

## Programme Specification

### I. Programme Details

<b>Programme title</b>	MA Muslim Societies and Civilisations			
<b>Final award</b> ( <i>exit awards will be made as outlined in the <a href="#">Taught Degree Regulations</a></i> )	BA	<input type="checkbox"/>	MA	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	BSc	<input type="checkbox"/>	MSc	<input type="checkbox"/>
	LLB	<input type="checkbox"/>	MRes	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Other ...	<input type="checkbox"/>	LLM	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Mode of delivery</b>	Distance-learning	<input type="checkbox"/>		
	On-campus	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
<b>Professional body accreditation</b> ( <i>if applicable</i> )	N/A			
<b>Academic year this specification was created</b>	2017/18			
<b>Dates of any subsequent amendments</b>				

### II. Programme Aims: What will the programme allow you to achieve?

<p>The MA Muslim Societies and Civilisations aims to offer students a systematic and critical interdisciplinary examination of Muslim social contexts and civilisations, and to develop in them sound scholarly skills, critical analysis capacity, methodological and research skills, and clear communications skills. The programme is thus articulated around the following aims:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The Programme will develop and cultivate in students a systematic understanding and engagement with subject knowledge pertaining to the interdisciplinary field of Islamic Studies, with particular focus on societal, civilisational and humanistic-informed approaches. As an example of curricular material employing the aforementioned approaches, due attention will be paid to the Institute of Ismaili Studies' <i>Secondary Curriculum</i>;</li> <li>2. The Programme will foster students' capacity to conduct an insightful and critical review of the relevant literature in all pertinent subject areas, as well as creativity and independence of thought in the application of knowledge;</li> <li>3. The programme aims at developing students' capacity to critically evaluate current issues and recent developments in the field and arrive at sound critical insights using research methodologies in the study of humanities and social sciences in Muslim contexts;</li> <li>4. The programme will develop in the students a range of practical and intellectual skills that contribute to:             <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i) the critical evaluation of scholarship, literature and research in Islamic studies, religious studies, and the humanities at the postgraduate level;</li> <li>ii) a systematic understanding of how established and emerging techniques of research and enquiry are used to create and interpret knowledge;</li> <li>iii) independence of thought in the application of knowledge, and the creative and critical handling, presenting and analysis of data.</li> </ol> </li> <li>5. Throughout the programme, students will acquire a systematic grasp of established and evolving ways of communication and presentation for this field of study, while producing postgraduate-level coursework that shows criticality, clarity, focus and cogency in organization and presentation of arguments and conclusions.</li> </ol>
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### III. Programme Learning Outcomes: What will you learn on the programme?

There are four key areas in which you will develop:

<b>Learning Outcomes: Knowledge</b>	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. To acquire systematic understanding of subject-specific knowledge on Islam with particular attention to Shi'i Muslim (including Ismaili) traditions. This will be informed by broad humanistic, societal and civilisational perspectives, with due consideration of the living traditions of such faith communities.</li> <li>2. To develop critical awareness of problems and issues in Islamic Studies and cognate fields.</li> <li>3. To develop a critical understanding of a range of issues with contemporary relevance to Muslim societies.</li> <li>4. To acquire a systematic understanding of the IIS's Secondary curriculum's philosophical underpinnings and contents, developing advanced knowledge and insight.</li> </ol>	
<b>Typical Teaching Methods</b>	<b>Typical Assessment Methods</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lectures, small group seminars, readings, individual and group tasks related to the subject-matter.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Seen and unseen written examinations</li> <li>• Oral examinations</li> <li>• Presentations</li> <li>• Coursework, including: written essays, reflective journals and book reviews</li> <li>• Leading classroom activities, such as seminars and tutorials</li> <li>• A written dissertation</li> </ul>

<b>Learning Outcomes: Intellectual (thinking) skills</b>	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. To acquire the intellectual skills to deliberate, debate, and critically interrogate a range of issues pertaining to the subject-matter.</li> <li>2. To critically evaluate literature pertinent to the subject-matter in diverse cultural, historical, and socio-political contexts.</li> <li>3. To be able to question, extend, adapt or challenge existing assumptions and intellectual frameworks in relation to the subject-matter, and its pertinent literature and/or scholarship.</li> </ol>	
<b>Typical Teaching Methods</b>	<b>Typical Assessment Methods</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lectures involving interactive approaches where critical input is sought, small group seminars, discussion of readings, and pertinent individual tasks.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Seen and unseen written examinations</li> <li>• Oral examinations</li> <li>• Presentations</li> <li>• Coursework, including: written essays, reflective journals and book reviews</li> <li>• Leading classroom activities, such as seminars and tutorials</li> <li>• A written dissertation</li> </ul>

<b>Learning Outcomes: Subject-based practical skills</b>	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. To develop and cultivate the practical skills required to critically address primary and secondary sources relevant to the subject-matter and the field in general.</li> <li>2. To be able to critically assess past and present issues in Muslim societies, with well-pondered cultural sensitivity in regard to the living traditions of contemporary communities.</li> <li>3. To develop an understanding context-specific issues with due critical insight as well as appropriate ethical considerations.</li> <li>4. To develop a critically-founded appreciation of the diversity of Muslim communities and traditions, with particular attention to Ismaili communities.</li> </ol>	
<b>Typical Teaching Methods</b>	<b>Typical Assessment Methods</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lectures, small group seminars, focused formative training, readings, and pertinent individual tasks.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Seen and unseen written examinations</li> <li>• Oral examinations</li> <li>• Presentations</li> <li>• Coursework, including: written essays, reflective journals and book reviews</li> <li>• Leading classroom activities, such as seminars and tutorials</li> <li>• A written dissertation</li> </ul>

<b>Learning Outcomes: Transferrable skills</b>	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. To be equipped to identify problems and questions in subject areas and to devise study approaches and/or research strategies to deal with them.</li> <li>2. To be able to form arguments at the postgraduate level and express those arguments in substantial pieces of writing (as well as through other means) employing proper academic conventions.</li> <li>3. To develop sound verbal articulation of arguments and points, including sophisticated use of language and presentation skills, and the ability to convey complex ideas and issues to an audience.</li> <li>4. To be able to work independently on an extended research-oriented independent project, resulting in a substantial written output.</li> <li>5. To be able to engage critically with a broad range of knowledge on a variety of subjects, and to systematise the available information efficiently and logically.</li> </ol>	
<b>Typical Teaching Methods</b>	<b>Typical Assessment Methods</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lectures, small group seminars, focused formative training, readings, and pertinent individual tasks.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Seen and unseen written examinations</li> <li>• Oral examinations</li> <li>• Presentations</li> <li>• Coursework, including: written essays, reflective journals and book reviews</li> <li>• Leading classroom activities, such as seminars and tutorials</li> <li>• A written dissertation</li> </ul>

## Appendix – Programme Structure

Year one	Length	Credits
History of the Islamic World I	20 sessions	30
The Qur'an and its Interpretations	12 sessions	15
Year two	Length	Credits
History of the Islamic World II	20 sessions	30
Faith, Ethics and Practice	12 sessions	15
Developments and Issues in the Contemporary Muslim World	12 sessions	15
Literature in Muslim Societies	12 sessions	15
Dissertation	10,000 words	60
<b>Total</b>		<b>180</b>