Taught and designed by independent Muslim scholars in Australia, the Islamic Studies and Classical Arabic programs at Charles Sturt University (CSU) provide a new opportunity for a structured and accredited program in studying Islam in Australia.

The courses uniquely combine traditional Islamic sciences, such as tafseer (exegesis of the Qur’an), hadith (narratives of Prophet Muhammad) and fiqh (jurisprudence) with modern disciplines and contemporary studies, providing a holistic perspective on Islamic studies in today’s world.

CSU offers programs in Islamic Studies to suit different student lifestyles and study goals. They range from the Bachelor of Islamic Studies, to the Graduate Certificate, Graduate Diploma and Masters degrees, all supported by HECS-HELP / FEE-HELP. While these courses are offered predominantly by distance education, lectures and tutorials are also offered in a central location of Auburn, Sydney.

If you are interested in studying authentic Islam in a structured and organised way, then these programs are for you. The courses will provide students with introductory Islamic knowledge, which can benefit them as professionals working in immigration, national and international business, law and educational institutions, organisations with Muslim employees, community organisations, or as researchers, journalists, religious leaders or social workers.

Those who would like to pursue Classical Arabic at an advanced level also have the opportunity to do so through CSU’s Master of Arts (Classical Arabic), allowing students to develop skills in reading, writing and speaking the Arabic language.

**Islamic Sciences and Research Academy of Australia’s (ISRA) role**

CSU’s Islamic Studies and Classical Arabic courses are delivered through Islamic Sciences and Research Academy of Australia (ISRA). ISRA brings Islamic expertise through its experience in teaching Islam, knowledge of the needs of the Muslim community and wider society, providing content, lecturers and links with well-known Muslim universities.

The directors of ISRA have been involved in Islamic education for more than 10 years. In 2000, they pioneered course-based Islamic education in the English language. They also started the first extensive courses in Islamic theology in the English language.

**Career opportunities**

CSU’s degrees provide knowledge, skills and qualifications that will add value to a profession in humanities or teaching fields. Graduates can pursue religious education teaching opportunities in schools, mosques, religious organisations and private Islamic teaching circles. The degrees will add value to professions such as nursing, teaching, policing, psychology, medicine and any roles working with society. There are also academic career paths in Islamic studies, Islamic theology or Islamic law.
Postgraduate

Graduate Certificate in Islamic Studies

CSU's Graduate Certificate in Islamic Studies provides students from any background with an introductory knowledge and critical skills in the study of Islam.

This course prepares students for further academic study or provides an introductory understanding of the Islamic faith and its adherents.

The course would benefit teachers, public servants or staff from companies or institutes dealing with Muslims regularly.

Students will study four core subjects:

• Islamic Worldview and Faith Essentials
• Islamic Law I: Jurisprudence (Fiqh) of the Five Pillars
• Islamic Spirituality I: Ihsan Essentials
• Islamic History I: Biography (Sirah) of the Prophet Muhammad

Visit: www.csu.edu.au/courses/postgraduate/islamic_studies

Graduate Diploma of Islamic Studies

CSU's Graduate Diploma of Islamic Studies provides students with grounded knowledge and analytical skills in the study of Islam, developing their ability to analyse information about Islamic matters.

Students will be provided with an all-encompassing understanding of Islam at an advanced level, covering social, contemporary, legal and spiritual aspects of Islam. Students will also develop extensive knowledge of Islamic history and be introduced to the Arabic language at an introductory level.

After completing the four subjects in the Graduate Certificate, students will study the following core subjects:

• Islamic Morality (Akhlaq) and Character
• Islam in the Modern World

They will also study two electives from the following:

• Introduction to Arabic and Qur’an Reading
• Introduction to Arabic and Tajweed
• Introduction to Arabic Grammar
• Intermediate Arabic Grammar
• Modern Standard Arabic

This course provides pathways for further studies in Islamic Studies at Masters level.

Visit: www.csu.edu.au/courses/postgraduate/islamic_studies

Undergraduate

Bachelor of Islamic Studies

CSU’s Bachelor of Islamic Studies was developed in response to a growing need for an understanding of the Islamic faith within Australian communities. The lack of formally recognised training education in Islamic traditions was also addressed. The course provides Islamic education within the Australian context, while staying true to Islamic traditions.

Students will study from a classical and contemporary perspective, developing an advanced level of understanding of Islam that can be beneficial in a diverse range of professions.

This course covers Islamic theology, Islamic jurisprudence, spirituality, Qur’anic studies, hadith, history and contemporary issues, as well as Arabic language.

Students will study 20 core subjects and four electives.

Students can choose to exit with the Diploma of Islamic Studies after the successful completion of eight subjects, or the Associate Degree in Islamic Studies after completing 16 subjects.

Visit: www.csu.edu.au/courses/undergraduate/islamic_studies

STAGE 1
DIPLOMA
8 subjects

STAGE 2
ASSOCIATE DEGREE
8 subjects

STAGE 3
BACHELOR
8 subjects

Visit: www.csu.edu.au/courses/undergraduate/islamic_studies

“The course’s flexibility and requirements fit very well into my otherwise busy schedule and every class has always been visually interactive and engaging.”

Erol Kaso, high school teacher
Master of Islamic Studies
CSU’s Master of Islamic Studies offers students the opportunity to develop expertise in a particular field of Islamic studies through independent research.
Students will develop their research and analytical skills and be able to conduct research as well as developing intermediate knowledge of Arabic language and its history, and be able to demonstrate a critical awareness of issues in Islamic studies.
Students will study six core subjects in the Graduate Diploma, and four electives with two 16 point subjects from:
• Introduction to Arabic and Qur’an Reading
• Introduction to Arabic and Tajweed
• Introduction to Arabic Grammar
• Intermediate Arabic Grammar
• Modern Standard Arabic
And two 32 point subjects from:
• Usul ad-Din: Methodology in Classical Islamic Theology
• Usul al-Fiqh: Methodology in Islamic Jurisprudence
• Usul al-Tafsir: Methodology in Qur’anic Exegesis
• Usul al Hadith: Methodology in Prophetic Narrations
• Guided Research in Islamic Studies
The course provides pathways for further research in Islam and Islamic Studies at the Doctoral level.
Visit: www.csu.edu.au/courses/postgraduate/islamic_studies

Master of Arts (Classical Arabic)
CSU’s Master of Arts (Classical Arabic) is Australia’s first university course in Classical Arabic and has been developed in response to demand from the Islamic community for a dedicated program of study in reading, writing and speaking skills in Classical Arabic.
This course is designed to enable students to read and recite the Qur’an in its original form using recitation rules, study of Arabic grammar, and textual structures. It allows students to access and understand classical primary Islamic texts and develop skills in modern Arabic so non-Arabic speaking students can access classical and contemporary Islamic scholarly discourse.
The course is offered by distance education allowing you to fit study around your existing commitments. Students have access to extensive support, academic staff and other resources. This course enhances students’ knowledge in the Classical Arabic field and is beneficial for people already working in areas related to Islamic Studies or those with an interest in pursuing languages or further research.
Students can also study the Graduate Certificate in Classical Arabic or Graduate Diploma of Classical Arabic.

“I am constantly amazed at how the course is able to combine such a rich history and convey it in the most efficient and easy-to-understand fashion for us Australian Muslims.”
Sami Ismail, mechanical engineer

International students
To find out more about the opportunities available to international students, visit: www.csu.edu.au/international

Students will study 11 core subjects:
• Introduction to Arabic Grammar
• Intermediate Arabic Grammar
• Modern Standard Arabic (with the option to study in Egypt)
• Advanced Arabic Grammar I
• Advanced Arabic Grammar II
• Applied Arabic I (Balaghah)
• Applied Arabic II (Bayan)
• Arabic in Exegesis of the Qur’an
• Arabic in Hadith Study (Prophetic Narrations)
• Arabic in Islamic Jurisprudence
• Arabic in Theology
Students will also study one elective subject from:
• Introduction to Arabic and Qur’an Reading
• Introduction to Arabic and Tajweed
Visit: www.csu.edu.au/courses/postgraduate/classical_arabic

STAGE 1
GRADUATE CERTIFICATE
4 subjects

STAGE 2
GRADUATE DIPLOMA
4 subjects

STAGE 3
MASTER
4 subjects
STUDENT PROFILES

“The lectures always cover highly relevant and thought-provoking topics. It has helped me to better appreciate my teaching in medicine and my daily encounters with patients.”

Ahmer Ahmad, Medical student

“The highlight for me has been the assessments! I have learnt so much in conducting my own research into topics that I have always been interested in - a huge learning curve for me!”

Tamana Daqiq, Lawyer

“The friendliness and relaxed atmosphere made learning more about Islam and Muslims something I looked forward to every week.”

Trisha Poole, Lecturer in Teaching English as a Second Language

Study by distance education

The Islamic Studies and Classical Arabic courses offered through CSU and ISRA are completed by distance education, however you would benefit from lectures and tutorials at the ISRA centre for more intensive learning and a better understanding of the course content.

Once enrolled, you will be able to access a schedule of lecture days and times through the course outline, provided through the CSU online subject sites. Lectures are held at the ISRA centre, Level 3, 128-132 South Parade, Auburn, NSW.

As a distance education student, you will have access to a wide range of resources and online study tools. CSU’s extensive library provides a range of online and printed resources and offers support online and via telephone.

Subject outlines are available through CSU’s subject sites, and detail when your assignments are due, when residential schools will be held and what texts you will need. They also provide information such as the name of the subject coordinator, contact details, exam information and details of other support services.

For more information, visit: www.csu.edu.au/distance-education

How to apply

Applications for distance education courses are accepted all year round. Your application and eligibility for admission will be held for consideration into the next available intake. You are encouraged to apply as soon as you make the decision to study.

Your application can only be assessed when all required supporting documentation has been received, such as verified copies of transcripts and awards from previous study, and proof of citizenship or residency if you weren’t born in Australia.

For further information or to apply, visit the online course brochure for the course you are interested in or visit: www.csu.edu.au/apply

Financial assistance

Payment of subject fees should be made directly to Charles Sturt University. Once you have enrolled, CSU will issue you with an electronic invoice and options of how to pay your fees. You may be eligible for HECS-HELP, the higher education loan program, which allows eligible students to defer their student contribution through a HECS-HELP loan.

Students with a Commonwealth supported place must return their HECS form to the Student Administration Office in Bathurst by the census date of each session. This loan is repaid through the taxation system when you have started work and are earning a salary.

Fee paying students may be eligible for financial assistance in the form of FEE-HELP.

For more information, visit: www.csu.edu.au/courses/fees-and-costs

Further information

For more information, please contact:

Course Administrator
ISRA Australia
Phone: 02 9649 9040
Email: info@isra.org.au