

AKU-ISMC and the Maldivian Government Joint Scholarship

Introduction

AKU-ISMC is pleased to announce the “AKU-ISMC and the Maldivian Government Joint Scholarship”.

In 2021, AKU-ISMC signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Ministry of Higher Education outlining a Joint Scholarship for up to 5 Maldivian Scholarships each year from 2021 to 2026.

This scholarship is aimed at allowing students from the Maldives the possibility to attend the lifechanging “[Master of Arts in Muslim Cultures](#)” in London. For more details about this programme, please read our [2022 Prospectus](#).

1. Why apply for the AKU-ISMC Maldivian Scholarship Programme?

AKU-ISMC’s Master of Arts in Muslim Cultures enables young scholars to engage in a unique approach to the study of Muslim cultures that is shaped by our research in world cultures, humanities, and social sciences. AKU-ISMC aspires to contribute and bring critical thinking to public discourse; enabling both citizens and leaders to address complex challenges and to shape the world around them.

AKU-ISMC aims to diversify its student pool and create greater opportunities for persons from the Indian Ocean region. Financial assistance creates greater socioeconomic diversity on our campus, enriching our learning communities with a variety of perspectives and life experiences.

This Scholarship enables those with the greatest financial need to have a rewarding and worry-free experience at AKU and graduate without the heavy burden of debt.

2. Eligibility

Entry Requirements: An undergraduate degree (equivalent to a UK bachelor’s degree) with an award equivalent to an upper second-class honour or better, from a university accredited or recognised by UK ENIC, preferably in the humanities or social sciences.

English Proficiency Requirement: IELTS for UKVI (Academic) - Overall band score: 6.5 (with a minimum of 5.5 in all four components). We also accept PTE Academic tests for English Language requirements, candidates need to achieve a CEFR B2, which for PTE Academic UKVI it is 59.

Documents required: Qualification certificates, ID, English Proficiency, References – these are required for the application process. Further documentation will be required for the Visa process. All documentations must be submitted electronically. References should be emailed directly to ismc.admissions@aku.edu

3. Application Procedure:

- **Step 1:** Students must be nominated by the Ministry of Higher Education Maldives for this Scholarship, where they can apply by visiting <https://www.mohe.gov.mv/scholarship-loan>.

- **Step 2:** Nominated individuals must then apply through AKU-ISMC, by following the requirements outlined above and visiting <https://www.aku.edu/ismc/ma/Pages/apply.aspx>

4. Programme details

Intake dates. The semester begins in the first week of September. Induction is the last 2 weeks of August

Programme name. Master of Arts (MA) in Muslim Cultures.

Duration of the programme. The MA is Currently 3 semesters (16 weeks per semester). From September 2023, it should be 4 semesters (16 weeks each).

Tuition Fees. 50% of tuition is covered by AKU-ISMC through a fee-waver, and 50% is covered by the Maldivian Ministry of Higher Education. The current fees are subject to change, with 2022-2023 the fees are £1750 per-semester for full time. students See for changes: <https://www.aku.edu/ismc/ma/Pages/tuition-fees.aspx>

Level of the programme. Level 7.

Deadline to submit application. International applications are accepted between 1 September and the last Friday in January. More details found under the Application Procedure above.

State of the art student accommodation. AKU-ISMC will provide a 100% subsidised accommodation at the [Victoria Hall](#) student accommodation, conveniently located next to the Aga Khan Centre.

Living costs. The Ministry of Higher Education Maldives will cover a monthly student stipend of £400.00 per month, for the duration of the MA programme.

Summer Language Immersion Programme. Students may join an optional language immersion programme, costing £1,200.

Costs relating to transport, VISA costs, IELTS examinations, and NHS Surcharges will not be covered under this arrangement.