

MUALLIMAH INSTITUTE

The 'Ālimiyyah Programme

A Five-Year Course in the Islamic Sciences

ḤANAFĪ · MĀLIKĪ · SHĀFI'Ī · ḤANBALĪ

FIVE YEARS, FOLLOWED BY TWO YEARS IN IFTĀ'

MUALLIMAH INSTITUTE

Accreditation

“The Ministry of Endowments and Islamic Affairs affirms that the Muallimah Institute is a pioneering educational institution in the teaching of Islamic sciences and the preparation of female teachers. Its academic curriculum has been carefully developed by a distinguished group of qualified scholars and educators, meeting the highest standards of academic and educational excellence.

The curriculum includes the Holy Qur'an, the Arabic Language, and Islamic sciences, while also providing comprehensive academic and pedagogical training. This enables graduates to educate women and children and serve Muslim communities both within the country and abroad.

Accordingly, the Ministry of Endowments and Islamic Affairs grants the Muallimah Institute official accreditation to offer its approved educational programs and to issue Islamic vocational diplomas and Islamic certificates to students who successfully complete the required course of study and pass the assessments.

This accreditation is granted in recognition of the Institute's valuable contribution to spreading authentic Islamic knowledge, preparing qualified female teachers, and strengthening Islamic education according to a sound and well-established scholarly methodology.”

ISSUING AUTHORITY

Ministry of Religion and Endowments, Hargeisa

REFERENCE

Tix: JSL/WDA/XW

The Programme

A five-year course of study in the Islamic sciences, taught from the classical texts of the tradition. It carries students from the beginning of each science to the point at which they can open a book in it and understand it for themselves.

What a graduate becomes

Three capacities are formed, and they ascend.

She is a nāqilah نَاقِلَةٌ. She transmits accurately, reporting what the scholars held without distortion, and she knows the difference between what a school holds and what one of its scholars once said.

She possesses tabaṣṣur تَبَصُّرٌ. She knows the recognised positions in each science she has studied; and in those sciences where a student is expected to know the proofs, fiqh above all and the sciences that serve it, she knows the evidence upon which each position rests, so that a position she holds is a position whose proof she can name.

And she is a bāḥithah بَاحِثَةٌ. By the close of the programme she has completed a substantial body of written assignments and holds the principles by which a question is investigated. She can take a subject in the Islamic sciences, work through the primary sources, and produce research on it. This qualifies her for takhaṣṣuṣ تَخَصُّصٌ, specialisation, and the specialisation the Institute currently offers is the Programme in Iftā'.

How the study is ordered

Every science advances together, in levels. A level is a horizontal band running across the whole curriculum at once.

At Level One students take the first book of naḥw, the first book of fiqh in their school, the first book of 'aqīdah, the first book of ḥadīth, and so on. When Level One is complete in every science they return to the beginning and take Level Two of each, in the same order.

Students meet every science early, so they understand from the first year how each serves the others, and they return to each science carrying the instruments the previous level gave them.

Some sciences begin at Level One and run to the end. Others enter later, at the point at which students are equipped for them. The tables show where each one starts.

The final year is given to consolidation within the school, together with a mukhtaṣar in al-khilāf al-ālī الْخِلَافُ الْعَالِي, the higher disagreement, studied alongside the student's continuing texts.

The two routes

ROUTE	DURATION	RECOMMENDED DAILY STUDY
Full time	Five years	Three to five hours a day.
Part time	Seven years	One and a half to two hours a day.

Both routes cover the identical curriculum and lead to the identical award. Students who fall behind on the full-time route may move onto the part-time route and keep their place.

How the Programme Is Delivered

Lessons are recorded. Sisters have enrolled from across the world and across many time zones, so every student studies at the hour that suits her, at the pace her circumstances allow.

Every student is assigned a personal academic instructor who oversees her progress. Questions are submitted through the student portal and answered every week.

What students need

ITEM	DETAIL
Language	The programme is taught in English throughout. Every set text is supplied with an English translation alongside the Arabic.
Books	All texts are provided as PDFs.
Equipment	A phone is sufficient. A laptop is advised.
Arabic on entry	None is assumed. See below.
Start	The programme begins on the thirtieth of September.

Arabic

The programme carries two Arabic strands.

The classical sciences of the language **النَّحْوُ وَالصَّرْفُ وَالبَلَاغَةُ** are studied as sciences in their own right, from their own mutūn, in the same graded way as fiqh or ḥadīth. This is what allows students to read a commentary unaided.

Arabic for non-native speakers runs alongside it, building vocabulary, reading, comprehension and the practical ability to work with an Arabic page. Students who begin with no Arabic are carried by this strand while the classical sciences build underneath it.

The preparatory stage

Every student takes a short preparatory course before the curriculum opens. It teaches the two methods of study used throughout the programme, the discipline that sustained students of knowledge before us, and the reasons students of knowledge fail to reach what they set out for. It is assessed by a written summary and a reading examination.

The Curriculum

The complete ladder follows. Each science is given level by level, with the text studied, its author, and the commentary it is read with.

A minority of chapters within the set texts presuppose training beyond this stage and bear little upon daily practice. These are set aside here and taken up in specialisation.

Level One

Level One opens the instrumental sciences and the foundations of each subject. Nothing here assumes prior study.

NAḤW النحو

LEVEL	TEXT	
ONE	Al-Ājurrūmiyyah Ibn Ājurrūm · with Al-Tuḥfah al-Saniyyah, Muḥammad Muḥyī al-Dīn ‘Abd al-Ḥamīd	الآجُرُّومِيَّة
TWO	Al-Muqaddimah al-Azhariyyah Khālīd al-Azhārī · with its standard commentary	المُقَدِّمَةُ الْأَزْهَرِيَّة
THREE	Qaṭr al-Nadā wa-Ball al-Ṣadā Ibn Hishām al-Anṣārī · with the author's own commentary	قَطْرُ النَّدَى وَبَلُّ الصَّدَى
FOUR	Alfiyyat Ibn Mālīk Ibn Mālīk · with Sharḥ Ibn ‘Aqīl	أَلْفِيَّةُ ابْنِ مَالِك

‘AQĪDAH **العقيدة**

LEVEL	TEXT	
ONE	Lum‘at al-I‘tiqād Ibn Qudāmah al-Maqdisī	لُـمْعَةُ الْإِعْتِقَادِ
TWO	Al-‘Aqīdah al-Ṭahāwīyyah Al-Ṭahāwī · with Sharḥ Ibn Abī al-‘Izz	الْعَقِيدَةُ الطَّحَاوِيَّةُ
TWO	Al-‘Aqīdah al-Wāsiṭiyyah Ibn Taymiyyah · with Sharḥ Muḥammad Khalīl Harrās	الْعَقِيدَةُ الْوَاسِطِيَّةُ
THREE	Al-Fatwā al-Ḥamawīyyah Ibn Taymiyyah	الْفَتْوَى الْحَمَوِيَّةُ
THREE	Al-Risālah al-Tadmuriyyah Ibn Taymiyyah	الرِّسَالَةُ التَّدْمُرِيَّةُ
FOUR	Sharḥ al-‘Aqīdah al-Aṣḥāhāniyyah Ibn Taymiyyah · his commentary upon the creed of al-Aṣḥāhānī	شَرْحُ الْعَقِيدَةِ الْأَصْهَاهَانِيَّةِ

TAFSĪR التفسير		
LEVEL	TEXT	
ONE	Al-Tafsīr al-Muyassar A committee of scholars	التفسير الميسر
ONE	Tafsīr Ibn Juzayy Ibn Juzayy al-Kalbī	تفسير ابن جزي
ONE	Al-Sirāj fī Gharīb al-Qurʾān Muḥammad al-Khuḍayrī	السراج في غريب القرآن
TWO	Zād al-Masīr SELECTED SŪRAHS Ibn al-Jawzī	زاد المسير
TWO	Tafsīr al-Qurʾān al-ʿAẓīm SELECTED SŪRAHS Ibn Kathīr	تفسير القرآن العظيم
THREE	Jāmiʿ al-Bayān SELECTED SŪRAHS Al-Ṭabarī	جامع البيان
FOUR	Al-Taḥrīr wa-l-Tanwīr SELECTED SŪRAHS Ibn ʿĀshūr	التحرير والتنوير

THE TEXTS OF THE SUNNAH مُتُونُ السُّنَّةِ

LEVEL	TEXT	
ONE	Al-Arba‘ūn al-Nawawiyyah Al-Nawawī · with Jāmi‘ al-‘Ulūm wa-l-Ḥikam, Ibn Rajab	الأربعون النووية
TWO	‘Umdat al-Aḥkām ‘Abd al-Ghanī al-Maqdisī · with Taysīr al-‘Allām, al-Bassām	عُمْدَةُ الْأَحْكَامِ
THREE	Bulūgh al-Marām Ibn Ḥajar al-‘Asqalānī · with Subul al-Salām, al-Ṣan‘ānī	بُلُوغُ الْمَرَامِ
FOUR	Ṣaḥīḥ al-Bukhārī SELECTED CHAPTERS Al-Bukhārī · with Fath al-Bārī, Ibn Ḥajar	صَحِيحُ الْبُخَارِيِّ

TAJWĪD AND AN INTRODUCTION TO THE QIRĀ’ĀT التَّجْوِيدُ

LEVEL	TEXT	
ONE	Tuḥfat al-Aṭfāl Sulaymān al-Jamzūrī · with Taḥqīq al-Manāl, Sulaymān al-Ḥarbī	تُحْفَةُ الْأَطْفَالِ
TWO	Al-Muqaddimah al-Jazariyyah Ibn al-Jazarī · with Sharḥ Ghānim Qadūrī al-Ḥamad	المُقَدِّمَةُ الْجَزَرِيَّةُ
THREE	Al-Ri‘āyah li-Tajwīd al-Qirā’ah Makki b. Abī Ṭālib	الرِّعَايَةُ لِتَجْوِيدِ الْقِرَاءَةِ
FOUR	Muqaddimāt fī ‘Ilm al-Qirā’at A committee of scholars	مُقَدِّمَاتُ فِي عِلْمِ الْقِرَاءَاتِ

SĪRAH AND HISTORY السيرة والتاريخ

LEVEL	TEXT	
ONE	Al-Sīrah al-Nabawiyyah Studied in a full continuous reading	السيرة النبوية
TWO	Al-Bidāyah wa-l-Nihāyah Ibn Kathīr	البداية والنهية
THREE	The history of Islam and its scholars With attention to the formation of the schools	
FOUR	Al-Milal wa-l-Niḥal Al-Shahrastānī	الملل والنحل

The sects are studied as an object of examination, not as positions held.

TARBIYAH AND TAZKIYAH التربية والتزكية

LEVEL	TEXT	
THROUGHOUT	Ḥilyat Ṭālib al-ʿIlm Bakr Abū Zayd	حلية طالب العلم
THROUGHOUT	Al-Wābil al-Ṣayyib Ibn al-Qayyim	الوابل الصيب
THROUGHOUT	Al-Dāʾ wa-l-Dawāʾ Ibn al-Qayyim	الداء والدواء
THROUGHOUT	Al-ʿUbūdiyyah Ibn Taymiyyah	العبودية

This runs beside the academic work from the first day to the last.

Fiqh at Level One is taken from the ladder of the student's own school, given after the general sciences. The Arabic-for-non-native-speakers strand also begins here.

Levels Two, Three and Four

The sciences below enter later, at the level shown, once students have the instruments they require.

ŞARF الصَّرْف

LEVEL	TEXT	
TWO	Al-Taṣrīf al-‘Izzī Al-‘Izz al-Zanjānī · with Sharḥ al-Taftāzānī	التَّصْرِيفُ الْعِزِّي
THREE	Al-Şarf al-Şaghīr	الصَّرْفُ الصَّغِير
FOUR	Shadhā al-‘Arf fī Fann al-Şarf Aḥmad al-Ḥamlāwī	شَذَا الْعَرَفِ فِي فَنِّ الصَّرْفِ
FOUR	The closing chapters of the Alfīyah Ibn Mālīk · with Sharḥ Ibn ‘Aqīl	أَوَاخِرُ الْأَفِيَّةِ ابْنِ مَالِك

UŞŪL AL-FIQH أُصُولُ الْفِقْهِ

LEVEL	TEXT	
TWO	Al-Waraqāt Imām al-Ḥaramayn al-Juwaynī · with Sharḥ al-Jalāl al-Maḥallī	الْوَرَقَات
THREE	Al-Luma‘ fī Uṣūl al-Fiqh Abū Ishāq al-Shīrāzī · with the author’s own commentary	الْلُوعُ فِي أُصُولِ الْفِقْهِ
FOUR	The advanced text of the school Shāfi‘ī: Jam‘ al-Jawāmi‘ · Ḥanbalī: Rawḍat al-Nāẓir · Mālīkī: Mukhtaṣar Ibn al-Ḥājib · Ḥanafī: Al-Manār · with the commentary relied upon in that school	

From Level Four the ladder follows the school, because the schools differ in method and not only in conclusion.

‘ULŪM AL-ḤADĪTH علوم الحديث

LEVEL	TEXT	
ONE	Al-Tadhkirah fī ‘Ulūm al-Ḥadīth Ibn al-Mulaqqin	التذكرة في علوم الحديث
TWO	Nukhbat al-Fikar Ibn Ḥajar al-‘Asqalānī · with Al-Qawl al-Mukhtaṣar fī Tawḍīḥ Nukhbat al-Fikar	نخبة الفكر
THREE	Al-Mūqīzah Al-Dhahabī	الموقظة
FOUR	Muqaddimat Ibn al-Ṣalāḥ Ibn al-Ṣalāḥ	مقدمة ابن الصلاح

Takhrīj and an introduction to ‘ilal are taken as practical work alongside Level Four.

BALĀGHAH البلاغة

LEVEL	TEXT	
TWO	Al-Balāghah From the series al-‘Arabiyyah fī Thawbihā al-Jadīd	البلاغة

The three arts of ma‘ānī, bayān and badī‘ are taken together from this one series.

AL-QAWĀ‘ID AL-FIQHIYYAH القواعد الفقهية

LEVEL	TEXT	
TWO	Manẓūmat al-Qawā‘id al-Fiqhiyyah Al-Sa‘dī · with the author’s own commentary	منظومة القواعد الفقهية
THREE	Al-Wajīz fī Ḍaḥḥ Qawā‘id al-Fiqh al-Kullīyyah Muḥammad Ṣidqī al-Būrṇū	الوجيز في إيضاح قواعد الفقه الكلية
FOUR	Al-Ashbāḥ wa-l-Naẓā‘ir Of the student’s own school · Al-Subkī for the Shāfi‘ī, Ibn Nujaym for the Ḥanafī	الأشباه والنظائر

‘ULŪM AL-QUR’ĀN AND UṢŪL AL-TAFSĪR علوم القرآن وأصول التفسير

LEVEL	TEXT	
TWO	Madkhal ilā al-Ta’rīf bi-l-Muṣḥaf al-Sharīf Ḥāzim Sa’id Ḥaydar	مدخل إلى التعريف بالمصحف الشريف
THREE	Muqaddimah fī Uṣūl al-Tafsīr Ibn Taymiyyah	مقدمة في أصول التفسير
FOUR	Al-Itqān fī ‘Ulūm al-Qur’ān Al-Suyūṭī	الإتقان في علوم القرآن

SELECTED CHAPTERS

LOGIC AND DISPUTATION المنطق والجدل

LEVEL	TEXT	
TWO	Sound reasoning and its corruptions Taught before formal logic, so that defective inference is recognised before it is formally treated	
THREE	Al-Sullam al-Munawraq Al-Akhḍarī · with Sharḥ al-Damanhūrī	السلم المنورق
FOUR	Ādāb al-Baḥṭh wa-l-Munāẓarah Al-Shinqīṭī	آداب البحث والمناظرة

MAQĀṢID AL-SHARĪ‘AH مقاصد الشريعة

LEVEL	TEXT	
THREE	Al-Mukhtaṣar al-Wajiz fī Maqāṣid al-Tashrī‘ ‘Awāḍ al-Qarnī	المختصر الوجيز في مقاصد التشريع
FOUR	Mukhtaṣar Maqāṣid al-Sharī‘ah	مختصر مقاصد الشريعة

THE SCIENCES OF THE LANGUAGE, COMPLETED علوم اللغة

LEVEL	TEXT	
THREE	Al-Kāfī fī al-ʿArūḍ wa-l-Qawāfī Al-Tibrizī	الكَافِي فِي الْعُرُوضِ وَالْقَوَافِي
FOUR	Fiqh al-Lughah Al-Thaʿalibī	فِقْهُ اللُّغَةِ
FOUR	Al-Adab al-ʿArabī Selected classical prose and poetry, read for expression	الْأَدَبُ الْعَرَبِيُّ

The Four Schools

Students choose one school on entry and follow its ladder for the whole programme. Each ladder gives the branches of fiqh from beginning to end.

The Institute maintains four separate ladders, one for each school, each supervised by scholars formed in that school. A student may change school later, provided she passes the assessments of the school in which she graduates.

THE ḤANAFĪ LADDER الفقه الحنفي

LEVEL	TEXT	
ONE	Nūr al-Īḍāḥ Al-Shurunbulālī · with Imdād al-Fattāḥ, the author's own	نُورُ الْإِيضَاحِ
TWO	Mukhtaṣar al-Qudūrī Al-Qudūrī · with Al-Lubāb, al-Maydānī	مُخْتَصَرُ الْقُدُورِيِّ
THREE	Kanz al-Daqa'iq Abū al-Barakāt al-Nasafī	كَزُّ الدَّقَائِقِ
FOUR	Al-Hidāyah SELECTED CHAPTERS Al-Marghīnānī · with Faṭḥ al-Qadīr, Ibn al-Humām	الْهِدَايَةُ

Read alongside: Naṣḥ al-Rāyah of al-Zayla'ī in selected chapters, and al-Muwatta' of Imām Mālik in the riwāyah of Muḥammad b. al-Ḥasan al-Shaybānī.

THE MĀLIKĪ LADDER

الْفَقْهُ الْمَالِكِيّ

LEVEL	TEXT	
ONE	Al-Murshid al-Muʿīn Ibn ʿĀshir · with Mukhtaṣar al-Durr al-Thamīn Sharḥ al-Murshid al-Muʿīn, Mayyārah <i>Edition: Dār al-Rashād al-Ḥadīthab / Wizārat al-Awqāf, Morocco</i>	المُرْشِدُ الْمُعِينُ
TWO	Ashal al-Masālik fī Madhhab al-Imām Mālik Abū Bakr b. Ḥasan al-Kashnāwī <i>Edition: Dār Ibn Ḥazm · ed. Imād al-Dīn Miḥrāz</i>	أَسْهَلُ الْمَسَالِكِ
THREE	Al-Risālah Ibn Abī Zayd al-Qayrawānī · with Al-Fawākih al-Dawānī, al-Nafrāwī <i>Edition: Al-Dār al-Mālikīyyah · ed. ʿUmar al-Jaylānī</i>	الرِّسَالَةُ
FOUR	Mukhtaṣar Khalīl SELECTED CHAPTERS Khalīl b. Ishāq · with Al-Sharḥ al-Kabīr ʿalā Mukhtaṣar Khalīl, al-Dardīr <i>Editions: matn, Dār al-Madār al-Islāmī / Dār al-Miʿrāj · sharḥ, ʿIsā al-Bābī al-Ḥalabī</i>	مُخْتَصَرُ خَلِيلٍ

THE SHĀFIʿĪ LADDER

الْفَقْهُ الشَّافِعِيّ

LEVEL	TEXT	
ONE	Mukhtaṣar Abī Shujāʿ Abū Shujāʿ · with Faṭḥ al-Qarīb, Ibn Qāsim al-Ghazzī	مَتْنُ الْغَايَةِ وَالتَّقْرِيبِ
TWO	Matn al-Zubad MEMORISATION · OPTIONAL Ibn Raslān · Memorisation begins at this level for those who opt in. It is not required, but it is advised.	الزُّبَدُ
THREE	ʿUmdat al-Sālik wa-ʿUddat al-Nāsik Ibn al-Naqīb al-Miṣrī · with Fayḍ al-Ilāh al-Mālik	عُمْدَةُ السَّالِكِ وَعُدَّةُ النَّاسِكِ
FOUR	Minhāj al-Ṭālibīn SELECTED CHAPTERS Al-Nawawī · with Kanz al-Rāghibīn, al-Maḥallī · and an introduction to Tuḥfat al-Muḥtāj of Ibn Ḥajar al-Haytamī and Nihāyat al-Muḥtāj of al-Ramlī	مِنْهَاجُ الطَّالِبِينَ

THE ḤANBALĪ LADDER

الْفَقْهُ الْحَنْبَلِيُّ

LEVEL	TEXT	
ONE	Bidāyat al-Ābid wa-Kifāyat al-Zāhid 'Abd al-Raḥmān al-Ba'li	بِدَايَةُ الْعَابِدِ وَكَيْفَايَةُ الزَّاهِدِ
TWO	Akhṣar al-Mukhtaṣarāt Ibn Balbān · with Kashf al-Mukhabbāt, al-Ba'li <i>Editions: Dār Rakā'iz · ed. 'Abd al-'Azīz al-Ibdān and Anas al-Yatāmā · the earlier ḥawāshī, Aḥmad al-Quaymī, Asfār, Kuwait</i>	أَخْصَرُ الْمُخْتَصَرَاتِ
THREE	Zād al-Mustaḥṣan fī Ikhtīṣār al-Muḥṣan Al-Ḥajjāwī · with Al-Ta'liq al-Muḥṣan 'alā Zād al-Mustaḥṣan, Maṣṣūf al-Ṣaq'ūb <i>Editions: matn, Mutūn Ṭālib al-'Ilm · ed. 'Abd al-Muḥṣin al-Qāsim · ta'liq, Dār al-'Aqīdah</i>	زَادُ الْمُسْتَحْصَنِ
FOUR	Al-Rawḍ al-Murbi' Sharḥ Zād al-Mustaḥṣan Al-Buhūtī <i>Edition: Dār Aṭlas al-Khaḍrā' · Iṣnā al-Mutūn, ed. Aḥmad al-Jammāz</i>	الرَّوْضُ الْمُرْبِعُ

The final year

In the final year students continue with their ongoing texts and take, alongside them, a mukhtaṣar in al-khilāf al-ḥalī. The object is accurate research: to identify each school's authoritative works, read its terminology correctly, establish what it holds on a question, separate that from internal dissent within it, and attribute it properly.

Graduates are formed in one school and competent to research the other three. That distinction is stated on the certificate.

Assessment

Every science is assessed against the same seven criteria, drawn from the method of study the programme teaches.

CRITERION	WHAT IS BEING JUDGED
Taṣawwur التصور	The question is conceived correctly before anything is said about it.
Tadarruj التدرج	The clear questions are secured before the difficult ones are attempted.
Tarsikh الترسخ	The understanding holds when a doubt is raised against it.
Taṭbīq التطبيق	The rule is applied to fresh examples.
Rabṭ الربط	The science is connected to the others it serves.
Istishhād الاستشهاد	Claims are supported by authority, accurately attributed.
Ta'bīr التعبير	The material is expressed in the student's own words.

Standards

REQUIREMENT	STANDARD
Pass mark	Seventy-five per cent overall.
Progression	Each level must be completed before the next opens.
Authorship	All work must be the student's own. Assistive tools may be used to correct written English. They may not be used to generate ideas, arguments, structure, translation or content.

The Award

The 'Ālimiyyah Diploma certifies attainment at the station of al-tabaṣṣur, formation within one school, and the capacity to research independently in the primary sources.

It carries a licence to teach the sciences completed, at the levels completed. The transcript records the level reached in each science, so the scope of that licence is verifiable by anyone who asks. It does not license the holder to issue fatwā.

What may be added to it

ADDITIONAL CERTIFICATION	REQUIREMENT
Ijāzah in the mutūn	Mastery of the text with its commentary, and observed teaching of it. Issued text by text.
Qur'ān Teacher's Licence	Opens in the second year. An extended tajwīd strand with supervised teaching practice and an observed assessment.
Ijāzah in the complete Qur'ān	Full memorisation of the Qur'ān, then its complete recitation to a named muqri'ah who holds a connected chain. From memory. Places are limited.

Each is issued and recorded separately, and none is implied by the diploma.

Recognition

The Institute is accredited by the Ministry of Endowments and Islamic Affairs to confer this qualification in Hargeisa.

Afterwards: The Programme in Iftā'

Five years for the 'Ālimiyyah Diploma; then, for those who intend to give fatwā, two years more.

The Programme in Iftā' is entered by those who hold the diploma. It is the takhaṣṣuṣ the 'Ālimiyyah has been preparing students for, and its object is a faculty formed by practice.

Its centre is a daily clinic. Students work through the chapters of fiqh from the beginning, and every teaching day they answer five researched questions. Each is investigated in the authoritative literature of their own school, the position the school holds is established, the sources are cited, and a full written fatwā is produced. Every one is corrected by a qualified scholar. This is done five days a week, for two years.

Everything produced is kept: the question, the first answer, the sources consulted, the supervisor's corrections, the revised answer. The board reviews that record across the two years, so that what is certified at the end is a demonstrated progression.

Alongside the clinic students study the advanced areas of their school: how its position is established where its authorities differ, how a branch is derived upon its principles where the imām never addressed it, the terminology by which the school marks the strength of a ruling, the formal conduct of juristic argument, and the recorded disagreements between the schools. The conduct and manners of the muftī are taken as a discipline in their own right, and students work on questions the earlier scholars never faced.

The programme ends before a board of senior scholars: unseen cases, oral questioning, timed research under observation, and the defence of selected work from the student's own record.

What is conferred is stated precisely: muftī within the named school, below the degree of mujtahid al-tarjīḥ, with demonstrated competence in researching and accurately transmitting the relied-upon positions of the four Sunnī schools. The school is always named.

Admission

Entry to the Programme in Iftā' is by the 'Ālimiyyah Diploma. Exceptions are made for students whom the Institute has examined and found competent to undertake the work, and such exceptions are expected to be rare.

Our Board of Education reviews the curriculum and may substitute a set text, its commentary or its edition where a sounder one is identified. Any substitution is recorded and does not alter what the award certifies.