures, religions, and geographies.

Program Focus

The purpose of the MA in IGA is to provide tailor-made opportunities and tap into the expansive institutional network to examine issues pertaining to Islam and the global political infrastructure.

The program offers both traditional and disruptive learning tools, techniques, and methods to study the complex relationships between Islam, human development, and economic transformation in the Muslim world and globally.

The student-centered approach and individualized learning experience embody a global focus, interdisciplinary approach, and practical scope through the utilization of multiple creative components.

Integrative Lab (I-Lab)
Students are supported with creative design, thinking tools, and production platforms. I-Labs provide personalized working spaces and international exposure to enable students to work on and develop solutions to global problems.

Curriculum

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

Three foundational courses (9 credits)
- Introduction to Islam and Global Affairs
- Islamic Worldview
- Research Methods

Three core courses (9 credits)
- Global Inequalities
- Islam, Conflict Transformation and Peacebuilding
- Globalization and Faith-Based Development

Two specialization courses (6 credits)
- Special Topics in Islam and Global Affairs
- A choice of one specialization course out of two options:
  - Islam and Global Governance
  - Humanitarian Action in the Muslim World

I-Lab (3 credits)

Thesis (9 credits)

Foundational Courses

Code	Credits	Course Title	Description
IGA 600	3 credits	Islamic Worldview	The onset of modernity shook the Muslim world, reigniting debates and sparking renewed commitments and conceptualizations on the meaning and essence of an Islamic worldview. This course provides a foundation for understanding the Islamic worldview in comparison to other competing ideologies, such as liberalism, secularism, and human rights. It examines some of the contemporary challenges, obstacles, and opportunities for the Islamic worldview in the context of terrorism, globalization, and universalism. Furthermore, it explores the real and perceived contestations between the modern and the Islamic worldview and the tangible impact this has on global affairs.
IGA 605	3 credits	Research Methods	This course provides training in research methods from the perspectives of social sciences and Islamic studies. It aims to equip students with an understanding of the foundations of social scientific research. Students are introduced to a range of core research skills that are necessary for undertaking research and designing research projects in various settings.
IGA 611	3 credits	Introduction to Islam and Global Affairs	This course introduces the fundamental theories and concepts in understanding the nexus of Islam and global affairs. The course presents a framework for understanding, practicing, and evaluating development, peacebuilding, human rights, governance and institutional reform, sustainability, global health, and related areas. It begins by examining both the Western and Islamic theories and conceptual frameworks and provides a cross-disciplinary examination of issues central to global affairs, with a particular grounding in theories of international relations.

Core Courses

Code	Credits	Course Title	Description
IGA 612	3 credits	Global Inequalities	The course examines various manifestations of global inequalities such as poverty, access to employment, basic human services, etc. The course sheds light on the state of Muslim economies and their performance in meeting the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals and other globally accepted indicators of development. Furthermore, the course looks into the role of Islamic beliefs, values, and ethics in addressing the challenges brought by global inequalities.
IGA 613	3 credits	Islam, Conflict Transformation and Peacebuilding	This course introduces students to the theories and practices of peace studies. It examines various theoretical and conceptual frameworks that shape the field and assesses their applicability within different contexts. The course also highlights critical issues that are directly related to the practices of peacebuilding and conflict transformation.
IGA 628	3 credits	Globalization and Faith Based Development	This course examines the locus of faith-based development as a form of protecting and promoting human security as a concept distinct from national security. Faith-based development and the role religious organizations have been playing through transnational actors—from global elites to NGOs, intergovernmental organizations to supranational bodies—work together to promote human well-being fostered by faith-based mechanisms, agendas, and tools. The course emphasizes integral human development and community building that promotes alternative forms of security in a transforming global order.
IGA 689	3 credits	Integrative Lab	Under the supervision of a faculty member, the student is assigned to work in collaboration with a local or international organization or a similar entity and conduct research that is useful for the thesis project undertaken.

Thesis

Code	Credits	Course Title	Description
IGA 695	9 credits	Master's Thesis Hours	This course is designed to help students synthesize theoretical and empirical insights attained during their courses and Integrative Lab work. The thesis reflects students' capability in advancing a scholarly perspective to a real-world human development challenge by identifying the nature of the problem, designing a systematic academic inquiry, and connecting theory and practice in compelling ways. Students demonstrate their capacity to make meaningful connections between their Integrative Labs and their theses. Students are encouraged to undertake applied, interdisciplinary, and contemporary challenges as the basis of their thesis work with well-designed methodological tenets.

Specialization Courses

Code	Credits	Course Title	Description
IGA 622	3 credits	Islam and Global Governance	The course introduces students to the structures and actors of international Muslim organizational work against the background of the emergence of world polity structures since the early 20th century. It surveys the development of multilateral cooperation structures such as the United Nations and its affiliates, and the range of Muslim organizational work ranging from international cooperation in different fields to educational and relief organizations.
IGA 627	3 credits	Special Topics in Islam and Global Affairs	This course addresses a wide spectrum of topics that may vary based on the time it is offered. Depending on the specific interests of the cohort, global trends, and Integrative Lab projects in partnership with global organizations affiliated with the IGA program, the course intends to equip students with pressing challenges, issues, and areas that are of critical importance for Islam and global affairs.
IGA 629	3 credits	Humanitarian Actions in the Muslim World	The course aims to provide students with an interdisciplinary introduction to the processes, events, and policy debates shaping responses to war-related humanitarian crises, including emergency interventions in situations of ongoing armed conflict, and post-conflict recovery in the Muslim world. It enables students to make independent, critical, and constructive contributions to humanitarian policies and the implementation of humanitarian activities. The course analyzes humanitarian responses with a particular focus on the Muslim World, offering insights into the complexity of local realities in afflicted regions.

Faculty

Dr. Mustafa Osman Ismail Elamin	Program Director, Professor of Islam and Global Affairs
Dr. Abdulfatah Said Mohamed	Assistant Professor of Islam and Global Affairs
Dr. Aria Nakissa	Assistant Professor of Islam and Global Affairs

Admission requirements

Applicants seeking admission to the Master of Arts in Islam and Global Affairs 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 Islam and Global Affairs
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 is an option) are available on the website: admissions.hbku.edu.qa

Application requirements

A completed online application form: 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

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 Islam and Global Affairs
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

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