



International Open University

Changing the Nation through Education



About IOU

The International Open University (IOU) is a pioneer in online education founded in 2001 by the world renowned Islamic scholar, Dr. Abu Ameenah Bilal Philips. IOU provides accredited undergraduate and postgraduate certificates, diplomas and degrees in Islamic Studies, Arabic, and Islamized modern subjects, like psychology, business and education. Its mission is to make authentic Islamic and Islamized modern education readily available and affordable to the world. Its vision is to be the global beacon of authentic Islamic and Islamized education, nurturing leaders who inspire positive change in diverse communities worldwide.

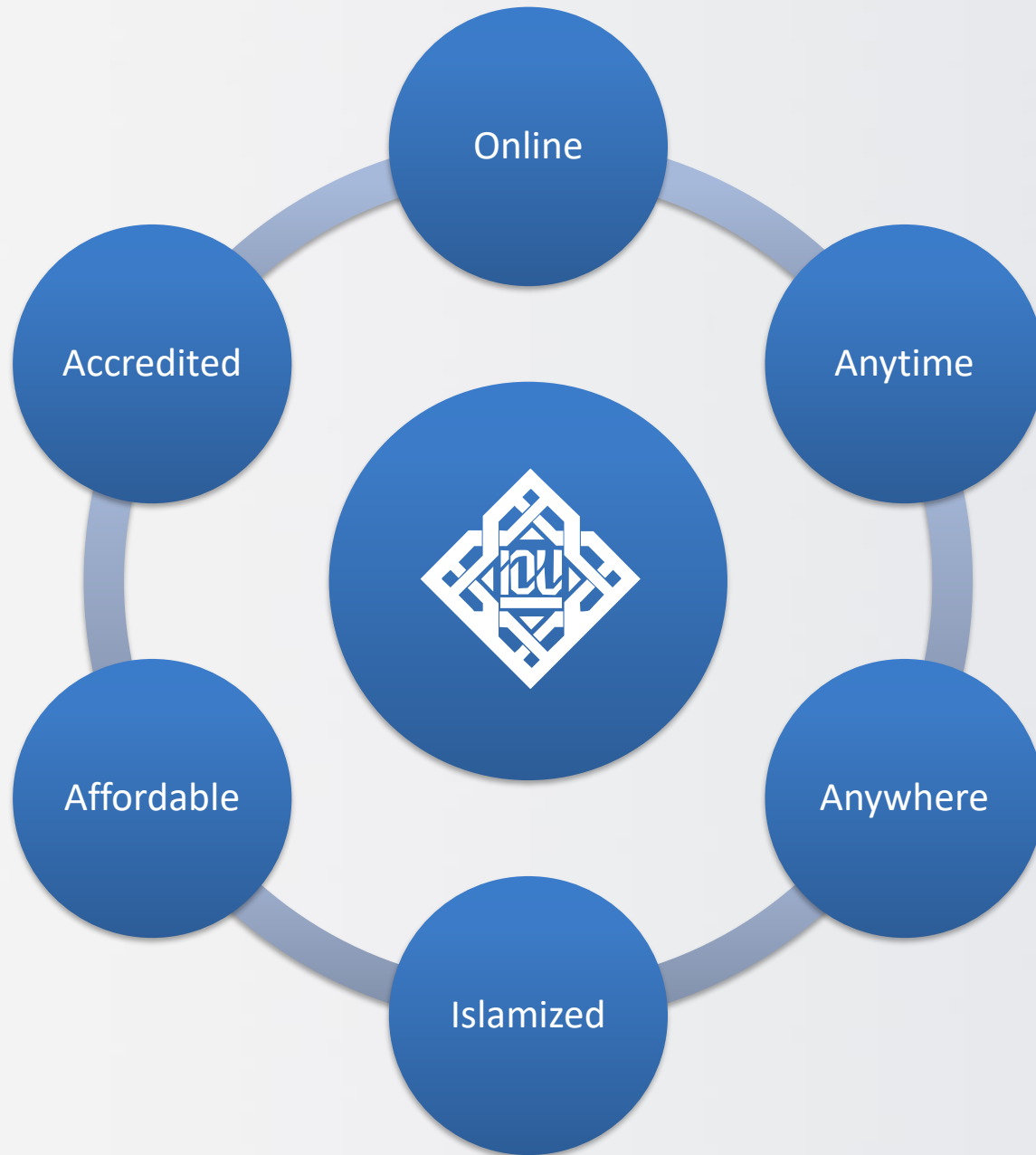


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Dr. Abu Ameenah Bilal Philips

- Jamaican–Canadian Islamic Scholar
- Converted to Islam in the early 1970's
- BA in Islamic Studies (University of Madeenah, KSA), MA in Islamic Theology (King Saud University, KSA), and PhD in Islamic Theology (University of Wales, UK)
- Taught Arabic and Islamic Studies in high schools and universities for over 20 years in Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates and Qatar
- Set up Islamic Studies departments in various universities
- Named in **The 500 Most Influential Muslims** publication
- Authored over 50 published Islamic books





- **Online eLearning:** Leveraging digital technology makes knowledge accessible to all in every corner of the globe, rather than just to a limited few.
- **Study Anytime:** With 3 study plans and the choice of how many courses to study, you can go at your own pace and also study at any time of the day.
- **Learn Anywhere:** Whether at home or work, on a bus or plane, or anywhere else, you can learn on any device - computer, laptop, TV, tablet or mobile.
- **Islamized Education:** In addition to Islamic Studies, IOU offers a unique approach of combining authentic Islamic knowledge into modern subjects.
- **Affordable Fees:** It is comparatively low and affordable, as fees are on a sliding scale based on the development score of a student's country.
- **Accredited Degrees:** IOU is a licensed online university and has both institutional and program accreditation for its degrees and certificates.

Accreditation



Ministry of Higher Education, The Gambia

The Ministry of Higher Education, Research, Science and Technology in the Republic of The Gambia granted the International Open University a license to operate an online university in 2014.



National Accreditation and Quality Assurance Authority, The Gambia

The National Accreditation and Quality Assurance Authority (NAQAA) granted the International Open University institutional and program accreditation for its Bachelor's and Master's degrees starting in 2019.



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History of IOU

- **2001:** Launched as the Islamic Online University offering paid baccalaureate courses
- **2007:** Relaunched with 22 free diploma courses
- **2010:** Began offering a Bachelor of Arts in Islamic Studies (BAIS)
- **2014:** Established the headquarter in the Gambia, received a university license, and started offering Bachelors in 4 new subjects and BAIS in Russian
- **2015:** Began offering Bachelor's in 2 new subjects and a Master's in Islamic Studies
- **2017:** Began offering BAIS in Bahasa for Indonesians and launched the 1 Million African Scholarships (1MAS) initiative
- **2019:** Received institutional accreditation from NAQAA in the Gambia
- **2020:** Changed its name to the International Open University
- **2021-2024:** NAQAA accredited all 7 Bachelor's degree and 5 Master's degrees

IOU Stats

- 37,500+ enrolled students in 173 countries
- 20,000+ students completed at least one semester
- 2,600+ graduates in 94 countries
- 8 academic departments with 28 programs
- 84 student committees in 61 countries
- 2,500+ exam centers in 146 countries
- 200+ staff and faculty in 35 countries
- 6,900+ enrolled students in the Fall 2023 semester
 - 32% on scholarship
 - 54% are female



Professors and Instructors



Bilal Philips
Jamaica
Ph.D.
Aqeedah



Iffat Basit
Pakistan
Ph.D.
Education



Riaz Ansary
USA
Ph.D.
Usool al-Fiqh



Muraina Olanrewaju
Nigeria
Ph.D.
Education



Daud Abdullah
Grenada
Ph.D.
Seerah



Ebrahim Abu Dawy
Egypt
Ph.D.
Arabic



Nissar Ahmad Yatoo
India
Ph.D.
Economics, Banking
& Finance



Adnan Ashraf
Pakistan
Ph.D.
Information
Technology



James Jones
USA
Ph.D.
Comparative
Religion



Shafiqur Rahman
Australia
Ph.D.
Business
Administration



Francesca Bocca
Italy
Ph.D.
Psychology



Wessam Altom
Lebanon
Ph.D.
Quran



Afroza Bulbul Afrin
Bangladesh
Ph.D.
Business
Administration



G Hussein Rassool
Mauritius
Ph.D.
Psychology



Mohd Anwar Sahib
Fiji
Ph.D.
Fiqh



Sutan Emir Hidayat
Indonesia
Ph.D.
Economics, Banking
& Finance

Faculties and Program Levels

Faculty of Arabic and Islamic Studies

- Department of Arabic Language
- Department of Islamic Studies

Faculty of Liberal Arts and Sciences

- Department of Business Administration
- Department of Economics & Finance
- Department of Education
- Department of Information Technology
- Department of Psychology

Program Levels

- Certificate
- Diploma
- Associate Degree
- Bachelor's Degree
- Postgraduate Certificate
- Master's Degree
- Doctorate



Departments and Programs

Islamic Studies

- Bachelor (BAIS)
- Postgrad Certificate (BMAIS)*
- Master (MAIS)
- Master (MAIS) - Research
- Doctorate (PhD IS)*

Psychology

- Certificate (CPSY)*
- Associate (DPSY)*
- Bachelor (BSc PSY)
- Master (MSc PIC)

Economics

- Certificate (CIBE)*
- Associate (AIBE)*
- Bachelor (BSc IEBF)
- Master (MSc IEBF) (Soon)

Arabic

- Diploma (IAP)
- Bachelor (BA ALS)
- Postgrad Certificate (BMARB)*
- Master (MA ALS)
- Master (MA ALS) - Research

Business Administration

- Certificate (CBA)*
- Associate (ABA)*
- Bachelor (BBA) - major in Finance
- Master (MBA) (Soon)

Non-English

- Bachelor (BAIS) - Russian
- Bachelor (BAIS) - Indonesian
- Bachelor (BAIS) - Urdu (Soon)
- Bachelor (BAIS) - French (Soon)

Education

- Certificate (CEd)*
- Associate (AEEd)*
- Bachelor (BEEd) - major in English
- Postgrad Certificate (PGCE) (Soon)
- Master (MEEd)

Information Technology

- Certificate (CIT)*
- Associate (AIT)*
- Bachelor (BSc IT)
- Masters (MSc IT) (Soon)

HQ Offline Exclusives

- Bachelor (Education) - Hybrid
- Bachelor (Law)

* Programs temporarily unavailable and awaiting accreditation

Study Plans

| | Part time | Full time | Accelerated* |
|--------------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| Courses | 1 to 3 | 4 to 6 | 7 to 9 |
| Credits | 25 to 40 | 40 to 60 | - |
| Commitment per week | 6 to 18 hours | 24 to 36 hours | 42 to 54 hours |
| Duration of Certificates | 2 to 3 years | 1 to 1.5 years | 1 year |
| Duration of Associates | 4 to 6 years | 2 to 3 years | 1.5 to 2 years |
| Duration of Bachelors | 6 to 9 years | 4 to 6 years | 3 to 3.5 years |
| Duration of Masters | 4 to 6 years** | 2 to 4 years | - |

* Accelerated plan is available for earlier curricula programs that are non-accredited

** Some masters degrees do not have a part-time study option



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Semester Fees

| | Part time (US\$) | Full time (US\$) | Accelerated (US\$) |
|--------------------------|------------------|------------------|--------------------|
| Undergraduate | \$80 - \$280 | \$120 - \$450 | \$165 - \$560 |
| Postgraduate Certificate | \$160 - \$440 | \$230 - \$630 | \$300 - \$815 |
| Masters | \$225 - \$570 | \$330 - \$830 | \$440 - \$1,080 |
| Doctorate | TBA | TBA | - |
| Intensive Arabic Program | \$100 - \$410 | | |

Tuition fees are based on the development level of a student's country of residence and are subject to change without notice. Visit www.iou.edu.gm/fees for more details.



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Important Dates - Online Programs

| | Spring Semester | Fall Semester |
|----------------------|--|--|
| Early Registration | 1 st week of October to February 28 th | 1 st week of April to August 31 st |
| Registration | March 1 st to 30 th | September 1 st to 30 th |
| Classes (start) | 1 st week of March | 1 st week of September |
| Midterm Examinations | 2 nd week of May | 2 nd week of November |
| Assignment Deadline | June 1 st | December 1 st |
| Classes (end) | 4 th week of July | 4 th week of January |
| Final Examination | First two weeks of August | First two weeks of February |

Students who register during the early registration period will receive a **10% discount** on their first semester fees.



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Requirements for Online Learning at IOU

- **Educational Requirements:** The minimum requirement for undergraduate programs is a high school diploma. Students who do not possess one, or choose not to take exams or write assignments, can opt for the Audit Course of bachelor's and master's degrees.
- **Language Requirements:** Students must be able to read, write, and understand English, as it is the primary language of instruction. Arabic programs are taught in English, but a basic level of Arabic reading is required, with the exception of the master's degree.
- **Time Management:** Students need to allocate the necessary amount of time per week for them to complete their courses and be punctual in meeting deadlines for the module tests, assignments, and exams. IOU offers a time management course to help students.
- **Computer Literacy:** Students should possess basic computer skills, including the ability to use the internet for research, use of a word processor, sending and receiving emails, as well as how to open, save, download and upload files.
- **Exam Center Accessibility:** Students are required to take exams at IOU approved exam centers, so the nearest one should be located, or a request for a closer one to be established should be made.



IOU attempts to strengthen the capabilities of the underprivileged through the provision of quality higher education. Earning a university degree helps them create a better livelihood for themselves and their families, as well as empowers them towards the eradication of poverty in their communities. The United Nations has stated that the main difference between the first and third world is education. This is apparent with only 6% of sub-Saharan youth enrolled in higher education compared to the global average of 26%.

For this reason in 2017, IOU launched the African scholarships project with the aim of educating one million students in Africa and its diaspora. Alhamdulillah, within 6 years and with the support of our donors, we have reached 25 countries and have offered scholarships to almost 5,000 students. We've granted scholarships across Cameroon, Egypt, Eswatini (Swaziland), Ethiopia, Fiji, Gambia, Ghana, Jamaica, Kenya, Libya, Malawi, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Nigeria, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, Somalia, South Africa, Sudan, Tanzania, Trinidad and Tobago, Uganda, Zambia, and Zimbabwe.

IOU Subsidiaries



Global Quran Memorization Center

GQMC offers memorization and Tajweed programs to students who are 12+ years and classes are gender segregated. Fees for memorization start at \$10 to \$50 per month and for tajweed is a one-time payment of \$60 or \$100.



General Diploma in Islamic Studies

GDIS provides over 40 courses, spanning 6 levels of learning, at a small subscription fee of as little as \$1 per month. Students may obtain a diploma upon successful completion of 24 of those courses. They will also be given access to over 10 special workshops.



Ilm Institute

Provides easy access to a multitude of professional, Islamic and modern short courses taught by highly qualified instructors from across the globe, without any educational requirements or time limits. Courses cover topics including education, finance, health, parenting, and psychology.



Solace Islamic Mental Health Services

Offers online mental health services such as counseling, imam consultation, and workshops, as well as training for adults, youth and children. All of its services are provided by qualified Islamic professionals, with affordable fees starting at \$30 per session and \$15 for workshops.



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Q&A



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 www.iou.edu.gm  info@iou.edu.gm  [+60 17-223 5770](tel:+60172235770)

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