MASTER OF ARTS
IN APPLIED ISLAMIC
ETHICS

جامعة حمـد بـن خليفة
HAMAD BIN KHALIFA UNIVERSITY

كليّة الدراسات الإسلاميّة
College of Islamic Studies

MASTER OF ARTS IN APPLIED ISLAMIC ETHICS

Overview

Our modern world is shaped by remarkable developments in almost all aspects of life, including politics, socio-economic affairs, and gender relationships, in addition to biomedical and technological advancements. Besides their great benefits, these developments and advancements have also raised deep moral questions and challenges.

Individuals, societies, and professional communities are constantly addressing the moral questions and challenges that these developments raise. In the end, we need to make sense of our lives in the midst of profound change and to organize socio-political and financial activities in ways that are faithful to our "moral world."

The first program of its kind worldwide, the Master of Arts (MA) in Applied Islamic Ethics addresses how Islam, as a world religion with a rich moral heritage, engages with and contributes to the global moral discourse. Its strong interdisciplinary character combines in-depth knowledge of both theoretical and applied ethics rooted in the Islamic tradition. The program is consistent with the Qatar National Vision 2030 of developing a knowledge-based society and also with HBKU's mission to develop world-class interdisciplinary academic programs.

Graduates of this program will have the skills to continue their academic studies at the PhD level in the many fields covered in this program. They may also work in a professional environment by regulating ethical guidelines and policies in government and private institutions active in a wide range of areas, including biomedical sciences, engineering, business, politics, family, and human rights–in Muslim and Western contexts.

Program focus

The MA in Applied Islamic Ethics is designed to equip students with the skills required to master the tools of theoretical ethics and to apply them to address leading-edge ethical dilemmas from the perspective of the rich Islamic ethical tradition.

The overall structure of the program is designed to balance two main aspects: 'the academic aspect' of Islamic ethics, through a scholarly approach rooted in the Islamic tradition; and the 'applied aspect', to improve students' skills in addressing the vexing ethical dilemmas and questions that people face in contemporary times for the prospective market of professional work.

Graduates of this program will be able to:

▸ Provide a critical review of the main concepts, approaches, and theories of ethics in the Islamic tradition, as developed by various scholars and schools of thought throughout history.

▸ Compare and analyze how different disciplines approach ethical questions from various perspectives.

▸ Transfer the knowledge of theoretical ethics to practical and applied ethics by envisaging possible solutions for real-life problems and challenges.

▸ Conduct academic research which addresses current and future ethical challenges encountered by Qatar, other countries in the Gulf region, and worldwide.

▸ Demonstrate how insights rooted in the Islamic tradition can enrich the global deliberations on ethical challenges and dilemmas.

Curriculum

A 36-credit degree program taught over two years in English, that includes:

Two foundation courses (6 credits)
▸ Islamic Ethics: Mapping the Field
▸ Research Methods and Sources on Ethics

A choice of two theoretical ethics courses out of three options (6 credits):
▸ Scriptural Ethics: Ethics in Qur'an and Sunnah
▸ Theological and Philosophical Ethics
▸ Ethical Reasoning and Moral Decision-Making

A choice of five electives in applied ethics out of 10 options (15 credits)*:
▸ Islamic Bioethics
▸ Ethics of Migration and Human Rights
▸ Business Ethics
▸ Peace, War, and Politics of Ethics
▸ Gender and Islamic Ethics
▸ Ethical Issues in Psychology
▸ Environmental Ethics
▸ Art and Ethics
▸ Comparative Religious Ethics
▸ Ethics in Science and Technology

*With approval, students can also choose either a tutorial or internship as an elective.

Thesis (9 credits)

Admission requirements

Applicants seeking admission to the MA in Applied Islamic Ethics should have a bachelor's degree with a strong academic record (minimum 3.0 GPA or equivalent) from a recognized institution. Applicants from all academic backgrounds may apply to this program.

Applicants are required to submit an IELTS score of 6.5 or a TOEFL score of 79 in order to demonstrate their proficiency in English. Applicants may be exempt from this requirement if they meet one of the conditions listed below:

▸ The applicant completed their studies at an institution in a country where English is the official language.

▸ The applicant provides an official letter from the university where they completed their undergraduate studies confirming that they obtained their degree from an institution where the medium of instruction is English (if not otherwise exempt).

▸ The applicant's first language is English.

Application requirements
A completed online application form:
admissions.hbku.edu.qa

Academic transcripts:
Official electronic copies of transcripts should be submitted as part of the online application. Final transcripts are required for all previous university studies. All transcripts submitted should include an explanation of the grading system.

For those who have not completed their current studies, transcripts must include results from the last completed semester of coursework. Transcripts in languages other than English or Arabic must be accompanied with an official translation.

Applicants who are admitted to the program based on copies of or incomplete transcripts are required to provide original transcripts upon enrollment in order to register for courses.

Standardized test results:
Official copies of standardized test results, where required, must be sent directly to HBKU. Please refer to the institutional codes below:
TOEFL: 4981
IELTS: No code required. Students should ask the IELTS center where they tested to send the IELTS TRF to Hamad Bin Khalifa University.

Applicants should also submit copies of their test scores with the online application.

Letters of recommendation:
Applicants should submit at least two letters of recommendation, one of which must be from an academic referee. Referees should send their letters of recommendation from their professional email directly to recommendations@hbku.edu.qa. Letters which are not directly written for this program or which are incomplete will not be accepted.

Personal statement of interest:
Applicants should submit a personal statement as part of their online application. The statement should explain why they are applying and how their studies will contribute to the achievement of their personal objectives, including information about past achievements and challenges they may have faced in their academic or professional life (minimum of 300 words, maximum of 500 words). Personal statements which are incomplete or below the minimum word count will not be accepted.

Resume/curriculum vitae:
Applicants should submit a copy of their current resume or curriculum vitae as part of the online application. This should include the following information:
- Academic qualifications
- Professional experience
- Publications
- Research projects
- Academic awards or honors
- Conference presentations

Identification document:
All applicants should submit an electronic copy of their passport as part of the online application. Nationals and residents of Qatar should also submit their Qatari ID.

Student funding
The College of Islamic Studies provides opportunities for scholarships / funding on a competitive basis. Further information will be provided to applicants who are admitted to the program.

cis.hbku.edu.qa