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 freshman applicants to the Columbus campus are considered within a competitive admission process; find admissions criteria at go.osu.edu/admissions.

Upon admission to the university, students can declare a major in Islamic studies within the College of Arts and Sciences. 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 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 a language with a very large proportion of Muslim speakers and a rich Islamic literary tradition (Arabic, Persian or Turkish). Core courses include the study of an Islamic language through the 1103 level (these do not apply to the major) and at least two courses beyond the 1103 level. Other courses include history, basic research and culture, and allied courses related to some special aspect of Islamic cultures and institutions.

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.

The Honors and Scholars programs represent great opportunities to be part of a smaller community within a large university. Learn more 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, social agencies, teaching, business, and the arts. Graduates have also 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.

For more information, check these websites:

Near Eastern Languages and Cultures: nelc.osu.edu
Arts and Sciences: artsandsciences.osu.edu
Ohio State: osu.edu

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 specific education in a narrow field, they also will take classes to complete General Education (GE) requirements. Because GE courses come from a variety of academic areas of study, this course work helps students develop fundamental skills essential to collegiate success and allows them to tailor these courses toward their interests. Note: This sample represents one of several possible paths to a degree in Islamic studies. Visit nelc.osu.edu for details on how the major can be completed.

Freshman Year:
- Survey course 1
- Elementary Modern Standard Arabic I 4
- Elementary Modern Standard Arabic II 4
- Modern Arabic Literature in Translation 3
- Freshman Seminar 1
- GE courses 17
- **Total hours 30**

Sophomore Year:
- Intermediate Modern Standard Arabic I 4
- Intermediate Modern Standard Arabic II 4
- Issues in Arab-American Society, Culture and Literature 3
- GE courses 13
- Elective courses 6
- **Total hours 30**

Junior Year:
- Intermediate Literary Arabic Reading I 4
- Intermediate Literary Arabic Reading II 4
- Islamic Civilization through the Ages 3
- Theory and Method in Study of Religious 3
- GE courses 8
- Elective courses 9
- **Total hours 31**

Senior Year:
- Introduction to Arabic Philosophy 3
- The Novel in the Middle East 3
- Introduction to the Arabic Qur’an 3
- Representing the Middle East in Film 3
- Sufism 3
- GE courses 6
- Elective courses 9
- **Total hours 30**

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 courses in Arabic, Persian or Turkish beyond GE requirements for foreign language. In this sample curriculum, both the GE language requirement and the additional course requirements are fulfilled in Arabic.

Revised September 2015. Information subject to change. For the most up-to-date information on the Islamic studies program, please visit nelc.osu.edu.

Contact information:
Justin Acome | Near Eastern Languages and Cultures
300 Hagerty Hall | 1775 College Road | Columbus, Ohio 43210-1340
614-292-9255 | acome.1@osu.edu