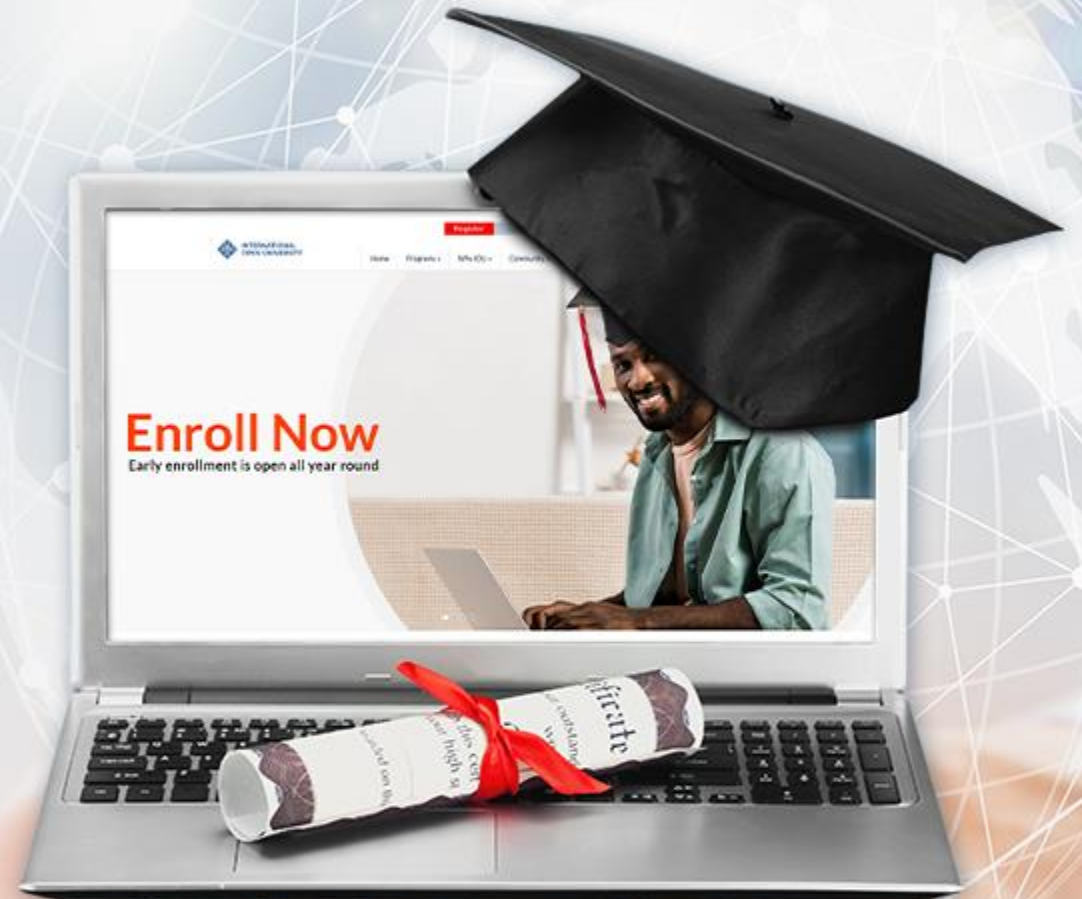# International Open University (IOU)

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.

INTERNATIONAL OPEN UNIVERSITY
www.iou.edu.gm

Founder - 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

INTERNATIONAL
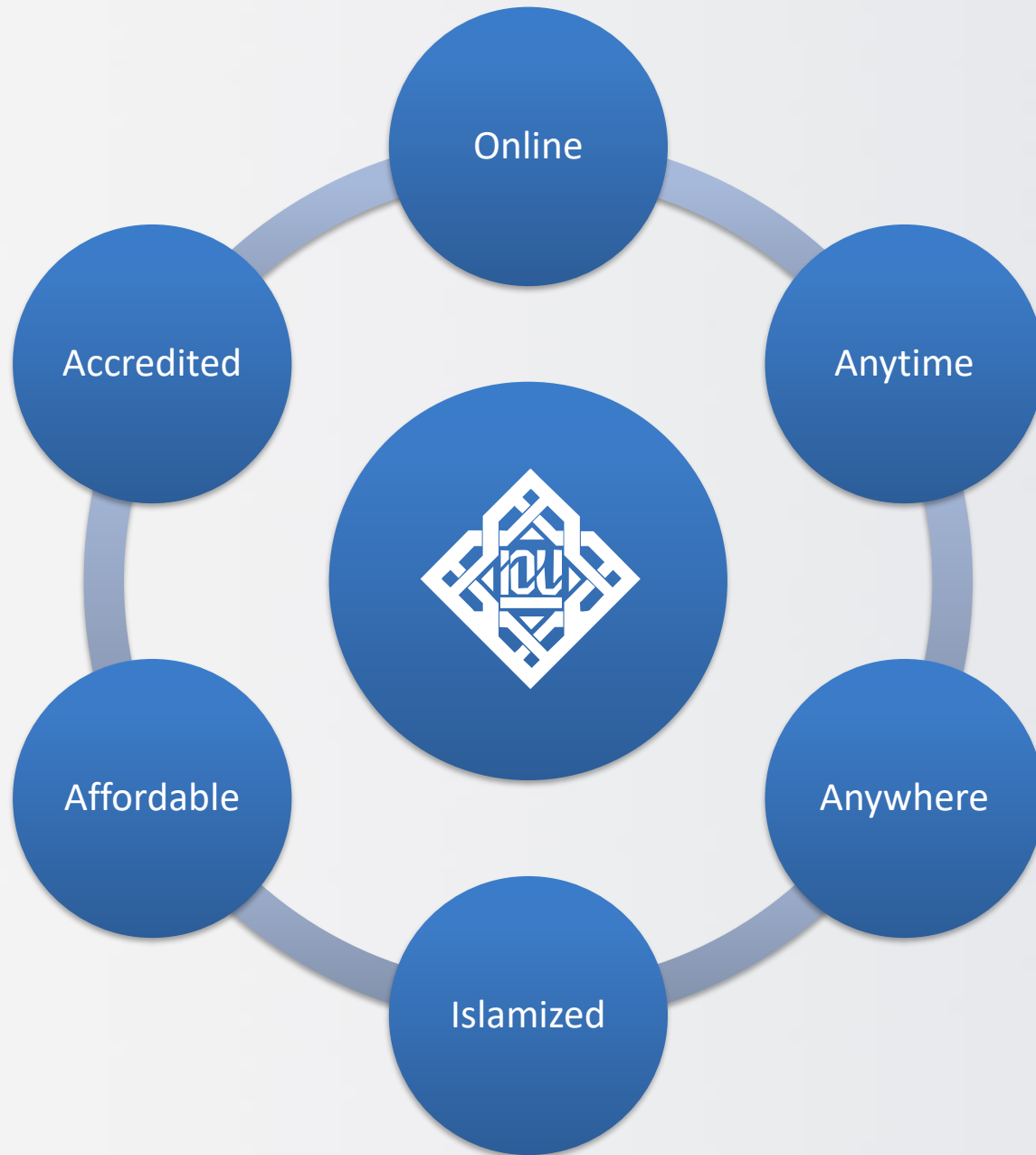OPEN UNIVERSITY
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Founder - Dr. Abu Ameenah Bilal Philips

"The goal of making authentic Islamic knowledge and Islamized modern knowledge readily accessible to the world through the medium of the internet is a noble mission worthy of dedicating and sacrificing all of one's life and all of one's means."

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- **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 the International Open University

2001

- IOU launched as the Islamic Online University and offered paid baccalaureate courses, but stopped operation in 2002.

2007

- IOU relaunched with 22 free diploma level courses and had over 1,500 registered students.

2010

- IOU expanded by launching one of the world's first online Bachelor of Arts in Islamic Studies (BAIS), and registered students for the diploma courses increased to 30,000.

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History of the International Open University

2014

- Four new departments were opened which offered Bachelor's degrees in Arabic, Education, Banking & Finance, and Psychology.

- IOU established its headquarters in the Gambia and received a university license from the Ministry of Higher Education.

- IOU began offering the BAIS program in Russian.

2015

- Two new departments were opened to offer Bachelor's in Business Administration and Information Technology.

- IOU began to offer a Master's in Islamic Studies (MAIS).

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History of the International Open University

2017

- IOU began offering the BAIS program in Bahasa for Indonesians.
- The 1 Million African Scholarships (1MAS) initiative was launched to provide free Bachelor's degree scholarships to the underprivileged in Africa and its diaspora.

2019 & 2020

- The National Accreditation and Quality Assurance Authority (NAQAA) of The Gambia granted IOU institutional accreditation.
- IOU officially changed its name to the International Open University.

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History of the International Open University

2021 & 2022

- NAQAA granted program accreditation for IOU's Bachelor's degrees in Arabic, Business Administration, Banking & Finance, Psychology, Education, and Islamic Studies, as well as the Master's in Psychology.

2023

- NAQAA accredited IOU's Bachelor's degree in Information Technology, Postgraduate in Education, and Master's degrees in Arabic, Business Administration, Banking & Finance, Education and Islamic Studies.
- For the 2022-2023 academic year, 9,105 students registered.

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IOU Stats

- **30,500+ enrolled students** in **173 countries**
- **20,000+ students completed** at least **one semester**
- **2,300+ graduates** in **92 countries**
- **7 academic departments** with **24 programs**
- **78 student committees** in **50 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**

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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
PhD
Economics, Banking & Finance

DEPARTMENTS & PROGRAMS

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Faculties and Departments

Faculty of Arabic and Islamic Studies

- Department of Islamic Studies

- Department of Arabic Language

Faculty of Liberal Arts and Sciences

- Department of Psychology

- Department of Education

- Department of Economics & Finance

- Department of Business Administration

- Department of Information Technology

Islamic Studies – Bachelor of Arts (BAIS)

Degree Program

- Requirement: High School Diploma or equivalent
- Duration: Four years

Program Content

- Core courses in Sharee'ah (Islamic Law) plus Da'wah (Propagation) supplement
- Additional 5 modern core course areas: Education, Psychology, Finance, Management Information and Communications Technology (ICT)

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Postgraduate Certificate in Islamic Studies

Bridge to MA (BMAIS)

- For existing Bachelor's degree holders in fields other than Islamic Studies
- Take Sharee'ah courses in Aqeedah, Fiqh, Tafseer, Seerah, Hadeeth, and Arabic
- Prerequisite for joining IOU's Masters in Islamic Studies for non-BAIS students
- Duration: One and half year

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Islamic Studies – Master of Arts (MAIS)

Degree Program

- Requirement: BA in Islamic Studies from an accredited institution or a BA in a subject other than Islamic Studies (e.g. B.Sc., B.Com.) with a BMAIS from IOU
- Options: Coursework or Research-based
- Duration: Two years

Program Content (Coursework)

- Aqeedah: Tawheed al-Asmaa was-Sifaat
- Arabic Language: Communication skills, Arabic literature
- Fiqh: Maqasid Al-Shariah, International Relations, Qada wa Siyasah Shar`iyyah, Hadeeth, Tafseer, and History

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Islamic Studies – Ph.D. in Islamic Sciences (Coming Soon)

Degree Program

- Disciplines: Pure Islamic Studies/Theology and Inter-disciplinary Studies (Islamic social sciences, pure or applied sciences, or humanities)
- Duration: Three years

Requirement for Research Topic

- Pure Islamic Studies/Theology: Master's degree in Islamic Studies or equivalent
- Inter-disciplinary Studies: Master's degree in a relevant subject and a research proposal should be submitted along with the application to justify the research topic

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Department of
Psychology

Undergraduate Programs in Psychology

Bachelor of Science in Psychology

- Requirement: High School Diploma
- Duration: Four years

Associate in Psychology

- Requirement: High School Diploma
- Duration: Two years

Certificate in Psychology

- Requirement: High School Diploma
- Duration: One year

Program Contents

- Islamic Psychology
- Child Psychology
- Health Psychology
- Abnormal Psychology
- Islamic Counselling

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Master in Psychology and Islamic Counselling (MSc PIC)

Degree Program

- Requirement: Bachelor in Psychology or relevant degree/diploma/certificate from an accredited institution
- Duration: Two years

Program Content

- Core: Courses in Islamic Psychology and Psychotherapy, Psychological Testing and Assessment, and Psychological Interventions
- Research: Methodology, Proposal
- Thesis: Minor Dissertation

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Programs in Education

Bachelor of Education

- Requirement: High School Diploma
- Duration: Four years

Associate in Education

- Requirement: High School Diploma
- Duration: Two years

Certificate in Education

- Requirement: High School Diploma
- Duration: One year

Program Contents

- Conventional Subjects taught comparatively
- Core Islamic Studies subjects are also taught
- Teacher training included

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Programs in Islamic Economics, Banking & Finance

Bachelor in Banking & Finance

- Requirement: High School Diploma
- Duration: Four years

Associate in Banking & Finance

- Requirement: High School Diploma
- Duration: Two years

Certificate in Banking & Finance

- Requirement: High School Diploma
- Duration: One year

Program Contents

- Conventional Subjects taught comparatively
- Core Islamic Studies subjects are also taught
- Principles of Accounting, Principles of Economics, Introduction to Business, Principles of Management, Money and Banking, Managerial Accounting

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Department of
Information Technology

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Programs in Information Technology

Bachelor of Science in IT

- Requirement: High School Diploma
- Duration: Four years

Associate Degree in IT

- Requirement: High School Diploma
- Duration: Two years

Certificate in IT

- Requirement: High School Diploma
- Duration: One year

Program Contents

- Introduction to Computing
- Programming Fundamentals
- Calculus and Analytical Geometry
- Object Oriented Programming
- Digital Logic Design
- Discrete Structures

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Department of
Business Administration

Programs in Business Administration

Bachelor Degree in Business Administration

- Requirement: High School Diploma
- Duration: Four years

Associate Degree in Business Administration

- Requirement: High School Diploma
- Duration: Two years

Certificate in Business Administration

- Requirement: High School Diploma
- Duration: One year

Program Contents

- Introduction to Business
- Principles of Marketing
- Principles of Management
- Principles of Economics
- Organizational Behaviour
- Organization and Management

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Department of
Arabic Language

العربية

learn arabic

Arabic Language – Intensive Diploma (IAP)

Non-Degree Program

- Duration: Two years

Focus on:

- Arabic Grammar
- Reading
- Writing
- Listening
- Understanding

Program Contents

- Arabic Grammar
- Madina Syllabus Book
- Al-Ajroomiyah

Arabic Language – Bachelor of Arts (BA ALS)

Degree Program

- Requirement: High School Diploma
- Duration: Four years

Program Contents

- Detailed Arabic Grammar
- Pre-Islamic, Islamic and Modern Arabic Literature
- In-depth study of the Al-Madinah series of books
- Arabic Rhetoric, Linguistics, and Morphology
- Based on courses taught at Imam Muhammad bin Saud University in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

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Postgraduate Certificate in Arabic

Bridge to MA (BMARB)

- For existing Bachelor's degree holders in fields other than Arabic
- Courses in Arabic Grammar, Pre-Islam and Islamic Literature, Lessons from Noble Qur'an, and Arabic Morphology (Sarf)
- Prerequisite for joining IOU's Master's degree in Arabic for non-BA in Arabic students
- Duration: One year

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Arabic Language - Master of Arts (MA ALS)

Degree Program

- Requirement: Bachelor in Arabic from an accredited institution or a BA in a subject other than Arabic (e.g. B.Sc., B.Com.) with a BMARB from IOU
- Duration: Two years

Research-based Program

- Designed to give a thorough and supportive opportunity to conduct research in Arabic. It enables you to demonstrate advanced familiarity with classical and modern Arabic literature, poetry, or Islamic religious texts.

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STUDY PLANS, FEES & DATES

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

	Spring Semester	Fall Semester
Early registration	1st week of October to February 28th	1st week of April to August 31st
Registration	March 1st to 30th	September 1st to 30th
Classes (start)	1st week of March	1st week of September
Midterm Examinations	2nd week of May	2nd week of November
Classes (end)	4th week of July	4th 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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IOU Subsidiaries

Global Qur'an Memorization Center

Has a variety of Quranic programs including those for memorization (group, one-on-one, ijaazah) and Tajweed (beginner, advanced). All programs are offered to 12+ years at affordable monthly fee and are gender segregated.

General Diploma in Islamic Studies

IOU offers over 40 courses, at a small subscription fee of as little as $1 per month, spanning 6 levels of learning. Students may obtain a diploma upon successful completion of 24 of those courses.

Ilm Institute

It 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.

GQMC
GLOBAL QURAN
MEMORIZATION CENTER

General Diploma
in Islamic Studies (GDIS)

Ilm Institute

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Requirements for Online Learning at IOU

Studying online is challenging. Before you get started, here are some points to consider:

Language Requirements

Students are required to possess proficiency in English, as it is the primary medium of instruction. Students may be asked to take an English placement test to assess their language abilities. Students with lower scores will be encouraged to enroll in short English courses designed to enhance their language skills. Arabic programs are taught in English, but a basic level of Arabic reading is required, with the exception of the masters 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.

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.

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.

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.

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