

# MA/Graduate Diploma Islamic Studies



This programme explores the thought and practice of Islam, focusing on major points of history and emphasising the doctrinal diversity and intellectual vigour of the tradition. It provides a means of exploring Islam as a world religion, and is also an excellent preparation for further research in the field. Study includes Islamic Philosophy, Sufism, Islam in the Diaspora, Political Islam, Islam and Gender, and History of Christian-Muslim Relations. There are also opportunities to work on areas of special interest.

**[Study here and find out why the University of Birmingham has been awarded The Times and The Sunday Times University of the Year 2013-14](http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/news/latest/2013/09/20-sep-Birmingham-announced-as-University-of-the-Year.aspx)**  
(<http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/news/latest/2013/09/20-sep-Birmingham-announced-as-University-of-the-Year.aspx>)

## Course fact file

**Type of Course:** Taught

**Study Options:** Full time, part time

**Duration:** MA - 12 months full-time, 24 months part-time; Graduate Diploma - 9 months full-time, 24 months part-time

**Start date:** September

## Related courses

**[MRes Islamic Studies \(/postgraduate/courses/combined/thr/islamic-studies.aspx\)](/postgraduate/courses/combined/thr/islamic-studies.aspx)**

## Contact

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**[School of Philosophy, Theology and Religion \(/schools/ptr/index.aspx\)](/schools/ptr/index.aspx)**

## Details

The programme includes six taught modules, comprising a core Research Methods module and five modules from a range which includes:

- Christian-Muslim Relations – Origins and Issues
- Contemporary Sufi Movements
- Feminism in the Muslim World
- Islam in Britain
- Islamic Philosophy
- Political Islam

Full-time students take these in semesters 1 and 2 of their year of study, and part-time students take them in semesters 1 and 2 over their two years of study.

MA students also complete a 15,000-word dissertation on a topic agreed with their supervisor.

## Fees and funding

We charge an annual tuition fee. Fees for 2015/16 are as follows:

### MA

- Home/EU: £6,210 full-time; £3,105 part-time
- Overseas: £14,140 full-time

### Graduate Diploma

- Home/EU: £4,140 full-time; £2,070 part-time

- Overseas: £14,140 full-time

For part-time students, the above fee quoted is for year one only and tuition fees will also be payable in year two of your programme.

Eligibility for Home/EU or Overseas fees can be verified with Admissions. Learn more about [fees for international students \(/International/students/finance/fees.aspx\)](http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/international/students/finance/fees.aspx).

Tuition fees can either be paid in full or by instalments. Learn more about [postgraduate tuition fees and funding \(/postgraduate/pgt-fees/index.aspx\)](http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/postgraduate/pgt-fees/index.aspx).

## Scholarships and studentships

Scholarships to cover fees and/or maintenance costs may be available. To discover whether you are eligible for any award across the University, and to start your funding application, please visit the University's [Postgraduate Funding Database \(http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/students/fees/funding/FundingFilter.aspx\)](http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/students/fees/funding/FundingFilter.aspx).

International students can often gain funding through overseas research scholarships, Commonwealth scholarships or their home government.

University of Birmingham graduates may be entitled to a fee reduction through the [College of Arts and Law Alumni Bursary scheme \(http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/schools/calgs/scholarships/alumni-bursary.aspx\)](http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/schools/calgs/scholarships/alumni-bursary.aspx).

## Entry requirements

The normal entrance requirement for the MA is an upper second-class in Theology or a related discipline, whilst Diploma applicants should normally be graduates with a degree in an appropriate discipline.

Learn more about [entry requirements \(http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/students/requirements/requirements-pg/index.aspx\)](http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/students/requirements/requirements-pg/index.aspx)

## International students

### Academic requirements

We accept a range of qualifications; our [country pages \(http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/international/students/country/index.aspx\)](http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/international/students/country/index.aspx) show you what qualifications we accept from your country.

### English language requirements

You can satisfy our English language requirements in two ways:

- by holding an [English language qualification \(http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/students/requirements/requirements-pg/international/index.aspx\)](http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/students/requirements/requirements-pg/international/index.aspx) to the right level
- by taking and successfully completing one of our [English courses for international students \(http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/students/requirements/requirements-pg/international/english-courses.aspx\)](http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/students/requirements/requirements-pg/international/english-courses.aspx)

## How to apply

### Before you make your application

You may wish to [register your interest with us \(#contensis\)](http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/students/requirements/requirements-pg/international/index.aspx) to receive regular news and updates on postgraduate life within this Department and the wider University.

### Making your application

When clicking on the Apply Now button you will be directed to an application specifically designed for the programme you wish to apply for where you will create an account with the University application system and submit your application and supporting documents online. Further information regarding how to apply online can be found on the [How to apply pages \(http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/students/courses/postgraduate/apply-pg/index.aspx\)](http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/students/courses/postgraduate/apply-pg/index.aspx)

[Apply now \(https://pga.bham.ac.uk/1pages/CAL111.htm\)](https://pga.bham.ac.uk/1pages/CAL111.htm)

## Learning and teaching

As well as the taught modules you take on this programme, the [Department of Theology and Religion \(/schools/ptr/departments/theologyandreligion/index.aspx\)](http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/schools/ptr/departments/theologyandreligion/index.aspx) has a busy programme of research seminars, conferences and workshops which you can attend, so you'll be able to gain insight from a range of academics and peers from across the department.

You will also become part of, and contribute to, the vibrant international community of the College of Arts and Law Graduate School, which offers dedicated research resources and a supportive working environment. Our team of academic and operational staff are on hand to offer support and advice to all postgraduate students within the College.

## Support with academic writing

As a postgraduate student in the College of Arts and Law, you have access to the [Academic Writing Advisory Service \(AWAS\) \(http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/university/colleges/artslaw/student-experience/opportunities/awas/index.aspx\)](http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/university/colleges/artslaw/student-experience/opportunities/awas/index.aspx) which aims to help your transition from undergraduate to taught Masters level, or back into academia after time away. The service offers guidance on writing assignments and dissertations for your MA/MSc programme with individual support from an academic writing advisor via tutorials, email and the provision of online materials.

International students can access support through the [English for International Students Unit \(EISU\) \(http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/students/eisu/inseasonal/index.aspx\)](http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/students/eisu/inseasonal/index.aspx).

## Related research

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## Related staff

[Dr Jagbir Jhutti-Johal \(/staff/profiles/tr/jhutti-johal-jagbir.aspx\)](/staff/profiles/tr/jhutti-johal-jagbir.aspx)

[Professor David Thomas \(/staff/profiles/tr/thomas-david.aspx\)](/staff/profiles/tr/thomas-david.aspx)

## Employability

The University of Birmingham has been ranked 8th in the UK and 60th in the world for post-qualification employability in the latest global survey of universities commissioned by the International Herald Tribune.

Your degree will provide excellent preparation for employment and this will be further enhanced by the employability skills training offered through the College of Arts and Law Graduate School.



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Birmingham's Theology graduates develop a broad range of transferable skills including: familiarity with research methods; the ability to manage large quantities of information from diverse sources; the ability to organise information in a logical and coherent manner; the expertise to write clearly and concisely and to tight deadlines; critical and analytical ability; the capacity for argument, debate and speculation; and the ability to base conclusions on statistical research.

Over the past five years, over 92% of our postgraduates were in work and/or further study six months after graduation. Many of our graduates go into careers in churches of various denominations. For those in further study, teacher training courses remain a popular choice. Other students use their transferable skills in a range of employment sectors, including local government, education and charities. Employers that our graduates have gone on to work for include: British Council; Church of England; Institute of Education; International Greek New Testament Project; Quaker Homeless Action; Queens Ecumenical Theological College; and University of Birmingham.