

Islamic Studies

Islam is the faith of approximately a billion people, and Islamic culture extends in time from the seventh century to the present and in space from Spain to the Philippines, from the Volga to the Zambezi.

The Islamic studies program allows students to combine relevant courses from a number of fields—history, history of art, philosophy, Near Eastern Languages and Cultures, international studies, and others—with work in Islamic languages and literatures. Students may, for example, examine the Mesopotamian, Hellenic, and Persian past which serves as a background to the rise of Islamic civilization, or the Muslim societies that have emerged in Central Asia, South Asia, Africa, and Europe over the 14 centuries of Islamic history.

Pursuing Islamic Studies at Ohio State

All Ohio State freshman applicants are considered within a competitive admission process for the Columbus campus. The primary criteria for admission are the completion of the applicant's high school college preparatory program, performance in that program as indicated by class rank and/or grade-point average, and performance on either the ACT or SAT. Upon admission to the university, students can declare a major in Islamic studies within the Arts and Humanities. Interested students should contact the undergraduate advisor for the Department of Near Eastern Languages and Cultures and in Arts and Sciences Advising.

Islamic Studies Requirements

Students who major in Islamic studies are required to complete a program of 60 hours in language, history, basic research, culture, and allied courses. Students plan their major programs in consultation with their faculty advisors to meet their individual needs and to assure a coherent educational program.

Courses are chosen from an Islamic language (Arabic, Persian, or Turkish), with at least 10 hours beyond the 104 level required; history; basic research and culture; and allied courses related to some special aspect of Islamic cultures and institutions.

Core courses include the study of an Islamic language through the 104 level. These courses do not apply to the major.

For more information, check these web sites:

Near Eastern Languages and Cultures: nelc.osu.edu

Arts and Humanities: artsandhumanities.osu.edu

Ohio State: osu.edu

Additional electives and General Education Curriculum requirements totaling 181 hours are required by the College of the Arts and Sciences for graduation.

Co-Curricular Opportunities

Ohio State offers many opportunities for students to learn and grow outside of the classroom. These range from cooperative education (co-op) and internships to study abroad programs to student organizations. Co-ops and internships place students in professional environments while they are Ohio State students. Ohio State offers more than 100 study abroad programs in 40 countries around the world. In addition, there are hundreds of student organizations on campus to meet the interests of a diverse student population.

These experiences enable students to gain valuable work experience, learn about cultures, and take on leadership roles before they enter the workforce. All of these experiences enhance learning and may provide an advantage in the job market.

Honors & Scholars Opportunities

Ohio State offers the Honors and Scholars programs to create an environment of intellectual support and stimulation within a close-knit community of high-ability undergraduate students. Through these programs, students have access to smaller classes, undergraduate research opportunities, close working relationships with faculty, priority scheduling, and unique housing options.

Honors and Scholars programs represent great opportunities to be part of a smaller community within a large university. Good candidates for these programs will receive additional information after admission to the university. Learn more about the Honors and Scholars program at honors-scholars.osu.edu.

Career Prospects in Islamic Studies

Islamic studies offers students a unique approach to all the major disciplines within the humanities. As a part of the Arts and Humanities and, hence, of the liberal arts, Islamic Studies seeks to prepare students for further study in the humanities as well as prepare them for employment in state and local government, religious organizations,

Admissions: undergrad.osu.edu

Multicultural Center: multiculturalcenter.osu.edu

First Year Experience: fye.osu.edu

Sample Curriculum

This is the sample list of classes a student may take to pursue a degree in Islamic Studies. Since university students need more than a specific education in a narrow field, they also will take classes to complete the General Education Curriculum (GEC). The GEC will allow students to develop the fundamental skills essential to collegiate success across major programs. Course work options satisfying the GEC often come from a variety of academic areas of study allowing students to tailor their GEC toward their interests.

Note: This sample represents one of several possible paths to a degree in Islamic Studies. Consult the departmental web site, nelc.osu.edu, for details on how the major can be completed.

Freshman Year:

Culture of the Contemporary Arab World	5
Elementary Modern Standard Arabic I*	5
Elementary Modern Standard Arabic II*	5
Elementary Modern Standard Arabic III*	5
GEC courses	25
Arts and Humanities Survey	1
Freshman Seminar	1
Total hours	47

Sophomore Year:

Intermediate Modern Standard Arabic I*	5
Intermediate Modern Standard Arabic II	5
Literatures and Cultures of the Islamic World	5
Modern Arabic Literature in Translation	5
Basic Bibliographic and Reference Tools in Near Eastern Languages and Cultures	5
Electives	5
GEC courses	20
Total hours	50

Junior Year:

Intermediate Literary Arabic Reading	5
Introduction to the Qu'ran	5
Contemporary Arabic Prose Fiction	5
Islam, Politics, and Society in History	5
Electives	10
GEC courses	15
Total hours	45

Senior Year:

Middle East in the 19th Century	5
Canon and Communities in the Near East	5
Arabic Folk Narrative in Translation	5
Studies in Arabic Prose	5
Electives	10
GEC courses	15
Total hours	45

*Fulfills the GEC foreign language requirement. Islamic studies is an interdisciplinary major and requires that students and advisors design a focused curriculum. The sample curriculum here focuses primarily upon the contemporary Arab world, with an emphasis on literature. The Islamic studies major also requires 10 hours in Arabic, Persian, or Turkish courses beyond the GEC requirement of 20 hours in a foreign language. In this sample curriculum, both the GEC language requirement and the 10 hours beyond the GEC requirement are fulfilled in Arabic.

social agencies, teaching, business, and the arts. Moreover, graduates have become college and university professors, lawyers, and business executives.

Beginning salaries depend on industry and on candidates' skills and experience. Islamic studies graduates find their marketable skills considerably enriched by their humanities education in general, as well as by their study of important international issues.

Career Counseling and Job Placement

Students can explore career options by utilizing Career Connection as well as the Arts and Sciences Career Services Office. Providing complimentary services, Career Connection focuses on helping students establish a career direction, while the Arts and Sciences Career Services Office assists students with finding internships—experiences that are essential to testing out the suitability of career fields they are considering. Located in 48 Townshend Hall, the Arts and Sciences Career Services Office also assists seniors and recent graduates with finding entry-level career employment.

More information about both offices is found at asccareerservices.osu.edu and careerconnection.osu.edu.

More About Islamic Studies

Islamic studies majors have found Ohio State's Center for the Study of Religion to be a significant academic resource. The center seeks to engage faculty, students, and the public in reflective and informed discourse on religions. For more information, visit religion.osu.edu.

Islamic studies majors are welcome to attend events sponsored by the Muslim Students' Association. For more information about this official Ohio State student organization, visit msa-ohiostate.com.

Apply to Ohio State

Students wishing to apply for admission have a number of options. Those with Internet access can download application materials or apply online by visiting undergrad.osu.edu/apply.html. Students may also contact Undergraduate Admissions and First Year Experience at (614) 292-3980 or askabuckeye@osu.edu to have an application mailed.

Revised September 2009. For the most up-to-date information on the Islamic studies program, please visit nelc.osu.edu.

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