



The Institute of Ismaili Studies

# SECONDARY TEACHER EDUCATION PROGRAMME



## NEW STEP PROGRAMME

The Secondary Teacher Education Programme (STEP) was founded in 2007 with a view to develop educators to teach the Institute's Secondary Curriculum in a way that inspires and motivates secondary students. Since then, it has been evaluated and developed annually to ensure that the programme is fit for purpose and meets the ever-changing needs of students and communities on the ground.

While incremental changes and improvements have been made regularly, a significant restructuring of the programme is forthcoming for those cohorts joining in 2017 and beyond. The programme is now being revised to greatly increase STEP students' practical classroom skills and teaching experience

for when they go on to teach in the field and for their long-term development that goes beyond the mandatory three years in the field post-graduation.

The STEP programme consists of two awards, the MA in Education, Muslim Societies and Civilisations which remains unchanged. The second award, the **Post Graduate Diploma in Teaching and Reflective Practice (PGDip)\***, a bespoke programme specifically designed, by UCL Institute of Education (UCL IOE) in partnership with the IIS, with the needs of the students, the ITREBs who employ them, and the communities they serve in mind, will be a key part of the new STEP, and will replace the existing MTeach qualification.

Current Structure	New Structure
MA in Education, Muslim Societies and Civilisations (Academic Focus)	MA in Education, Muslim Societies and Civilisations (Academic Focus)
Master of Teaching (Practice-Based Focus)	PGDip (Practice-Based Focus, but with vastly enhanced initial teacher training and classroom hours)

\* Subject to the signing of a Memorandum of Agreement between The Institute of Ismaili Studies and the University College London and receipt of a minimum number of qualified applicants.

In restructuring the programme, the two institutions looked at the ever-evolving educational and social environments within which STEP operates and gathered feedback from previous and current STEP students, ITREBs and other stakeholders. This feedback has led to a re-conceptualisation of

STEP, through which we have developed a new curriculum being piloted in 2017-18.

The overall structure for the new STEP programme will be:

Year	Programme Elements	Teaching Practice	Provider
STEP 1st Year	MA in Education (Muslim Societies and Civilisations) - Foundation Phase		IIS
	Post Graduate Diploma in Teaching and Reflective Practice (PGDip)		UCL IOE
		Teaching practice in BAIs; Mainstream Schools (intensive)	IIS UCL IOE

Year	Programme Elements	Teaching Practice	Provider
STEP 2nd Year	MA in Education (Muslim Societies and Civilisations) - Advanced Phase		IIS
	Post Graduate Diploma in Teaching and Reflective Practice (PGDip)		UCL IOE
	Field Research in students' home context countries	Teaching practice in local BAIs and students' home context countries	IIS UCL IOE

The PGDip will be specifically customised to the needs of STEP students, and will provide a coherent education programme based on the following aims:

- To provide sustained and well-supported teaching practice alongside academic engagement with theories and policies that underpin professional best practice;
- To instil practical teaching skills, critical thinking and academic exploration skills for STEP students' long-term development;
- To promote critical reflection as a basis for personal continuous professional development; To develop participants' understanding of contextualising curricula and transferring theories and practical strategies from one context to another;
- To encourage critical engagement with communities of practice within participants' own settings, but also within the wider educational context.