

ISAR has been established in order to train both Islamic scholars specialized in the Islamic Sciences and Muslim scholars specialized in various disciplines, to serve as a bridge between tradition and modernity, religion and science, the past and the future, and the mind and the heart. ISAR aims to equip its students, who come from a variety of disciplines and university backgrounds, with three qualities: academic excellence (‘ilm), moral and religious excellence (taqwa) and teaching excellence (bayan). These targets were initially a dream that was difficult to realize, but the dream has come true today by the grace of Allah, and the targets have been achieved as planned. As of the end of this academic year, three classes have graduated from ISAR. These graduates, thanks to the power of the supplementary education they have received, continue to forge ahead, accomplishing great success in Turkey and around the world.

ISAR has continued its growth and development since the time of its foundation. It first began operating in a small building near the shrine of the great Ottoman saint and scholar Aziz Mahmud Hüdayi. Today, it continues in two newly constructed buildings, one of which is used for education while the other is used as a dormitory.

In addition, the historic Özbekler Tekkesi (the Uzbek Sufi Lodge), serves as the center for ISAR’s Advanced Studies Program. The ISAR library is also growing rapidly through acquisition and donations, and offers 24-hour service to students. Over the past 8 years, ISAR has organized many international conferences and conventions, and has been a reference point in Turkey and around the world through its publication of the proceedings of these international events in Turkish, Arabic and English. Alongside its core activities, ISAR also conducts cooperative ventures and projects with institutions worldwide which share similar principles and objectives, with collaborative agreements established with foundations from Australia, India and Jordan to the United Kingdom and the United States.

I would like to offer my deepest respect, love and gratitude to our teachers, students and administration along with all volunteers who have served ISAR with such dedication, selflessness, and service.

Preface



Professor Recep Şentürk
ISAR General Director



General Information

Istanbul Foundation for Research and Education (ISAR) was founded in 2005. Until moving to its new building in Uskudar in 2015, the foundation continued its activities in a building within the Aziz Mahmud Hudayi complex. ISAR is currently using the buildings in Bülbülderesi and the Özbekler Tekkesi for its scholarly activities.



ISAR has been undertaking its educational seminars and research activities with assiduity and alacrity from the time of its foundation. The belief that current local and global conditions and needs require a new approach to educating future scholars is the primary motive for the establishment of ISAR. The main objective is to provide solutions to intellectual, cultural and social problems of the contemporary world. The successful realization of this objective depends on attaining expertise both in our own historical, intellectual and scholarly tradition, and in the modern social sciences and humanities simultaneously. Based on this ideal, ISAR has been established with the specific aim of educating students who have knowledge of both of these scholarly fields.



The main duty of the foundation is to train students from undergraduate and graduate levels, who are carefully selected after rigorous tests and interviews, as seekers of knowledge who will learn the tradition of the classical Islamic sciences, and who can follow the latest developments in the various fields of knowledge of the modern age. Equipping our students with the competence to come up with qualified and realizable solutions to the problems Turkey and the world face in various areas of educational and social endeavour is the primary objective of ISAR. The minimum requirements that must be fulfilled in order to realize this objective are: (1) the re-evaluation of our rich and vast tradition; and (2) the attainment of the highest levels of success in modern academic fields as competent researchers of a globally recognized caliber.

Four-Year Basic Education Program at ISAR

The educational program at ISAR is based on a 4-year-long program of classes and seminars. Arabic language training, Islamic Sciences, Social Sciences and Islamic Ethics make up the primary components of this program.

There is an intensive Modern and Classical Arabic component in the first two years of the program. While the curriculum of the Modern Arabic component is designed in cooperation with the Jordan-based Qasid Arabic Institute, the Classical Arabic component is taught by using the curriculum employed in the Ottoman madrasa system. At the end of this two-year intensive training, our students spend one summer term at Qasid Arabic Institute in Jordan to improve their skills and complete their Arabic education.

In the second phase of the 4-year program, our students take classes in Fiqh (Jurisprudence), Sirah (the life of the Prophet and Islamic history), Kalam (Dialectical Theology), Ethics and Tasawwuf. In addition to these Islamic sciences, students take seminars in philosophy, politics, literature, economics and social theory.

Islamic Ethics and adab is taught through precious classical texts like Riyad al-Salihin, Ihya Ulum al-Din, and Minhaj al-Abidin.





Different Tracks

To maximize the benefit gained by our students, who are from various academic disciplines, the foundation has developed different tracks of education. In addition to the main 4-year program, there are specialized curricula for students of Islamic Theology, Medicine and Islamic Economics.



Specialization Program

Students who successfully finish the 4-year program at ISAR may continue onwards to a 3-year advanced program in which they take more specialized courses and have opportunities to participate in several workshops. ISAR's scenic, beautiful, and fully-equipped Özbekler Tekkesi hosts the specialization program.



English Program

For ISAR students who finish their Arabic training at the end of their second year, an English Language program is offered, including advanced academic reading and writing classes under the supervision of expert instructors who are native speakers of English.



International Opportunities

Students who successfully finish two years of study at ISAR are sent to Qasid Arabic Institute in Jordan during the summer to complete their Arabic training. ISAR provides a two-year English program for its students who complete their Arabic training. Selected students who complete this English program are sent to the UK or the US to develop their language skills.



Symposiums and Workshops

ISAR organizes academic events such as symposiums and workshops in order to share, spread and build upon the academic knowledge that is produced by working and study groups. These events also initiate new discussions on topics of scientific and intellectual concern. With this purpose in mind, from the time of its foundation, ISAR has hosted many local and international academic events and published the proceedings of these events for wider dissemination.



Working Groups

At ISAR, there are several working groups that bring together different disciplines, provide multi-dimensional discussion opportunities and allow professors and students to intellectually engage with each other on topics of common interest and concern. Along with their regular programs, the study groups occasionally organize seminars, symposiums and conferences. Some of these study groups include the Medicine and Ethics Working Group, the Comparative Law Working Group, the Ibn Khaldun Social Sciences Working Group and the Islamic Thought Working Group.



Workshops

ISAR aims to facilitate specialization in various disciplines by organizing workshops by experts in the field, alongside the mandatory program of regular courses. Workshops, different in nature from the instructor-centered seminars, allow students to participate directly in dealing with the subject matter. The workshops include, but are not limited to, subjects in the areas of Usul al-Fiqh, Law, Engineering, Economics, and Persian Language and Literature. Through the workshops, students interact more practically and directly with the subject matter, learn more comprehensively the methods of engagement that academic life requires, and have the opportunity to combine their Islamic Studies training with their undergraduate- and graduate-level education.



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Student Profile

ISAR attracts students from various disciplines, including Engineering, Law, Medicine, Theology, History and Economics. Enthusiastically pursuing both university education and the educational program of ISAR, students graduate from the program having successfully preserved their Islamic heritage, enhanced their awareness of the scholarly heritage of Islamic civilization, and honed their skills and determination to continue forward with their academic and educational aspirations. Students at ISAR strive to embody its three fundamental principles: knowledge, piety, and profession, thus producing students who have a strong basis of knowledge in critical subjects of importance, who live and behave in accordance with their knowledge and the principles that they have internalized, and who profess and teach what they have learned.



Qualified Teachers

ISAR pays special attention to ensuring that its classes are taught by teachers who are experts in their fields, thereby aiming to inculcate in its students a strong understanding of all subjects studied.



Visiting Researchers

Since its foundation, ISAR has hosted a number of academics and scholars conducting research for varying amounts of time at the foundation. ISAR aims to continue this endeavour in a planned and systematic way.



Academic Guidance and Advising

ISAR's qualified academic staff provides extensive academic counseling to its students (regardless of their academic backgrounds and levels) with the aim of assisting them in making informed decisions, helping them achieve their academic goals, and offering guidance in their disciplinary development and academic endeavours in general.



Overseas Academic Cooperation and Exchange Partners

The exchange programs and cooperation between ISAR and outstanding Islamic educational institutes around the world provide students with opportunities to broaden their horizons and increase their international experience. Some of ISAR's Partner Institutions:

- Cambridge Muslim College (CMC), United Kingdom
- Zaytuna College, California, United States
- Islamic Fiqh Academy (India)



Graduates and Researchers at ISAR

Third-term ISAR graduates received their ISAR Four-year program certificate last year. All graduates are also continuing their master and PhD programs in Turkey and abroad. This is a very essential point for keeping contact with the students who took education at ISAR. In addition to this, some of our graduates are assigned as research assistants after the graduation.



Academic Writing Center

The Writing Center offers free help to all students, from first-year students writing their first college papers to seniors and graduate students applying to graduate schools or working on their theses. The goals of the center are to help students improve their academic writing skills and to promote a high level of quality in expressing their ideas in written language. The training and one-to-one tutorials aim to equip the students with confidence and competence, which will aid them in writing articles, books, theses, book reviews, and encyclopedic entries with self-assurance and ease.



ISAR International

ISAR is a home for both incoming foreign students and outgoing Turkish students who are studying in the United States and in various European countries. ISAR International aims to establish strong communication channels with Turkish students and academics who have adopted the goals and mission of ISAR, and to organize periodic meetings for consultants and scholarly exchanges. ISAR International plays a significant role in furthering collaboration and cooperation with its current international partners and in widening its network by forging new partnerships.



Özbekler Tekkesi

ISAR has been using the Özbekler Tekkesi (the Uzbek Sufi Lodge) in Sultantepe as a specialized center for studies. Students of the advanced 3-year specialized program follow seminars and participate in workshops and research groups in this unique site. ISAR also provides each student of the specialized program with a peaceful and quiet study space within its on-site library facilities.



Bülbülderesi Buildings

Our campus in Bülbülderesi-Üsküdar consists of two main blocks. Block A has a 200 conference hall, a library, reading rooms, offices for teachers and researchers, and 11 seminar rooms. Block B is dormitory specific to ISAR students, managed by Aziz Mahmud Hüdayi Foundation.



Publications

ISAR has a number of published works, references in their fields, deriving from workshops and symposiums organized by ISAR's research groups. The proceedings of all scholarly conventions and conferences to be held in the future will be also published.



Library

Since its establishment, the ISAR library has been growing through purchases and donations, reaching a total of over 30,000 books on a wide array of subjects. It aims to be a pioneering collection, especially in the fields of Ottoman Studies, Law and Bioethics. The library uses open shelving and the Library of Congress classification system, providing service to both ISAR members and researchers in general.



Social Activities

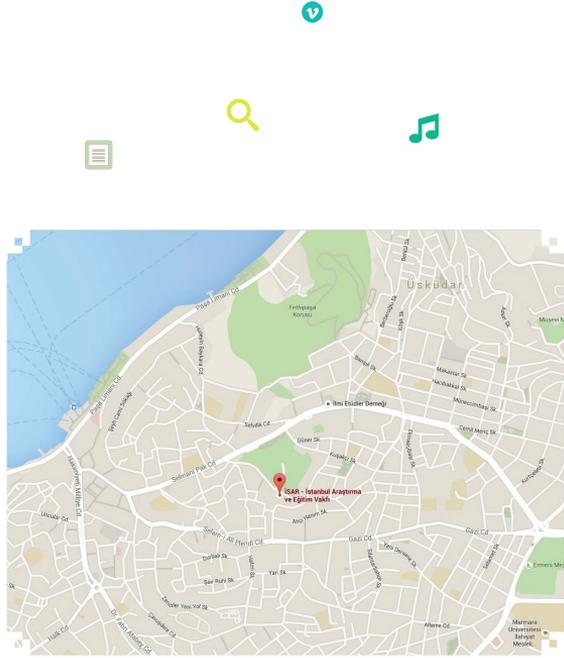
Social, cultural and recreational activities form a significant part of student life at ISAR. Thanks to these activities, students can acquire new skills and gain experience in areas besides their formal education at ISAR.

AZİZ MAHMUD
YÜKSEKÖĞRETİM
ERKEK ÖĞRENCİ YURDU



Accommodation

ISAR provides accommodation for its students in its Aziz Mahmud Hudayi Student Dormitory, founded in 2015, as long as students successfully meet the requirements of the ISAR program.



Contact

Selami Ali Mah. Selanıklılar Sok.
No: 44/1 Bülbülderesi/ Üsküdar / İstanbul

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