

Guidelines for NCNMO Islamic Education Scholarship Award

The guidelines set forth herein are an integral part of the NCNMO Scholarship Committee Guidelines and are intended to specifically address Islamic Education scholarship awards for youth within NCNMO member chapters who are enrolled in or have recently graduated (within two years of the scholarship application date) from qualified and acceptable Islamic Education programs as defined in this guideline.

The criteria, requirements and standards defined herein reflect the collective thoughts, knowledge, and experience of NCNMO Shura leaders who are well represented in academia, religious and community leadership. This document is a living document that is subject to review periodically to accommodate and account for future growth as well as emerging needs of our community.

1.0 Acceptable Islamic Education Programs

Enrolment or graduation from any of the institutions or programs described and or listed below shall be the minimum acceptable education requirement for scholarship award consideration under these rules.

1.1 Universities and Colleges

All and any University or College offering Certificates/Diploma/Degrees programs in Islamic Studies, Islamic Sciences, Arabic Language Studies, Islamic Law and or Shariah shall be deemed acceptable. The foregoing is without prejudice to the location, founding and management of such institutions. The overwhelming criteria will be that the program or institution is reputable, accredited, and acceptable in the opinion of NCNMO Shura board. Examples of acceptable institutions are listed below but the listing is not all inclusive:

- I. Bayan Islamic Graduate School, Orange, California/Chicago, Illinois, USA
- II. The University of Chicago (Divinity School), Chicago, IL
- III. American Islamic College, Chicago, IL
- IV. International Open University (Islamic Online University), IOU, Minnesota, USA
- V. International Islamic University of Minnesota, St. Anthony, MN
- VI. Zaytuna College, Berkely, CA, USA
- VII. University of California, Los Angeles (Graduate Studies in Islamic Studies)
- VIII. San Diego State University, California (Center for Islamic and Arabic Studies)
- IX. Claremont Graduate University, California, USA
- X. Mishkah Islamic University of North America, Houston, TX
- XI. The Islamic Seminary of America (TISA), Texas
- XII. University of Texas, Austin
- XIII. Columbia University, New York

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- XIV. Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, MD
- XV. University of Maryland, College Park, MD
- XVI. George Washington University, Washington, DC
- XVII. Georgetown University, Washington, DC
- XVIII. Islamic University of Madinah, Madinah, Saudi Arabia
- XIX. Ummu Al-Qura University, Makkah, Saudi Arabia
- XX. Al-Azhar University, Cairo, Egypt

1.2 Dar-ul- Uloom, Traditional Seminaries and Islamic Training Institutes (Madrasas)

Traditional Islamic seminaries, educational institutions or madrasas that teach Islamic sciences: Law and Jurisprudence, Fiqh, Aqeedah, Tafseer, Hadith, Tajweed, Arabic Grammar, Arabic Literature, History of Islam, Hifz, Uloom-ul- Quran, Usool-ul-Fiqh, Seerah shall also qualify as acceptable institutions. Some examples of such institutions are listed below:

- I. Al-Maghrib Institute, Houston, TX, USA
- II. Al-Hirz Institute, Irving, TX, USA
- III. Islamic Society of Greater Houston (Full Time Hifz Program), Houston, Tx
- IV. Al-Faoz Institute, Cleveland, OH, USA
- V. Noor Hifz Academy, Santa Clara, CA
- VI. Tarbiya Seminary, Roseville, CA
- VII. Iqra Hifz Academy, Fremont, CA
- VIII. ICNA Al-Markaz Hifz School, New York
- IX. Darul Uloom, New York
- X. Al-Ilm Hifz Program, Dundalk, MD
- XI. Institute of Noble Knowledge (INK) Hifz Program, Baltimore, MD
- XII. Central Jersey Institute of Islamic Sciences (Advanced Hifz Program), Somerset, NJ
- XIII. Darussalam, Lombard, IL.
- XIV. Institute of Islamic Education (IIE), Elgin, IL.
- XV. Darul-Qasim College, Glendale-Height, IL.
- XVI. Darul-Uloom, Chicago, IL.

1.3 Degrees

Degrees obtained from these institutions will fall into any of the following categories:

- I. Diploma/Certificates – Ijazah, Certificates, Associate of Art, Associate of Science, National Diploma, or equivalents.
- II. Bachelors – BA, B Sc., B. Ed.
- III. Advanced Degrees – MA, M Phil., M Sc., PhD.

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1.4 Programs Offered

Islamic Education programs will in general fall under the underlisted titles or combination thereof:

- I. Islamic Studies
- II. Islamic Sciences
- III. Islamic Law
- IV. Islamic Leadership
- V. Islamic Philosophy and Theology
- VI. Islamic Chaplaincy
- VII. Arabic Language Studies
- VIII. Islamic Economics, Banking and Finance
- IX. Islamic History and Middle Eastern Studies
- X. Psychology and Islamic Counselling
- XI. Hifz Program (Quran Memorization)
- XII. ‘Aalim Program

2.0 Categories of Islamic Education Scholarship

There are six (6) sub-categories for the Islamic Education scholarship award as follows:

Category 4a: College first-year students enrolled in their first semester in an acceptable program.

Category 4b: College sophomores, through graduate students enrolled in an acceptable program.

Hifz and ‘Aalim Programs

Category 4c: Students who have completed an ‘Aalim program at an acceptable institution not earlier than two years before the scholarship application date.

Category 4d: Students who have completed memorization of 30 Juz' of the Quran at a n acceptable institution not earlier than two years before the scholarship application date.

Category 4e: Students enrolled at an acceptable institution and have completed memorization of 15 Juz' or more of the Holy Quran.

Category 4f: Students who are at least halfway through in an ‘Aalim program at an acceptable institution.

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3.0 Criteria for Selection of Candidates

3.1 Category 4a

- I. Essay on Seeratu nNabawwi (biography of the prophet), or a chosen topic by NCNMO Shura / Scholarship Committee.
- II. Possess a minimum overall high school GPA of 3.5 on their high school transcript.
- III. Attach a statement of purpose for their Islamic academic pursuit.
- IV. Eligible to apply for category 4b scholarships as rising sophomores.

3.2 Category 4b

- I. Posses a cumulative 3.0 GPA on the most recent transcript.
- II. Submit two letters of recommendation, from a professor/lecturer at their current institution and a senior member of the chapter masjid.
- III. Attach a statement of purpose for their Islamic academic pursuit.
- IV. Applicants may not receive an award from this category more than once.

3.3 Category 4c

- I. Graduation/completion of an ‘Aalim program from acceptable institutions, and verified by a letter, transcripts, and records from the institution.
- II. Submit a letter of recommendation, from a professor/lecturer (Ustadh) at their current institution and a senior member of the chapter masjid.
- III. Attach a statement of purpose for their Islamic academic pursuit (‘Aalim program).
- IV. If there are more than one applicant in this category, the Shura will conduct a quiz/assessment of the candidates and provide the scores and ranking list to the scholarship committee.
- V. Awardees will not be eligible to apply for a second time under this category.

3.4 Category 4d

- I. Completion of Hifz program (full memorization of 30 Juz’ of the Quran) must be certified by the Imam of his/her chapter.
- II. Submit a letter of recommendation, from a professor/lecturer (Ustadh) at their current institution and a senior member of the chapter masjid.
- III. If there are more than one applicant in this category, the Shura will conduct a quiz/assessment of the candidates and provide the scores and ranking list to the scholarship committee.
- IV. Awardees will not be eligible to apply for a second time under this category.

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3.5 Category 4e

- I. Progress towards memorization of the Holy Quran (at least 15 Juz' or more) must be certified by the Imam of his/her chapter.
- II. Submit a letter of recommendation, from a professor/lecturer (Ustadh) at their current institution and a senior member of the chapter masjid.
- III. If there are more than one applicant in this category, the Shura will conduct a quiz/assessment of the candidates and provide the scores and ranking list to the scholarship committee.
- IV. Awardees will be eligible to apply for a second time under category 4d, after completing the Hifz program and obtaining their Ijazah or certificate but priority will be given to applicants who have not received awards previously.

3.6 Category 4f

- VI. Progress in an 'Aalim program will be verified by a letter and transcripts/records from an acceptable institution.
- VII. Submit a letter of recommendation, from a professor/lecturer (Ustadh) at their current institution and a senior member of the chapter masjid.
- VIII. Attach a statement of purpose for their Islamic academic pursuit ('Aalim program).
- IX. If there are more than one applicant in this category, the Shura will conduct a quiz/assessment of the candidates and provide the scores and ranking list to the scholarship committee.
- X. Awardees will be eligible to apply for a second time under category 4c, after completing the 'Aalim program and obtaining their Ijazah or certificate but priority will be given to applicants who have not received awards previously.

For all categories

- Applications must be submitted on or before the **31st of October each year.**

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