

[CAMPUS](#) [STUDENT LIFE](#)

## The Uniqueness of Usul al-Din and Comparative Religion Programme at IIUM

👤 Guest Submission 📅 January 22, 2021 💬 No Comments

**By Nur Suriya Mohd Nor**

Islam obligates the Muslim *ummah* to seek knowledge for their and others' benefit in this world and the hereafter. The Qur'an and Hadith emphasise that Islamic knowledge, *tawhid*, is considered as fundamental for all kinds of beneficial knowledge and is assessed in the context of belief, morality, and worship. Tawhid, thus, is expected to be the foundation of all branches of knowledge.

As a Muslim, there is a need for us to be firm in our religion while at the same time reaching out to know other people's religions. In line with this, the Department of Usul al-Din and Comparative Religion integrates both Usul al-Din and Comparative Religion

to study other religions.

The Department of Usul Al-Din and Comparative Religion was established in 1997 in the Kulliyyah of Islamic Revealed Knowledge and Human Sciences (KIRKHS). It is currently being served by two professors, seven associate professors and 13 assistant professors. The mission of the Department is different from that of other similar departments at other universities in Malaysia. The Department integrates Usul al-Din and Comparative Religion in its approach of teaching, research and publication. It offers a four-year full-time programme of studies leading to the conferment of Bachelor of Islamic Revealed Knowledge and Heritage with Honours in Usul al-Din and Comparative Religion. The Department also offers postgraduate degree programmes at the Master and PhD. levels.

The aim of the Department is to promote scholarly Islamic heritage disciplines related to Usul al-Din and Comparative Religion and their relevance to contemporary realities. It also aims to produce graduates who have integrated knowledge, uphold the values of *wasatiyyah*, as well as adopt holistic approach in dealing with emerging issues. The Department envisions to become internationally recognised leading referral centre for learning, teaching and research in Islamic Thought and Comparative Religion.

The niche area of the Department is comparative approach in the study of Islamic Heritage, Islamic Thought, and other religions, from the basis of Usul al-Din. A unique feature to be found in all programmes at the Department is the “Relevantization of Islamic Heritage” to contemporary realities. The Department offers courses which are in line with the nation’s inspirations such as unity among races, religious harmony, and moderation in contemporary religious discourse. It covers several domains of knowledge, namely Classical and Contemporary Islamic Thought, *Tasawwuf*, Comparative Religion, and Philosophy.

The programme of studies in the Department offers unique learning experience as it adopts *Talaqqi* method or face to face teaching and learning session. This involves the delivery and teaching method which entails direct communication from a teacher who reads the Islamic Classical Text or *Kitab Turath* to the

Prophet (PBUH) when teaching the companions. *Talaqqi* method would benefit the Muslims as it helps the preservation of the authenticity of knowledge and avoidance of misunderstanding and misinterpretation about Islam.



*Talaqqi session at the Mosque*

The learning process in the Department is not confined to classroom activities. The Department exposes students to various community service programmes such as educational visit to places of worship (EDVIST), face-to-face as well as online Da'wah programmes, and inter-religious dialogue forum. Recently, students of RKUD 3071: Inter-Religious Dialogue had organised an Inter-Religious Dialogue Forum on how to maintain harmonious relationship among multi-religious society in Malaysia during the COVID-19 pandemic.

**INTER-RELIGIOUS DIALOGUE FORUM**

**TOPIC**  
**NEIGHBORHOOD AND HARMONY DURING COVID-19 PANDEMIC**  
**FROM THE PERSPECTIVE OF ISLAM, CHRISTIANITY, BUDDHISM, AND SIKHISM**

**ISLAM**  
 Dr. Abdelkhalik Berghout  
 Professor in Department of Fundamental and Inter-Disciplinary Studies, IIUM

**CHRISTIANITY**  
 Dr. Living Lee  
 Elder Chairman of People's Park Baptist Church

**BUDDHISM**  
 Mr. Tan Sang Chye  
 Director of Hananda Institute Malaysia

**SIKHISM**  
 Major Harman Singh (HMC)  
 Advisor of Malaysian Armed Forces Sikh Veterans Association

**FRIDAY, 4TH DECEMBER 2020**  
**10:00A.M. - 12:30P.M.**  
<https://rb.gy/xtwjnh>

**Scan here to join!**

**“NARRATED 'AISHA (R.A.): THE PROPHET (S.W.) SAID:**  
**"GABRIEL CONTINUED TO RECOMMEND ME ABOUT TREATING THE NEIGHBORS KINDLY AND POLITELY SO MUCH SO THAT I THOUGHT HE WOULD ORDER ME TO MAKE THEM AS MY HEIRS."**  
 - Sahih al-Bukhari, 6014.

**ORGANIZERS:**  
 Students of Inter-religious Dialogue RKUD3071 Sem 1, 20/21  
 with Course Instructor Dr. Fatmir Shehu  
 Department of Usul al-Din and Comparative Religion,  
 Kulliyah of Islamic Revealed Knowledge and Human Sciences, IIUM

*Virtual programme on Inter-Religious Dialogue organised by the Department*



*Student visiting programme*





### *Student activities*

In terms of academic members' development, the Department has organised the Scholarship Advancement Projects (SAP) I and II in 2019 and 2020, respectively. This yearly project is a platform for all academics in the Department to present findings of their research which are related to their specialisations and interests.



### *Academic members of the Department*

The Department also provides a platform for the academics, students and researchers to share their original findings, new ideas, and expertise in the field leading towards integration of Islamic Revealed Knowledge and Human Sciences via its own journal, *Al-Itqan: Journal of Islamic Sciences and Comparative Religion*. Established in 2017, the journal publishes original articles, research reports, case studies and book reviews on diverse topics related to issues, problems and developments of

Many scholars at the Department of Usul al-Din and Comparative Religion are contributing constructively in research, publications, conferences, and serving the society in various areas such as serving as *Felo Kehormat* at Institut Kefahaman Islam Malaysia (IKIM), columnist in *Utusan Malaysia*, Secretariat and Panelists of *Majlis Usuluddin Malaysia (MUM)*, *Ahli Kluster Hal Ehwal Agama Pelan Pembangunan Dakwah Negara (YADIM)*, Head of the KIRKHS Flagship Project, Advisor of KIRKHS Student Society, Advisor of *Jalinan Siswa bersama Masyarakat Orang Asli (JASA Club)*, and the Coordinator of Nursi Research and Training Centre, KIRKHS.



*Academic journal of the  
Department*





Guest Submission