

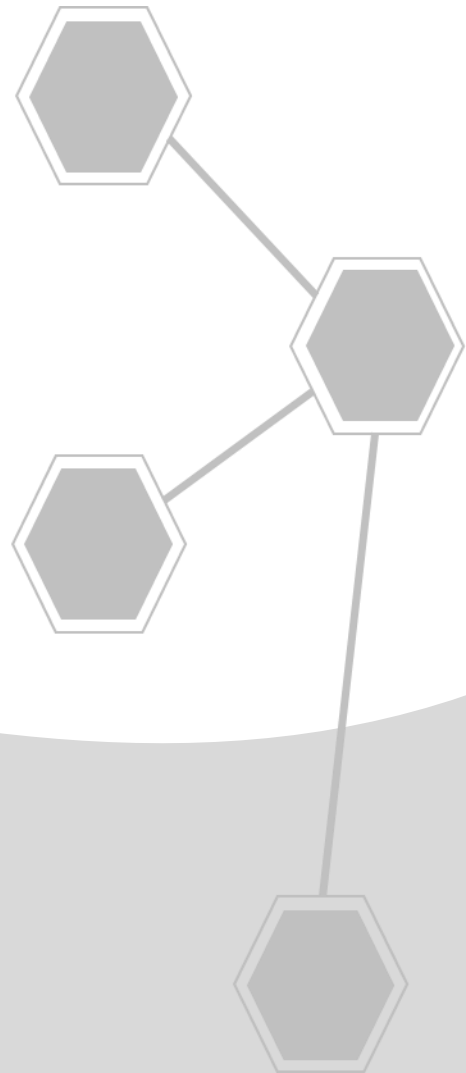
M.A.I. INSTITUTE

MARKAZ AL IHSAAN



INSTITUTE OF ISLAMIC THEOLOGY

STUDENT
BROCHURE



WELCOME TO THE MAI INSTITUTE

We praise Allah and thank Him for His Mercies and Blessings. We pray to Him to guide us on the Straight Path. We send peace and salutations on His beloved Messenger, the one who will intercede for us, the Mercy to the worlds and the best example for mankind.

Allah has been pleased to bless us with a simple recipe for success in this world, and guarantee for what is better in the next life. He says, “Those who believe and do good; they are the successful ones.” The MAI Institute helps everyone to know what he/she is required to believe, and what are the things permissible for us as we go along the journey of life.

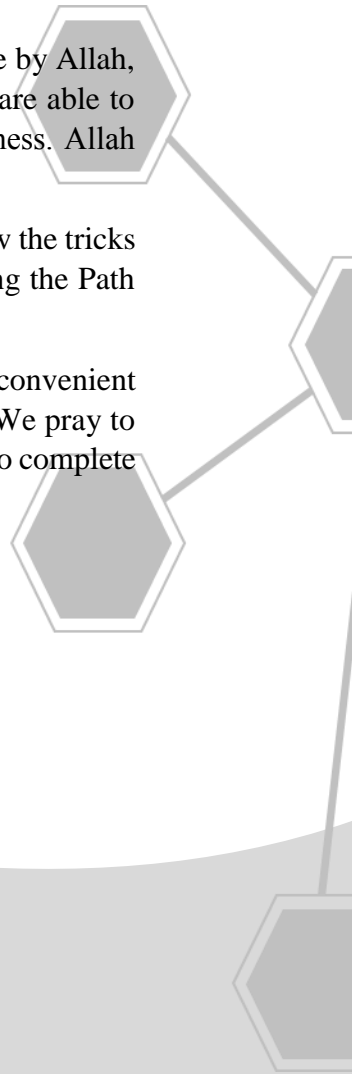
We must always keep in mind the important fact that when Satan was granted respite by Allah, he made a vow that he will fight the progeny of Adam and lead them astray. If we are able to knowingly resist him, we will earn for ourselves Allah’s peace, mercy and forgiveness. Allah says that peace is the word that comes from Him.

He has blessed us with Islam which means peace, so every Muslim is required to know the tricks of Satan and how to resist them. The MAI Institute can help you with guidance along the Path to Peace.

As the courses are planned to enlighten a person about Islam in the shortest and most convenient way, we welcome you for taking the decision to benefit from what we are offering. We pray to Allah to make this effort of yours easy and beneficial. And may He grant you the will to complete the entire course.

Allah’s Mercies and Blessings on all of us.

Maulana Dr. Waffie Mohammed
Founder / Principal



OVERVIEW: MARKAZ AL IHSAAN

Established in 2000, Markaz al Ihsaan was founded on the commitment to realise an educated Muslim and wider national community, wherein persons can live a refined life based on the Qur'anic guidance and on the traditions of the Holy Prophet Muhammad (peace be on him), and builds on the previous efforts of the founder and principal Dr. Waffie, and Chairman Haji Imtiaz Edo.

Growing out of a core Islamic Workers Training programme, the MAI Institute moved to its current main campus in the scenic Hermitage Village, La Romaine, adjoining the Hermitage Mosque.



Mission

The mission of the MAI Institute is to provide accessible authentic Islamic education effectively and efficiently to all those interested in understanding and applying Islamic beliefs, values and practices in their everyday lives.

Values

The MAI Institute aspires to inculcate a family culture and environment based on key values which include **Inclusion**; **Tolerance** and **Respect**, underpinned by **Competence**.

THE ISLAMIC STUDIES PROGRAM

The ISP course is the flagship program offered by the MAI Institute. It is designed to give working professionals the opportunity to master the key elements of Islam through part-time study, and combines traditional theological courses with pioneering research in subjects geared to treat with contemporary social issues and contexts.

The Islamic Studies Program (ISP) was developed by Maulana Dr. Waffie Mohammed to have anyone, with no prior background in Islamic studies, to learn, inculcate and guide self and others to demonstrate Islamic behaviour and values in every facet of life, and to represent Islam in the manner that was established by the Holy Prophet Muhammad (peace be on him).

By pursuing the full ISP, one can graduate at the level of Alim(a) (Learned), and gain advanced knowledge of Islam and its distinct characteristics and contributions within the tapestry of human civilization. To this end, the ISP was developed based on a consideration of established programs used throughout the world today, some of which span hundreds of years.

3 LEVELS OF STUDY

- The **Certificate** level (1 year) introduces the student to Islam, and explores the various foundational elements of belief and practice in Islam.
- The **Diploma** level (1 year) builds on a sound understanding of Islamic fundamentals and focuses on the practice of beliefs in various facets of everyday life, and in the context of a wider non-Muslim society.
- The **Alim** level (4 years) builds on previous levels to inculcate an in-depth understanding of key aspects of Islam and its manifestation in society today.

The core subjects which students cover over the 3 levels include traditional and contemporary theological subjects as well as pioneering works published by the Markaz al Ihsaan.

| Traditional & Contemporary Theological Subjects | Pioneering Works |
|---|--|
| Fiqh (Jurisprudence) Tafseer Hadith Seerah Islamic History Reading Arabic and Tajweed Hifz and Memorisation of the Quran Qirat Arabic Language Principles of Islamic Finance | Islamic Sociology Islamic Psychology Islamic Spirituality Islamic Dawah Christianity according to Islamic Beliefs Islam and Hinduism Muslims in Minority Quranic Philosophy Islam and Science Islam, International Relations and Geopolitics Islamic Leadership and Management |

THE MAKTAB PROGRAM

Building on the work done by the Majlis ul Ulamaa (Council of Scholars), the MAI Institute developed its Maktab program to build in our children a firm foundation for their inculcation of Islamic Values and Beliefs.

The MAI Institute recognizes the significant opportunity children of this age range have in language skills and communication, perception and learning, creativity and emotional control – the ‘bricks and mortar that comprise the foundation of human development’ (Harvard Education). Maktab classes are divided into 3 age brackets:

- Ages 3 – 5
- Ages 6 – 9
- Ages 10 - 12

The Maktab program offers a diverse mix of subjects for students’ benefit, including:

- Islamic Etiquette and Worship
- Hifz and Memorization of the Quran
- Arabic Reading, Tajweed and Language
- Stories of the Prophets (r.a.) and Craft Classes

Students are given a healthy mix of traditional teaching methods and innovative action-based learning depending on the subjects. The core focus is to ensure students are able to internalize lessons and apply them in their everyday life.



ANNUAL YOUTH CAMP

MAI runs an annual open youth camp at the end of July.

These themed day-camps aim to build awareness and appreciation of key aspects of Islam. Hajj, Kurbanı and other themes are infused in fun lessons and interactive sessions.

Children are exposed to Role Playing, Recitals, Painting and Craft, Field Trips, Movies and much, much more.



STUDYING ISLAM

Islam places great emphasis on the acquisition of knowledge. We are told in the Quran “Are those equal, those who know and those who do not know? It is those who are endued with understanding that receive admonition” (Quran 39:9).

Islam further recognizes the superior rank of those with knowledge. “Allah will cause to be elevated the Believers among you, and those with knowledge will have higher ranks” (Quran 58:11). In a hadith the Holy Prophet (peace be on him) is reported to have said, “The superior rank the learned man holds over the worshipper (without knowledge) is similar to the superiority of the full moon over the stars”, and in another hadith is reported to have said, “The learned men are the heirs of the prophets”.

To this end, we are told in a hadith that the Holy Prophet (peace be on him) is reported to have said, “the acquisition of knowledge is obligatory on every Muslim, male and female.” The Quran even insists upon it, “A contingent from every expedition should remain behind in order to be able to devote themselves to the study of religion, and to enlighten them upon their return.” (Quran 9:122)

The Quran and Ahadith are replete with wisdom and learning that – in the course of history – has driven significant research and triggered the development of our collective human understanding concerning the physical and social world in which we live. The Quran tells us for example there are signs for the wise in the creation of the heavens and the earth; the alternation of night and day; the sailing of ships through the ocean; the rain which Allah sends down from the skies; life which Allah gives to the earth that is dead; the beasts of all kinds scattered through the earth... (Quran 2:164).

From the study of light and the establishment of the foundations of the scientific method by Ibn al-Haytham, to the developments in Astronomy, Physics and Math as a result of the requirement for travelling Muslims to face Makkah for prayer five times each day, to the foundations of History and Sociology established by Ibn Khaldun, the Muslim contribution is well recognized globally.

Part of the mission at the MAI institute is to extend the Islamic contribution to contemporary knowledge, and this is evident in the growing slate of pioneering works which are being undertaken. Such works as Islamic Sociology, Islamic Psychology, Dawah, Public Speaking, Quranic Philosophy and Muslims in Minority are being more widely used by universities and madrassas throughout the world. And these very courses are engrained in your study program to help develop your understanding of this world, and help you become a better person for this life and the next.

Seeking knowledge brings upon the seeker the blessings of Allah. In another hadith the Holy Prophet (peace be on him) is reported to have said, “Whom Allah loves He gives knowledge of religion, and guides him unto the straight path.” In the Quran we are taught to pray “O My Lord! Increase me in my knowledge”. (Quran 20:114)

But seeking knowledge is no easy task. Perhaps this is why we are told in a hadith “He who goes forth to seek knowledge is in the way of Allah (jihad) until he returns”. We are reminded in the Quran “That man can have nothing but what he strives for” (Quran 53:39). In a hadith the Holy Prophet (peace be on him) is reported to have said, “Whoever treads a path, seeking in that part knowledge, Allah will make easy for him the path to Paradise.”

TIPS ON STUDYING

Studying on this program is more than reading books and regurgitating. It required that you read, think about what you read, and internalize what it means to the relationships you have with yourself, others and with Almighty Allah. Even while you are doing this, you must be able to demonstrate sound understanding as you progress through your courses and meet the requirements of assessments. You will also need to balance your personal and work lives with those of your studies. This is never easy. You can find support through your fellow students, members of staff and faculty.

To success in this endeavor, it would be helpful for you to figure out how you learn, how you study and what your past experiences may have been. It is not enough to be prepared to work hard. You should also be familiar with practicing extensive reading, thinking, listening and writing – from different sources and using multiple media. In this regard your computer, phone and internet connection can be invaluable resources. It may be unsettling, or may raise more questions than provide answers. This is normal, and it is important to remember that you have access to a community of support at the MAI Institute should help you significantly in that regard. You will also have significant support from the syllabus that each teacher would be working from. Be sure you understand what you are expected to know from the lesson or the entire course – and if you are not clear you would find the teachers are there to help you through that process. Make sure to ask them.

In your home, it is always helpful to have a dedicated area set aside for your studies. A desk, a shelf and an environment of minimal distractions are always conducive to these. The time in which studies are pursued can also be an important factor. Some persons prefer to study late into the night. Others prefer early mornings. Whatever works for you, it may be helpful to set aside dedicated time each week (outside of class time) in order to do the readings and stay on top of your courses.

Remember, this is a long-term exercise, that spans at least one year. After the initial enthusiasm wears off, it becomes difficult to exert the effort to get to class, or do the readings. It is at this point some persons choose to give up, or defer studies until thing get easier. This rarely happens, and is a large part of the sacrifice required. Don't give up. Good things are not easy and the better things require more work to obtain. The rewards at the end are worth more than the sacrifices made to get there, and the regret of not completing linger quite a long time. And in this regard it may be useful to remember the hadith in which the Holy Prophet (peace be on him) is reported to have said "Whoever reads the Quran and stutters while reading, due to its difficulty, will receive a double reward."

Of course, we can also pray to Almighty Allah to make it easy for us. Some of the prayers made by the Holy Prophet Muhammad in seeking knowledge are listed for reference.

- "O Allah! Bring us benefit by what You taught us, and teach us that which brings us benefit, and increase us in knowledge" (*Ibn Maajah*)
- "O Allah, I ask you to grant us beneficial knowledge, good, pure and permissible sustenance, and deeds which are accepted by You." (*Ibn Maajah*)
- "O Allah I seek refuge in you from knowledge which does not benefit, a heart which does not humble itself in fear, an insatiable desire, and supplications which are unanswered." (*Muslim*)

AV MEDIA

As part of our activities, we create content in various forms – many of which are available to access for not-for-profit use. Digital and electronic content include:

- Audio / Video Material
- Blog Posts
- Facebook Live Broadcasts

PUBLICATIONS

MAI Institute has a growing list of publications that cover a range of subjects – most of which are used in the MAI Institute's training programs.

These publications are produced and distributed by different publishers – the majority under the Markaz publications label, and others by AS Noordeen publishers (Malaysia).

Published Titles can be accessed via our website <http://maiinstitute.com>



MEDIA PROGRAMMES

MAI institute hosts, produces and/or facilitates multiple programs on local and international media. In the past these have included:

- **The Upright Way:** a weekly uplifting programme hosted by Maulana Dr. Waffie Mohammed and aired on 103.1 FM every Friday morning from 4:00 am.
- **The Suhoor Hour:** MAI Institute produces on-demand programmes for the holy month of Ramadan. These programmes are aired every morning during the month of Ramadan, and include a range of informational, entertaining and inspirational segments featuring MAI graduates, faculty and other talented youths in the community.
- **The Examples of the Prophets:** a programme series that examined the lives, examples and lessons from various prophets in Islam. This programme aired on the Islamic Broadcasting Network (IBN) channel 8 for over five years, and segments are featured at different times on various broadcast channels.
- **In-Mosque Broadcasts:** MAI Institute screens various lectures and other content of interest at various locations throughout Trinidad and Tobago, as well catering to an international audience. Content include recordings of initiatives undertaken or participated in – and issues raised – in countries including Singapore, Malaysia, Sri Lanka, Pakistan as well as locally.

MAJLIS UL ULAMAA

As part of its commitment to disseminating authentic Islamic information and education to the Muslim community locally, the MAI institute is honored to host the secretariat of the Majlis ul Ulamaa – Council of Scholars – of Trinidad and Tobago (<http://majlistt.com>).

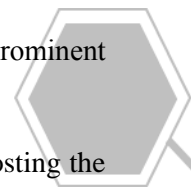
Majlistt is a forum that facilitates the collaboration of the leading Islamic scholars active and resident in Trinidad and Tobago, working to define the Islamic position as it relates to topics of interest and issues facing Islam, the Muslim and the wider national community.

The focus of the Majlistt is the realisation of ‘One Position. One Voice. One Ummah.’ and the clarification of misrepresentations of Islam which are pronounced and prominent in a technology-intensive era.

The MAI institute was instrumental in the formation of the Majlis ul Ulamaa, and by hosting the Secretariat facilitates key deliverables including:

- the coordination of meetings of the Shariah Council (the key organ of the Majlis ul Ulamaa),
- dissemination of information to the various publics,
- engagement in research for and on behalf of the Shariah Council as instructed, and
- provision of general support for Shariah Council activities.

Visit the Majli ul Ulamaa (Council of Scholars) website at <http://majlistt.com/>



ISLAMIC SPIRITUALITY

MAI Institute conducts – under the guidance of Maulana Dr. Waffie Mohammed – weekly Islamic spirituality sessions at the Hermitage Mosque. These sessions are focused on building your relationship with Almighty Allah (swt); establishing and strengthening your connection to the Holy Prophet Muhammad (pbah); and refining your personality to be guided to what is good and eliminate what is not beneficial.

These sessions prove invaluable to many people in society – those facing stresses of everyday life; persons struggling with personal challenges; or persons wanting to ‘unplug’ from daily demands and meditate in an environment of peaceful tranquility.

Sessions also feature a thought-provoking talk on a topic of relevance, which offers an opportunity for contemplation on the spiritual journey and the destination.



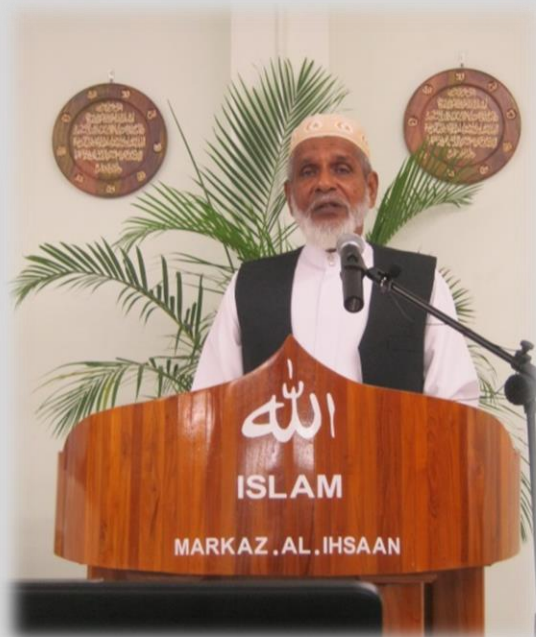
PRINCIPAL: MAULANA DR. WAFFIE MOHAMMED

The first Trinidad and Tobago national to have earned a doctorate in the study of Islam, Maulana Dr. Waffie graduated from the University of Karachi with a PhD in Islamic Studies, obtained in parallel with Al-Kamil certification from the Aleemiya Institute, under the tutorage of, and established by Maulana Dr. Fazlu R. Ansari.

On his return to Trinidad and Tobago, Dr. Waffie contributed to the development of the Muslim communities located throughout the country and the region, while at the same time serving the wider national communities. This led to his appointment to the Senate in 1981, and his later appointment as Director of the Muslim World League regional office for the Caribbean and Latin America, a position in which he contributed to global Muslim development, until his retirement in 2003.

Dr. Waffie is founded and currently serves as the Principal and Director at the Markaz al Ihsaan Institute. He also serves as a spiritual leader of the local chapters of the Qadri and Nakshbandi Orders within Islamic Spirituality Circles.

The author of numerous books, articles and publications dedicated to Islam and contemporary social issues, Dr. Waffie also has a growing number of pioneering works in contemporary Islamic studies. In 2016 he was awarded the Humming Bird Medal (Gold) for his contribution in Education to the National Community.



CONNECT



You can connect with us through any of the following:

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Website: <http://maiinstitute.com>

Tel: 868-488-0178

Address: #161 Dumfries Road, Hermitage Village, via La Romaine, Trinidad and Tobago

(Office hours are 7.30 am to 12 noon Monday to Thursday)

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CUMUTO

MAI Institute delivers its
Alim programme via the
Cumuto ASJA Mosque,
which is situated in the
north-east of the island.

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GUYANA

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