



# Islamic Studies Curriculum Level One

Free Online Foundational  
Certificate by SeekersGuidance



# The Seekers Guidance Islamic Studies Curriculum

## 1. Provides a clear path of Islamic learning by:

- i. Facilitating Islamic education for all students — by providing knowledge without barriers.
- ii. Giving a clear step-by-step continuum of learning — from essentials to mastery — with clear learning outcomes, expectations, and assistance.

## 2. It is a means of seeking Allah Most High, reviving Prophetic guidance, and serving Allah’s creation, by:

- i. Guiding the student to practically implement what they learn and transform their personal lives based on the Prophetic example, in seeking Allah.
- ii. Nurturing Prophetic concern in the student, so that they can be catalysts for positive change — through service, calling to guidance, spreading beneficial knowledge within their communities and the world.
- iii. Developing seekers of knowledge to become qualified teachers and scholars, with an equal opportunity to males and females — through study, mentorship, and practical training

## Curriculum Framework

The Seekers Islamic Studies curriculum has five clear steps, representing the key stages of learning for seekers of Islamic knowledge:

**Level One**  
**Essentials**  
Obligatory  
Knowledge

**Level Two**  
**Foundations**  
Grounding in  
Islamic Science

**Level Three**  
**Intermediate**  
Proficiency in  
Islamic Science

**Level Four**  
**Advanced**  
Reasoning &  
Application

**Level Five**  
**Mastery**  
Towards  
Scholarship

# What is the Islamic Studies Curriculum?

SeekersGuidance is pleased to offer a special opportunity to join our Islamic Studies Curriculum. A world-class, five-level, structured curriculum covering key Islamic Sciences - from Islamic Law (Fiqh) to Prophetic Studies. Studying with classically-trained scholars, students will begin with the essentials and progress through to mastery of the Islamic Sciences. We believe in knowledge without barriers - all of our offerings are completely free.

In an age of uncertainty, qualified and trained scholars provide a trustworthy and reliable learning path for seeking knowledge that has been carefully designed over a decade. Our teachers include Shaykh Faraz Rabbani, Shaykh Ahmed El Azhary, Shaykh Yahya Rhodus, Shaykh Abdul-Rahim Reasat, Ustadha Shireen Ahmed, Shaykh JJ Muhammad Shakur, Shaykh Muhammad Carr, and others.

Our institute offers studies in Hanafi and Shafi'i schools, and SeekersGuidance is launching a Maliki Curriculum in January 2022. These offerings are always accessible through our sophisticated educational platform. Students will receive instant access to course material, as well as ongoing interactive support through forums, and live question and answer sessions.

[seekersguidance.org/islamic-studies-curriculum](http://seekersguidance.org/islamic-studies-curriculum)

## The Level One

### Foundational Certificate

Level One gives a clear, strong foundation for religious practice and Islamic studies. The Level One Foundational Certificate Program focuses on the religious knowledge that every Muslim must learn in order to fulfill their personal obligations to Allah Most High. This gives a clear grounding in beliefs, worship, living Islam, spiritual turning to Allah Most High, as well as a clear understanding of the Islamic scholarly method. This is the essential first step for every seeker.

### Learning Outcomes

**Through 6 courses and 4 personal study units, you will be able to:**

- Understand what exactly your religion is;
- Explain how your religion has been preserved;
- Restate what you must believe about Allah Most High, His messengers, and the afterlife;
- Realize how to worship Allah Most High;
- Understand how to have God fearing-ness in dozens of everyday life situations;
- Comprehend how to live according to the Sunna of the Prophet Muhammad (Allah bless him and give him peace);
- Summarize the life of the Prophet Muhammad (Allah bless him and give him peace);
- Memorize the Arabic words and English meanings of the last 10 Suras of the Quran, Surat al-Fatiha, Ayat al-Kursi, and the Closing of Baqara; and
- Learn how to recite the Quran fluently.

# Course Requirements to Complete The Level One Essentials Certificate

HANAFI		SHAFI`I	
 01	<b>Absolute Essentials of Islam</b> Getting Started With Your Belief and Practice	 01	<b>Absolute Essentials of Islam</b> Habashi's Encompassing Epistle Explained
 02	<b>On Worship (Purification, Prayer, Fasting, Zakat, and Hajj)</b> Shurunbulali's Ascent to Felicity	 02	<b>On Worship (Purification, Prayer, Fasting, Zakat, and Hajj)</b> Ba Fadl's The Short Abridgement
 03	<b>Living Right</b> Halal and Haram and Living Prophetic Excellence	 03	<b>Living Right</b> Halal and Haram and Living Prophetic Excellence
 04	<b>What Muslims Believe and Why</b> Dardir's Kharida al-Bahiyya		
 05	<b>How Islam Works</b> What is Religion, and How It Is Preserved, Transmitted, and Interpreted		
 06	<b>Living the Sunna, Leaving Sin, &amp; Acquiring Good Character</b> Ghazali's Beginning of Guidance		

We are pleased to announce that our **Maliki Curriculum launches in January 2022.** Level One courses will be taught by the esteemed Shaykh JJ Muhammad Shakur.

## Plus Four Personal Study Units

Students will be responsible for independently covering the following:

	<b>The Life of the Prophet Muhammad</b> (Allah bless him and give him peace)		<b>Fluency in Quranic Recitation</b>
	<b>Memorization of Short Suras</b> (Fatiha, Ayat ul Kursi, Last of Baqara, and last 10 surahs)		<b>Memorization of English Meanings of Short Suras</b>

## Learning Path

### How to Obtain a Certificate?



### Additional Learning Tools:



Interactive Student Forum



Live Monthly Q&A Forum

# A Closer Look at Required Courses



## Absolute Essentials of Islam

HANAFI

### Getting Started With Your Belief and Practice

This course is the first step in your pursuit of religious knowledge. It explains what your religion is, what you must know about it, and how you should learn it. This course is taught according to the Hanafi school, by Shaykh Faraz Rabbani, covering his introductory text Absolute Essentials in Islam.

 Shaykh Faraz Rabbani  12 Lessons



## Absolute Essentials of Islam (Shafi'i)

SHAFI`I

### Habashi's Encompassing Epistle Explained:

This course is the first step in your pursuit of religious knowledge. It explains what your religion is, what you must know about it, and how you should learn it. This course is taught according to the Shafi`i school, covering Habashi's introduction to beliefs, practices, and moral rectifications in The Encompassing Epistle.

 Shaykh Irshaad Sedick  12 Lessons



## On Worship (Purification, Prayer, Fasting, Zakat, and Hajj) Shurunbulali's Ascent to Felicity

HANAFI

This course provides comprehensive and knowledge-based answers to all of the questions that you are likely to face in your worship of Allah Most High, all in light of a formal textbook of Hanafi law that students like you have used for centuries. This course covers the detailed rulings of Purification, Prayer, Fasting, Zakat, and Hajj. This course is taught according to the Hanafi school.

 Ustadh Tabraze Azam | Ustadh Sufyan Qufi  24 Lessons

“Through the courses and the content on the SeekersGuidance website I came to realize how important knowledge is and why it is important (whoever reads this brief testimonial: please find out by yourself why it’s worth it), and eventually I’ve been able to reconnect to Allah through the teachings and the role models of the scholars at SeekersGuidance, which I thought was never possible. That was a very humbling experience and made me think deeply about my life.” - **Mikhail, Germany**

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## On Worship (Purification, Prayer, Fasting, Zakat, and Hajj) Ba Fadl's The Short Abridgement

SHAFI'I

This course provides comprehensive and knowledge-based answers to all of the questions that you are likely to face in your worship of Allah Most High, all in light of a formal textbook in Shafi'i law that students have used for centuries. This course focuses on the detailed rulings of Purification, Prayer, Rules of Funeral rites, Zakat, Fasting, Spiritual retreat ('itikaf), Pilgrimage (Hajj), Trade, and Marriage.

 Shaykh Muhammad Carr  24 Lessons



## Living Right Halal and Haram and Living Prophetic Excellence

HANAFI

Having mindfulness (taqwa) is a prerequisite for being able to benefit from the great guidance of the Prophet (Allah bless him and give him peace). Take this course to learn how to have mindfulness in most of the everyday situations that you are likely to encounter in your life, such as eating halal food, proper dress, interacting with the opposite gender, guarding your gaze, and guarding your tongue. This course is taught according to the Hanafi school.

 Shaykh Faraz Rabbani  12 Lessons



## Living Right Halal and Haram and Living Prophetic Excellence

SHAFI'I

Having mindfulness (taqwa) is a prerequisite for being able to benefit from the great guidance of the Prophet (Allah bless him & give him peace). Take this course to learn how to have mindfulness in most of the everyday situations that you are likely to encounter in your life, such as eating halal food, proper dress, interacting with the opposite gender, guarding your gaze, investing, and saving your money, and guarding your tongue. This course is taught according to the Shafi'i school.

 Shaykh Irshaad Sedick  12 Lessons

“As a teenager living rural, with no income and little exposure to the right guidance or good company, online learning was my only option. By taking the opportunity of gaining "knowledge without barriers," I felt I was able to better appreciate my faith and religious practices, connect to the teachers and fellow students through the online forums and live sessions, and most importantly, develop and strengthen a relationship with my Creator through an understanding of the spiritual teachings of His beloved Messenger. If not for Seekers Guidance, I would probably be quite far from the Deen.” - **Minna, New Zealand**

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### What Muslims Believe and Why Dardir's Kharida al-Bahiyya

This course is an introduction to the formal study of Islamic beliefs through a traditional manual of Islamic theology. By taking this course, you will gain evidence-based conviction in Allah Most High, His attributes, His messengers, and the afterlife.

 Shaykh Faraz Rabbani | Shaykh Mohammad Tayssir Safi  12 Lessons



### How Islam Works What is Religion, and How It Is Preserved, Transmitted, and Interpreted

This course is essential in understanding how the scholars of mainstream Islam have preserved the Quran, the Sunna, and its understanding, from the time of the Prophet (Allah bless him and give him peace) all the way down to our times.

 Shaykh Faraz Rabbani | Shaykh Abdul-Rahim Reasat  12 Lessons



### Living the Sunna, Leaving Sin, and Acquiring Good Character Ghazali's Beginning of Guidance

This course covers a practical manual on living the sunna, avoiding the sins of the limbs and heart, and upholding good character, written by the 12th-century reviver of the Islamic sciences Imam Abu Hamid al-Ghazali. Take this course to learn how to be sincere in your quest for sacred knowledge by avoiding the sins of the outward limbs, avoiding the sins of the heart; having good character with other people; distinguishing true religious knowledge that is useful ('ilm nafi') from ostensibly religious knowledge that is not; sleeping, waking, worshiping, and living according to the Sunna; and organizing your life around regular spiritual routines.

 Shaykh Yahya Rhodus | Ustadha Shireen Ahmed  24 Lessons

“If you want to learn your deen Seekers Guidance courses are a wonderful opportunity. You can be confident that you will be on a reliable path of learning the Sunna of our prophet (Allah bless him and give him peace). They offer very comprehensive courses that cover all aspects of our deen (belief, law, spirituality, Arabic ...). Don't hesitate, just enroll and be among those who took the path of knowledge.” - **Emmanuel, France**



# Our Teachers



## Shaykh Faraz Rabbani

Shaykh Faraz Rabbani spent ten years studying with some of the leading scholars of recent times, first in Damascus, and then in Amman, Jordan. His teachers include the foremost theologian of recent times in Damascus, the late Shaykh Adib al-Kallas (may Allah have mercy on him), as well as his student Shaykh Hassan al-Hindi, one of the leading Hanafi fuqaha of the present age. He returned to Canada in 2007, where he founded SeekersGuidance in order to meet the urgent need to spread Islamic knowledge—both online and on the ground—in a reliable, relevant, inspiring, and accessible manner. He is the author of *Absolute Essentials of Islam: Faith, Prayer, and the Path of Salvation According to the Hanafi School* (White Thread Press, 2004.) Since 2011, Shaykh Faraz has been named one of the 500 most influential Muslims by the Royal Islamic Strategic Studies Center.



## Shaykh Yahya Rhodus

Shaykh Yahya Rhodus is the Founding Director of Al-Maqasid, an Islamic seminary whose vision is to facilitate the realization of Islam, Iman and Ihsan through immersion in the Prophetic Inheritance. The concept of Al-Maqasid emerged from his own journey which began at the traditional school of Murabit al-Hajj in the desert of Mauritania shortly after his conversion. His path of learning then led him to the acclaimed school Dar al-Mustafa in Tarim, where he received instruction from the renowned scholar and spiritual guide Habib Umar Bin Hafiz.

Shaykh Yahya is committed to a holistic approach to religious life that considers the various dimensions of health and is embedded in love, mercy, knowledge, purity of heart, remembrance of God, good companionship, and concern for all of creation.

“The hardest part is starting, once you take the first step, Allah opens up the way. Even if you can’t sit like a good student with your notebook and pen, listen while you’re driving/commuting every day, or while you’re cooking or even listening for 15 minutes at a time in tea breaks at work. Just that little bit each day can provide great openings.” - **Saudah, South Africa**

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“They’ve [SeekersGuidance] deepened my understanding of the everyday elements of Islam.”  
- **Paul Zawacki, USA**

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### Shaykh Abdurragmaan Khan

Shaykh Abdurragmaan Khan completed the memorization of the Qur'an under Shaykh Ismail Londt in 2000. He then went on to graduate from the Dār al-Ulūm al-'Arabīyyah al-Islāmiyyah in 2006. After graduating, Shaykh Abdurragmaan served as a lecturer at the same institute from 2006 to 2015. In 2009, he established Dar al-Turath al-Islami (DTI) and continues to serve as the Director. Shaykh Abdurragmaan has been authorized by many luminaries of Islamic scholarship. These include his mentor, Habib Umar ibn Hafiz— Maulana Yusuf Karaan, the former Mufti of Cape Town; Habib 'Ali al-Mashhur – the late Mufti of Tarim; Habib 'Umar al-Jaylani – the Shafi'i Mufti of Makkah; Habib Kadhīm as-Saqqaf; and many others.



### Shaykh Farid Dingle

Shaykh Farid Dingle has completed extensive years of study in the sciences of the Arabic language and the various Islamic Sciences. During his studies he also earned a CIFE Certificate in Islamic Finance. Over the years he has developed a masterful ability to crafts lessons that help non-Arabic speakers gain a deep understanding of the language. He currently teaches courses in the Arabic Language.



### Shaykh Muhammad Carr

Shaykh Muhammad Carr has dedicated his life to studying and transmitting our beautiful faith. His studies have taken him around the globe, where he has benefitted from many luminaries. Under the guidance of his teachers - Shaykh Taha Karan, Shaykh Yaseen Abbas, Shaykh Muadh Ali, and many others - Shaykh Muhammad has grown to appreciate the beauty and benefits of diverse scholarship. He completed his memorization of the Quran at Dar al-Ulum Zakariyyah in September 1997 and received an Alimiyya Degree in 2006. He is also affiliated with Masjid Auwal in Bo Kaap, Cape Town (the oldest mosque in South Africa), where he serves as a co-imam, and Dar Al-Safa, where he has taught since 2018.



### Shaykh Irshaad Sedick

Shaykh Irshaad Sedick was raised in South Africa in a traditional Muslim family. He graduated from Dar al-Ulum al-Arabiyyah al-Islamiyyah in Strand, Western Cape, under the guidance of the late world-renowned scholar, Shaykh Taha Karaan.

He is the author of the text "The Musnad of Ahmad ibn Hanbal: A Hujjah or not?" He has served as the Director of the Discover Islam Centre and Al Jeem Foundation. He served as the resident Imam of Masjid al-Munowar in Retreat, Cape Town for several years.

Shaykh Irshaad has thirteen years of teaching experience at some of the leading Islamic institutes in Cape Town). He is currently building an Islamic online learning and media platform called 'Isnad Academy' and pursuing his Master's degree in the study of Islam at the University of Johannesburg. He has a keen interest in healthy living and fitness."



### Ustadha Shazia Ahmad

Ustadha Shazia Ahmad completed her bachelor's degree at the University of Toronto in Arabic and French. She then lived in Damascus, Syria for two years where she studied aqidah, fiqh, tajweed, tafseer, and Arabic. She then attended the University of Texas at Austin, where she completed her Masters in Arabic. Later, she moved to Amman, Jordan where she resided for 15 years, and studied fiqh, Arabic, and other sciences with local and traveling scholars. She recently moved back to Mississauga, Canada, where she lives with her husband and children.



### Shaykh Mohammed Tayssir Safi

Ustadh Mohammed Tayssir Safi is a doctoral candidate at Ibn Haldun University. At the university's Islamic Studies department, he specializes in Hadith Studies, with a particular focus on the epistemological framework used in the technical study of Hadith. In parallel with his academic studies at the university, Mohammed has been a long-time student of the Islamic Sciences in traditional educational circles. To that end, he has spent years studying in Damascus (Syria), Cairo (Egypt), Tarim (Yemen), and most recently, Istanbul (Turkey). He is also a graduate of Sultan Ahmet Madrasa's "IKAN," program, which focuses on Islamic theology (Kalām). Mohammed holds a master's degree from the University of Michigan in applied linguistics (Teaching Arabic as a Foreign Language), as well as a certificate in Manuscript Editing from Istanbul's main Islamic Research institution, ISAM.

Mohammed currently teaches courses in Islamic Theology (Kalām) and Hadith Studies for SeekersGuidance and resides with his family in Istanbul.



### Ustadha Shireen Ahmed

Ustadha Shireen Ahmed is an experienced teacher, educator, and mentor, specializing in marriage, parenting, and character development. Born and raised in Canada, she graduated from the University of Toronto with a B.A. in Psychology and Sociology. Thereafter, she travelled to Syria, studying Arabic and sacred knowledge at the University of Damascus and Abu Nour Institute. She took private classes in Qur'anic recitation, Prophetic traditions, sacred law and Prophetic biography. After ten years abroad, she returned to Toronto, Canada. She currently serves as Managing Director of SeekersGuidance Canada, where she draws from years of experience as a community leader and activist.



### Shaykh Abdul-Rahim Reasat

Shaykh Abdul-Rahim Reasat began his studies in Arabic Grammar and Morphology in 2005. After graduating with a degree in English and History he moved to Damascus in 2007 where, for 18 months, he studied with erudite scholars such as Shaykh Adnan Darwish, Shaykh Abdurrahman Arjan, Shaykh Hussain Darwish and Shaykh Muhammad Darwish. In late 2008 he moved to Amman, Jordan, where he continued his studies for the next six years in Sacred Law (fiqh), legal theory (usul al-fiqh), theology, hadith methodology, hadith commentary, and Logic with teachers such as Dr. Ashraf Muneeb, Dr. Salah Abu'l-Hajj, Dr. Hamza al-Bakri, Shaykh Ahmad Hasanat, Dr. Mansur Abu Zina, and others. When he finally left Jordan for the UK in 2014, Shaykh Ali gave him his distinct blessing and still recommends students in the UK to seek out Shaykh Abdul-Rahim for Quranic studies. Since his return he has trained as a therapist and has helped a number of people overcome emotional and psychosomatic issues. He is a keen promoter of emotional and mental health.

“Even though it may feel like a long course and looks hard to finish, you’ll be able to finish it by putting in one hour a week only!” - **Fatima-Zahra Ali, Canada**





*Whoever travels a path to seek knowledge,  
Allah thereby facilitates for him a path to Paradise.” (Muslim)*

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