Master in Islamic Religious Leadership

# ADMISSIONS POLICY

BOSTON ISLAMIC SEMINARY



**Updated: July 2026**

## APPLICATION PROCESS

Applications for admission must be submitted through the Boston Islamic Seminary admissions portal. Current application instructions, requirements, and deadlines are published on the Seminary website.

Official transcripts and supporting materials may be submitted electronically to the Office of Admissions. Applicants are responsible for ensuring that all required materials are received by the published deadlines.

References must submit their recommendations directly through the Seminary's designated admissions system. Applications will not be reviewed until all required materials have been received.

Applications that remain incomplete after the close of an admissions cycle may be removed from the admissions system. Applicants who wish to be considered in a future admissions cycle may be required to submit a new application.

## ADMISSION

### General Requirements

Applicants who have earned a bachelor's degree or higher from an accredited institution of higher education and who demonstrate the academic, religious, and leadership potential necessary for graduate study will be considered for admission.

### International Applicants

Boston Islamic Seminary accepts applications only from jurisdictions in which it is authorized and able to provide educational services. International applicants should consult the Seminary website for the most current eligibility requirements.

### Immunization Requirements

Students must comply with all applicable Massachusetts and institutional immunization requirements in effect at the time of enrollment.

### Criteria for Admission



**Boston Islamic Seminary** | 60 Willow St Chelsea, MA 02150 | Phone: (781) 584-0883
info@bostonislamicseminary.org | www.bostonislamicseminary.org

Applicants to the Master in Islamic Religious Leadership (MIRL) program must demonstrate their readiness for advanced study in Islamic Studies and Religious Leadership through the following:

- A bachelor's degree from an accredited institution of higher education, normally with a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.0.
- Demonstrated memorization and recitation of at least one *juzʾ* of the Qur'an.
- Foundational knowledge of the Islamic sciences, including Qur'an, Hadith, Fiqh, and Aqida.
- Demonstrated intermediate proficiency in reading and writing Arabic.
- Applicants who have been subject to serious disciplinary action or non-academic dismissal at a previous institution may be denied admission.

**Required Application Materials**

- Completed admissions application.
- Non-refundable application fee.
- Up to four letters of recommendation, including academic and community references as specified by the Admissions Committee.
- Current résumé or curriculum vitae.
- Official transcripts from all undergraduate and graduate institutions attended.
- Personal statement addressing the applicant's educational goals, leadership aspirations, and commitment to serving Muslim communities.

**Additional Materials**

Applicants may submit *ijāzāt*, certificates, publications, writing samples, or other materials relevant to their candidacy.

**Admissions Interview**

Applicants may be invited to participate in one or more interviews as part of the admissions process.

**Evaluation of Qualifications**

The Seminary may administer written and/or oral assessments to evaluate:

· Competency in the Islamic sciences.

· Arabic language proficiency.

· Qur'anic recitation and memorization.



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• Graduate-level readiness.

### Admissions Committee Authority

The Admissions Committee reserves the right to request additional documentation, administer supplemental assessments, conduct additional interviews, waive specific admissions requirements when appropriate, and deny admission when it determines that an applicant is not a suitable fit for the program, even when minimum admissions requirements have been met.

## ADMISSION DATES AND DEADLINES

Boston Islamic Seminary publishes admissions deadlines annually. Applicants should consult the Seminary website for current information regarding:

- Application opening dates
- Priority and final application deadlines
- Scholarship deadlines
- Admissions assessments
- Interview periods
- Admissions decisions
- Enrollment deadlines
- New student orientation

Applicants are responsible for monitoring the Seminary website and application portal and ensuring that all required materials are submitted by the applicable deadlines.

### Notification of Decisions

Applicants will be notified of admissions decisions on a rolling basis after the application review process is complete. Official admissions decisions are communicated electronically.

### Responding to Offers of Admission

Applicants who receive an offer of admission must respond according to the instructions contained in the offer letter.

Admitted students may be required to submit a non-refundable enrollment deposit by the published deadline to secure their place in the incoming cohort. Unless otherwise specified, the deposit will be credited toward tuition upon enrollment.

### Deferred Admission

Requests for deferred admission may be considered after an offer of admission has been officially accepted by paying the enrollment deposit. Deferrals are reviewed on a case-by-case basis and are not guaranteed. Approved deferrals are normally limited to one academic year at most.

### Reapplication Policy

Individuals who previously applied, were denied admission, withdrew an application, or declined an offer of admission must submit a new application and satisfy all admissions requirements applicable to the current admissions cycle.

### Provisional Admission

The Seminary may grant provisional admission to applicants who demonstrate strong potential for success but who have not fully satisfied all admissions requirements. Students admitted provisionally must satisfy any conditions imposed by the Admissions Committee. Failure to satisfy these conditions may result in dismissal from the program.

### Scholarships

Boston Islamic Seminary is committed to making theological education accessible to qualified students. Scholarship awards are based on a combination of merit, leadership potential, and demonstrated financial need.

Applicants seeking scholarship consideration must submit all required scholarship materials by the published scholarship deadline.

### Verification of Credentials

The Seminary reserves the right to verify all credentials and supporting materials submitted in support of an application. Materials may be reviewed for authenticity, accuracy, and evidence of academic integrity.

### Degree Confirmation

The Seminary may require verification of any academic degree claimed during the admissions process.

### Return of Application Materials

Application materials submitted to the Seminary become part of the applicant's admissions record and will not ordinarily be returned or forwarded to third parties.



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## TRANSFER ADMISSION

Transfer applicants are individuals who have completed graduate-level coursework at another eligible institution and seek admission to the MIRL program.

Transfer applicants are subject to the same admissions standards and procedures as other applicants, except as otherwise determined by the Admissions Committee.

Transfer applications may be accepted on a rolling basis, subject to space availability and program capacity.

Transfer admission does not guarantee the award of transfer credit.

## TRANSFER OF CREDIT

Students may petition, after they have been admitted, for transfer credit for graduate-level coursework completed at eligible institutions.

Transfer credit is awarded only when prior coursework is determined to be substantially equivalent to coursework offered within the MIRL curriculum.

A maximum number of transfer credits, as established by Seminary policy and accreditation requirements, may be accepted toward the degree.

Official transcripts and supporting course documentation may be required.

The Seminary reserves the right to require written or oral examinations to assess competency in areas for which transfer credit is requested.

Grades earned at another institution generally do not count toward the Seminary GPA, although approved transfer credits may count toward degree completion requirements.



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