

# ISLAMIC STUDIES MA PROGRAMS



## TWO MA PROGRAMS TO CHOOSE FROM

- The Islamic Studies Master's Program
- The Dual Degree Master's Program of Islamic Studies and Muslim Cultures at Columbia (New York) and Aga Khan University (London)

## ABOUT THE MIDDLE EAST INSTITUTE AND THE CENTER FOR THE STUDY OF MUSLIM SOCIETIES

The Islamic Studies MA program is hosted by the Middle East Institute (MEI) in collaboration with the Center for the Study of Muslim Societies (CSMS). MEI, founded in 1954, promotes the interdisciplinary study of the Middle East and North Africa together with associated regions of Central Asia, South and Southeast Asia, Sub-Saharan Africa and related global communities. CSMS is a collective for new research, integrated, innovative teaching and public outreach on the study of Muslim societies worldwide that addresses majority and minority Muslim societies and their intersections with other religions, cultures, and secular outlooks.

Continuing its long-standing tradition of research in the study of Islam, Columbia University currently counts over eighty scholars concerning the various aspects of Muslim societies including those in the Middle East, Africa, South and Southeast Asia, Europe and the Americas.





## ISLAMIC STUDIES PROGRAM

The Islamic Studies Master's Program focuses on the critical academic study of Islamic religious and intellectual traditions and on the diverse regional histories, cultures, and social formations of Muslim communities around the world. Interdisciplinary in character, our innovative program draws on the range of area specializations, departments and schools represented at Columbia.

## DUAL DEGREE PROGRAM



THE AGA KHAN UNIVERSITY  
INSTITUTE FOR THE STUDY OF  
MUSLIM CIVILISATIONS

A unique partnership of two leading universities, the dual program is a 21st Century Muslim Cultures degree that will provide students with trans-disciplinary frameworks and tools to understand Muslim cultures in a comparative and historical context. Students spend the first part of the program at Columbia University in New York, and part two at AKU-ISMC in London, and receive degrees from both institutions.

## OUR PROGRAMS

- All students begin with the core seminar, Foundation to Islamic Studies and the Study of Muslim Societies, providing a rigorous foundation in key concepts, theories, and debates in Islamic studies.
- Students choose from a wide selection of classes taught by world-class faculty to build a coherent program of study tailored to their unique research interests. Relevant courses range from the classic areas of religion, law, literature, and history to inquiries of social scientists, feminist and gender research, media and film, and colonial and postcolonial studies.
- Based on the exposure to critical scholarly approaches and training in research methodologies, students of both programs complete their degrees by writing a master's thesis under the supervision of a faculty advisor.
- Graduates are prepared for a wide range of careers in fields including academia, international development, journalism, law, and public service.



## ADMISSIONS PROCESS

- The deadline for fall admission is in February (ISMA and Dual Degree) and spring admission is in November (ISMA only).
- Applications are accepted online only.
- GRE scores are optional.

For complete information about admissions please visit: [www.mei.columbia.edu/academic-programs](http://www.mei.columbia.edu/academic-programs)

## CONTACT

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## MORE ABOUT MEI AND CSMS

CSMS and MEI develop and oversee a wide variety of scholarly events and programs such as book launches, film screenings, guest lectures, and research initiatives. Other offerings at these two centers include:

**Workshop Series:** Regular programming includes the Shari'a Workshop, Adab Colloquium, and Ifriqiyya Colloquium, each dedicated to the discussion and dissemination of new research.

**Fellowships:** Foreign Language and Area Studies (FLAS) Fellowships are available along with other awards for incoming students. Travel grants for conferences are also available.

**Language Instruction:** Instruction is offered in Arabic, Persian, Turkish, Swahili and Urdu, among other languages. Students can also enroll in summer intensive programs at Columbia or abroad.

**The Islamic Studies Library:** Students gain access to Columbia's large research collection of manuscripts and printed materials on Islamic Studies, in regional languages as well as in English and Western European languages.

*Photos courtesy of Columbia GSAS and Katherine von Ofenheim*

## FACULTY

Lila Abu-Lughod  
**ANTHROPOLOGY**

Manan Ahmed  
**HISTORY**

Gil Anidjar  
**RELIGION**

Akeel Bilgrami  
**PHILOSOPHY**

Marwa Elshakry  
**HISTORY**

Katherine Ewing  
**RELIGION**

Hamid Dabashi  
**MESAAS**

Souleymane Bachir Diagne  
**PHILOSOPHY**

Najam Haider  
**RELIGION**

Wael Hallaq  
**MESAAS**

Ziad Jamaledine  
**ARCHITECTURE**

Mana Kia  
**MESAAS**

Rashid Khalidi  
**HISTORY**

Brinkley Messick  
**ANTHROPOLOGY**

Kathryn Spellman Poots  
**MESAAS**

Avinoam Shalem  
**ART HISTORY**

Sarah bin Tyeer  
**MESAAS**

Elaine Van Dalen  
**MESAAS**

and more.



**CSMS**  
CENTER FOR THE STUDY  
OF MUSLIM SOCIETIES

**MEI**  
MIDDLE EAST  
INSTITUTE  
COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY