

BA & Undergraduate Certificate in Islamic Studies: A First for the Seventh-day Adventist Church

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For the first time in its history Newbold College is offering a BA degree with a major in Islamic Studies. Also on offer is a one-year undergraduate certificate in Islamic Studies. Both degree and certificate are awarded by Andrews University. This program is unique in the Adventist Church world-wide. Currently it is the only accredited degree and certificate program in the Adventist educational system that provides students with the opportunity to study Islam in depth from an Adventist perspective. This course is particularly relevant at this time given the current tensions between the Muslims and the Western world.

The aim of the course is to train students to dialogue effectively with and minister among Muslim people. The modules are taught in a way that encourages students to relate sympathetically, from a biblical perspective, to the beliefs, practices and lived reality of the world of Muslims, and to develop authentic rela-

tionships that will facilitate dialogue on a spiritual level. Study of cultural value systems and world-views, cross-cultural communication and models of contextualization are core to the program. Students are also given the opportunity to obtain knowledge and develop skills in best methods and latest practices, and strategies in outreach and ministry methods. There is also a practical component to the course.

During the course students study topics such as the history of Islam, Islam in the modern world, Islamic beliefs and practices, women in Islam, qu'ranic and biblical studies, elementary arabic, fundamentalist and folk Islam, contemporary Christian/Muslim relations (including an extensive module on Adventist-Muslim relations), Islamic sects and movements, cultural anthropology, missiology and church growth, and ministry and culture.

Several external experts in Islam, from a wide variety of backgrounds, will be teaching in the program next academic year. These include Jerald Whitehouse, Director for the General Conference Global Center for Adventist Muslim Relations; Ganoune Diop, Professor of Biblical Languages,

Exegesis and Theology at Southern Adventist University; Bill Musk, internationally known author of books such as *Touching the Soul of Islam* and the *Unseen Face of Islam*; Peter Riddell, Director of the Center for Islamic Studies at London Bible College; and Chawcat Moucarray, tutor and lecturer in Islamic Studies at All Nations Christian College, UK, and author of the book *Faith to Faith*.

Commenting on the relevance of the program, Pastor Peter Roennfeldt, Ministerial Secretary and Coordinator for the Trans-European Division Global Mission office, said: "This course is vital to the commitment of the Trans-European Division and the world church. I believe this course will prove to be very significant to those wishing to relate and minister more effectively among Muslims."

Newbold College has been able to establish this program due to significant gifts made by a donor who has spent many years working as a doctor in Islamic territory. When Newbold received the first gift, negotiations were started with the donor, the Trans-European Division and the Global Center for Adventist Muslim Relations, as to the best way to utilize the funds. From those discussions a non-accredited Diploma in Islamic Studies was introduced, aimed to train students in Adventist Muslim Relations. This has now progressed into a fully-fledged accredited program commencing in August 2002.

For information about the degree and certificate program please contact Velda Cox by email at vcox@newbold.ac.uk or by phone at +44 (0) 1344 407488.

Islamic Studies
England

Newbold College
Major or Certificate

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Adventist Muslim Relations