



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, economics, 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 future leaders who inspire positive change in diverse communities worldwide.



Founder's Quotation



"The mission to make classical authentic Islamic knowledge and Islamized modern knowledge accessible to the whole world through the internet is a noble cause, worthy of dedicating one's life and resources to, in service of humanity and the pursuit of truth."

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Bilal Philips', with a large, sweeping underline.

Dr. Abu Ameenah Bilal Philips



Why Study at IOU?



- **Online eLearning:** Leveraging digital technology makes knowledge accessible to all in every corner of the globe, rather than just to a limited privileged few.
- **Study Anytime:** With 2 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.

Online Learning Platform

IOU utilizes Moodle, one of the most popular open source Learning Management Systems (LMS), to transform traditional learning into a fully digital environment. It efficiently manages all aspects of the educational process from registration to graduation. The LMS provides tools for interactive learning, peer collaboration, and easier access to lecturers.



Headquarters

IOU's headquarters is located in Kanifing city within the West African nation of The Gambia. It is situated 12 kilometers west of the capital city of Banjul, within the heart of Serrekunda, the largest urban center in the country.

The landmark three-story building has an imposing appearance and can't be missed along the Iceman Junction. It houses administrative offices, scholarship learning center, and library, as well as offering students free access to computers and internet.

IOU has made significant contributions to tertiary education in The Gambia through its collaboration with the Gambian government in various offline programs in English, education and law.



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.



INTERNATIONAL
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www.iou.edu.gm

Memberships

IOU has memberships with various international and regional associations, councils of universities and educators, as well as quality assurance networks. IOU's Vice Chancellor is a registered member of the International Association of University Presidents (IAUP) and IOU is regularly invited to participate in the events of the International Association of Universities (IAU).



Association of African Universities (AAU)



Asian Association of Open Universities (AAOU)



International Network for Quality Assurance Agencies in Higher Education



International Council for Open and Distance Education (ICDE)



African Quality Assurance Network (AfriQAN)



International Council of Islamic Finance Educators (ICIFE)



Association of Quality Assurance Agencies of the Islamic World (IQA)



Federation of the Universities of the Islamic World (FUIW)



International Association of Universities (IAU)

Acceptance

The International Open University's undergraduate and postgraduate degrees and certificates have been recognized by universities, evaluation services and governmental accrediting bodies in the various countries listed below.

AMERICA



Canada



United States

EUROPE



Switzerland



United Kingdom

ASIA



Indonesia



Pakistan



Malaysia



Philippines

AFRICA



Ghana



Tanzania



Kenya



Uganda



Nigeria



Zambia



Sierra Leone

History of IOU

- **2001** : Launched as the Islamic Online University offering paid BA-level courses
- **2007** : Relaunched with 22 free diploma-level courses
- **2010** : Began offering a Bachelor of Arts in Islamic Studies (BAIS) degree
- **2014** : Established the headquarters 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
- **2019** : Received institutional accreditation from NAQAA in the Gambia
- **2020** : Changed its name to the International Open University
- **2021+** : NAQAA accredited 5 Master's degrees and all 7 Bachelor's degrees and IOU began offering MA's in Psychology, Education, Economics and Arabic

Statistics

- **41,300+** enrolled students since 2010 in **174 countries**
- **8 academic departments** with **31 programs**
- **92 student committees** in **65 countries**
- **2,700+** exam centers in **156 countries**
- **200+** staff and faculty in **35 countries**
- **12,300+** enrolled students for the **2023-2024 academic year**
- **11,200+** enrolled students in the **Fall 2024 semester**
 - **34%** studying **Islamic Studies programs**
 - **24%** on **scholarship**
 - **61%** are **female**



Professors and Instructors



Bilal Philips
Ph.D.
Canada
Aqeedah
(Theology)



Iffat Basit
Ph.D.
Pakistan
Education



Riaz Ansary
Ph.D.
USA
Usool al-Fiqh
(Law Principles)



Muraina Olanrewaju
Ph.D.
Nigeria
Education



Daud Abdullah
Ph.D.
Grenada
Seerah
(Prophetic Bio)



Ebrahim Abu Dawy
Ph.D.
Egypt
Arabic



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



Adnan Ashraf
Ph.D.
Pakistan
Information
Technology



James Jones
Ph.D.
USA
Comparative
Religion



Shafiqur Rahman
Ph.D.
Australia
Business
Administration



Francesca Bocca
Ph.D.
Italy
Psychology



Wessam Altom
Ph.D.
Lebanon
Quran



Afroza Bulbul Afrin
Ph.D.
Bangladesh
Business
Administration



G Hussein Rassool
Ph.D.
Mauritius
Psychology



Mohd Anwar Sahib
Ph.D.
Fiji
Fiqh
(Islamic Law)



Sutan Emir Hidayat
Ph.D.
Indonesia
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
- Higher Diploma
- Postgraduate Certificate
- Master's Degree
- Doctorate



Departments and Programs

Islamic Studies

- Bachelor (BAIS)
- Higher Diploma (BMAIS)
- Master (MAIS)
- Master (MAIS) - Research
- **Doctorate (PhD IS)**¹

Psychology

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

Economics

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

Arabic

- Diploma (IAP)
- Bachelor (BA ALS)
- Higher Diploma (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 (BSc PSY) - Indonesian
- Bachelor (BAIS) - Urdu

Education

- Certificate (CEd)
- Associate (AEd)
- Bachelor (BEd) - major in English
- Postgrad Certificate (PGCE)
- Master (MEd)

Information Technology

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

HQ Offline Exclusives

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

¹ Programs temporarily unavailable and awaiting accreditation

Study Plans

| | Part time | Full time |
|--------------------------|---------------|----------------|
| Courses | 1 to 3 | 4 to 6 |
| Credits | 24 to 40 | 40 to 60 |
| Commitment per week | 6 to 18 hours | 24 to 36 hours |
| Duration of Certificates | 2 to 3 years | 1 to 1.5 years |
| Duration of Associates | 4 to 6 years | 2 to 3 years |
| Duration of Bachelors | 6 to 9 years | 4 to 6 years |
| Duration of Masters | 4 to 6 years | 2 to 4 years |



Semester Fees

Tuition fees are based on three factors: a student's study plan, country of residence, and program level. A sliding scale fee system is used, where countries are grouped into 4 development levels.

| | Undergraduate | Higher Diploma | Master | Arabic Diploma |
|---|---------------|----------------|--------|----------------|
| Low Developed (ex. Gambia, India, Philippines) | \$135 | \$255 | \$370 | \$115 |
| Medium Developed (ex. South Africa, Egypt, Indonesia) | \$185 | \$360 | \$505 | \$155 |
| High Developed (ex. Saudi Arabia, Russia, Malaysia) | \$375 | \$475 | \$675 | \$350 |
| Very High Developed (ex. United States, UK, Japan) | \$525 | \$725 | \$925 | \$500 |

Tuition fees above are in USD for full-time study plans and are subject to change without notice. Visit www.iou.edu.gm/fees for more details.



Important Dates - Online Programs

| | 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 |
| Assignment Deadline | June 1st | December 1st |
| Classes (end) | 4th week of July | 4th week of January |
| Final Examination | First two weeks of August | First two weeks of February |





**YOUR FIRST
SEMESTER FEES
DURING EARLY
REGISTRATION**

Requirements for Online Learning at IOU

- **Educational Requirements:** A high school diploma is needed for undergraduate programs, while various countries have different credit requirements. 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.



VIDEO

youtu.be/7ysgiKJF7XM

REPORT

golf.org.my/1masr

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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 reported that only 6% Sub-Saharan youth are 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 7 years and with the support of our donors, we have reached 27 countries and have offered scholarships to over 6,000 students. We currently have over 2,500 active students and 280 graduates, as well as operating 32 learning centers.

We've granted scholarships across Algeria, Cameroon, Egypt, Eswatini, Ethiopia, Fiji, Gambia, Ghana, Jamaica, Kenya, Liberia, Libya, Malawi, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Nigeria, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, Somalia, South Africa, Sudan, Tanzania, Trinidad, 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, based on a student's country of residence, 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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