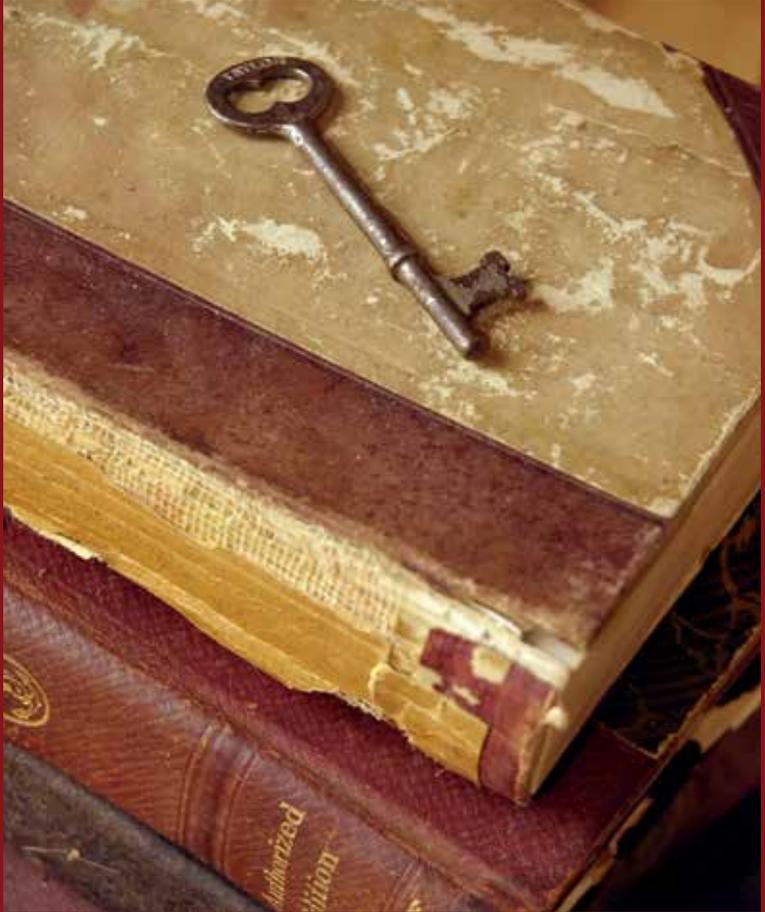




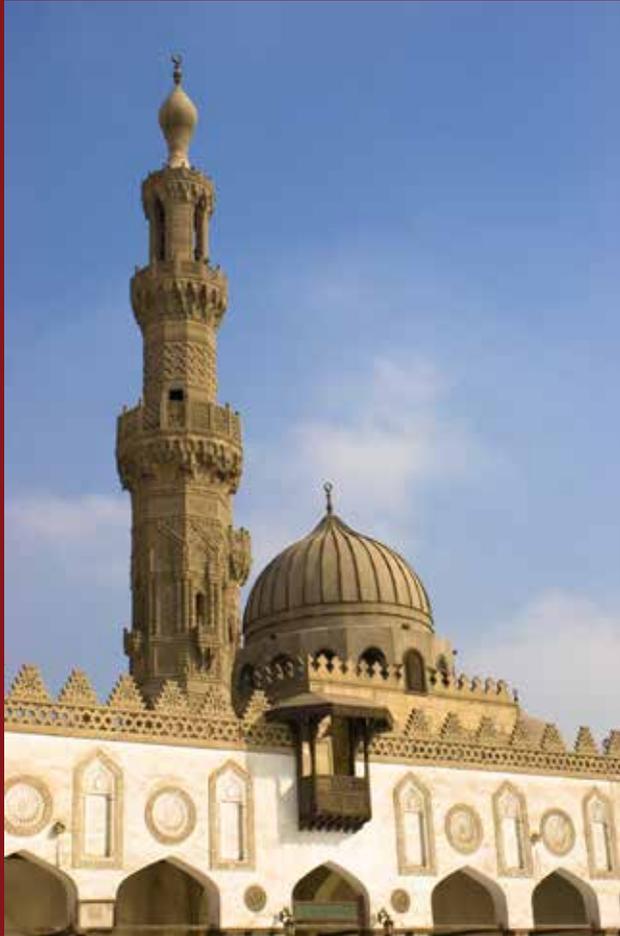
CAMBRIDGE MUSLIM COLLEGE

Diploma in Contextual Islamic Studies & Leadership

PROSPECTUS



Faith in Scholarship





Welcome from the Dean

It is with a sense of immense pride that we present the Prospectus for our Diploma in Contextual Islamic Studies & Leadership. It is our privilege to offer our assistance to young scholars, and to equip them with the tools they need to face the many challenges ahead. We are grateful to our supporters and sponsors around the world, who with their prayers and their contributions have helped to reinforce CMC's mission, and to make it the world-leading institution that it has now become.

We have been proud to host some of the world's major scholars in our public lecture series, and to have supported our graduates in their search for the most interesting opportunities. Nothing can be achieved, however, without the energy and sincerity of our students and staff. We hope and pray that we will continue to be blessed with the best of the *Dar al-Ulum* graduates in coming years, in the hope of earning the reward of those who 'serve the servants of Sacred Knowledge.'

ABDAL HAKIM MURAD



Welcome from the Academic Director

The *Diploma in Contextual Islamic Studies and Leadership* is a unique and demanding year-long programme that has been specifically designed to meet the educational and training needs of graduates from *Dar al-Ulums* in the United Kingdom. The aim of the College is to introduce young *ulama* to science, history, literature, community development and the history of ideas so that they can become capable and confident *ulama* ready to serve the British Muslim community and wider society.

We wish to invite you to consider applying for the *Diploma in Contextual Islamic Studies and Leadership*. Through the course of this intensive programme you will be taught by many teachers from British universities, including the University of Cambridge, across a broad range of subjects. You will meet many leaders from the Muslim community who have spent their lives in service to the community. You will meet experts from around the country who will come to the College so that they can pass on their learning and their experience to you.

‘Be avid for that which benefits you’ and ‘Seek knowledge, even in China’. These are two well-known *hadith*. The *Diploma in Contextual Islamic Studies and Leadership* here at the Cambridge Muslim College is a unique learning opportunity. We are seeking the brightest and the best – those who have made the intention of humbly dedicating the rest of their lives in service to Sacred Knowledge and others – from the next generation of *ulama* to come and benefit from this opportunity. If you are excited by this opportunity and you have the courage to take up this challenge, then we urge you to apply.

SYED MOHAMED ATIF IMTIAZ



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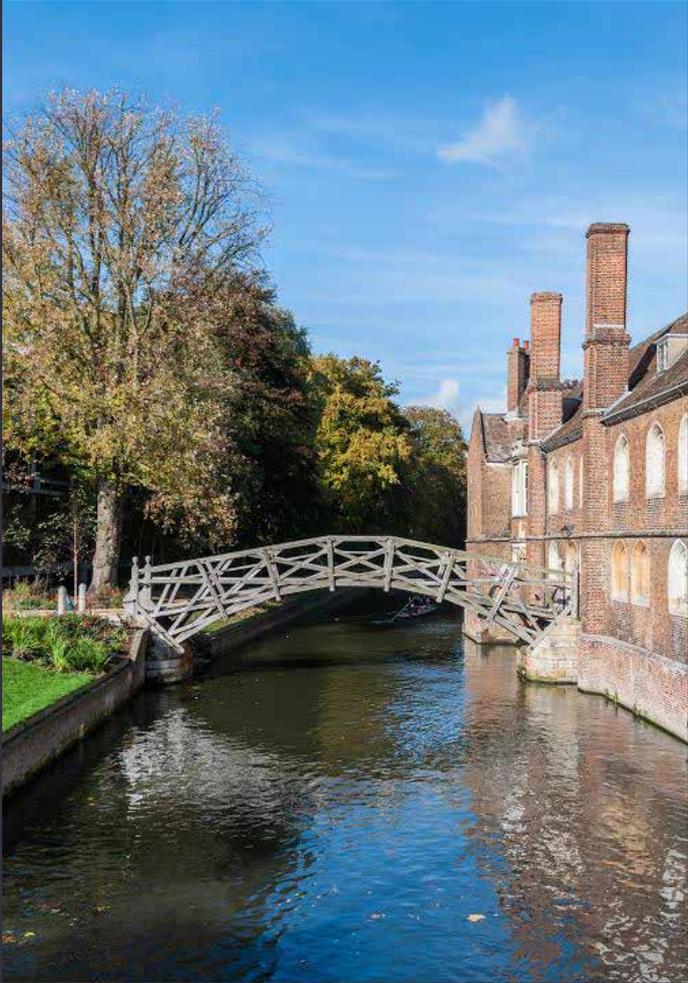


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What is the Cambridge Muslim College?

The Cambridge Muslim College is a nondenominational institution for education, training and research in subjects important to the British Muslim community. It welcomes Muslims of all backgrounds who wish to deepen their pastoral skills and their awareness of contemporary developments in Britain and the world. It is independent of governments and is not affiliated to any Islamic movement, providing a prayerful context for strengthening *da'wa* skills, and scholarly resources to support all who care about the continuing health and dynamism of Britain's Muslim community.

The College is under the direction of Shaykh Abdal Hakim Murad (T. J. Winter), Shaykh Zayed Lecturer in Islamic Studies in the Faculty of Divinity at the University of Cambridge.

“And say: My Lord! Increase me in knowledge.”

SURA TA HA : 114



What is the Diploma?

The Diploma in Contextual Islamic Studies & Leadership is a one-year course designed to help those who already possess a significant training in the Islamic sciences to develop, articulate and implement their knowledge effectively in Britain today. It is also aimed at helping students with a background in traditional Islamic studies to go on to join the mainstream of British further education. The course draws on Islamic sources for inspiration and guidance in all these aims, as well as providing the relevant skills and knowledge necessary in modern British society. It is taught by leading scholars and practitioners, from the University of Cambridge, the British Muslim community and elsewhere.

The Diploma course has three inter-related aims:

- ❁ *To enable students to understand and engage with contemporary debates about the role of religion in general, and Islam in particular, in modern society;*
- ❁ *To encourage the students to be compassionate and reliable spiritual and pastoral advisors to Muslims and others;*
- ❁ *To equip students with practical skills to make them more effective leaders of Muslim institutions and to enhance their career prospects in all fields.*



What is Taught and How?

The Diploma course combines academic, practical and pastoral skills through classroom teaching, teaching trips, and seminar discussions. Assessment is through a mixture of essays, other written work, oral presentations, practical projects and examinations. Students will have the opportunity to maintain and improve their knowledge of Islam through continued traditional learning in, for example, *hifz al-Qur'an* and memorisation of *hadith*. As well as learning in the classroom, students benefit from a programme of teaching trips designed both to broaden their learning and to relate their study directly to its application in their communities. The trips present examples of excellence and innovation already at work in community development, religious leadership, inter-faith dialogue, and other relevant areas. Students are also expected to participate in the CMC public lectures, a series of public events presenting the best in traditional and modern scholarship. Each term the College invites leading scholars and practitioners to give, for example, *tafsir* of part of the *Qur'an*, teach specific texts of great Muslim scholars, or to share the latest research and experience.

Previous trips and lectures have included:

EDUCATIONAL TRIPS

- ❁ Shah Jahan Mosque, Woking
- ❁ The Vatican (Rome)
- ❁ House of Commons
- ❁ Canterbury Cathedral

CMC PUBLIC LECTURES

- ❁ Mehmet Asutay, Reader in Political Economy, Durham University
- ❁ Marwan Muhammad, Collectif Contre l'Islamophobie en France
- ❁ Çefli Ademi, Post-Doctoral Researcher, Westfälische Wilhelms-Universität Münster
- ❁ Leonard Lewisohn, Senior Lecturer, University of Exeter

Course Modules

Introduction to Science This course covers the history of science and introduces the students to the development of and recent advances in science. This is achieved through examining the developments and advances in the physical sciences, life sciences and the medical sciences.

Introduction to Western Intellectual History Covers the main trends of 'Western' thought from Ancient Greece to postmodernity. The aim is to help students gain a critical understanding of the intellectual background of the 21st century. Particular reference will be made to the points of convergence and divergence with the intellectual history of Islamic civilisations.

British Islam Today Adopts a historical approach by initially outlining the recent history of the British Muslim community and looking at early migration, the building of mosques, the Rushdie affair, the Northern riots of 2001 and the turn towards engagement. This is then followed by a series of classes which consider educational, health and employment outcomes and their effects on parts of the community.

Islamic Counselling Introduces the theory and practice of counselling and dispute resolution with reference to Islamic models of addressing mental illness, distress and conflict. Students learn how to apply these methods and also when and how to seek further support to help those in need of advice or treatment.

Islam and Religious Pluralism: Theological and Historical Perspectives Introduces and analyses normative Islamic understandings of religious pluralism. Beginning with a survey of how Muslim scholars have interpreted the canonical sources relating to non-Muslims, it also presents examples of how Muslims have historically organised themselves in multi-religious and multi-cultural societies.

Sacred Art and Architecture of the World Introduces students to the history and meaning of sacred art. Within a comparative framework, particular attention is paid to Islamic art and Islamic theories of aesthetics.

Modern Religious Thinkers Introduces the main trends and figures in recent Western theology, examining the notion of a public theologian and how it differs from the Islamic classical roles of a scholar. Various Western theologians are considered, together with their responses to challenges from the Enlightenment and modernity. Figures discussed include Hans Kung, Martin Buber, Richard Niebuhr and Paul Tillich.

Introduction to World Religions and Inter-Faith Dialogue Presents a general understanding of the major faiths and methods of religious dialogue appropriate to respectful, constructive and honest interaction. This course focuses partly on the religious history of Britain as the context for these questions.

Islam and Gender Analyses approaches to gender within traditional Muslim scholarship, referring to historical examples and contemporary questions about gender roles. The course encourages students to relate these theoretical considerations to social problems affecting the Muslim community today, such as domestic violence, forced marriage and increasing rates of divorce.

Effective Community Leadership Introduces the main dimensions of community development with specific reference to the Muslim Community. This includes the role of the Imam and the characteristics of a good community leader, the importance of relationality and examples of good community development. The module will also cover regulatory matters and styles of leadership that are effective in community organisation and development.

Religious Ethics in the Modern World Analysing contemporary questions of scientific innovation, climate change and ethics, this module aims to view these issues through an engagement with Islamic thought and jurisprudence. Students will relate the concepts of *ijtihad* and *fatwa*, together with Islamic legal experts, to examine these contemporary discussions.

Introduction to the UK State Introduces the various facets of the UK state, including an explanation of the parliamentary system, the courts, local government, social services, policing services and the health service. The module introduces the core functions of each part of the state and the organisations that deliver these functions. It also describes how personnel are employed in these organisations including at senior level and what outreach or participatory functions are required of these organisations.

Introduction to the Social Sciences Introduces some major areas of the social sciences and enables students to apply them critically both to the situation of the Muslim community and to wider debates about religion and society. The course includes economics, sociology, anthropology and psychology, and addresses their strengths and weaknesses in helping to understand social problems.

Introduction to World History Introduces the development of major world civilisations and the main trends of world history. Although this module naturally does not cover the details of events, it provides an overall appreciation of the chronology of human history as well as addressing theories of the development and interaction of civilisations over time.

History of the 19th and 20th Century Muslim World Presents the major events and trends of the last two centuries with a focus on understanding contemporary debates surrounding religion, state and political participation in the Muslim world. Students will analyse the shaping of the Muslim world during the colonial period and the impact of reformist thinkers whilst relating these to the contemporary situation of the Muslim world, including the rise of the modern Islamic movements.

Modern British Political History Covers the rise and fall of the political parties through the 19th and 20th centuries. This includes the rise of the Whigs and the Tories in the 19th century, the arrival of the Labour Party in the 20th century and the decline of the Liberal party. The post-war era moves from Churchill to the recent coalition Government as a means of understanding current British politics.

Modern British Intellectual History Covers the key intellectual movements of the 19th and 20th centuries. It includes an examination of 19th century Romanticism, the rise of Victorian atheism, Anglican intellectuals of the early twentieth century and the emergence of the public intellectual in general. The module aims to give students an understanding of the major intellectual currents that have shaped modern Britain.



College News & Developments

Cambridge Muslim College is run as a charity and is currently focusing its efforts on establishing an endowment that would secure the College in perpetuity. The development staff are working to fundraise towards this endowment, which would operate on the model of the traditional *waqf* system, covering lecturers' salaries, College facilities and student accommodation.

The College is very pleased to announce the acquisition of 20 Cambridge Place which is a large building that is directly adjacent to the Cambridge Muslim College site. The building has four large spaces that can be used for lecture rooms, study areas, library and offices. It also has two medium-sized rooms that can also be used as offices and researchers' studies. The building has been acquired through an Islamic loan from a generous supporter, which the College is raising money to pay off in order to realise the full benefit of the purchase.

The College is also working to develop a BA programme in Contextual Islamic Studies. Plans are currently in place to start this programme as a pilot project for a selected group of students. If the pilot is successful, the College will endeavour to start a fully-fledged BA programme.

Meet Some of Our Students

Shams Tameez, CMC Graduate 2014

Jamia al Karam

The Cambridge Muslim College is a doorway into a completely different outlook on the world. It offers confidence to Muslim students, allowing them to see that Islam is a strong tradition able to stand the test of time. It affords the student a window into Western intellectual history and its forerunners, which allows one to become acutely aware of one's context and the background which brought about that context. I maintain that the Cambridge Muslim College is our ark, which enables the people of faith to sail the murky waters of modernity.

Qurra Tulain, CMC Graduate 2014

Jamia al Karam

The initiative of the Cambridge Muslim College is not only a profound service for the British Muslim community and the wider community but also a rare treasure for anyone affiliated to it and those who receive benefit from it. My affiliation with the College as a student was an exceptionally beneficial experience and one I will treasure for the rest of my life. Here is the place where I grew as an individual - academically, personally and spiritually. It is the institute where I was honoured with good friends, amongst pious company and met inspiring individuals who allowed me to view the world from a newer and brighter light. Here is the place where the staff members are fully dedicated in shaping and bolstering students to fulfil their dreams and goals so they may deliver the best service for our communities. The CMC is not only a place of academic development but a place to develop and enhance ones character.

Qasim Afzal, CMC Graduate 2014

Dar al Ululm, Bury,

Cambridge Muslim College, I believe, is an institution which has the capacity to directly challenge the plethora of issues facing Muslims in the 21st century. This one-year, intensive Diploma offers a wealth of knowledge and breadth to its students which aims to send them to new heights. Now nearing the end of my first semester on my Master's programme, I am beginning to come to grips with the vastness of what we covered in the mere space of a year at CMC. Thanks to the sheer calibre of the lecturers I was exposed to, I find that even at Master's level I am able to not only engage in contemporary debates but confidently contribute to them. The CMC experience has been imprinted to a warm place in my heart from where it will always be remembered in my prayers. Looking forward I see expanded horizons and feel that I have been provided with the tools to make reality what was once a dream.

Safiyya Dhorat, CMC Graduate 2015

Al Zahra Institute, Dar al-Hamd (Amman, Jordan)

I applied to the Cambridge Muslim College because the curriculum was designed to contextualise Islamic studies. I felt the college did exactly that. Each lesson provided a new opportunity to explore and I cannot imagine what more I could have asked for. The Diploma was challenging, thought-provoking and stimulating. Each lecturer was not only an expert in their field, but also an inspiring individual who brought a new dimension to the understanding of their subject. The lectures and seminars have helped nuance and provide opportunities to develop my Islamic studies and, with all that is on offer, I feel I am able to better serve the needs of my Muslim community. Finally, CMC wouldn't be what it is without its dedicated staff. The sincerity with which the staff was always ready to support and help you maximise your potential was heart-warming.

Our Lecturers Include...

Salman Hassan

Teacher on the Introduction to the UK State module

I have taught the English law element of the course for the last three years and have been impressed by the students at Cambridge Muslim College. They have consistently proven to be bright and enthusiastic and ready to roll their sleeves up to learn a completely new subject and at the same time apply their knowledge of Shariah to the theoretical discussions and practical situations encountered in studying the English legal system. I have been particularly impressed by the creativity shown by some students in finding innovative solutions to complex legal problems. I thoroughly enjoy teaching the students at the Cambridge Muslim College and every year I eagerly look forward to coming back the next year.

Sabnum Dharamsi

Teacher on the Islamic Counselling module

In Islamic Counselling, students are encouraged to engage with some of the complexity of modernity, and find ways of working with the lived experience of Muslims and non-Muslims, including diversity, gender and relationships. 'Hot' topics such as pluralism, politics and religious ethics are studied and discussed openly. Subjects are considered from historical, Western and Eastern philosophical and spiritual perspectives. I find that CMC graduates develop nuanced appreciation of secular and spiritual perspectives, but also develop greater clarity and confidence in relation to Islam, greater humanity, and greater ability to serve their communities in diverse roles. This is a great way to learn.

Aysha Divan

Teacher on the Introduction to Science module

The life science sessions forms part of the Introduction to Science module and introduces students to some of the major developments and recent advances in the field. The purpose is to engender an understanding of scientific concepts and hence enable students to address contemporary social and ethical issues that arise as a result of these developments. The students rise to this challenge admirably and are a pleasure to teach. During classes they are thoughtful, question ideas presented to them, and are themselves open to being challenged as they strive to understand the information and its applications in society. The atmosphere is relaxed and the students keenly receptive. I continue to be impressed by the hard work of the students and staff at CMC.

Daniel Weiss

Teacher on the Religious Thinkers module

After having had the pleasure of teaching Diploma students at the College over two successive academic years, I've come away extremely impressed by the students' sharp intellects and their desire to interact critically with different philosophical, theological, and cultural ideas. In fact, for a number of the philosophers and theologians that we studied, the Diploma students had deeper insights into the thinkers than in any other institutions of learning where I'd taught those same texts. Moreover, the College provides an environment in which a 'critical mass' of students can come together and learn both from one another as well as from various lecturers and teachers, thus preparing them for future engagements within their communities and with wider British society.

Student Support

The College aims to ensure that students are able to make the most of the experience of studying and living in Cambridge. As part of the ongoing commitment to individual development all students take part in the Personal Development Programme. Its activities, which are both structured and informal, run alongside the Diploma to help provide students with valuable transferable skills both academic and extra-curricular. These include:

LIFE SKILLS: In order to help facilitate a broad range of skills, the programme includes a series of classes on time management, financial management, interview technique and first aid skills.

COMMUNICATION SKILLS: The students work on their communication skills in general through the first two terms. This skills-based course also focuses on public speaking and working with the media.

LITERACY SKILLS: The students are introduced to Great Books in English literature from the 16th century up to the present. This familiarises them with important works and introduces them to the various ways in which such texts can be read.

SUPERVISIONS: Throughout the academic year there is a programme of regular supervisions whereby students are given individual support to hone and strengthen their academic writing and analytical skills. Other forms of regular supervisions include one-to-one informal meetings with the Academic Director and group discussions with Shaykh Abdal Hakim Murad.

ANNUAL TRIPS: As part of the educational programme at the College, an extended trip is organised, usually to Rome. This is to help students become aware first-hand of the history of faith on the European continent.

WORK PLACEMENTS: Students are given the opportunity to develop their skills in the community, with a programme of work placements. These are arranged with the local community and include giving *khutbahs*, teaching, and chaplaincy.

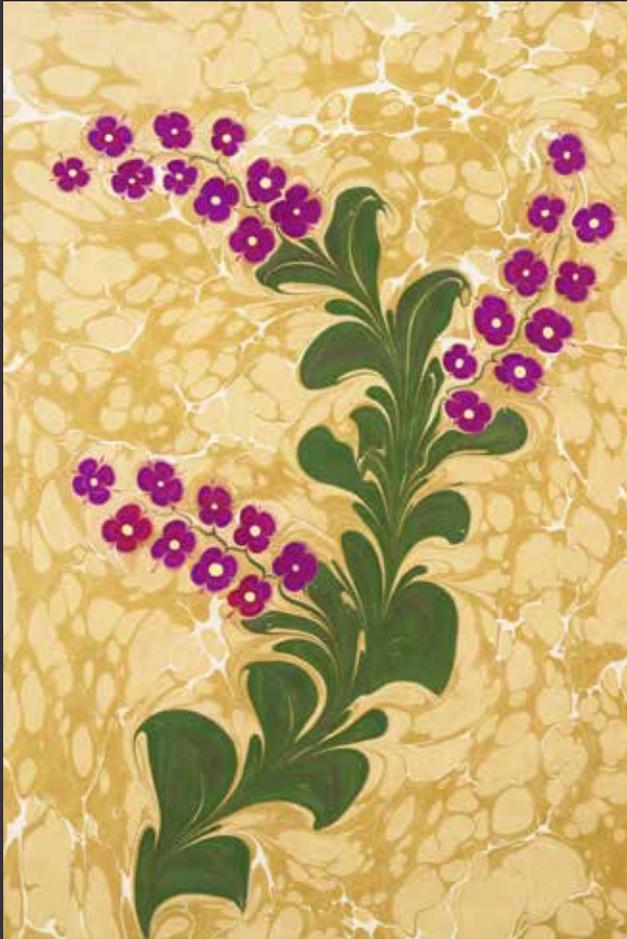
What is it Like to Live and Study in Cambridge?

Cambridge is famous as the site of one of the most prestigious universities in the world. Along with al-Qarawiyyin, al-Azhar, Bologna, Paris and Oxford, the University of Cambridge is one of the world's oldest centres of learning. Among its many distinguished alumni have been notable Muslim scholars and leaders such as Abdullah Yusuf Ali and Muhammad Iqbal.

Cambridge continues to be a vibrant intellectual centre, home now to both the University of Cambridge and Anglia Ruskin University. The Cambridge Muslim College is well-placed to benefit from this rich heritage and current resources, and to add to them. Through public lectures and events, its students participate in the intellectual and social life of one of the great university cities of the world.

The College is willing to arrange appropriate accommodation for students in a central Cambridge location.

Cambridge has a growing and lively Muslim community, both local residents and students from all over the UK and the world. More than 700 people regularly pray *jum'ah* at the mosque, and there are student Islamic societies at both the city's universities. There is more information about the community in Cambridge and its activities on the College website.



Who can Apply?

Those interested in applying will find the Application Form and Guidance Notes on our website at www.cambridgemuslimcollege.org. After considering the application form and references, the College will invite suitable applicants to an interview at the College. The interview programme is likely to include a group discussion, a timed essay and individual interviews with senior staff.

WHAT WILL IT COST?

The cost of the Diploma course is £2,500. The College is offering scholarships to the most able candidates. Scholarships typically meet the cost of all the course fees and provide a monthly allowance for living costs. Applicants are expected to be intellectually curious, hard-working, and committed to the aims of the College. Like those of the University of Cambridge, the standards of the College are high and the work is challenging. But what students put in they get back by being part of a rigorous, innovative and dynamic programme.



What are you Waiting for?

Applications for the Diploma course are now open. Application forms and more information about the College are available on its website. Please contact us if you have questions or need more information before applying. Applicants are encouraged to apply early in order to ensure a quicker response from the College.

The deadline for applications is mid-May. Please check our website for the exact date each year.

If you would like further information then please email the Academic Director, Atif Imtiaz, at ai@cambridgemuslimcollege.org

www.cambridgemuslimcollege.org

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