BOSTON ISLAMIC SEMINARY

Preparing the next generation *of* American Muslim Religious Leaders

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BISMILLAH
A NEW CHAPTER BEGINS



and say
“ My Lord, Increase me ”
in knowledge

Qur’an 20:14

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

In the name of Allah, the Most Beneficent, the Most Merciful

Asalamu alaikum wa rahmatullahi wa barakatuhu,

Building individuals and making them righteous, effective leaders and reformers in this life is one of the most important goals of Islam. Allah has sent us divine guidance through the Prophet Muhammad ﷺ and the revelation of the Holy Qur’an, which contains the best methodologies for education and reform. In following this guidance, Muslims can rise to the Qur’anic call to be “the best of nations” and serve as role models in benefiting mankind.

The first revelation to our Prophet ﷺ came in the form of a divine command related to the concept of education: “Read, in the name of your Lord who created…Who taught by the pen.” With this verse, Allah established a foundational ethos of continuous learning which prepared the Prophet ﷺ and his followers for what was to come: establishing a virtuous and just society, whose contributions to humanity are still alive today throughout the world. In addition, Allah sent the angel Gabriel every year during Ramadan to read and study the Qur’an with the Prophet ﷺ, nurturing his faith through learning and mentorship. The Prophet’s ﷺ experiences and the revelation he was given served as a constant training ground for fulfilling his mission of conveying the message of Islam, purifying the hearts of his followers, and mentoring them to be global ambassadors of righteousness.

Muslims in America should be proud of their progress in establishing Islamic centers, schools, and other civic organizations aimed at preserving the identity of Muslims while also advocating for Islam and its followers. No one doubts the importance of this great work. However, during the twenty-three years of his prophetic mission, the Prophet ﷺ only built one mosque (al-Masjid al-Nabawi in Medina). Yet, when he stood at Mount ‘Arafa before leaving this world, the exhortations of his Farewell Sermon awed and inspired no fewer than one hundred thousand Companions—one hundred thousand students graduating from the school of Muhammad ﷺ. Rather than focus all our efforts on the building of structures, we must emulate the example of our noble Prophet ﷺ by investing in the education and training of our future leaders.

In fulfillment of this mission, the Boston Islamic Seminary will follow in the footsteps of our Prophet ﷺ to educate, mentor, and train the next generation of Muslim leadership. We aim to train leaders who are grounded in the Islamic tradition and prepared to navigate both the challenges and the opportunities of today—leaders who will inspire young people and communities to reach their potential as ambassadors of Islam, modeling and conveying Allah’s guidance to mankind with clarity, integrity, and compassion.

I am confident that this is a cause our entire community will rally around, holding fast to the rope of Allah, united together. This will ensure not only that we safeguard and protect the faith of our children and future generations but also that we fulfill our purpose and potential as contributors to a more beautiful, vibrant, and God-conscious humanity, insha’Allah.

In closing, I pray that Allah make us sincere followers of our beloved Prophet ﷺ so that we may be among his eternal companions in Jannah. Ameen!

Sincerely,

Dr. Basyouny Nehela
President, and Dean of Academic Affairs

"The **Boston Islamic Seminary** is a project whose time has truly come. We can no longer afford to entrust the leadership of our community to untrained individuals who, while intending good, oftentimes engage in counter-productive speech or actions that work to retard our progress."

- Imam Zaid Shakir
Co-Founder, Zaytuna College

ABOUT BOSTON ISLAMIC SEMINARY (BIS)

our MOTTO

Preparing the next Generation of Religious Leadership

our MISSION

Preparing the next generation of American Muslim Leaders

our VALUES

Continuity
The Boston Islamic Seminary is committed to the authentic, balanced spiritual and intellectual heritage of Islam, deeply rooted in the compassionate teachings, and wisdom of the Qur'an and the Prophet Muhammad (peace and blessings be upon him).

Relevance
The Boston Islamic Seminary is committed to the search for principled and reasoned Islamic solutions to the particular challenges facing Muslims in their families, communities, and in the broader cultural environment.

Responsiveness
The Boston Islamic Seminary will train competent Muslim leaders who have the knowledge and skills to help communities navigate new issues and unforeseen circumstances with wisdom, integrity, and compassion.

"If the American Muslim community does not build institutions like the **Boston Islamic Seminary**, it will be unable to chart its path into the future. If we don't create institutions that produce leaders of integrity and knowledge, leaders will be chosen for us. **The Boston Islamic Seminary** promises to be a source of knowledge and guidance, helping to make 'ilm indigenous in America, God willing."

- Dr. Jonathan A.C. Brown
Professor, Georgetown University

ABOUT BOSTON ISLAMIC SEMINARY (BIS)

why BIS?

The American Muslim community is at a defining moment in determining its future outlook and role in American society. While we have witnessed considerable population growth and institutional development there remain a number of complex and confusing moral, intellectual, socioeconomic and civic challenges that threaten to shake the faith of many and impede our spiritual progress toward God-consciousness and nearness to Allah.

our TEACHING PHILOSOPHY

The educational philosophy of the Boston Islamic Seminary rest on the integrated development of three primary facets:

1. Knowledge of Islamic **texts** and sciences;
   Assure that students have a strong grasp of normative Islamic teachings
2. Knowledge of contemporary **context**; and
   Provide students with a solid knowledge of the contemporary context in which they will be active
3. **Practical** application.
   Provide students with pastoral and leadership skills they need as a fundamental part of their service within their respective communities

94%

of Imams, who have a formal degree, studied abroad to obtain a degree*

44%

of Imams are full-time and paid, as compared to 71% in other faith groups*

*Source: "The American Mosque" by Ihsan Bagby

ACADEMIC OFFERINGS | *Overview*

The Boston Islamic Seminary (BIS) aims to prepare exemplary, professional Muslim American religious leaders for compassionate service to society. To facilitate this goal, BIS offers a range of unique programs including

1. **Certificate programs** that offer a variety of graduate and professional development certificates aimed at enhancing participants' professional skills and preparing them for further academic and practical training
2. **Fellowship programs** for college students and professionals wherein participants study normative Islamic teachings and connect them to their lived social and professional realities under the mentorship of BIS faculty, and
3. Multiple forums for presenting **research and publications** in order to make relevant and applicable expert knowledge available to broader academic, religious, and clinical audiences through conferences, symposia, and a peer-reviewed journal
4. **Community outreach programs** consisting of lectures and workshops geared to the general public as well as specially tailored programs for Islamic organizations and other institutions

Lorem Ipsum

Lorem Ipsum

CERTIFICATE *Programs*

The Boston Islamic Seminary (BIS) Certificate Programs provide focused training under the tutelage of our expert faculty. Certificates range from 50 to 300 hours of classroom instruction and experiential training and are designed to give participants opportunities to develop valuable knowledge and skills in a variety of fields of study. A BIS certificate can enhance one's professional and/or academic skill set and credentials as well as provide the spiritual upliftment that comes from studying and applying sacred knowledge in a community of seekers of knowledge God consciousness and nearness to Allah.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT *Certificate Programs*

The Professional Development Certificates are carefully designed skills-oriented programs of study in crucial areas where sufficient religious leadership is lacking in American Muslim communities. Current offerings include:

Lorem Ipsum



ACADEMIC OFFERINGS
PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT CERTIFICATE PROGRAM

Muslim Chaplaincy *Certificate*

The certificate is designed to train chaplains and imams to provide counseling, pastoral care, leadership, and guidance to diverse Muslim and non-Muslim communities based on Qur'anic and Prophetic methods.

Family Counseling *Certificate*

The certificate is designed to train a variety of practitioners who will serve in diverse counseling roles to support Muslim couples, families, and youth. Participants will develop spiritual and social counseling skills to address inter-personal and family dynamics, with an awareness of how these are affected by both internal factors, such as individual psychology and spirituality, and external factors such as racism, unemployment, and relationships with extended family.

Muslim Educators *Certificate*

The certificate teaches educators to create spiritually-uplifting curricula and apply Islamic educational philosophies with an aim to solve common contemporary educational problems in the Muslim-American communities.

Youth Community Leaders *Certificate*

This certificate is designed to train youth leaders in the knowledge, skill, and characteristics of an effective and inspiring Muslim community leader according to the prophetic example. Youth leaders will obtain essential training in core leadership, communication, and management techniques and methods, enabling them to serve as mentors to others.

Board of Directors *Certificate*

This certificate is designed to provide board directors, leaders, and managers of Islamic communities and organizations with the necessary knowledge, skills, and characteristics of an effective and inspiring leader. Using the prophetic example, participants will be trained in core leadership, communication, and management techniques and methods, enabling them to serve as a guide and mentor to others.

Public Speaking *Certificate*

This certificate is designed to train public speakers in the art of public speaking, providing them with essential leadership skills such as delivering powerful and impactful speeches and sermons for both religious and non-religious occasions. Participants will learn how to tailor and adapt their communication for optimal impact and how to navigate communications with a variety of audiences.

Islamic Bioethics - Level 1 *Certificate*

This certificate provides participants with the necessary knowledge to address current bioethical issues affecting Muslim patients and clinicians from an Islamic perspective. These include end of life care, brain death, clinical practice, and Muslim patient advocacy.

Islamic Bioethics - Level 2 *Certificate*

This certificate prepares participants to demonstrate the detailed process by which a Muslim bioethicist makes an assessment of new therapeutic advances and technologies from an Islamic perspective. These include genetic manipulations, reproductive issues, and comparative bioethics.

Lorem Ipsum

49%
of Islamic Schools have uncertified teachers*

88%
of Mosque leaders think that domestic abuse should be addressed in our communities*

Source: "The American Mosque" by Ihsan Bagby

GRADUATE CERTIFICATE
Programs

Boston Islamic Seminary (BIS) graduate certificates consist of a minimum of five graduate-level courses aimed at preparing students to better serve in their current leadership roles in Muslim communities. These courses also prepare interested students for enrolling in a full-time Master's degree program at BIS.

ISLAMIC FOUNDATION
Graduate Certificate

This certificate provides a robust introduction to the essentials of Islamic belief, practice, and spirituality over the course of five graduate-level courses.

1. Qur'anic Immersion: *Recitation, Reflection, and Application*
   This course teaches students how to recite the Quran properly (tajwid), and encourages them to have an established practice of Quranic memorization, reflection, and lived application.

2. *Introduction to the* Sciences of Qur'an and Hadith
   This course familiarizes students with Islam's primary sources; the Quran and Hadith. Students will study the Quran's preservation, contextualization, and abrogation, as well as the collection, authentication, and content of the Hadith. Also, students will be able to understand the historical canonization of Islam's primary sources and appreciate the tools developed by our righteous predecessors to maintain the authenticity and integrity of our sacred texts.

3. *Introduction to the* Sciences 'Aqida, Fiqh, and Tazkiya
   Students in this course begin their study of the foundational sciences of ʿaqida, fiqh, and tazkiya, tracing their development, key figures, and central texts. Students will learn the obligatory knowledge and key concepts related to these sciences, such as Allah's names and attributes, rulings for ablution and prayer, and basic matters relating to the refinement of character.

4. *Introduction to* Islamic Systems
   In this course, students will delve into the foundations of Islamic systems and their basic principles, historical origins, and contexts as implemented by the Prophet ﷺ (peace be upon him) and his righteous followers throughout history. Also, it provides a solid understanding of how Islam systematically organizes and tackles different domains of human activities and relationships.

5. *The* Vocabulary of Islam
   This course provides students with a firm grasp of principal Arabic words, terms, and concepts needed for a sound and profound reading of the Islamic primary sources and engagement with Muslim and interfaith communities.



ACADEMIC OFFERINGS

FELLOWSHIP PROGRAMS
RESEARCH & PUBLICATIONS
COMMUNITY OUTREACH PROGRAMS

FELLOWSHIP *Programs*

The Boston Islamic Seminary (BIS) Fellowship Programs are designed to give students and professionals an opportunity—lasting anywhere from a few months to several years—to learn, reflect, and implement their knowledge practically in communal and professional settings connected to their field of specialization. BIS fellows engage with renowned scholars, cultivate companionship, and, with the help of enthusiastic faculty members, build a dynamic community of driven and well-grounded Muslims to serve the Muslim community and American society at large.

RESEARCH & PUBLICATIONS

The Boston Islamic Seminary (BIS) offers multiple forums to make sound knowledge available to aspiring or established experts and practitioners, with the aim of improving Muslim religious leadership in America. In these forums, BIS gathers scholars, practitioners, and graduate students in workshops, symposia, and academic conference settings, allowing for experts from within and outside the institution to present and engage in discussions of their research.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH *Programs*

The Boston Islamic Seminary (BIS) offers both public (general) and tailored community outreach programs in service of our mission to prepare the next generation of American Muslim leaders. Catering aptly to large audiences on public platforms as well as to specific institutions, our programs are designed to meet and address the needs and issues facing contemporary American Muslims.

OUR FACULTY & INSTRUCTORS

Scholarship is at its nest when it draws upon a diverse community. Here, Boston Islamic Seminary (BIS) students find in their faculty members and instructors a community of scholars that is both appreciative of diversity and bold in its outlook. Each one of the teaching faculty members and instructors listed below has a specific area of expertise or interest, and the courses they teach at the Boston Islamic Seminary.



> Scholars are the inheritors of the prophets.
>
> *(Tirmidhi)*

Ustadh Rushain Abbasi
Islam in Modernity
Introduction to Islamic Civilization
Case Study of Ottoman Governance
Islam, Modernity, and Contending Epistemologies

Dr. Amr Abdalla
Conflict Analysis and Resolution

Dr. Yahia Abdulrahman
Introduction to Islamic Finance

Dr. Mohamed AbuTaleb
Confident Answers

Ustadh Omer Bajwa
Parenting with Love & Logic

Ustadha Janan Delgado
Liberalism, Gender, and Islam

Dr. Carl Sharif El-Tobgui
Orientation and Introduction to Modernity
The Islamic Sciences, In Context
Introduction to Islamic Ontology
Islamic Morality and Ethics

Shaykh Yasir Fahmy
Introduction to Tarbiyah and Tazkiyah
Introduction to Hadith Jibreel and the Islamic Sciences
Introduction to Ethical Leadership
Spiritual Basis for Seeking Agency and Leadership

Imam Ismail Fenni
Preparing for the Final Journey – Janaza Workshop

Dr. Noor Hashem
The Deen Imagined

Dr. Ayman Ibrahim
Islamic Bioethics

Dr. Celene Ibrahim
Women in the Qur'an
Women Around the Prophet
Female Voices in the Qur'an

Dr. Suheil Laher
Introduction to the Sciences of Qur'an
Introduction to the Sciences of Hadith
Madhabbs: Development and Differences
Foundations & Objectives of Sacred Law
Islamic Theology and Philosophy
Sciences of the Qur'an and Hadith

Ustadh Hisham Mahmoud
The Prophet & I: Heeding the Voice Within

Dr. Basyouny Nehela
Qur'anic Contemporary Education
Qur'anic Communication
Qur'anic Immersion
Introduction to Islamic System

Dr. Martin Nguyen
Islam in America
Islam, Race, and Power

Ustadh Adnan Rehman
Muslim Nationalism
Arabic Language
Colonialism and the Muslim World
Case Studies from the Prophetic Seerah
Philosophy of Tajdid (Revival)
Rise of Muslim Nationalism

Dr. Mariam Sheibani
Introduction to Usul al-Fiqh

Dr. Harun Spevack
Sciences of Fiqh, Aqida, and Tazkiyya
Morality and Ethics of Commerce
Introduction to Aqida

Ustadh Mobeen Vaid
Understanding Liberalism &
Modern Ethics of Sexuality/Gender

Dr. Mohammed Wadeed
Counseling Psychology

Ustadh Dawud Walid
Introduction to Sacred Activism

Dr. Safia Zaghloul
Arabic Language

OUR JOURNEY

2008

- The vision of Boston Islamic Seminary (BIS) was born

2014

- Muslim American Society (MAS) Boston initiated the first core team to start the Seminary

2015

- BIS registered as a corporation with the Massachusetts Secretary of State.
- BIS's board of directors was formed with only three (3) board members
- Current logo has been created.

2016

- Continuing education program was launched in Fall 2016
- BIS operated its offices out of 100 Malcolm X Boulevard in Boston, MA
- BIS successfully hired its first Dean of Academic Affairs
- The first Academic Committee was formed to design and develop the curriculum of BIS's full-time program (later known as the Masters in Islamic Religious Leadership)

2017

- BIS offered its first fellowship program – Iqra Fellowship Program for college and graduate students.
- BIS launched its first certificate program in Islamic Intellectual History
- BIS offered its first hybrid online course in Spring 2017
- The completion development of the first BIS full-time program curriculum

2018

- BIS had submitted an application with the Massachusetts Department of Higher Education (DHE), to secure degree granting authority.
- BIS was registered as a 501 (c) (3) non-profit tax exempt organization
- BIS successfully hired its first full-time faculty member
- BIS launched its first Graduate Certificate Program in Islamic Foundations, a sequence of five courses offered by BIS faculty members, as a preparation for the full-time degree program.
- Dean of Academic Affairs, Dr. Basyouny Nehela, was named as BIS's first President.

2019

- BIS Hired its first Dean of Administration & Chief Operating Officer (COO)
- Expanded the number of board members from 3 to 6 members.
- BIS moved its offices to the heart of Cambridge, a few steps from Harvard and MIT at 140 Prospect Street, Cambridge, Massachusetts
- BIS continued the dialogue and the due diligence with the Massachusetts Department of Higher Education (DHE) to secure degree granting authority; DHE is the body that approves our right to grant degrees and to call ourselves a Graduate School.
- BIS expanded its offerings to include a range of five (5) unique different offerings and programs
- BIS held its first graduation ceremony to recognize and award its students, faculty members and instructors.

6 *Semesters*

24 *Courses*

361+ *Students*

6 *Lectures & Workshops*

280+ *Attendees*

23 *Faculty & Instructors*

80+ *Fellows*

7 *Satellite Campuses*

- *Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT),*
- *Islamic Center of Boston (ICB) in Wayland,*
- *Tufts University,*
- *Islamic Society of Boston Cultural Center (ISBCC),*
- *Worcester Islamic Center,*
- *Islamic Center of New England (ICNE) in Sharon, and*
- *Islamic Society of Boston (ISB) in Cambridge.*