



UNIVERSITY OF SARAJEVO
FACULTY OF ISLAMIC STUDIES



M.A. IN ISLAMIC STUDIES
ISLAM IN EUROPE

Student Guide



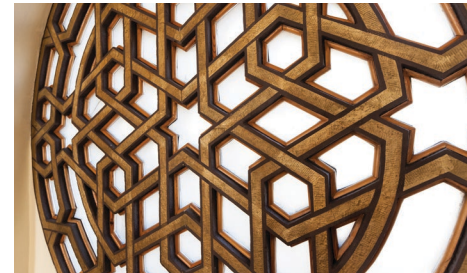
The Faculty of Islamic Studies of the University of Sarajevo, established in 1977, is heir to a number of earlier Islamic educational institutions in Bosnia and Herzegovina, such as the School for Sharia Judges (1887) and the Higher Islamic Sharia Theological School (1937). The Faculty has been a part of the University of Sarajevo since 2004.

Masters program in Islamic studies “Islam in Europe”

The Masters Program in Islamic Studies is conceived as a response to the need for training in Islamic Theology in the European education field. The question of how to educate the different profiles of religious leaders in the Muslim communities (imams, chaplains, basic religious education teachers, etc.) has become increasingly urgent over the past two decades in Europe. Various options have been explored to date. The ‘importing’ of personnel trained in Muslim countries outside of Europe has generally proven an inadequate solution for cultural reasons. The first alternative was to develop Islamic studies within Europe. This has not proved possible in certain countries, due to the small size of their Muslim communities or for constitutional and legal reasons. In countries where such programs have been established, they have not always been met with the hoped-for demand from Muslim students, at whom they were primarily targeted, nor have always been well-received by the Muslim communities.

The Masters Program was approved by the Council of Muftis and Riyasat of the Islamic Community of Bosnia and Herzegovina. It is also fully in line with the Law on Higher Education of Sarajevo Canton and the Statutes of the University of Sarajevo. The program is comparable to the study program in Islamic theology at a number of Turkish, German, and UK universities. Compatibility with these programs will facilitate mobility for students and professors. In addition to similar academic training, this program will provide ‘training in the community’. Language of instruction is English.

Upon completion of the Masters Program, participants will be awarded the academic title of Master of Islamic studies. Candidates who complete this program will be in a position to look for employment as imams, religious instructors (teachers), teachers of theological disciplines at Islamic schools, Islamic spiritual counselors, researchers into Islamic and Muslim themes, and in the business and tourism sectors, or pursue further studies.



Objectives and structure

Program objectives

The Masters program in Islamic studies “Islam in Europe” is envisaged as offering students a broad overview of key themes in Islamic theology and jurisprudence and how their realization and conceptualization are informed by social, political, ideological, cultural, and other challenges and trends within contemporary European societies.

Themes to be considered from the perspective of core Islamic disciplines include: loyalty to faith and state, belonging simultaneously to a global Muslim community and to one's local society, civic and political participation in secular democratic states, relating to the “other” within the Islamic interpretive tradition and contemporary thought, religious and cultural pluralism in European societies, atheism and agnosticism, the relationship between the state and the religious communities, the institutionalization of Islam, human rights, gender identity, the radicalization of the young, the abuse and instrumentalization of religion for political and ideological purposes, the absence of faith, spirituality and its manifestations from the public sphere in secular societies, and the culture of recreation and entertainment.



Program Structure

The program will combine and balance a normative approach to the study of Islam with a reflective and contextualizing one. It will endeavor to preserve the connection to traditional Islamic learning, without losing sight of the social context in which European Muslims live.

Participants in the program will learn to look at the place and role of Islamic theological themes in their everyday lives independently and critically, as well as to relate the interpretation of Islam and Islamic practice with their European and domestic national contexts. They will also learn how to conduct expert and professional dialogue with theologians from other religious communities and secular intellectuals on these themes. Program Structure The Masters program lasts two academic years, organized over four semesters, one of which will preferably be taken at a partner institution. Completion carries a total of 120 ECTS points. The program will be offered in both full-time and part-time formats. An option for distance learning is also envisaged once the necessary technical infrastructure is in place.

The first two semesters are flexible in structure to allow students coming from different educational backgrounds to fill any gaps with regard to the core Islamic disciplines in their respective educations. When choosing courses, attention will be paid to the students' career plans, so that students planning careers working in the community will be streamed primarily towards the courses meant for prospective Imams. It is planned that students will spend their second semester at a partner institution, with the option of auditing a second set of elective subjects at the Faculty.

The third semester is focused on contextualized Islamic studies in five subject areas (Qur'an and Sunnah Studies, Islamic Jurisprudence, Islamic Philosophy, Studies in Islamic Civilization), while students will focus during the fourth semester on their masters theses, taking in addition one subject from their academic area of specialization.



Criteria for enrolment

Enrolment in the Masters program in Islamic studies is open to candidates who have completed at least a three-year undergraduate degree (BA) in Islamic theology, Islamic sciences, or Islamic studies, and so have acquired a total of at least 180 ECTS study points. Enrolment is also open to graduates of a three-year undergraduate degree in Islamic religious education, religious pedagogy, or other programs of study that include a significant number of subjects from the field of Islamic studies, subject to additional exams. Students with 240 ECTS points from their BA level will receive a credit of 60 ECTS points.

Proof must be provided of adequate mastery of English (at least a B2 level, under the Common European Reference Framework for Languages) in the form of one of the following certificates: a TOEFL certificate (a minimum of 78 points on the Internet-based TOEFL (TOEFL iBT), a IELTS certificate (a minimum score of 6) or a Cambridge certificate of Advanced English Test (minimum level of B).

The following are exempt from the above requirements to prove linguistic competence:

- candidates whose native language is English;
- candidates who have already completed a program of study in English, and
- candidates who have accumulated 30 or more ECTS points on subjects taught through English during their undergraduate studies.

Candidates must also demonstrate a good knowledge of Arabic (at least a B2 level or 120 contact hours as part of their undergraduate degree). Students with only a B1 level knowledge of Arabic may be enrolled, on condition that they complete a course in Arabic during the first semester, leading to a B2 certificate.

Students intending to work in the community as imams, teachers, or in a similar capacity, will be tested on Qur'anic recitation (Qira'ah or Tilawa).

The Masters program is open to students regardless of their gender and faith backgrounds.

Learning outcomes

At the end of the program, the student should be able to:

1. Understand the challenges that the contemporary European context poses for Muslim faith and practice;
2. Identify and critically examine the major themes essential to a responsible understanding of and adherence to Islam in the contemporary world;
3. Interpret the key themes in Islamic law and ethics and how their conceptualization is informed by various social, political, ideological, cultural, and other challenges and trends within contemporary European societies;
4. Handle critically Islamic themes in everyday social life and draw connections between the interpretation and practice of Islam and the European national contexts;
5. Elucidate the circumstances and key aspects of the institutional organization of Islam in a European context;
6. Present a critical interpretation of the history of the Muslim communities in Europe and provide a historical review of the birth, spread, and development of Islamic civilization;
7. Conduct professional dialogue with theologians from other religious communities, as well as with intellectuals of secular orientation;
8. Apply core findings of pedagogy, psychology, and didactical method in understanding of religious phenomena and practicing of religious education;
9. Display an independent, but responsible Islamic spirit and promote the development of religious life in contemporary society; and
10. Reflect critically on their own religiosity and articulate vital religious and theological questions and form open religious views.



Courses

It is expected that students enrolling in the program will come from different academic backgrounds, and will have different carrier plans. Consequently, the first year of the program is designed to be flexible enough to allow students to fill any gaps in their education related to core areas of Islamic studies, while at the same time covering the subjects they will need for progression in their careers and their further academic development. It is expected that students will likely form two groups, one primarily interested in the group of subjects of interest to future imams (Qir'ah, the Islamic jurisprudence of ritual, the Imamate/ leadership, and Preaching/rhetoric and so forth), the other with a greater degree of interest in subjects of a more general and theoretical nature.

1. SEMESTER (starting 1st Monday in October)

	Weekly number of and lectures and tutorials	ECTS
<i>Six electives from group 1</i>	20	30
ELECTIVE COURSES – Group 1		
1. The History and Methodology of Islamic Law	2 + 1	5
2. The Islamic Jurisprudence of Ritual (<i>Fiqh Al-'Ibadat</i>)	2 + 1	6
3. Tradition of the Prophet (<i>Hadith</i>)	2 + 1	5
4. Imamate and Preaching	2 + 1	5
5. The Institutionalization of Islam in Europe	2 + 1	5
6. Islamic Philosophy	2 + 1	5
7. Recitation of The Qur'an (<i>Qira'ah</i>)	1 + 2	4
8. Ethics	2 + 1	5
9. The Methodology of Religious Education	2 + 1	5
10. Advanced Arabic for Islamic Studies	1 + 2	5
11. Psychology for Theologians	2 + 1	5
12. Religious Pedagogy	2 + 1	5
13. The Study of Islamic Civilization	2 + 1	5
14. Classical Islamic Approaches to the Qur'an	2 + 1	5
15. German for Islamic Theology	2 + 2	5
16. Islam in South-Eastern Europe	2 + 1	5
17. Islam and Human Rights	1 + 2	5
18. Other Courses at the Discretion of the Teaching Council		

2. SEMESTER (starting mid-February)

	Weekly number of and lectures and tutorials	ECTS
<i>In principle, spent in residence at a different university. Otherwise, a selection of electives from the list above.</i>	20	30

3. SEMESTER (starting 1st Monday in October)

	Weekly number of and lectures and tutorials	ECTS
	20	30
1. Contemporary Approaches to the Qur'an	2 + 1	5
2. Contemporary Approaches to the Sunnah	2 + 1	5
3. Islamic Jurisprudence (<i>Fiqh</i>) in the European Context I	2 + 1	5
4. Islam in Europe	2 + 1	5
5. Research Methodology in Islamic Sciences	2 + 1 + 2	5
6. An elective course		5

4. SEMESTER (starting mid-February)

1. An elective course from group 2		5
2. Practical work / seminar	-	5
3. Masters thesis	-	20

ELECTIVE COURSES – Group 2

1. European Views on the Qur'an	2 + 1	5
2. European Views on the Sunnah	2 + 1	5
3. Islamic Jurisprudence (<i>Fiqh</i>) in the European Context II	2 + 1	5
4. Western Islamic Culture: History and the Future	2 + 1	5
5. Other courses at the discretion of the Teaching Council		

Professional work experience

The various forms of professional work experience are part of the program. The activity will be supervised by the teaching staff and experts in the relevant professional fields as per the Rulebook on Professional Practice for students of the Faculty of Islamic Studies of the University of Sarajevo. Professional work experience will carry 12 out of a total of 30 ECTS points/credits, as envisaged under the Sarajevo Canton Law on Higher Education (2017). Each student will receive one part of their points on completion of various subjects and 5 ECTS points during the fourth semester. The professional experience could be gained in jama'a (Muslim congregation) on the tasks associated with the role of imam, preacher (khatib), and teacher (mu'allim); in the classroom or mekteb (elementary religious school); in student dorms or on youth projects; in projects of the Islamic Community's organizational units or bodies or of non-governmental organizations, primarily those with an Islamic ethos; in electronic and print media; in institutions or organizations for interfaith dialogue.

Costs and accomodation

Tuition Fee: 3,300 Euros. Estimated cost of living in Sarajevo for a student: 280-435 Euros per month or 3,400-5,200 Euros per annum. A number of full and partial scholarships will be available. Students may choose to stay at the newly built nearby student dormitory.

Faculty management

Assoc. Prof. Zuhdija Hasanović, Dean, zuhdija.hasanovic@fin.ba

Assoc. Prof. Ahmet Alibašić, Deputy Dean for Academic Affairs, ahmet.alibasic@fin.ba

Assoc. Prof. Mustafa Hasani, Deputy Dean for Finance, mustafa.hasani@fin.ba

Assist. Prof. Zehra Alispahić, Research Coordinator, zehra.alispahic@fin.ba

Assist. Prof. Kenan Musić, Coordinator for International Relations, kenan@fin.ba

Student affairs office

Kerima Šljivo, studentaffairs@fin.ba

Important deadlines

Early June 2018	First round of applications (exact dates to be confirmed by the University)
September 2018	Intensive Arabic language course for those not having B2 Arabic
September 2018	Second round of applications for any remaining seats (dates to be announced by the University)
Last week of September 2018	Registration
1 October 2018	Classes start





Documents to be submitted with application (originals to be presented at registration)

1. Application Form
2. Passport copy
3. Certificates of previous education (copies accepted)
4. Language proficiency proof
5. Scholarship application (if relevant)



Our Staff

NB: Several renowned visiting scholars are expected to teach at least for a week every year.



Dr. Enes Karić is a professor of Qur'anic exegesis - Tafsir. He was educated in Sarajevo and Belgrade. Professor Karić was the Dean of the Faculty of Islamic Studies from 2003 to 2007. Since 2002, he is an active member of the Royal Academy of Sciences in Jordan (The Royal Aal-Bayt Institute for Islamic Thought). He was a visiting professor at the University of Ljubljana (Slovenia) and at the Ludwig-Maximilian University in Munich. He translated the Qur'an into Bosnian in 1995, authored several books, wrote four novels and won many awards and recognitions. His books, studies and essays are translated into Arabic, English, German, Czech, Turkish, Slovenian, Dutch and Albanian.



Dr. Džemal Latić is a professor of Tafsir. He is a graduate of the Faculty of Philosophy in Sarajevo; defended his master's thesis at the Faculty of Philosophy in Zagreb, and received a PhD from the Faculty of Islamic Studies in Sarajevo. He deals with poetry and philology. He is a member of the Society of Writers of Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Society of Muslim Writers based in Riyadh. He has received significant awards and recognitions, and he is the author of several titles both in the field of Islam, as well as in the field of poetry and drama.



Dr. Fikret Karčić, professor of Comparative Legal History at the Faculty of Law, University of Sarajevo, and History of Islamic Law at Faculty of Islamic Studies in Sarajevo. He was educated in Sarajevo and Belgrade. During 1993 he taught at the Faculty of Theology Marmara University in Istanbul. From 1994 up to September 2002 he taught at the Kulliyah of Islamic Revealed Knowledge and Human Sciences, International Islamic University Malaysia (IIUM). His main academic interests are history of law, history of Islamic law and institutions, Muslim minorities, religion and state and Islam in the Balkans.



Dr. Nusret Isanović is a professor of Islamic Philosophy. He is one of the founders of Islamic Pedagogical Faculty in Zenica and its first dean (1993-2002). Professor Isanović teaching the following courses: Islamic Art, Islamic Philosophy, Moral Philosophy, Social Philosophy and Academic Literacy. He has published three books including: *Understanding Islamic Art* (Sarajevo, 2009), *Safawid Art: Blistering of the Idea of Persian Metaphysics* (Sarajevo, 2016); *Reflections on Cultural and Social Phenomena* (Sarajevo, 2016). Professor Isanović has published over one hundred scientific and professional papers, book and article reviews. He has taken participation in numerous scientific and professional conferences in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Slovenia, Scotland, Austria, Malaysia, Luxembourg, Turkey and Iran.



Dr. Ahmet Alibašić is Deputy Dean for Academic affairs at the Faculty of Islamic Studies, University of Sarajevo. He is teaching Islamic culture and civilization courses and has authored a book on Islamic opposition in the Arab world, several articles and edited books dealing with Islam in Europe, human rights in Islam and Muslim world, and church-state relations. Most recently he is one of the editors of *Yearbook of Muslims in Europe* (Brill, 2009-2018) and *Journal of Muslims in Europe*.



Dr. Aid Smajić is an associate professor teaching psychology and practical theology courses and has authored a book on *Religiosity and Ethnic Tolerance in Bosnia and Herzegovina* as well as several articles dealing with Muslim contributions to psychotherapy, Muslim religiosity, group dynamics and interreligious tolerance, youth values and value orientations, and Islam in Bosnia. Currently he is doing research on burnout among Bosnian imams and Catholic encounter with modern psychology.



Dr. Dževad Šošić is an associate professor teaching the Rules of reciting the Qur'an (Tajwid) and various readings of the Qur'an (qira'as). He has traditional Ijaza in seven qira'as by the way of Al-Shatibiyyah. His PhD, completed at the Faculty of Islamic Studies of the University of Sarajevo, focused on the Qira'as in the Imam Qurtubi's *Al-Jami' li ahkam al-Qur'an*. He is the author of several books and articles in tajwid and qira'as.



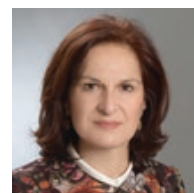
Dr. Almir Fatić is associate professor teaching Tafsir (Interpretation of the Qur'an). He has published many works, studies, essays, portraits and translations from Arabic and English in many periodicals prevalent in the Tafsir field as well as in areas related to modern Islamic issues. His texts were also translated into Albanian. He published the following author books (here translated into English): *Tešanj - an oasis of Islamic Spirituality* (Tešanj, 2005); *Classical Tafsir texts* (Sarajevo, 2006); *The Most Beautiful Tips for Life* (Sarajevo, 2012); *The Qur'anic Semantic Context* (Sarajevo, 2014); *Lights and Darkness* (Sarajevo, 2017).



Dr. Orhan Bajraktarević is an associate professor of Islamic Philosophy. He was educated at the University of Sarajevo. Professor Bajraktarević worked as an Arabic language translator in Libya from 1982 to 1984. As a scholar of the Egyptian Government, he went on to study in the area of philosophy and Arabic at Cairo University in Egypt 1987-1988. He was the editor of Islamic newspapers *Preporod* from 1990 to 1992. He published a book, texts, studies and translations in the field of Arabic and Islamic philosophy, religion and philosophy of language.



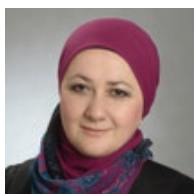
Dr. Amina Arnautović is an assistant professor teaching English language. Obtained her Master's degree in education and Master of Arts in English at the Faculty of Humanities, University of Gothenburg, Sweden. Obtained her PhD at the Faculty of Humanities, University of 'Džemal Bijedić' in Mostar, Bosnia and Herzegovina. She has published several scientific papers in the fields of discourse analysis, applied linguistics, stylistics, linguistics and literary criticism and translation studies.



Dr. Amira Trnka is an assistant professor teaching Arabic language. She was educated in Sarajevo and Morocco. Worked as a teacher of Arabic in several schools in Sarajevo. Her main academic interests are teaching methodology and linguistics of Arabic language. Professor Trnka has participated in several study programs, specializations and conferences and has published a number of studies, essays, portraits and translations from Arabic.



Dr. Asim Zubčević an assistant professor, teaches courses on history of Islamic culture and civilization. He has studied at Aligarh Muslim University, Oxford University and Leiden University. Between 1996-1998. He worked in Oxford Centre for Islamic Studies, and between 2002 and 2004 at the Centre for Islamic Studies at the Cambridge University. He received a Doctorate at University of Leiden with the thesis Book ownership in Ottoman Sarajevo 1707-1828. His main academic interests are Muslim book culture, Bosnian history and Ottoman Balkans.



Dr. Dina Sijamhodžić-Nadarević is an assistant professor teaching pedagogy. She was educated at the Faculty of Islamic studies and the Faculty of Philosophy in Sarajevo. She is an author of two books, several book chapters and articles related to the academic field of pedagogy and religious pedagogy. Dr. Dina has participated in many study programs, specializations, conferences and interfaith dialogues.



Dr. Kenan Musić is assistant professor teaching Hadith and Hadith science. He studied in Cairo, Damascus, and Sarajevo. He memorizes the Qur'an by heart and owns traditional diplomas from recognized scholars such as shaykh Yassin Karut, shaykh Abdulmajid Tarabishi, shaykh Nuruddin 'Itr, and shaykh Muhammad al-Nadawi. He has published three books and several articles in field of Hadith.



Dr. Nedim Begović is an assistant professor teaching courses on Islamic law (Fiqh), Religion and Law and Research Methods. He spent academic year 2011/2012 as a visiting Fulbright scholar at the John Marshall Law School in Chicago. He is the author or coauthor of several books, among which are: Religious Freedom and Muslim Minorities in Europe, and Secularity and Religion: B&H and Region. He is also a contributor to European Islamophobia Report 2015 (Ankara: SETA, 2016) and Yearbook of Muslims in Europe, vol. 10 (Leiden: Brill, forthcoming). He authored several articles in the fields of Fiqh al-'ibadat, Usul al-Fiqh, Islamic Family Law and Religion and Law.



Dr. Zehra Alispahić is a Scientific Research Coordinator at the Faculty of Islamic Studies and an assistant professor teaching Arabic language. She was educated in Sarajevo and Morocco. For several years, she worked as an Arabic language teacher at Gazi Husrev-Bey's Madrasa. She is the author of several scientific papers dealing with Arabic language study for foreigners, cultural heritage of Muslims in the Balkans and presenting of Islam in the media. She attended numerous domestic and international seminars dealing with the Arabic language, the Islamic middle path (wasatiyyah), gender studies and religion in the media.



Abdul-Aziz Drkić, MA, is a senior assistant lecturer teaching the Rules of reciting the Quran (tajwid) and various readings of the Qur'an (qira'as) and has traditional Ijaz in qira'a Imam 'Asim (Hafs's and Shu'ba's riwayat) by the way of Al-Shatibiyyah. His M.A. was about the methods of harmonization different readings in riwayat imam Hafs from 'Asim (Tahrirat riwayat Hafs).



Fadilj Maljoki, MA, is a senior assistant lecturer in Hadith. He completed his undergraduate and master studies at the same Faculty. The topic of his master's thesis was: "Hidden defects in hadith and their influence on the implementation of legal regulations." He is awarded with the "Golden Badge" award, by the University of Sarajevo to students of the generation. His main interests are the authenticity and hermeneutics of hadith.



Muhamed Fazlović, MSc, is a senior assistant lecturer in Qur'anic studies. Fazlović obtained an MA in Religions and Cultures from the Pontifical Gregorian University in Rome, where he specialized in Christianity and interreligious dialogue. His primary academic interests include Qur'an exegesis and hermeneutics, Biblical studies, scriptural reasoning, the history of Islamic thought and Qur'anic studies in Bosnia and Herzegovina, and theology of interreligious and intercultural dialogue.



Samedin Kadić, MA, is a senior assistant lecturer in Islamic Philosophy. Currently he is a PhD candidate and visiting Fulbright scholar at University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. His area of focus is both classical and contemporary Islamic philosophy. He has published several books and novels.



Why study in Sarajevo?

Because:

- It is a European oasis of living and vibrant Islamic tradition;
- It is an open-air museum including the site of the assassination that sparked the WWI;
- It is a European Jerusalem;
- It is the heart of the Balkans;
- Its Old Bazaar (Baščaršija) is enchanting;
- Its architecture is fascinating;
- Its people are unusually hospitable;
- Its cuisine is absolutely delicious;
- You get all this at a relatively low price.



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