BOSTON ISLAMIC SEMINARY

Preparing the next generation *of* American Muslim Religious Leaders

YEAR IN REVIEW

2021

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LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Assalamu Alaikum Wa Rahmatullah Wa Barakatuh,

Dear BIS Friends and Supporters,

All praise and thanks be to Allah the Almighty, the Most Merciful, the Most Generous Giver of all blessings. Every year when it is time to release our annual report, I realize how quickly the time has passed, and it makes me reflect upon our meeting before the Almighty – for which we must be ready with our own final report. Allah says, “O you who have believed, fear Allah. And let every soul look to what it has put forth for tomorrow - and fear Allah. Indeed, Allah is Acquainted with what you do.” (59:18)

I am very pleased to announce that, alhamdulillah, by Allah’s grace, during the year of 2021, we witnessed the achievement of one of BIS's biggest milestones: the successful launch of the master’s program in Islamic Religious Leadership (MIRL). This program was approved by the Massachusetts Department of Higher Education (MDHE) in December 2020. Alhamdulillah, the inaugural cohort of 13 graduate students commenced their MIRL studies on September 21, 2021. With this historic milestone, BIS became the first Islamic seminary in the United States to receive the authority to award this degree. This blessed stage has put BIS in a strong position to meet the enormous challenges of our time, continue serving our mission, and create momentum for our community, partners, and all stakeholders for many years to come.

I am also very humbled to announce that the team and esteemed faculty members are preparing to welcome our second MIRL cohort in Fall 2022. The admission requirements and timeline are now available on our website

We have established affiliations with local and national academic institutions to move forward with cooperation and respect. Meanwhile, preparations for our long-running certificate programs, workshops and fellowships are being finalized for the Spring Semester. Our Conference and Publications Committee has started brainstorming for BIS’s first annual academic conference to be announced in 2022.

This journey would not have been possible without your sincere support, our faculty members, and dedicated staff. However, our work is far from over. We need to work together as a community to further this noble mission with excellence.

Finally, while we rely entirely and fully on Allah, I ask that you continue to support BIS and its tremendous potential for impact on the American Muslim community.

May Allah bless you and your family and utilize us to serve His noble causes.
Sincerely,

Dr. Basyouny Nehela
President and Dean of Academic Affairs

Our MISSION

Preparing the Next Generation of American Muslim Religious Leaders



OUR VALUES

1

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).

2

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 broader cultural environment.

3

Responsiveness

InshaAllah the Boston Islamic Seminary will train competent, Muslim leaders equipped with the knowledge and skill to navigate unforeseen circumstances with wisdom and integrety.

Why **Boston Islamic Seminary?**

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 rests on the development and integration of three primary facets:

1. **Knowledge of Islamic texts and sciences :** Ensure that students have a strong grasp of normative Islamic teachings.

2. **Knowledge of contemporary context :** Provide students with 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 service.

IQRA FELLOWSHIP

The Boston Islamic Seminary's Iqra Fellowship Program is a year-long initiative that seeks to empower students and young professionals with the traditional, philosophical, and spiritual foundations and leadership development needed to navigate modern challenges and thrive as Muslims in America. The fellowship aims to support the development of more effective, compassionate, and knowledgeable Muslim leaders to better our mosque communities and Islamic institutions.

45 *Fellows*

24 *Sessions*

15 *Instructors*

CERTIFICATE PROGRAMS

Boston Islamic Seminary 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.

120 *Students*

10 *Courses*

5 *Faculty*

MASTER OF ISLAMIC RELGIOUS LEADERSHIP

The Master of Islamic Religious Leadership (MIRL) program at BIS aims to prepare professional American Muslim religious leaders for committed service to society. BIS's uniquely-designed interdisciplinary curriculum will equip students with a deep understanding of Islam, the contemporary context of the modern world and the skills necessary to serve competently in one of three specialties:

1. **Religious and Spiritual Leadership**
2. **Religious Counseling and Arbitration**
3. **.Outreach and Daʿwah**

Alhamdulillah, the inaugural cohort of 13 graduate students commenced their Master of Islamic Religious Leadership (MIRL) studies on September 21. This accomplished cohort includes those with backgrounds in religious and spiritual leadership, dawah, youth counseling, chaplaincy, public service, and more. MIRL students were offered courses on core Islamic foundational subjects and a fifth on religions in contemporary America, totaling 36 credit hours for the fall 2021 and Spring 2022 semesters.

13
Students

11
Scholarships

“My Favorite part about the Seminary,
without a doubt,
is access to the scholars.”

-*Jacob Melamed*

14
Professors

7
Full-Time

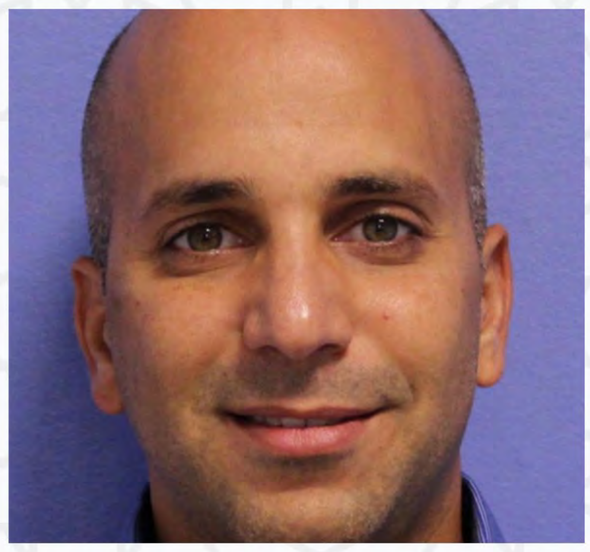
OUR MIRL FIRST COHORT














STUDENT TESTIMONALS

"I am so grateful for the work you do at BIS.I have benefitted from past courses and feel a special benefit from this current Quranic Immersion virtual program; may Allah reward you.

-Sarah

"The teachers are incredibly kind and knowledgeable, and have touched me with their sincerity and efforts."

-Nuha

The Iqra fellowship, is an excellent opportunity to get acquainted with a variety of disciplines, situate & critically analyze them through a comparative perspective on philosophical traditions.

-Fatima

This class is something I needed for a long time. I've often been a very nervous communicator, but this class has given me numerous tools to examine my own communication.

-Ehsun

OUR FACULTY & INSTRUCTORS














Scholarship is at it's best when it draws upon a diverse community. Here, Boston Islamic Seminary 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.

Dr. Basyouny Nehela
Thematic Tafseer

Dr. Suheil Laher
Fiqh and Usul Fiqh

Dr. Mohamed AbuTaleb
Leading Yourself and others

Dr. Marwa Assar
Psychology

Dr. Ermin Sinanović
Schools of Islamic Thought

Dr. Noor Hashem
Islam in America

Dr. Harun Spevack
Logic and Rhetoric

Dr. Adnan
Islamic Belief and Faith

Dr. Hassan Lachheb
The sunnah of the Prophet

Dr. Celene Ibrahim
Religion in Contemporary America

Dr. John Robins
Public Speaking

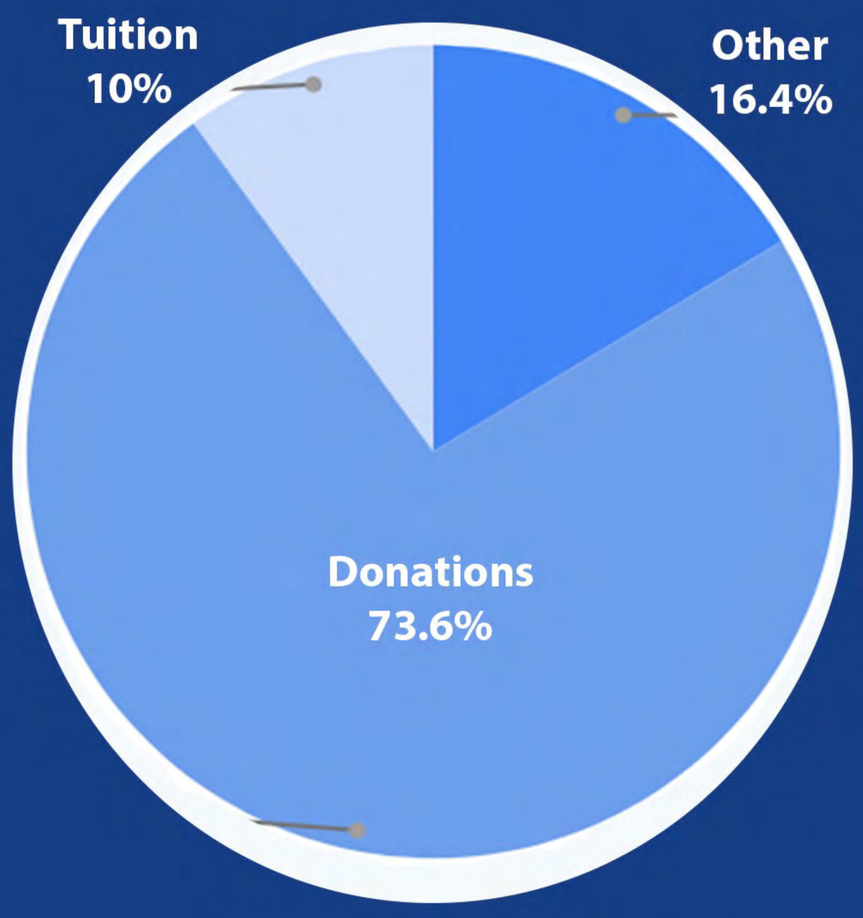
Dr. Ovamir Anjum
Islamic History and Civilization

Our Finances

$572,125
Total Revenue

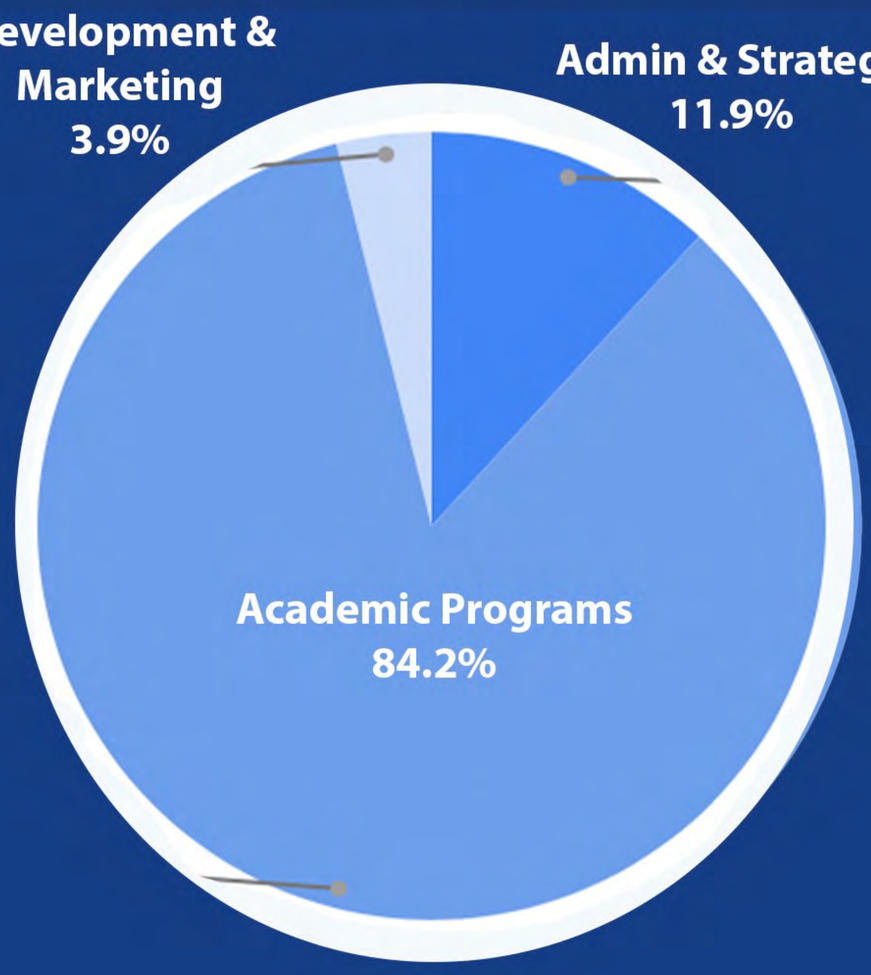
$338,616
Total Expenses

2021 Revenue



Donations	$421,070
Tuition	$57,495
Other Revenue	$93,560
Total Revenue	$572,125

2021 Expenses



Academic Programs	$285,174
Admin & Stratgey	$40,242
Development & Marketing	$13,200
Total Expenses	$338,616

Looking Forward

2022

- Recruit and admit the 2nd cohort of the MIRL program for Fall 2022
- Hire the Dean of Administration, Development Director, & Assistant Dean of Admissions.
- Double participation in our continuing education programming
- Host the first, annual BIS Academic Conference Expand institutional partnerships to train future Muslim leaders

2022 Budget

- Masters and non-degree Faculty & Staff **800K**
- Marketing & facilities **70k**
- Students' services Student Financial Aid **100K**
- Faculty Training & Research **20K**
- Library and IT Services **30K**

BIS
SINCE INCEPTION

12
Semesters

700+
Students

30+
Courses

27+
Faculty

15+
Workshops

20+
Lectures

200+
Fellows

500+
Participants

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