



THE AGA KHAN UNIVERSITY

(International) in the United Kingdom

Institute for the Study of Muslim Civilisations



PROSPECTUS

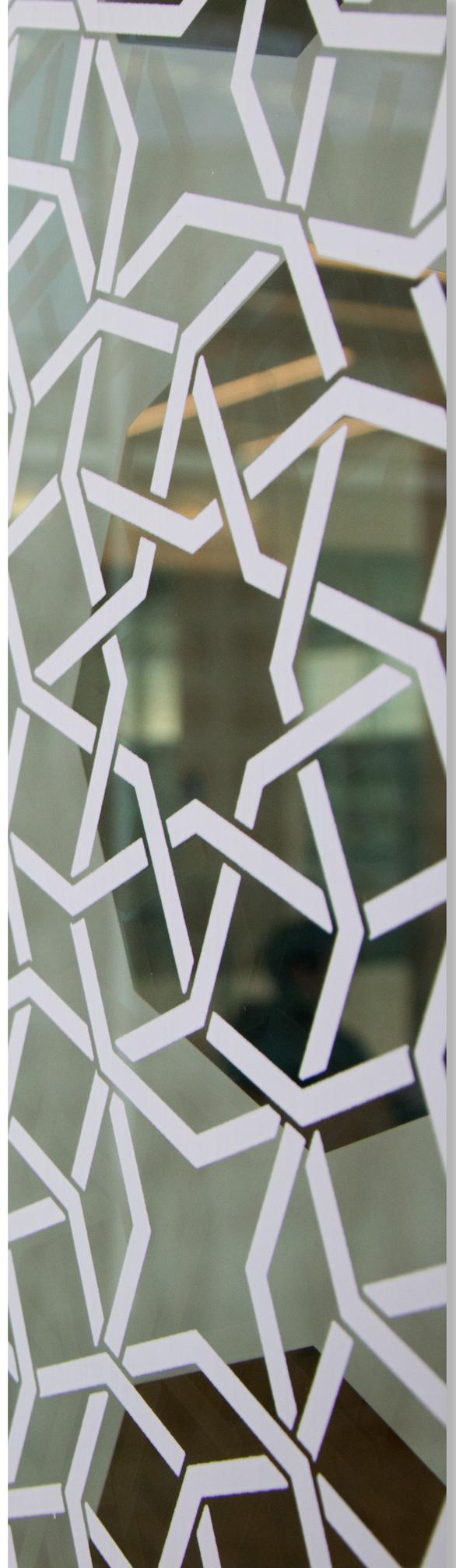
2021



www.aku.edu/ismc

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WELCOME



Professor Leif Stenberg

Dean, Institute for the Study of Muslim Civilisations

The Aga Khan University's Institute for the Study of Muslim Civilisations is unique. As part of the international Aga Khan University, which is itself part of the Aga Khan Development Network, we bridge Europe and the Global South. The Institute (AKU-ISMC) was intentionally located in London to serve as a hub for intellectual exchange and development for scholars from around the world. Our ambitious mission requires everyone in the AKU-ISMC community to think creatively and cooperatively about how to address the complex challenges facing the world both now and in the future.

Here at AKU-ISMC, we carry out excellent research on contemporary and historical aspects of Muslim societies. Every member of our teaching team is research active and brings that research into their interactions with students. We aim to bring our students in as genuine members of our research community who contribute to the intellectual life blood of the Institute rather than just being recipients of learning.

We are committed to creating a welcoming and productive environment for everyone in AKU-ISMC, including our students. We have a prize-winning campus building and student accommodation with dedicated study space, a library and access to the nearby British Library. Finally, our tight-knit student community offers an enriching opportunity to grow and develop both intellectually and personally.

I look forward to welcoming you in person.



Professor Stephen Lyon

Head of Educational Programmes, Institute for the Study of Muslim Civilisations

I am always excited to talk about the excellent work that we do in AKU-ISMC. As both a research institute and a great post-graduate training centre, we aim high and we work hard to deliver. The over-arching mission of the Institute and its parent institution, the Aga Khan Development Network, is not just for decoration — we genuinely work towards creating a better world for ourselves and our children. AKU-ISMC's part of that mission is addressed both through the research that we carry out and through the students that we train.

Our students may go on to become academics, politicians, development specialists, business people or a host of other careers, but they all walk away understanding that privilege comes with responsibility. Crucially, they understand that the opportunity to work and study at a university like AKU, that draws on expertise from around the world, confers both privilege and responsibility that can enable positive change for the future.

I invite you to explore AKU-ISMC and to learn more about the unique opportunity of embarking on our MA in Muslim Cultures.

ABOUT US

Institute for the Study of Muslim Civilisations

AKU-ISMC was founded in 2002, seeking to occupy a vacant space in the discourse on the Muslim world by promoting scholarship that opens new perspectives on Muslim societies. We consider key issues such as tradition and modernity, religion and the state, pluralism and unity and the nature of community in an era of global connection and change.

Our mandate is to address fundamental challenges of the human condition as they are expressed across the diverse societies of the Muslim world and its diasporas.

London offers the ideal location for the Institute, with its international flavour; excellent cultural scene, both historic and contemporary; thriving arts and academic communities; and as a city in which freedom of thought and expression are encouraged.

Our Goals

- To study systems of moral and ethical thought, structures of governance and public life, and artistic and creative expressions in all forms.
- To create opportunities for interaction among academics and other professionals so as to deepen understanding of pressing issues of public life affecting Muslim societies.

The Aga Khan University

Established in 1983, AKU is a unique hybrid: an institution of academic excellence that is also an agent for social development. The University has campuses and programmes in South Asia, Europe and Africa.

The University operates on the core principles of impact, quality, relevance and access, and prepares its students to lead change in their societies and to thrive in the global economy.

The Aga Khan University in London is a member of the Knowledge Quarter, which is a partnership of over 100 – and growing – academic, cultural, research, scientific and media organisations. These organisations are actively engaged in the advancement and dissemination of knowledge and are within a one-mile radius of King's Cross. They include the University of London, Google, The Crick Institute and The Guardian.



RESEARCH

Research is at the heart of what AKU-ISMC does, both for faculty and students. As an inter-disciplinary institute, AKU-ISMC carries out internationally recognised scholarship, education and outreach in the humanities and social sciences on Muslim societies and cultures and the production of Islam.

In its 2020 Strategy, AKU-ISMC identified five priority areas of excellence for the next five years: *Governance, Digital Humanities, Muslim Cultures in the Indian Ocean, Arts and Popular Culture* and *Historiography*. Each of these represents not only an area of existing excellence, but a pillar of the wider goals of the Aga Khan Development Network.

Governance

We investigate who has a voice in decision-making, the processes by which decisions are made and who is ultimately accountable for the consequences of those decisions and their implementation.

Digital Humanities

We partner historical and literary expertise with computer science as we push the boundaries of what can be done with big data in the humanities. More than most research themes, our Digital Humanities research priority demands global partnerships to re-examine data in ways that were unimaginable even a generation ago.





Historiography

We investigate how accounts of the past are not simply records of fact, but also interventions. We ask how educational institutions, museums, media organisations and proponents of heritage use history today to shape loyalties and senses of belonging and whose interests these identities serve.

Muslim Cultures in the Indian Ocean

For us, the Indian Ocean is a centre, not a periphery, for the understanding of Muslim cultures since the sea was a link historically between cities, ports and peoples in the Middle-East, Africa and Asia. We support the protection, conservation and heritage management of Indian Ocean cultures, and focus in our research on texts, objects, sites and monuments.

Arts & Popular Culture

We explore the possibilities and limits of human imagination, whether in high or mass-mediated popular culture. Creativity can be understood in relation to wider social, economic or consumer culture contexts.



TEN REASONS TO CHOOSE AKU-ISMC

1

Small cohorts give students a chance to work closely with world leading research scholars in the humanities and social sciences.



2

The Aga Khan Library is a unique research resource that has a variety of unparalleled specialist collections on Islam, Muslim societies and Muslim cultures.

3

The opportunity to actively engage in AKU-ISMC's vibrant public events and talks with renowned experts in their fields.



4

A chance to develop your own research project, under the supervision of a specialist.



5

Receive advanced training in transferrable research skills that will not only enable excellent scholarship, but will enhance your career prospects in a range of sectors.

6

Follow in the footsteps of AKU-ISMC alumni into advanced research studies, graduate careers and leadership around the world.



7

Enjoy your academic studies in the purpose-built Aga Khan Centre, at the heart of King's Cross in Central London, with its Islamic gardens, courtyards and terraces.

8

The option of exclusive student accommodation, at a two-minute walk from the campus with its own courtyard terraces and rooftop gardens.



9

Participate in the exciting academic life of London's Knowledge Quarter, that includes the British Library, SOAS, King's College, Birkbeck, University College London and the London School of Economics.

10

Living in London which is a truly global political, economic and cultural hub. Living and studying in London opens life changing networking opportunities for AKU-ISMC students.

MA IN MUSLIM CULTURES

The three-semester degree programme at AKU-ISMC provides you with expert insight and deep understanding of Muslim cultures and civilisations, both in the historical and contemporary worlds. Our programme gives you the skills to engage critically, in original and creative ways, with the challenges faced by Muslim societies. To help ensure that you are fulfilling the objectives of this course, our teaching is student-centred and our academics, who are leaders in their fields, seek to enhance your learning through a multi-faceted approach that applies a framework of world cultures, humanities and social sciences to the study of Muslim contexts.

“AKU-ISMC is a unique platform and enriching opportunity that creates an intellectual discourse on the Muslim world. It has provided me with sound ways of thinking, awareness and realisation about Islam both in historical and contemporary spheres. To sum up, this MA programme has literally transformed me into a new intellectual. Its holistic approach, most supportive staff and the environment is really admirable.”

Razia Shaheen, AKU-ISMC Student



Teaching and Learning

At AKU-ISMC, you will cover an extensive curriculum ensuring that you leave us with an excellent knowledge of Muslim cultures and civilisations. Our faculty are engaged in world-leading research and you will have the opportunity to benefit from their extensive knowledge of their subjects. Within the disciplines of social sciences and humanities, you will be introduced to general theories and concepts. You will also study a number of subjects including development studies, economics, political science, art, architecture, history, literature, comparative religion and law within Muslim contexts.

Subjects covered include research methodology, development challenges in a Muslim context as well as law and governance. Our faculty take advantage of the enormous range of opportunities on offer in London to stretch and challenge our students, and you are strongly encouraged to attend lectures, discussions and performances which will enhance your learning and understanding.

AKU-ISMC also attracts speakers from around the world, including international academics, authors, journalists, diplomats and other experts. Students are encouraged to attend evening and lunchtime lectures and seminars organised by the Institute and are often given privileged private access to our guest speakers to learn more about career options in different fields.

Structure

The MA in Muslim Cultures is a three-semester programme that offers a variety of elements: core and elective courses; as well as fieldwork opportunities that might take place in collaboration with our Aga Khan Development Network, which can contribute to your dissertation.

Our courses are grouped into these components:

1. Humanities and Social Sciences

These courses address historiography, epistemology, anthropology, sociology, cultural studies and philosophy of language. You will also use tools of the social sciences and humanities to study Muslim cultures, particularly on issues relevant to past and present Muslim cultures, in an independent, critical and creative manner.

2. Muslim Heritage as Part of World Cultures

Muslim heritage is an integral part of world cultures and their histories. You will study selected aspects of world cultures that are intrinsically related to the formation of Muslim religious thought and practices, Muslim scholarship and Muslim political discourses and experiences.

3. Contemporary Muslim Contexts

The selection of courses aims to encourage students to explore the domains of social, cultural, political and economic studies.

4. Methodologies

Methodology courses provide you with important research skills in order that you may understand and learn methods of analysing texts, written or otherwise (i.e. painting, jewellery, artefacts, architecture, music, etc.), producing and interpreting empirical data as well as evaluating and choosing between alternative academic approaches. AKU-ISMC research training includes a variety of approaches from different disciplinary traditions, including computationally innovative methods designed not only to strengthen students' research skills, but also to enhance their career options after graduation.



MA in Muslim Cultures

Core Courses

Semester 1

- Muslim Societies in a Changing World
- Research Methods in the Social Sciences and Humanities I
- Arabic or Persian

Semester 2

- Research Methods in the Social Sciences and Humanities II
- Arabic or Persian

Semester 3

- Thesis

Elective Courses

- Late Antiquity
- Gender and Sexuality in the Middle East
- Religion, Law and Society in Muslim Contexts
- Development Challenges in Muslim Contexts
- Paths in Sufism
- Islam and Creativity
- Authority and Legitimacy in Islamic History
- Art and Architecture in Muslim Cultures
- Religion, Politics and the State in the Middle East
- The Politics of Modern Muslim Mobility

Note: The elective courses might vary from one year to another and not all of them will necessarily be offered every year.

Students take a total of 24 credits of coursework + 6 credits of thesis

Semester 1: 9 credits core courses + 3 credits from the elective course list

Semester 2: 6 credits core courses + 6 credits from the elective course list

Coursework is composed of 15 core credits + 9 elective credits + 6 credits of thesis

Language Programme

During the summer after completion of the first two semesters, students have the option to travel to a country relevant to their language studies to undertake a three to four-week intensive language course and complete a language-based assignment. This feature of our MA in Muslim Cultures exposes you to cultures, communities and ways of life different from those to which you are accustomed. This option provides the opportunity to experience language in its social and lived dimensions while furthering your understanding of diversity and pluralism.

Thesis and Fieldwork

In the third semester, you will prepare a 20,000 word thesis on a theme of your choice. The thesis is worth 6 credits and you must achieve a pass mark in order to graduate. You may undertake an optional field project in a location relevant to your subject matter. AKU will provide a research budget to subsidise the costs of the fieldwork subject to application of a research proposal. Theses are independently marked by two internal markers and moderated by an external examiner from outside of AKU. You will be assigned a thesis supervisor in the second semester of the programme who will work closely with you to develop the research design and provide guidance to help you carry out the research. Faculty support and input is always available to develop ideas for the research you are conducting.

Assessment

AKU-ISMC prides itself on innovative assessment mechanisms. We integrate presentations, written assignments, examinations, group and individual work, quizzes, posters and practical techniques, which you undertake during the first two semesters. Passing the thesis is a prerequisite for graduation from the MA programme. You will also be provided with feedback on your progress by your course convenors and your faculty advisor.



IT Facilities

The Aga Khan Centre is equipped with excellent IT facilities. Most teaching rooms have interactive white boards, projectors and drop screens. AKU-ISMC offers a state of the art blended learning environment that capitalises on collaborative communication technologies. Students who don't have a satisfactory laptop computer when they begin the course are supported through an interest-free loan scheme to ensure they have the necessary personal computing equipment to thrive on the programme.

Support

While studying with us you can access support and help if you need it. We know that moving into a new environment and being away from home can be a challenge and AKU-ISMC offers a wide range of support and guidance designed to help you settle in.

If you need more professional guidance, then you can speak to your assigned faculty advisor who will give you support and offer advice on your academic and research matters. AKU-ISMC students are also entitled to access to the Westminster Counselling Service.

Your Voice Matters

The Student Council: The Council meets twice in every semester and is co-chaired by the Head of Educational Programmes and an elected student representative.

We aim to give you the best experience when studying at AKU-ISMC and want you to acquire the skills needed to further your career or studies. AKU-ISMC students' voices and opinions matter to us. As an AKU-ISMC student you will have the chance to share your views through:

- Electing two student representatives to attend the regularly scheduled Student Council meetings.
- One of the Student Council Representatives is invited to attend the monthly teaching faculty meetings.

Online surveys issued at the end of each course: These provide opportunities for you to feed into the future direction of the programme, tell us what works and what could be improved and help to achieve the best quality of education and academic excellence we want all our students to have.



“ Studying at AKU-ISMC is one of the best experiences in my life. I have chosen MA in Muslim Cultures because it is the only programme that offers a holistic approach into studying Muslim civilisations. Also, our faculty are one of the greatest assets of AKU-ISMC. We have amazing instructors who are the top in their fields and the best advisors on study, personal and professional matters. ”

Gulru Azatshoeva, AKU-ISMC Student

MEET THE FACULTY

Language Teacher

Luay Mohammed



Sevgi Adak
Assistant Professor

Specialising in women and gender in modern Turkey; women's history and contemporary feminisms in the Middle East; Turkish politics; history of modern Turkey; politics of secularism in Turkey; state–society relations in the Middle East.



Sanaa Alimia
Assistant Professor

Specialising in migration in modern South Asia; surveillance; governance and population control in the modern Muslim world.



Sarah Bowen Savant
Professor

Specialising in early Islam; the study of religion; historiography; late antique Iran and Iraq; prophetic biography.



Walid Ghali
Head Librarian and Associate Professor

Specialising in Islamic manuscripts tradition and codicology; teaching introduction to Sufism; Islamic poetry; the Quran in Muslim life.



Stephen Lyon
Head of Educational Programmes and Professor

Specialising in political anthropology; Pakistan and Pakistani diaspora; computational methods; conflict; kinship.



Jonas Otterbeck
Head of Research and Professor

Specialising in Islamic studies; Egypt; music; migration; youth culture.



Gianluca Parolin
Professor

Specialising in comparative law; regional governance and constitutional arrangements; citizenship in the Arab world; maslahah and maqasid al-Shari'ah; fiqh al-aqalliyat.



Stéphane Pradines
Professor

Specialising in Islamic art and archaeology; Swahili coast and archaeology in Sub-Saharan Africa; Egypt and urban archaeology in Cairo; Muslim fortifications.



Leif Stenberg
Dean and Professor

Specialising in Islam and modern science; various aspects of contemporary Sufism; Muslims in Europe; Islamic movements; questions concerning theory and method in the study of Islam.



Jeff Tan
Associate Professor

Specialising in development studies; Malaysian political economy; privatisation; entrepreneurship and innovation; late industrialisation; developmental state theories; governance and corruption.



Farouk Topan
Associate Professor

Specialising in Swahili literature; Islam in African literature; African poetry; identity in East Africa.

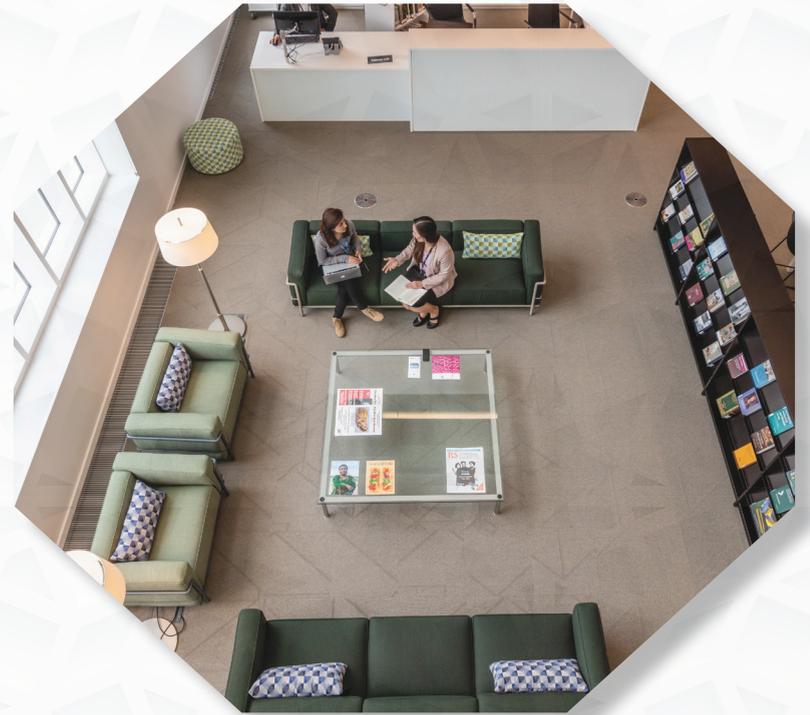


Philip Wood
Professor

Specialising in Christian Orient; late antiquity; Syriac; hagiography and historiography; ethnogenesis and communalism; history of the caliphate; diaspora; migration; religious minorities in modern Syria and Iraq.

AGA KHAN LIBRARY

The Aga Khan Library holds over 52,000 volumes focusing on Muslim civilisations, past and present, and Muslim diasporas around the world, as well as in a broad range of research topics including religions and philosophy, history, social sciences, art and architecture, literature and education. An exceptional feature of the collection is its focus on the study of Muslim minorities, with particular emphasis on the Shia, in general, and the Ismaili, in particular.



As part of its commitment to become one of Europe's most relevant Islamic studies libraries, the collection includes books not only in English but also several other European (French, German, Italian, Portuguese, Spanish), Asian (Gujarati, Sindhi, Tajik, Urdu) and Middle Eastern (Arabic, Farsi, Ottoman Turkish, Turkish) languages. The Library has three dedicated subject librarians to provide expert guidance to help students and scholars with their research.

The Library is continuously growing its collections both in print and electronic format. Its digital collection now offers access to over 84,000 titles including journals, databases, encyclopaedias, dictionaries and other reference resources to support research and teaching.

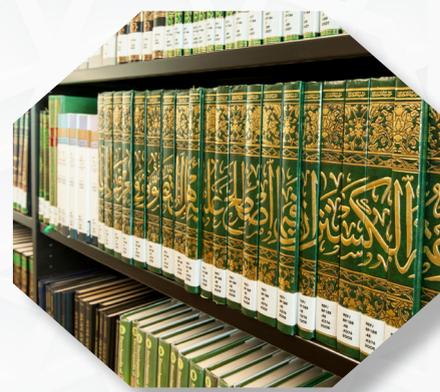


The Library developed the Aga Khan Library Digital Collections platform which includes freely available special collections. These unique collections comprise thousands of manuscripts, artwork, out-of-print publications, photographs, and maps produced across the Muslim world. They form an invaluable resource for the study of the history, politics, customs, and beliefs that have shaped Muslim communities.



Beyond written texts, the Library has built up a collection of documentary and feature films covering a wide range of themes and regions of the Muslim world, including Afghanistan, Central Asia, Egypt, Iran, Morocco and Tunisia, as well as Muslim diaspora communities in Europe and North America. It also has a unique collection of audio recordings of Qawwali music from the Indian subcontinent, Sufi music from Iran and Turkey, and Gnawa music from North Africa and sub-Saharan Africa.

The Library is a member of Jisc Library Hub Discover, a network of academic and research libraries in the United Kingdom and Ireland; and through its partnership with OCLC, has made its holdings available in WorldCat, an international library catalogue.



STUDENT LIFE

At the start of your first academic year at AKU-ISMC, you will participate in an orientation programme that aims to help you adjust to living in London and provide you with all the information and guidance you need. During this week, you will become familiar with the Institute and meet faculty, staff and students. You will also find out more about academic matters and the experience of living in London. In addition, you will be introduced to London's many academic resources and some of its numerous cultural attractions. The Institute also organises social activities and tours, including excursions to places of historical interest.



London

AKU-ISMC is located in the heart of London. This means that you are able to enjoy and experience the various cultural attractions this big city offers. Our campus is surrounded by libraries, universities, theatres, museums, restaurants, shops, parks and much more. It is also a few minutes away from the British Library and the British Museum, two of our Knowledge Quarter partners. Your accommodation is in walking distance of the Aga Khan Centre and many educational opportunities and entertainments, minimising your travel costs.





Our Events Programme

AKU-ISMC hosts a number of events throughout the year that are open to the public, academics, professionals, and our students and alumni.

Recent events have included book launches on “War and Peace in Medieval Middle East” and “Political Kinship in Pakistan” and a series of lectures on “Recognising Islam in Europe and North America”. This is in addition to a series of public talks entitled “Pluralism and Plurality in Islamic Cultures”, co-produced by the Aga Khan University’s Institute for the Study of Muslim Civilisations, Aga Khan Trust for Culture, and Aga Khan Museum.

We also have many special public talks with distinguished academics and non-academics in which we give students a chance to have small meetings with the guest speakers. Recently, we had Staffan de Mistura, the former UN Special Envoy to Syria, and Bahia Shehab, a prominent Egyptian artist.



Victoria Hall, King's Cross

Our student residence, Victoria Hall, in the heart of King's Cross is an 11-storey building designed by award-winning London-based architects Stanton Williams. Within the building you will find stylish communal spaces, which include a gym, reading room, meeting and A/V room and a lounge area. These spaces allow for regular art classes, film nights and other activities put on for residents to give them the opportunity to meet other students and relax.



In addition, a courtyard and roof terrace, inspired by the gardens of the Maghreb and Andalucía add to the design of the building and the space available to residents. The courtyard and terrace were designed by Vladimir Djurovic Landscape Architects, who are renowned for creating timeless poetic landscapes that put nature centre stage.



The accommodation's gardens are symbolic. They are a reflection of the richness and diversity of students who come from around the world, speak multiple languages and have different cultures, and of the cosmopolitan city of London; a place that allows you to experience a world-class culture, where both tradition and modernity meet.

Our apartments have light and spacious rooms, equipped with a double bed, large desk, upholstered desk chair and lounge chair. Each comes with an en-suite shower room and plenty of storage space.



Every flat consists of six or seven bedrooms and a shared kitchen, dining and living space. Many flats also have a balcony off the shared space. Wi-Fi and satellite TV are also available.



“ I live in a cluster with five other international students from Korea, Scotland, Turkey, Malaysia and India. Our kitchen is not only a place for cooking and eating, but also for cultural exchange and social bonding. It is fascinating to realise that we all are different yet share the same human values at the same time. ”

Nurila Ydyrys, AKU-ISMC Student

AGA KHAN CENTRE



AKU-ISMC is housed in the Aga Khan Centre in King's Cross, London. The centre is a place for education, knowledge, cultural exchange and insight into Muslim civilisations.

The organisations that are located here work together to bridge the gap in understanding about Muslim cultures and to connect the public to global development issues.

The building is designed to represent the values of openness, dialogue and respect for different viewpoints (pluralism).



A key feature of both the Aga Khan Centre and Victoria Hall is a series of eight Islamic gardens that reflect – through contemporary landscape design – approaches to landscape architecture from different regions of the Muslim world. The ten gardens across the two buildings and the public realm form a green ribbon which seeks to reflect the great diversity of cultures across the world.



Around AKU-ISMC

Surrounding your accommodation and the academic building are the green spaces, shops, restaurants and bars of King's Cross, offering café society, cinemas, fitness facilities and events for you to enjoy.



In addition to access to the Aga Khan Library, which is rich in rare and important resources, you are eligible to apply for membership of our Knowledge Quarter partner, the British Library.



AFTER AKU-ISMC

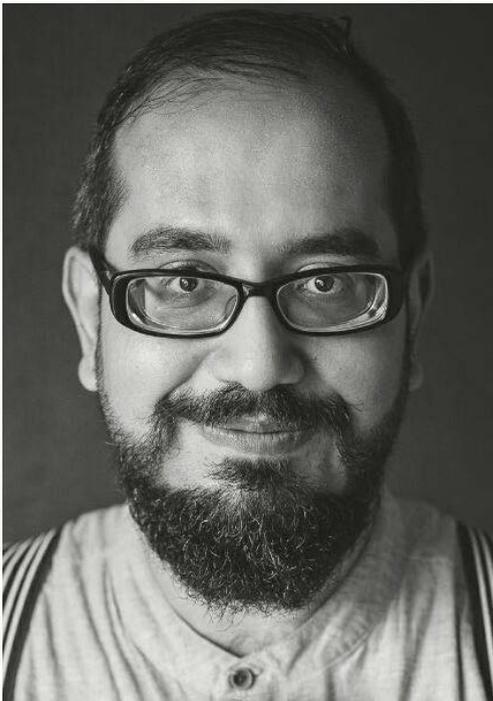
Our graduates are a diverse group and are now following careers in journalism, teaching and business consultancy, working for organisations including the Red Cross, the BBC, Muslim Aid and the World Bank. In addition, a number of AKU-ISMC alumni now work for the Aga Khan Development Network, contributing to its development aims in projects around the world.

Some graduates choose to pursue further studies and have entered establishments such as the University of Oxford, the University of Victoria, Harvard University and Princeton University. Many go on to pursue an academic career, teaching in universities and continuing their own research into specific areas of expertise.

AKU-ISMC's MA programme is a truly global qualification, which opens doors to many different career paths. Our alumni work and study around the world, including Tunisia, Kuwait, Canada, Pakistan and the UK.

AKU-ISMC Alumni Career Pathways

28%	PhD/Further Studies
25%	Private Organisations
16%	Aga Khan Development Network
13%	Government
7%	Entrepreneur/Self-Employed
5%	NGO
3%	No Data
3%	Other



“ I think the most important lesson I have learnt from my study at AKU-ISMC was to recognise, in a much more deeper and nuanced way, cultural and religious diversity among Muslims in the past and present. There is no such thing as Islam but there are only Islams or better to say Muslim cultures. Taking religious and cultural diversity seriously has far-reaching consequences for epistemology of religion, religious studies and for our worldview as a whole. Immanuel Kant once said Hume woke him from his ‘dogmatic slumber’. AKU-ISMC did the same for me. For this, if not anything else, I will always be grateful to AKU-ISMC. ”

Yaser Mirdamadi, AKU-ISMC Alumnus



Applying to AKU-ISMC

In order to be considered for admission to our MA programme, you are required to have the following:

1. An undergraduate degree (equivalent to a UK bachelor's degree), with an award equivalent to an upper second class honours from a university accredited or recognised by UK NARIC, preferably in the humanities or social sciences.
2. Evidence of English language proficiency.

A valid IELTS (Academic) result – overall band score: 6.5 (with a minimum of 5.5 in all four components). Both overall and individual component requirements must be met.

Please note that we **ONLY** accept IELTS results from test centres approved by UK Visas and Immigration (UKVI). IELTS for UKVI tests can be booked by going to:

<https://ieltsukvisas.britishcouncil.org>.

If you are not sure about the equivalency of your qualifications, you are encouraged to contact the AKU-ISMC Programme Administrator: ismc.admissions@aku.edu before making an application.



“ At AKU-ISMC, I have come across an experience which combines critique, intellectual humility and academic excellence. My engagement with the discourse, faculty and colleagues here has inspired me not to only understand the world around me but change it. ”

Sahibzada Habib ur Rehman, AKU-ISMC Student

HOW TO APPLY

Admission Procedures

1. Application

Applications for admission are welcome throughout the year. However, the admission decision process is as follows:

- All applications received by 29 January 2021 will receive consideration and a decision by 31 March 2021.

To apply for the MA in Muslim Cultures, you must complete the application form online by clicking on the following link www.aku.edu/apply-online.

Please Note:

You must complete the online application and upload the necessary documents within the application itself. These include:

1. An official copy of your undergraduate degree and attested copies of academic transcripts. (If a document is not in English a fully certified translation must be uploaded.

The translation must include details of the translator and confirm that it is an accurate translation of the original. It must be dated and include the signature of the translator).

2. Valid proof of English proficiency:

The UK NARIC Statement of Comparability, if your last qualification was awarded in a majority English speaking country, which can be obtained by going to the UK NARIC website (www.naric.org.uk).

Or

Applicants whose last qualification was not awarded in a majority English-speaking country will be required to sit an UKVI Approved IELTS exam.

IELTS for UKVI (Academic) tests can be booked by going to <https://ieltsukvisas.britishcouncil.org>.

NOTE: The test MUST be the UKVI-approved IELTS exam. You MUST submit the IELTS results at the time of application.

3. Two references, submitted directly to: ismc.admissions@aku.edu.

Referees must be familiar with your academic and/or professional work to date. At least one referee should be familiar with your academic work. Please download the reference form from our website, fill in your details and request your referees to send it directly to the Admissions Office at: ismc.admissions@aku.edu.

Note: Any pending document not uploaded with the application must be received via email by 29 January 2021.

2. Selection

Admission to AKU-ISMC is based on merit and scholarly aptitude. AKU-ISMC seeks to admit students of the highest potential. Students are selected for admission without regard to their age, marital status, race, gender, ethnic origin, religion, sexual orientation, disability, social background or any other distinction. All shortlisted candidates will be invited for an interview via Zoom and will be asked to undertake a short reading task.

During the interview you will be asked to demonstrate:

- Informed views about contemporary issues in Muslim societies.
- A strong interest in the humanities and social sciences and in the study of Muslim cultures and societies.
- An ability to articulate your thoughts clearly and analyse complex intellectual concepts.

You are also assessed through several other criteria including scholastic achievement, work experience (if applicable), academic interests, referees and extra-curricular activities.

The decision of the University is final.

3. Further Information

For further information regarding the MA in Muslim Cultures please contact the Admissions Team: ismc.admissions@aku.edu.





Tuition Fees

Our tuition fees are available on the website:
www.aku.edu/ismc/ma/Pages/tuition-fees.aspx

Financial Assistance

Through our Financial Assistance Programme, the University aims to ensure that every student who is made an academic offer can afford the tuition fees, living expenses and other costs associated with pursuing the MA programme.

Assistance will be provided through loans or scholarships to supplement personal resources. This is based upon the evaluation of a student's need from financial data provided. Every student is expected to contribute towards fees, accommodation and subsistence.

“ Coming from a Hindu background, I faced a lot of questions about my decision to study the MA in Muslim Cultures, but the academic programme at AKU-ISMC has provided me an unbiased learning environment. The MA programme at AKU-ISMC employs a unique set of scholarships and provides a nice balance of events of past and present. Specifically, the language lessons enabled me to access the archives and know the history with better understanding. ”

Umang Kochhar, AKU-ISMC Student



WHERE TO FIND US

Address: Aga Khan University's Institute for the Study of Muslim Civilisations,
Aga Khan Centre, 10 Handyside Street, London, N1C 4DN
United Kingdom

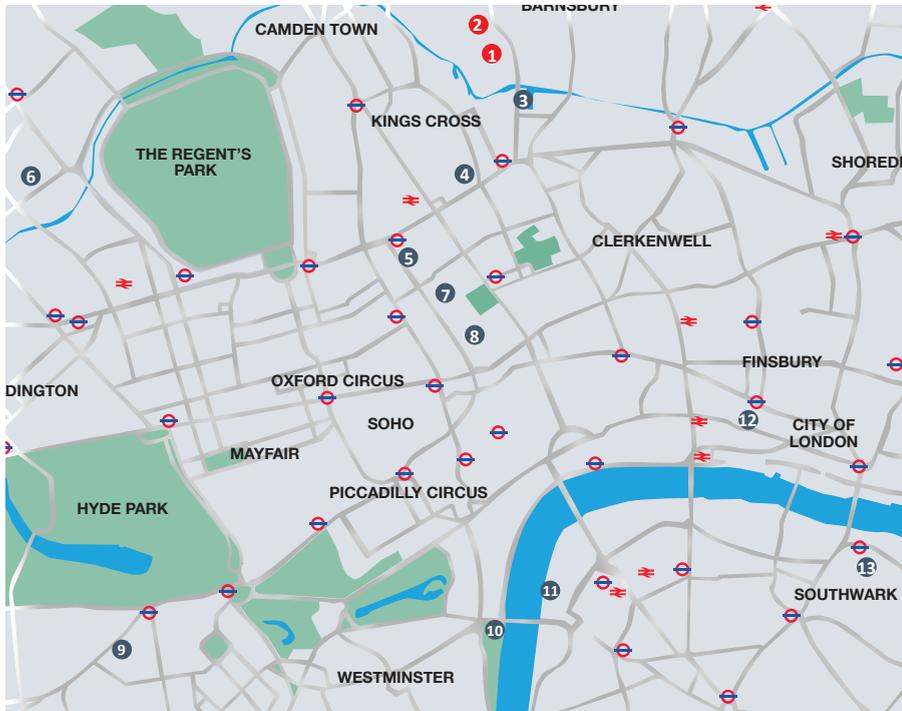
Contact Us: Tel: +44 (0)20 7380 3800

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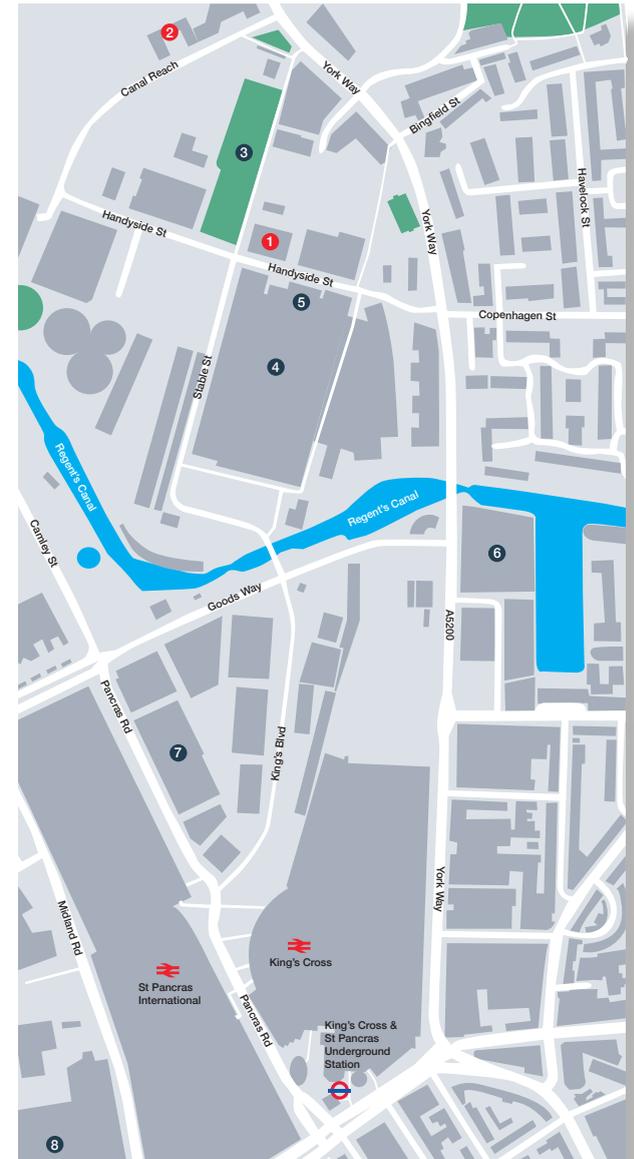
AKU-ISMC Email: ismc@aku.edu

Website: www.aku.edu/ismc



Overview Map

- | | |
|------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1 AKU-ISMC, Aga Khan Centre | 7 SOAS |
| 2 Victoria Hall King's Cross | 8 The British Museum |
| 3 The Guardian Media Group | 9 Harrods |
| 4 The British Library | 10 Big Ben, Westminster |
| 5 UCL | 11 The London Eye |
| 6 Lord's Cricket Ground | 12 St Paul's Cathedral |
| | 13 The Shard |



Local Map

- | | |
|---|----------------------------|
| 1 AKU-ISMC, Aga Khan Centre | 5 Platform Theatre |
| 2 Victoria Hall | 6 The Guardian Media Group |
| 3 Lewis Cubitt Park | 7 Google UK |
| 4 University of the Arts,
Central St Martins | 8 The British Library |

Virtual Fairs

Virtual fairs are an opportunity for you to speak with faculty members, admissions officers, current students and alumni. We will be holding virtual fairs throughout the year. Details will be listed on the website as dates are confirmed and if you sign up to our email list, we will contact you to invite you to register.

If you are interested in receiving emails about virtual fairs, key dates in the application process and invitations to events – both virtual and on campus – then sign up to our email list at: www.aku.edu/ismc/about/Pages/sign-up-form.aspx

Special Thanks

To AKU-ISMC students and alumni for their valuable contribution to this work.

- Photos by Anite Nadeem, AKU-ISMC student: P 13, P 22
- Photos by Karim Shallwanee, AKU-ISMC alumnus: P 1, P 10, P 31



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AKU ISMC

Website: www.aku.edu/ismc



THE AGA KHAN UNIVERSITY

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