

Islamic Studies

Islam is the faith of nearly 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 Literatures; 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 College of Humanities. Interested students should contact the undergraduate advisor for the Division for Comparative Studies and an Undergraduate Student Academic Services (USAS) counselor.

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 in major 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. Qualified students are encouraged to pursue the honors program in Islamic studies.

Courses are chosen from an Islamic (Arabic, Persian, or Turkish) language, 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.

Additional electives and General Education Curriculum requirements totaling 191 hours are required by the Colleges 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 & 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 & Scholars programs represent great opportunities to be part of a smaller community within a large university. Good candidates for these programs are invited to apply upon admission to the university. For more information about these opportunities, refer to the Honors & Scholars web site at <http://honors.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 College of 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, social agencies, teaching, business, and the arts. Moreover, graduates have become college and university professors, lawyers, and business executives.

For more information, check these web sites:

Near Eastern Languages and Cultures: www.nelc.ohio-state.edu
College of Humanities: www.cohums.ohio-state.edu
Ohio State: www.osu.edu

Admissions: <http://undergrad.osu.edu>
Multicultural Center: <http://multiculturalcenter.osu.edu>
First Year Experience: <http://fye.osu.edu>

Sample Curriculum

This is the sample list of classes a student will take to pursue a degree in Islamic. 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. Consult the departmental web site, www.nelc.ohio-state.edu, for details on each specific track.

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
College of Humanities Survey	1
Freshman Seminar	1
Total hours	47

Sophomore Year:

Intermediate Modern Standard Arabic I*	5
Intermediate Modern Standard Arabic II	5
Masterpieces in Near Eastern Literature in Translation	5
Modern Arabic Literature in Translation	5
Basic Bibliographic and Reference Tools in Arabic and Islamic Studies	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
Religion and Politics in the Islamic World	5
Electives	15
GEC courses	15
Total hours	50

Senior Year:

Middle East in the Modern Era, 1800 to Present	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. The Islamic Studies major is interdisciplinary and requires that the student 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.

Some jobs that Ohio State graduates with humanities majors have chosen include: coordinator with the Ohio Arts Council, associate publisher with Writer's Digest, and director of the Columbus Urban League.

Beginning salaries range from \$29,000 to \$32,500 or higher depending 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.

About Ohio State

The Ohio State University is recognized throughout the nation and the world for its innovative programs, exceptional faculty, and cutting edge facilities. In fact, Ohio State is consistently ranked among the country's best public institutions for overall academic reputation. Because Ohio State is a major teaching and research university, our students receive excellent preparation for entry into top graduate/professional programs and the job market.

Offering over 170 majors and more than 10,500 courses, Ohio State allows students to tailor their education to their interests through double majors, minors, and personalized study programs.

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 <http://undergrad.osu.edu>. Students may also contact Undergraduate Admissions and First Year Experience at (614) 292-3980 or askabuckeye@osu.edu to have an application mailed.

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