



Graduate Studies In the Study of Islam and Arabic 2012

The University of Johannesburg welcomes applications for the BA Hons, MA and PhD programs in the Study of Islam and Arabic.

UJ offers the best Honours Program in the Study of Islam in South Africa. We also bring in among the world's finest scholars to work with our students. In the coming year we will significantly expand our Masters of Arts (MA) intake with ten students and also expand our PhD Program. In addition, we will be taking on two Post-Doctoral Fellows. UJ is a genuinely exciting place to be – a place of critical and socially relevant scholarship with a serious commitment to public intellectual engagement.

BA HONS

The program consists of five modules. Tuition in each module consists of thirteen two-hour evening classes during the course of the semester. Students have a choice of taking the course full-time (doing five modules in one year) or part-time, over two years. They may choose three from seven subjects (The modules on 'Method, Theory and Critical Terms in the Study of Religion' and a 'Research Essay' are compulsory.)

Subjects for 2012

- Introduction to the Qur'an and its Major Themes.
- Critical Issues in Contemporary Islam. (Islam, Post-Colonialism and Liberation)
- Method, Theory and Critical Terms in the Study of Religion (compulsory)
- Islamic Law and its Application in South Africa's Liberal Constitutional

Subjects for 2013

- Studies in Hadith
- Islam and Gender Justice
- Selected Arabic Texts (*Tasfir* – on the theme of 'The Jews in the Qur'an')
- Islamic Spiritual Tradition

Who may apply?

Appropriate candidates are normally graduates in Islamic Studies, Religious Studies or a related field wherein Islamic Studies was a significant component. Others in possession of a senior school certificate (grade 12) who have not had a formal university education but have completed significant work in Islamic Studies, or have graduated but not in Islamic Studies or related disciplines may also be eligible if they can demonstrate (by means of a written and oral test) that they comply with the university's prescribed Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) requirements.

MASTER OF ARTS

UJ offers two types of Master degrees a) a full dissertation and b) 4 modules and mini dissertation of about 100 pages. The current areas where we offer support in the MA are Critical Issues in Contemporary Islam, Gender Justice and Islam, The Qur'an, Jews in the Qur'an, the Shariah and Hadith. For the coming two years we are particularly keen to develop a program around 'Islam, Post-Colonialism and Liberation'. (We are envisaging hosting an international ten day workshop for post-graduate students and newly graduated PhDs later in 2012 on this theme).

Who may apply for the MA?

Students who a) have a prior BA Hons degree in Islamic Studies or Religious Studies with a minimum of 65% in all their subjects, b) are able to demonstrate a serious ability to engage with critical discourse in the science of religion and/or the Study of Islam, c) to show significant ability to write in a critical academic mode, d) and/or who have had work accepted in recognized peer review journals.

PhD

Anyone with an MA in Islamic Studies, in Religious Studies of a related discipline wherein Islam and/or Muslim society was a significant element may apply. Currently students wishing to do a PhD with us would still have to register in Semitic Languages in Culture. They will be able to switch to a PhD in Religion Studies in 2013. We welcome applications from both South African and foreign students in the same areas of interest listed above in the MA program.

Bursaries

The University of Johannesburg offers different kinds of bursaries - partial and even full - to promising students. In many cases though these are performance linked. E.g., performing well in a particular module can enable us to refund your fees (and even provide you with some additional money) and performing well in Honours can secure you a full bursary in the Masters. We also offer MA and PhD supervisor linked bursaries.

Deadlines

The deadline for the submission of 2012 honours applications is 14th October 2011.

Students based in other parts of South Africa are free to make enquiries about possibilities for them in the different programs

Next steps?

Write to Ms Charlene Louw at clouw@uj.ac.ac.za for an application form and for additional information.