

Reviving the legacy of female scholarship

Islamic Programmes
2017/2018



WOMEN'S MUSLIM COLLEGE

Reviving Female Scholarship

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WELCOME TO WOMEN'S MUSLIM COLLEGE

Welcome to Women's Muslim College. We hope that you will find enrolling with us an enriching experience.

We pride ourselves on offering you outstanding teaching, a fantastic choice of programmes and all the support you need to achieve your goals.

With lots of subjects to choose from, held in a variety of locations, Women's Muslim College is committed to helping women learn their tradition. Whether you choose our flagship four-year Islamic Sciences in a Modern Context programme for 2018, or you opt for a shorter diploma or certificate course, you'll find your time as a Women's Muslim College student to be a transformative experience.

Our students are the emerging leaders who will help positively shape tomorrow's world. We warmly welcome you to join us on this exciting journey.



MESSAGE FROM THE FOUNDER

Welcome from our Founder, Sayyid Shaykh Muhammad Al-Yaqoubi

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ • الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ رَبِّ الْعَالَمِينَ
وَصَلَّى اللَّهُ وَسَلَّم وَبَارَكَ عَلَى سَيِّدِنَا مُحَمَّدٍ وَعَلَى آلِهِ وَصَحْبِهِ أَجْمَعِينَ

Knowledge of Islam should be offered equally to men and women. There is nothing in Islam that should prevent women from acquiring knowledge in the religious disciplines for their own benefit and practice. Fatima, sister of Omar, second Rightly Guided Caliph, was probably the earliest student to study Quran. Together with her husband, Sa'id bin Zayd, she received private classes of Quran recitation under a teacher called Khabbab. At that time, there were fewer than forty Muslims in Mecca.

The tradition of women being qualified as religious scholars in Quran, hadith and Islamic law is as old as Islam itself. There is nothing in Islamic teachings that prevents women from becoming scholars, or from teaching both women and men. The best example was Sayyida Aisha, wife of the Prophet ﷺ, who was a great scholar of Quran, hadith, law and poetry.

The tradition continued through the golden age of Islam, with great female scholars such as Karima al-Marwaziyya, Zainab bint al-Kamal and Aisha Al-Ba'ouniyya. In 2007, on the 500th anniversary of Aisha's death, she was selected by UNESCO as one of the greatest figures to make contributions to civilisation in her society. Great male scholars, such as Abu Bakr al-Khatib al-Baghdadi, Shams al-Dan al-Dhahabi and Shams al-Din ibn Tolon, learned from those women.

Women's Muslim College is now reviving this tradition, without compromising our Islamic principles. The Principal, Shaykha Safia Shahid, has been attending my classes for over 15 years. She has shown excellence in learning

and teaching, and proved herself to be capable of having a grasp of both the sacred knowledge and the challenges facing our communities.

A strong team of dedicated teachers distinguishes Women's Muslim College as a college of high standard, drawing on knowledge gained from reliable sources in the Islamic sciences. This should make it like a qibla for serious female students, both in the UK and internationally.

It is a privilege to guide young female scholars, who will not only be equipped to face the many challenges ahead, but will be positive contributors to society, promoting peace, moderation and protection of life.

We pray for the success of this College for generations to come.

Muhammad Al-Yaqoubi



MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Welcome from the Principal, Shaykha Safia Shahid

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ ۝ الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ رَبِّ الْعَالَمِينَ
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Sayidduna Abu Musa al-Ashari, one of the great male companions, said, "No hadith presented us companions of the Prophet ﷺ with difficulty but that we would ask Sayyida Aisha about it and we found she had knowledge of it (Tirmidhi)."

Islamic history is replete with examples of women who excelled in Islamic disciplines such as Hadith, Islamic law, Arabic and spirituality. Women used to study, teach, write books and issue legal edicts (fatwas). Moreover, they were sought for their knowledge and were consulted on important affairs.

In Islam, both men and women are encouraged to flourish in society; one of the more profound ways by which they can be elevated to high rank is through the acquisition of knowledge and its practice. Islam places significant virtue on those who follow the path of sacred knowledge. In the

Noble Quran, Allah says, "Allah will exalt in degrees those of you who believe and those who have been granted knowledge." (Quran: 58:11).

The Islamic tradition does not favour men over women in the attainment of this glory. Far from inhibiting female learning, the Prophet Muhammad ﷺ emphasised this when he said: "Seeking knowledge is obligatory upon every Muslim" – male and female.

Women's Muslim College is reviving the legacy of female scholarship. It is an honour to assist in female learning and serve the college, founded by the erudite scholar Sayyid Shaykh Muhammad Al-Yaqoubi.

In over a decade of teaching the sacred knowledge, I'm delighted to see the dedication of aspiring female teachers who now represent the College as its core teachers. It is a privilege to nurture female scholars who not only understand the challenges of modern society, but enrich it in the noble principles of peace, harmony and co-existence.

May Allah Ta'ala grant success and cause the College's benefit to spread far and wide.

Safia Shahid



WHY CHOOSE WOMEN'S MUSLIM COLLEGE

VISION

The vision of Women's Muslim College is to empower British Muslim women. Many women, being British with a Muslim identity, want to take an active role to positively address the challenges facing Muslims living in Britain today. Doing so will lead to cohesive communities with a shared understanding of commonalities, as well as a respect for differences.

Islam's true teachings are based on sacred vows of peace, mercy, moderation and protection of life. Those who fail to subscribe to these basic tenets of the Islamic faith, and instead misinterpret its teachings, propose extremist ideologies for which there is absolutely no basis in any of the teachings of Islam.

We feel that the best way to combat extremism is by spreading correctly interpreted knowledge and producing young female scholars, teachers and muftis. Equipped with knowledge and wisdom, they can prevent the incorrect interpretations that lead to extremism.

The sacred knowledge represented in centuries of Islam's scholarly heritage is at the heart of the College. Women connected with their glorious tradition will make a strong and positive contribution to society as great ambassadors of Islam, modelled on the Prophetic character ﷺ of mercy.



FLAGSHIP COURSES

Islamic Sciences in a Modern Context is the College's flagship four-year programme, designed to offer a world-class education and produce female scholars grounded in Islam's intellectual tradition, with the requisite skills and training to guide and lead in modern society. The programme will be held at the college's main campus in Birmingham.

The Diploma in Islamic Sciences is a part-time programme, held in Birmingham over one academic year, and is designed to give students a grounding in obligatory knowledge for every Muslim (Fard Al-Ayn).

We also offer a wide range of Certificate courses in various subjects of the Islamic sciences, held at various locations in the UK. The Certificate courses run for one academic year.

For the Certificate courses and Diploma programme, the academic year 2017/2018 starts in October, consisting of three 12-week terms.

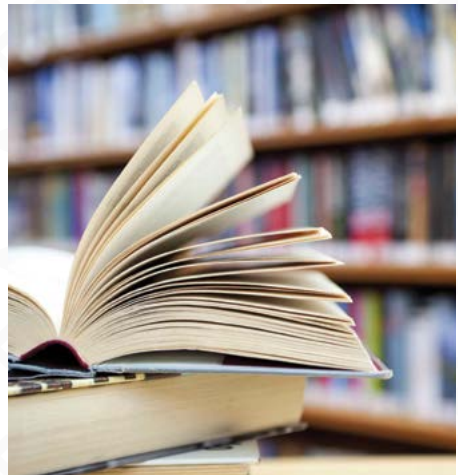
The four-year Islamic Sciences in a Modern Context programme starts in September 2018.

The College welcomes both home and international students, and is in the process of establishing international courses with English as one of the prerequisites for all admissions.

SCHOLARSHIP

One of the notable aspects of Women's Muslim College is that it is one of the few Islamic educational establishments in the UK devoted to women. Women's Muslim College is committed to the education, learning and nurturing of women, both nationwide and internationally.

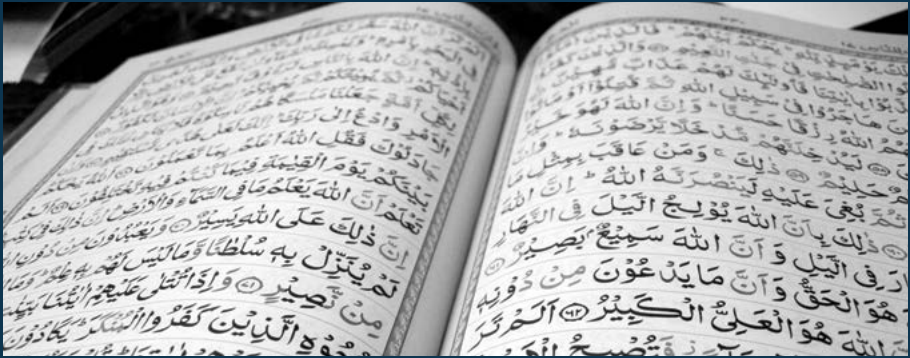
Do you aspire to become a great female scholar? Whatever your aspirations are - whether you want to study at a foundational level or advanced - Women's Muslim College is here to help you reach your intellectual and spiritual goals insha Allah.



OUR PROGRAMMES

Four-year Programme in Islamic Sciences in a Modern Context
 Islamic Sciences Diploma Programme
 Certificate Courses

Islamic Sciences in a Modern Context is the College's flagship four-year programme, designed to offer a world-class education and produce female scholars grounded in Islam's intellectual tradition, with the requisite skills and training to guide and lead in modern society.



FOUR-YEAR PROGRAMME IN ISLAMIC SCIENCES IN A MODERN CONTEXT

Year 1

Quranic Recitation (Tajwid)
 Islamic Creed (Aqidah)
 Islamic Law (Fiqh)
 Portrait of the Prophet (Shamail)
 Spirituality (Tasawwuf)
 Prophetic Tradition (Hadith)
 Quranic Exegesis (Tafsir)
 Arabic Morphology (Sarf)
 Arabic Grammar (Nahw)
 Memorisation of select passages of Quran
 and Texts
 Etiquette in Seeking Knowledge
 Islamic Civilisation and Muslim
 Accomplishments
 Islamic Art and Architecture
 Academic Writing and Research
 Methodology

Year 2

Islamic Law (Fiqh)
 Quranic Exegesis (Tafsir)
 Prophetic Tradition (Hadith)
 Islamic Creed (Aqidah)
 Principles of Islamic Law (Usul al-Fiqh)
 Methodology of Hadith (Mustalah al-Hadith)
 Logic (Mantiq)
 Rhetoric (Balaghah)
 Spirituality (Tasawwuf)
 Arabic Literature (Adab)
 Great Muslim Figures
 Memorisation of select passages of Quran
 and Texts
 Muslims in Britain
 Islam and Women's Rights
 Sociology
 Philosophy

Year 3

Islamic Law (Fiqh)
 Arabic Literature (Adab)
 Quranic Exegesis (Tafsir)
 Prophetic Tradition (Hadith)
 Islamic Creed (Aqidah)
 Scholastic Theology (Ilm al-Kalam)
 Principles of Islamic Law (Usul al-Fiqh)
 Islamic Legal Maxims (Qawaid al-Fiqhiyyah)
 Islamic History (Tarikh)
 Memorisation of select passages of Quran
 and Texts
 Orientalism and Islamic Studies
 Countering Violent Extremism
 Interfaith Dialogue and Relations
 Historiography

Year 4

Islamic Law (Fiqh)
 Arabic Literature (Adab)
 Arabic Prosody (Arud)
 Quranic Exegesis (Tafsir)
 Prophetic Tradition (Hadith)
 Principles of Islamic Law (Usul al-Fiqh)
 Laws of Inheritance (Ilm al-Mawarith)
 Translation Studies of Complex Religious
 Terms
 Memorisation of select passages of Quran
 and Texts
 Art of Debate and Public Speaking
 Islamic Banking and Finance
 Islamic Economics
 Islam and the Media
 Dissertation - 10,000 words

ISLAMIC SCIENCES DIPLOMA PROGRAMME

The Islamic Sciences Diploma Programme is a 36-week programme over three terms, consisting of five hour-long sessions on five subjects. The Programme aims to give students a grounding in obligatory knowledge for every Muslim (Fard Al-Ayn).



Quranic Recitation (Tajwid)

Students will study the pronunciation and written forms of the Arabic alphabet before tackling words and verses. Successful completion of all modules will equip students to recite the Noble Quran correctly with the rules of recitation, and to perfect their recitation.

Islamic Creed (Aqidah)

The course will hone a correct understanding of beliefs core to the Islamic faith. The modules will cover key points of Islamic belief in the chapters of Divine Attributes of Allah Ta'ala, Prophethood and matters of the unseen. The course will employ both a narrative and logical approach to address key issues, so that students complete the modules with a deeper understanding of the finer points related to this discipline.

Islamic Law (Fiqh)

Students will study religious duties pertaining to worship in the chapters of purification, prayer and other chapters that are obligatory for every Muslim in the comprehensive science of Islamic Jurisprudence. The course will enable the correct practice of religious obligations.



Portrait of the Prophet (Shamail)

The course will introduce students to the Messenger of Allah ﷺ from a unique perspective. Learning about his noble features, character, eating habits, laughter, manner of walking, clothing and other personal aspects, the course will present the intimate minutiae of the Prophet's life, going beyond merely studying the events in his life. The course should culminate in a student's ability to construct a comprehensive picture of the Messenger of Allah ﷺ in their mind's eye, and have a deeper understanding of the personality that has captivated hearts for centuries.

Spirituality (Tasawwuf)

This course is designed to provide students with knowledge and understanding of the science of Spirituality [Tasawwuf], considered to be the core of the Islamic religion. It will introduce students to topics such as purification of the heart, virtues of repentance, spiritual closeness to Allah Almighty, God-consciousness and more. The course will utilise both a theoretical and practical approach, enabling students to gain a deeper understanding of the key aspects of the science, and assisting in spiritual elevation and refinement of the soul.

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CERTIFICATE COURSES

The Certificate courses are based on the Diploma programme. Students study one or more of our subjects as individual courses, choosing from Quranic Recitation (Tajwid), Islamic Creed (Aqidah), Islamic Law (Fiqh), Portrait of the Prophet (Shamail) and Spirituality (Tasawwuf). When the course is successfully completed, they achieve a certificate. Each session is an hour long and these run at various locations for 36 weeks over the academic year.

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TESTIMONIALS



I studied the Fiqh, Aqida and Shamail course with Shaykha Safia Shahid, which I found to be excellent; the lessons were taught and explained in a very understandable and convenient way. It is a great blessing to be able to have direct access to such a knowledgeable female scholar Alhumdulillah! I was able to ask questions with confidence, and complicated concepts were addressed effectively. The lessons were very clear and well presented. Overall, the course was a great opening to learn the basic fundamentals of Islam. It takes you on a journey, starting with the essential attributes of Allah and moving on to the foundational principles, such as salah. It has made me think about the meaning behind the things I do, and it has helped me to gain insights into Allah (subhana wa ta'ala) attributes, my ibadah and knowing and loving the beloved Prophet Muhammad (Salallahu alaihi wa'alaihi wassalam).

Sumayya Pervaiz



My name is Habiba. I am a convert to Islam and bravely took up the journey of redeveloping my passion for languages. I was pleasantly surprised to have this very young teenager as my teacher, but fairly quickly became pleasantly surprised as she built up my confidence and was very patient and consistent with her teaching methods. I have enjoyed every class and ensure I attend every lesson, as I find it very informative yet very enjoyable. I have been currently learning with Ustadha Iman Islam for three years. I encourage sisters to join and be patient and steadfast and you will achieve amazing results. Ustadha Iman's classes have taught me that anything is possible if you persevere and keep trying. Jazak Allah khair Ustadha Iman for all your time and effort. Well appreciated.

Habiba Stone



I attended Level 1 Arabic classes with Ustadah Syrish Khan and Alhumdulillah she is a very good teacher who explains things perfectly. We went through Madina Book 1, which allowed me to understand how Arabic sentences are formed and also how different words have different genders in Arabic, along with many other things. I found the way that Ustadha Syrish went through each chapter very beneficial. I especially benefited from the way we went through the questions thoroughly at the end of each chapter. This enabled me to constantly improve my work and increased my confidence in reading out Arabic sentences in the class. I also learned lots of new Arabic vocabulary. I would highly recommend these courses for anyone who wants to begin their studies of the Islamic sciences. Don't let age or worries about studying get in the way. Insha Allah you will have a beautiful journey studying the sacred knowledge and journeying to Allah ta'ala with the help of these courses.

Sayyida Najmun



I attended 'Journey to Allah' with Ustadha Zuhra Iqbal. She is a splendid teacher and she explained things in a simple way by giving great practical and relevant examples. Ustadha Zuhra spoke in a manner that made me really think deeply into the subject matter and enabled me to closely relate to what was being said. She made me think about polishing our hearts and getting closer to Allah. The beautiful examples she shared made me reflect that the closer I am to Allah the more my heart will be nourished. The deep meanings of her words are still resonating with me today. We feel very blessed to have a teacher like Ustadha Zuhra in Cradley Heath, who will not only benefit us but also the next generation insha Allah. It is a huge blessing to have a teacher who has been studying under our beloved Shaykha Safia.

Salma Habib



Ustadha Noureen is one of the best teachers I've ever had. She is extremely kind and very helpful. I managed to complete my Quran successfully with Ustadha Noureen! I have enjoyed learning tajweed, salawat and also Nasheeds with my dearest Ustadha! I have achieved great understanding of Islamic knowledge and love of our beloved Prophet, peace be upon him. I wish all the best to my dearest Ustadha!

Ayesha Tariq (9 years old)

SHORT BIOGRAPHIES OF THREE FEMALE SCHOLARS

Zainab b. Al- Kamāl al-Maqdisiyyah (646-740 AH / 1248-1339 CE)

A great authority on hadith, with one of the shortest chains of transmission to the Prophet ﷺ. She was born in Damascus in a famous scholarly family who migrated from al-Quds al-Sharif. Many students travelled to seek knowledge from her. Notable scholars who have studied under her include Imam Shamsuddin. She passed away in Jerusalem at the age of 94.

Aisha b. Yūsuf al-Bā'ouniyyah (died 922 AH / 1516 CE)

A remarkable poet and scholar of Islamic sciences and literature. She lived in Damascus and travelled to Egypt and Aleppo. She had authority to issue fatwas. She wrote some of the most important works in Arabic literature and a collection of poetry, as well as a famous mawlid story of the Prophet ﷺ.

Karīmah b. Ahmad al-Marwaziyyah (365-473 AH / 975-1070 CE)

A notable authority on Hadith. She was famous for her intelligence and deep comprehension. She transmitted Hadith from remarkable scholars and read Sahih Al-Bukhari under Abul Haytham Al-Kushmihaniy (died 389). Among her students was the famous Al-Khatib Al-Baghdadi, who read sahih al-Bukhari. She passed away in the blessed city of Mecca at the age of 98.

APPLICATION & ADMISSION


Visit www.womensmuslimcollege.com
for further information and registration.


CONTACT US

+44 (0) 7378 414 737
info@womensmuslimcollege.com

Women's Muslim College

www.womensmuslimcollege.com

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