

【刘哲伟专栏】你意想不到的大马国际伊斯兰大学



刘哲伟

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IIUM这里坚持的伊斯兰教学实践，以奉行和履行正真的伊斯兰教义。（档案照：透视大马）

不知不觉，这已经是我第150篇文章，写了近3年的专栏，风雨无阻没有落下任何一篇。

我曾经想过在第50篇或第100篇文章写我的工作环境——马来西亚国际伊斯兰大学（IIUM）。每当要下笔时，就会被更多热门课题而错过了。今天，我想借此机会说一说我的大学。

很多人经常问我为何在IIUM教书，我半开玩笑的说，因为我爱IIUM。当然那些熟悉我的人会朝我翻白眼，刚认识的朋友只是微笑。我觉得他们不会相信我的答案。今天我要告诉你们实话，希望我的朋友也会阅读到这一篇。

笔者指出，很多人经常问他为何在IIUM教书，他半开玩笑的说，因为他爱IIUM。（档案照：透视大马）



其实，并不是我想选择IIUM，而是政府的奖学金计划，我必须附属一所公立大学，例如马大（UM）、国立大学（UKM）和理大（USM）等等，或者是小规模学院（以前的学院大学）。

我几乎所有的公立大学都申请了，除了沙巴和砂拉越大学，主要是交通不方便，吉兰丹和登嘉楼大学也是距离偏远。说实话，我也曾面试几个地方，我对自己有信心。甚至其中一所大学（不打算说出名字），有两个科系已经开会认可我候选人资格。

一般情况下，科系有自己的发言权，毕竟我会直接在那科系服务。我后来才从一位即将退休的系主任口中得知（由于她即将退休，才如实相告）我的候选资格到了院长那不通过，简单来说，我不是马来人，而且不属于院长团队的人。

令我感到惊讶的是，反而是IIUM接受了我。正如你所想的一样，他们怎么可能会接受非穆斯林的我呢？有趣的是，在面试过程中，几乎没有谈及我的身份，甚至事实上也不关心我是一名非穆斯林，只要我的表现可以达到他们的标准，就接纳我。

他们只是询问了我是否可以适应在一所伊斯兰大学，身边的人几乎100%都会是穆斯林。再加上，这所大学也有许多来自西亚国家的人，就是口中称呼的“Pak Arab”，他们穿着保守。

到底我可以适应吗？我当下的反应是，我是来自玛拉初级理科学院（Maktab Rendah Sains MARA）。我初中四和五的时候，已经是唯一的华裔学生，所以IIUM的环境对我来说根本不会是个问题。这也就是他们唯一担忧的情况，而事实上，这其实是适应问题，也算不了是宗教的课题。

在毕业后，我第一天报到时，接待我的是系里的代主任，因为系主任在休假。他告诉我，这个科系会让我有家的感觉。当然，我礼貌的点点头，心底根本是左耳进，右耳出。我当初加入IIUM不过是为了申请奖学金，在毕业后服务个数年就离开这里，相信很多读者都会和我一样的想法。



笔者指出，在IIUM教学，他完全没有感受到被歧视，就算他是非穆斯林，少数中的少数。（档案照：透视大马）

然而，在加入IIUM后，我对于刻板印象改观了。毫无疑问，他们是一所伊斯兰大学，课程纲要也适应伊斯兰教义。当涉及到伊斯兰教义时就有阐明，非穆斯林不应该被歧视。而在IIUM教学，我完全没有感受到被歧视，就算我是非穆斯林，少数中的少数。穆斯林同事的福利，我也会有。

想象一下，我在这里教学大约两年，系主任在请假时，还会拜托我代理职务一周。院方还任命我担任行政职位。试想一下，如果我在一个所谓的“世俗”大学教书，可能机会也轮不到我。

如果我们遵循伊斯兰的教义，可以从中了解到，伊斯兰是一个美丽的宗教，有着美丽的教义。不幸的是，当一个宗教被扭曲了，无论是哪一个宗教，一旦被人骑劫用于个人利益，一切都变得不同，使得其他人认为不敢接近这个宗教，甚至视为不好。

总之，阅读这篇文章的人，你现在的想法就像是我刚刚加入IIUM之前差不多。在真正亲身体会过后，你就会发现，IIUM这里坚持的伊斯兰教学实践，以奉行和履行正真的伊斯兰教义（个人看法和感官），让人感到舒服。我只想说，IIUM好样的，做得好！

* 刘哲伟目前在国际伊斯兰大学政治学系任职助理教授。在此之前，也曾其他高等学府执教。刘哲伟先后于马来西亚国立大学取得政治学学士及硕士学位，并于英国布里斯托大学取得政治学博士。

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[Liu Zhewei's Column] What you didn't expect from International Islamic University Malaysia



Liu Zhewei

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IIUM adheres to the practice of Islamic teachings here to pursue and fulfill the true teachings of Islam. (File photo: The Malaysian Insight)

Unknowingly, this is my 150th article. I have been writing this column for nearly three years, and I have not missed a single one regardless of rain or shine.

I once thought about writing about my working environment - International Islamic University of Malaysia (IIUM) in my 50th or 100th article. Whenever I want to start writing, I will be distracted by more popular topics and miss them. Today, I would like to take this opportunity to talk about my university.

Many people often ask me why I teach at IIUM. I half-jokingly say, because I love IIUM. Of course people who know me well roll their eyes at me, new friends just smile. I don't think they'll believe my answer. I'm going to tell you the truth today and I hope my friends will read this too.



The author pointed out that many people often ask him why he teaches at IIUM, and he half-jokingly says that it is because he loves IIUM. (File photo: The Malaysian Insight)

Actually, it's not that I want to choose IIUM, but the government's scholarship program. I have to be affiliated with a public university, such as UM, UKM, USM, etc., or a small college. (formerly Academy University).

I have applied to almost all public universities, except for the universities in Sabah and Sarawak. The main reason is that transportation is not convenient, and the universities in Kelantan and Terengganu are also far away. To be honest, I have interviewed at several places and I have confidence in myself. Even at one of the universities (I'm not going to name names), two departments have met to recognize my candidacy.

Under normal circumstances, departments have their own say. After all, I will serve directly in that department. I later learned from a department chair who was about to retire (I told the truth because she was about to retire) that my candidacy was not approved by the dean. To put it simply, I am not a Malay and do not belong to the dean. Team leader.

To my surprise, IIUM accepted me instead. As you can imagine, how could they accept me as a non-Muslim? Interestingly, during the interview process, there was little talk about my identity, and in fact they didn't even care that I was a non-Muslim. I was accepted as long as my performance met their standards.

They just asked me if I could adapt to being in an Islamic university where almost 100% of the people around me would be Muslims. In addition, this university also has many people from West Asian countries, known as "Pak Arab", who dress conservatively.

Will I be able to adapt? My immediate reaction was that I am from Maktab Rendah Sains MARA. When I was in the fourth and fifth years of junior high school, I was already the only Chinese student, so the environment at IIUM was not a problem at all for me. This is the only situation they are worried about. In fact, this is actually an adaptation issue, not a religious issue.

After graduation, when I reported in on my first day, I was greeted by the acting dean of the department because the dean was on vacation. He told me that this department would make me feel like home. Of course, I nodded politely, but my heart went in with one ear and out with the other. I originally joined IIUM just to apply for a scholarship. I served here for a few years after graduation and then left. I believe many readers will have the same idea as me.



The author pointed out that when teaching at IIUM, he did not feel discriminated against at all, even though he was a non-Muslim and a minority among the minorities. (File photo: The Malaysian Insight)

However, after joining IIUM, I changed my mind about the stereotype. There is no doubt that they are an Islamic university and the syllabus is adapted to Islamic teachings. When it comes to Islamic teachings it is stated that non-Muslims should not be discriminated against. While teaching at IIUM, I didn't feel discriminated against at all, even though I was a non-Muslim, a minority among the minorities. I will also have the benefits of my Muslim colleagues.

Imagine that I have been teaching here for about two years, and when the department chair takes a leave of absence, he asks me to fill in for a week. The hospital also appointed me to an administrative position. Just imagine, if I were teaching in a so-called "secular" university, I might not have the opportunity.

If we follow the teachings of Islam, we can understand that Islam is a beautiful religion with beautiful teachings. Unfortunately, when a religion is distorted, no matter which religion it is, once it is hijacked and used for personal gain, everything becomes different, making other people think that they are afraid to approach this religion, or even regard it as bad.

Anyway, for those of you reading this article, your thoughts now are pretty much the same as mine just before I joined IIUM. After a real personal experience, you will find that the Islamic teaching practices adhered to here at IIUM, in order to pursue and fulfill the true Islamic teachings (personal opinions and senses), make people feel comfortable. I just want to say, well done IIUM!

** Liu Zhewei is currently an assistant professor in the Department of Political Science at the International Islamic University. Before that, he also taught in other institutions of higher learning. Liu Zhewei obtained a bachelor's degree and a master's degree in political science from the National University of Malaysia, and a doctorate in political science from the University of Bristol in the United Kingdom.*

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