

Masjid DarusSalam

*Contemporary Scholarship through Authentic Tradition*

# Seminary Admissions







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## 1.1 ABOUT US

DarusSalam's vision is to preserve, implement, and disseminate Islāmic knowledge; as well as to nurture and prepare our future leaders through sound, traditional understanding and learning. DarusSalam is unique in that along with providing a beautiful sanctuary for worship, it also incorporates a higher educational institute. Masjid DarusSalam serves as a community center for residents while DarusSalam Academy offers beginner through advanced classes in various Islāmic sciences. We are grateful to Allāh جَلَّ وَعَلَا to have several young, American-born, qualified Islāmic scholars on our staff in addition to enjoying the support of many '*ulamā*' from across the nation.



## 1.2 ASPIRATION

After reflecting on the history of American Muslims, it is apparent that Islāmic scholarship has arrived on the country's shores in successive waves. The first generation of immigrant Muslims, still strongly tied to their homelands, invited scholars born and educated abroad to teach them in their native languages and help them live their deen harmoniously in the new land. Thereafter, their children, immersed in the American language and culture, called for scholars who could relate to them. So a second wave of scholars, this time American-born Muslims, travelled overseas and acquired the knowledge they needed to serve their generations. Now the time has come to raise up a new wave of learned Muslims who have been born, bred, and educated at home. A wave that will duly fill the sacred posts of imāms and scholars, address Islāmic legal and social issues unique to the American context, convey with clear expression the true spirit of Islām to our fellow citizens, and establish institutions that will be forces of good, both spiritually and intellectually.



## 2. ACADEMICS

The institute strives for high academic standards. On a daily basis, DarusSalam provides countless opportunities for one to be intellectually stimulated through engaging lessons presented by qualified scholars. And while diligent efforts are made to achieve erudition, one's studies are not limited to academics alone. Through the courses, the resplendent light of Prophetic knowledge is kindled awakening one's conscience, inspiring the limbs to actualize the knowledge acquired with practice. This is the result of an environment enthused by love for Allāh جَلَّ وَعَلَا and His Messenger صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ.

The vibrant legacy of Islāmic scholarship is felt flourishing through DarusSalam's halls. Staff, students, and peers respect one another, welcoming the variety of backgrounds and walks of life that are brought together. Engaging knowledge in this way is no less than a life-changing opportunity

### 2.1 *Tambīd Summer Arabic*

This is a comprehensive and concentrated four-week crash course into the Arabic language. Each summer, enthusiastic students prepare to be significantly challenged in a stimulating language immersion course. *Tambīd* focuses extensively on reading, writing, listening, and speaking. A systematic syllabus exposes one to the theoretical disciplines of grammar and morphology. And time-tested primers lay a strong vocabulary base on which one can build. This course is the perfect stepping stone for students who wish to further their studies in the *Tanwīr* one-year program.

### 2.2 *The Tanwīr Intensive*

In Arabic, the word “*tanwīr*” is used for a wondrous miracle. When winter transitions into spring, the trees undergo a remarkable transformation. After the dead of winter, spring arrives and along with it small doses of sunshine and water nourish life; plants bud and bloom. Soon after, they are adorned with fragrant flowers, a manifestation of sheer beauty. Marveling at this, one realizes that it is something only Allāh جَلَّ وَعَلَا can create. This is an example of “*tanwīr*.” Likewise, education has the same effect on a human's soul. Through learning about Islām, one undergoes a transformation



*The Tanwīr Intensive*, a yearlong immersion program into the Arabic language and Islāmic Studies, is an opportunity to experience this. Souls are awakened to the reality of purpose; we are Allāh's servants and followers of the Prophet Muḥammad ﷺ. That consciousness is crucial; this program lays the foundation for one's Islāmic edification.

The positive ways in which Muslims contribute to society are endless. Every Muslim should strive to please Allāh جَلَّوَعَلَا through the gifts and talents that they have been bestowed. Our scholars recognized the importance of occupations like medicine, business, and engineering. While it is the scholars' duty to pursue formal Islāmic education in the most detail, knowing Islām's basic teachings is obligatory upon every Muslim. Moreover, what Islāmic knowledge provides, intellectually and spiritually, enriches an individual thereby creating a morally upright and successful person. Some may go on to become scholars of the religion, while others will go on to work in other occupations. Both paths are respected; in fact, both paths are needed. For those on either path, Islāmic knowledge must be acquired. In short, choosing a professional career should not close the door to furthering one's Islāmic education. *The Tanwīr Intensive* provides such an opportunity.

Often benefiting from our program are individuals seeking further education and religious literacy, and those making transitions in life: from high school into college, from college into the workplace, or from one job to another. These transitions can be enormous; along with being physically demanding, they can be emotionally and spiritually taxing. Many of us need an opportunity to refresh ourselves, to find direction and inspiration before embarking on major life tasks. We need Islām in our lives, and we need to understand it. We need to enter new phases of life in full bloom, with love for Islām radiating from within our souls, permeating our thoughts and actions, and opening our hearts to our true purpose.

This program is a great opportunity for one to immerse his/her self into sacred knowledge; to realize and learn one's religion while being present in an environment where Islām is practiced out of love. For a full year, one will learn Arabic and the Islāmic Sciences in a way that will change them forever. Like a tree blooming after a cold and gloomy winter, with Allāh's help and mercy, one's soul will be refreshed and ready to walk the path of life as a successful Muslim.

### *2.3 The Takmīl Institute for Higher Islāmic Studies*

*The Takmīl Institute* is a rigorous seven-year 'ālimiyyah degree program for men and women that comprehensively imparts a well-designed syllabus that aims to educate the next generation of scholars, lecturers, researchers, thinkers, and academics. Deep and profound, the program is rooted in tradition, immersing one into research, literature, and textual analysis that spans over 1400 years.

The institute's instructors are connected back to Islām's greatest scholars and have acquired traditional teaching licenses (ar. *ijāzāt*) in a vast array of subjects. They dedicated many years of their lives pursuing studies in the Arabic language and the sacred sciences locally, as well as abroad



at eminent Dār al-‘Ulūms based on the South Asian pedagogical model and at renowned centers of learning in the Middle East. With their varying backgrounds, what each teacher contributes to the learning environment makes this program especially unique. This combination of talent cumulates, exposing the pursuant learner to studies that equal or surpass overseas opportunities.

Aimed at aspiring scholars, the thoroughly engaging ‘*ālimiyyah*’ program is focused on providing a high-quality educational atmosphere in which erudite ‘*ulamā*’ are trained.

#### *2.4 The Tahfīẓ Academy for Qur’ān Memorization and Recitation*

We offer a comprehensive Qur’ān memorization program for boys and girls with dedicated male and female staff. Along with striving to produce strong huffāẓ, the academy prepares students to become model citizens and productive members of society who embody the teachings of the Holy Qur’ān. A unique feature of our *Tahfīẓ Academy* is that we provide foundational Islāmīc Studies incorporated into the program: *ḥadīth*, *fiqh*, *sīrah*, and prophetic supplications are taught by scholars everyday alongside memorizing the Qur’ān.

#### *2.5 The Tadrīs Integrated High School Program*

*The Tadrīs Program* offers an accredited high school program. *Tadrīs* high school studies are designed to run in parallel to the ‘*ālimiyyah*’ program’s introductory years. Accordingly, one who wants to pursue the ‘*ālimiyyah*’ qualification enters the *Takmīl Institute*’s third-year after high school, or one may move on to pursue a different post-secondary education.

The program consists of a comprehensive high school curriculum taught by qualified teachers imparting a dynamic syllabus through modern didactic resources. Here, students receive -within the confines of an Islāmīc environment- instruction in core subjects such as algebra, geometry, biology, chemistry, and the language arts.

The program aims to produce individuals who can handle the workload of the most challenging university programs. Graduates will receive a high school diploma and will take ACT/SAT tests. The program endeavors to prepare students for their college applications and aspirations through exceptional grades and high SAT scores. We take the future and success of our students seriously; tremendous effort is made to help those enrolled in the program transition into college and succeed in their studies thereafter.

## 2.6 The Language Arts & Mathematics Program (LAMP)

The Language Arts and Mathematics Program (LAMP) is a unique effort specifically aimed at building the reading, writing, and mathematical skills of DarusSalam Taḥfīz students.

The extraordinary amount of time and effort spent in memorizing the Book of Allah SWT leaves the Hifz students with little time for secular studies. The LAMP is designed to deliver high-quality middle school and/or early high school level language arts and math instruction taught by our dedicated and highly qualified teachers. Every student is assessed at the start of the program to determine their appropriate instructional level. The LAMP provides an essential in-depth language arts and mathematics curriculum during the hifz process, thereby easing the transition back to school when the student has completed hifz and is ready to resume full-time secular studies.

## 2.7 The Tanwīr Intensive's Syllabus

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**Subject:** Spirituality (ar. *Tazkiyah*)

**Text:** *Etiquettes for Students, Bidāyat al-Hidāyah*

**Description:** The first textbook, *Etiquettes for Students*, concentrates on ten fundamental qualities that a student must embody to succeed in the path of learning. The author explains these qualities using anecdotes from scholars of the past.

The second text, *Bidāyat al-Hidāyah*, is one of Imām Ghazālī's final works. Thereby, this masterpiece embodies an erudite scholar's lifetime of learning, experience, and spirituality. Within it, he elucidates how leading a life guided by the divine is achieved through God-consciousness (ar. *taqwā*), and he details the keys to success in one's initial stages of learning. The instructor will expound on other deeper dimensions of self-reformation.

### Course Objectives:

- Study an introduction on how to become a student of knowledge.
- Identify pitfalls experienced by one treading the path to knowledge.
- Learn how to develop *taqwā*.
- Start actualizing one's knowledge through practice.

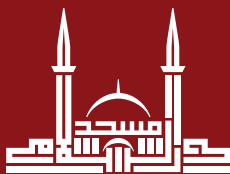
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**Subject:** Conversational Arabic (ar. *Muḥādathah*)

**Text:** *al-Qirā'at al-'Arabiyyah*

**Description:** This text concentrates on developing articulacy in Arabic. Its lessons incorporate Arabic that hones one's conversational skills without detailing the language's theoretical aspects. Accordingly, one will apply the language without requiring a significant background in sciences like Arabic Grammar and Morphology. A hardworking and diligent student will significantly improve their conversational abilities in Arabic. The first volume will be covered.





## Masjid DarusSalam

### Course Objectives:

- Experience communicating in Arabic.
  - Develop and improve one's ability to communicate in Arabic.
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**Subject:** Morphology (ar. *Ṣarf*)

**Text:** *Fundamentals of Classical Arabic*, *ʿIlm al-Ṣarf*

**Description:** *Fundamentals of Classical Arabic* and *ʿIlm al-Ṣarf* are designed to lucidly convey Arabic morphology, etymology, and verb conjugation. These books make an otherwise difficult subject easy. The instructor will provide exercise worksheets to supplement the texts.

### Course Objectives:

- Learn how verbs conjugate.
  - Practice identifying different scales from the Qurʾān.
- 

**Subject:** Arabic Syntax (ar. *ʿIlm al-Naḥw*)

**Text:** *Arabic Course*, *Tashīl al-Naḥw*

**Description:** These renowned textbooks have been selected to impart the crucial subject of Arabic Syntax. In this course, one will study the construction of phrases and sentences as well as the grammatical state of the words. The subject expounds on how words are affected by other governing words, and what apparent changes are caused due to this.

### Course Objectives:

- Learn how phrases and sentences are constructed.
  - Understand how words relate to each other.
  - Identify case endings.
- 

**Subject:** Arabic Literature (ar. *al-Adab al-ʿArabi*)

**Text:** *Miftāḥ al-ʿArabiyyah*

**Description:** *Miftāḥ al-ʿArabiyyah* focuses on reading and writing. It starts with simple phrases, gradually increasing to complex sentences. Each lesson is supplemented with exercises, allowing one to augment each lesson through practical application.

### Course Objectives:

- Learn to read and write Arabic.
- Practice translating from English-to-Arabic and from Arabic-to-English.



**Subject:** Qurʾān Recitation (ar. *Tajwīd*)

**Text:** *Beginner's Notes on Tajwīd*

**Description:** The notes of al-Qārī Ayyūb Essack are used to impart this subject. Both theoretical and practical aspects of *tajwīd* will be covered. The student will memorize and recite the 30th *juzʿ* with *tajwīd* to the teacher.

**Course Objectives:**

- Acquire an understanding of the subject's primary rules.
- Apply the rules by reciting to a teacher.
- Learn about the narration of Ḥafṣ from ʿĀṣim via the chain of the *Shāṭibiyyah*.
- Recite the Qurʾān as the Prophet ﷺ recited it.

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**Subject:** Islāmic Jurisprudence (ar. *Fiqh*)

**Text:** *Ascent to Felicity*

**Description:** Abū al-Ikhlāṣ Ḥasan al-Shurunbulālī's *Ascent to Felicity* is an excellent primer that is easily accessible to anyone with even a basic exposure to Islāmic legal works. The students will learn the chapters on purity (ar. *ṭahārah*) and prayer (ar. *ṣalāh*). Solutions to contemporary issues that we face in our daily lives will be explained in detail. Proceeding reading the text is a detailed introduction to the principles of jurisprudence and its evolution prepared by a teacher.

**Course Objectives:**

- Learn the fundamental rulings pertaining to purity.
- Learn the fundamental rulings pertaining to prayer.

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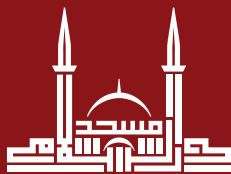
**Subject:** Islāmic Theology (ar. *Aqīdah*)

**Text:** *al-Aqīdah al-Ṭahāwiyyah*

**Description:** Imām Abū Jaʿfar al-Ṭahāwī's text is succinct, listing only that which is necessary for a Muslim to know and believe. The work's contents are derived from Islām's primary sources: the Qurʾān and the Sunnah. In class, contemporary issues related to Islāmic theology and theology in general will be addressed.

**Course Objectives:**

- Learn the tenets of Islām in detail.
- Analyze heterodox sects and some of the refutations scholars provided rebutting their arguments.



## Masjid DarusSalam

**Subject:** Arabic Literature (ar. *al-Adab al-‘Arabi*)

**Text:** *Qaṣaṣ al-Nabiyyin* (volumes 1-2), *Miftāḥ al-Qur’ān*

**Description:** *Qaṣaṣ al-Nabiyyin* is studied at institutes across the Middle East and Southeast Asia. The series is designed to progressively build a student’s understanding of Arabic. It presents stories of various prophets, edifying the reader with exemplary conduct and teachings. The classical Arabic studied in these works lays the foundation for one to access the Qur’ān and the Ḥadīth in their original language.

In *Miftāḥ al-Qur’ān*, students will learn words and phrases from the Qur’ān, gradually increasing towards full sentences and paragraphs.

### Course Objectives:

- Learn basic Arabic literature.
- Practice negotiating Arabic texts.
- Compose sentences in Arabic.
- Begin translating from the Qur’ān.

**Subject:** Prophetic Biography (ar. *Sīrah*)

**Text:** *Prophet of Mercy*

**Description:** *Prophet of Mercy* by Shaykh Abū al-Ḥasan ‘Alī al-Nadwī covers the life of the Prophet Muḥammad ﷺ, the historical backdrop preceding the nascent period of Islām, and the military expeditions and victories associated with it. What distinguishes this book from similar works on the topic is its breadth and careful attention to details, illustrated maps of events, carefully worded questions at the end of each chapter, and an exhaustive glossary of Arabic terms.

### Course Objectives:

- Gain a strong understanding of the life of the Prophet ﷺ.
- Develop a deep bond with the Prophet ﷺ and inclute the desire to emulate him.
- Extract lessons from the noble *sīrah* and apply them to modern contexts.
- Learn how to refute modern-day objections against the Prophet ﷺ.





### 3. STUDENT LIFE

DarusSalam is located in Lombard, Illinois in Chicago's Western Suburbs. Lombard is an integral hub in the city's thriving Muslim community *al-ḥamdu liLlāh*.

Student life in the area is comfortable. In the morning, one may observe students proceeding to campus dressed in Islāmic attire as Muslim parents see their children off to school. Later in the day, as the sun sets, the mosque's minarets may be seen glowing as they reflect the descending sun's final rays; they stand just over the tree line of the apartment complex where many of DarusSalam's students reside.

The neighbors, both Muslim and non-Muslim, are cordial. The institute is located in a quiet area. Seasonally there is enough greenery to enjoy a peaceful stroll after class, a beautiful activity for a warm afternoon. In stride, one may observe small flowing streams entwined with residences and lush foliage, the sound of their gentle trickle is accompanied by mesmeric chirps from the occasional bird zipping around nearby trees. The sound of bustling roads may be heard off in the distance; but as the movements of the world around one may seem to cease, the pursuit of knowledge occupies one's thoughts making the mundane functions of the world seem like fleeting irrelevancies. One's reposing moments are attached to reflecting on Allāh جَلَّ وَعَلَا and sacred knowledge. The precious value of time is realized in a place like this. *Al-ḥamdu liLlāh*, Islām is established in the community and the area is safe. Out-of-town students will find the area enjoyable.

DarusSalam offers an affordable catered meal service daily for both lunch and dinner. There are many *ḥalāl* restaurants and grocery stores nearby as well.

DarusSalam has outdoor recreation areas demarcated for both male and female students. Nearby parks and trails are found for those who like to explore the outdoors. There are gyms and fitness centers for those who want to work out and remain physically active. And Chicago has multiple attractions: landmarks, libraries, and museums. School sponsored trips occur as well. In the past, weekend camping trips have been organized. DarusSalam performs an annual *ʿumrah* during spring break.

There are various housing options near the institute. Apartments are found within walking distance and many students reside with each other making the cost of living more affordable. Prospective students may contact us for more information or assistance regarding housing in the area at 630.360.2373 or [admissions@masjidds.org](mailto:admissions@masjidds.org).





#### 4. TESTIMONIALS

“DarusSalam has a unique and special meaning to every student. Some may consider it home, while others may view it as a fountain of learning. For me, it is my safe haven. A place to protect what is most important, my relationship with Allāh.”

- Yusuf Sulaiman (Miami, FL), *Takmīl student*

“Reflecting upon my time in *The Tanwīr Intensive*, I am overcome by gratitude; it was one of the most memorable and rewarding years of my life. It was a year in which I learned the fundamentals of my religion, from attaining the ability to comprehend the beautiful message that lies in the Qur’ān to understanding who the Prophet really was and why he stands as the timeless model for mankind. It was a year in which I attained a stronger sense of identity and purpose as a Muslim living in 21st century America, and a year that has sharpened my vision on life and instilled a sense of tranquility within me. I learned that: “*Verily in the remembrance of Allāh do hearts find rest.*” (13:28)

*Alhamdulillah*, I am truly grateful to have had the opportunity to study under such knowledgeable and altruistic scholars, and it was a ten-month investment whose returns I know I will continue to benefit from for the rest of my life *inshaAllah*.”

- Meriem Djelmami-Hani (Milwaukee, WI), *Tanwīr graduate, The Wharton School of Business*

“Allāh has blessed us with many things in life. Not only has he blessed us in life, but he gave us life itself. This is the reason why I enrolled in the *The Takmīl Institute* at Darussalam. This course teaches one how to properly worship Allāh and how to pass it on to others. Through the sacrifice and hard work of my parents and teachers I feel as if I am getting closer to my goal: pleasing the one who gave me everything in the first place.”

- Zain Siddiqui (Chicago, IL), *Takmīl student*





“Looking back, I realize that when I enrolled into DarusSalam’s *Tanwīr Intensive* I did not fully understand what I was signing up for. I thought I would gain a better understanding of Arabic, be exposed to various Islāmic sciences and a few other noteworthy points mentioned on the brochure. But a brochure cannot convey what I gained from the program.

I learned my limits and I learned how to surpass them time and time again. I learned the meaning of the word ‘intensive.’ What I gained from my ten months at DS cannot be put to paper. When I enrolled I was, in reality, drawing a bucket from a well. After ten beautiful months of hard work and fond memories, I finally saw the fruits of my labor.

Imagine my surprise when, while initially expecting water, I reeled up the bucket to find it overflowing with jewels and gems, some the likes of which I could never have imagined. At the top was a gem which contained the value of time, the value of sixty seconds. By its side was another gem containing bonds of brotherhood and mentorship strong enough to last for generations. There was a sapphire as blue as the clear ocean, within it was the value of *ṣalāh*. I dug deeper into the bucket and came across a diamond, its light like the sun, I recognized it as firmness in faith. Still deeper, I came across a green emerald, its light like nothing I had ever seen before, it was none other than the Sunnah of Allāh’s Messenger ﷺ.

Amongst these treasures and more, I obtained what I had embarked on this journey for, a block of pure gold, understanding the Qur’ān and Ḥadīth through the Arabic language. A brochure cannot convey the beauties and sweetness I experienced because of this program. I learned the meaning of the lifestyle ‘Islām.’ But what I gained from DS cannot be put to paper, because truthfully, I am still busy admiring the treasures myself.”

- Faraz Syed (New York, NY), *Tanwīr graduate, NYIT 7-Year B.S./D.O. Medical Program*



## 5. TUITION & FEES

DarusSalam Academy offers rolling admissions, so prospective students may apply throughout the year. Because seats are limited, those who apply earlier in the cycle are more likely to be admitted. Out-of-state applicants who will require living arrangements should apply as early as possible to ensure arrangements can be made.

The current tuition rate for program may be found at [MasjidDS.org/academy](http://MasjidDS.org/academy). Tuition may be paid in monthly installments. For financial aid options, please contact the Admissions Office.

The estimated monthly cost for shared housing in the nearby apartment complex is \$300 per person. The cost for the meal plan provided by DarusSalam's vendor is \$270 per month and is subject to change. Cost for textbooks is separate and not covered by financial assistance.

We strive to make education available to every student. Not every individual is financially able to cover the costs of tuition, meals, and housing. Studies are full-time, which means students forgo pursuing livelihood while studying. We try our best to serve everyone, and there are students in our courses who would very much appreciate financial assistance by way of scholarships and grants. Please consider financially contributing to the costs of their education.

To contribute visit us at [masjidDS.org/give](http://masjidDS.org/give).





## 6. PROGRAM DATES

The academic year for the *Tambīd Summer Arabic*, *Tanwīr Intensive*, *Takmīl Institute*, and *Tadrīs Integrated High School* typically runs from July to the following May. Enrollment for the *Tabfīz Academy for Qur'an Memorization* is year-round.

Exact dates may be found at [MasjidDS.org/seminary](http://MasjidDS.org/seminary).

## 7. HOW TO APPLY

### Visit Us

Find out for yourself what it is like to study at DarusSalam.

### Open Houses

Everyone is welcome to attend our Open Houses. For prospective students, their families, and the community at large, these days provide an opportunity for one to:

- Attend talks and experience DarusSalam's learning environment.
- Interact with current students and the faculty.
- Explore the institute, see its facilities, and discover the area.

Details regarding our Open House events may be found on our website.

### Guided Tours

By appointment, we offer guided tours of the institute for anyone who cannot attend the Open Houses. To schedule a guided tour, please send an email to [admissions@masjidds.org](mailto:admissions@masjidds.org).

### How to Apply

To apply online, visit [MasjidDS.org](http://MasjidDS.org). Please feel free to contact the Admissions Office at 630.360.2373 or [admissions@masjidds.org](mailto:admissions@masjidds.org).





Masjid DarusSalam

[www.MasjidDS.org](http://www.MasjidDS.org)

مَنْ سَلَكَ طَرِيقًا يَلْتَمِسُ فِيهِ عِلْمًا  
سَهَّلَ اللَّهُ لَهُ طَرِيقًا إِلَى الْجَنَّةِ. رَوَاهُ أَحْمَدُ

*“Whoever treads a path seeking knowledge,  
Allāh facilitates his path to Paradise.” (Musnad Aḥmad #8316)*

DarusSalam will edify generations of enlightened Muslims, bearers of illuminated hearts who will constructively contribute to a complex modern world without diverging from the path laid down by the Prophet Muḥammad ﷺ. A path that our pious predecessors traversed. Islām delivered humanity from the depths of darkness into the light of divine guidance. The Prophet Muḥammad ﷺ delivered the message and those who followed in his footsteps continued to convey it. Generation after generation, the Prophet’s heirs transmitted the tradition. This legacy is profound; Islāmic scholarship is a flourishing tradition that fortified civilization. Knowledge is the cornerstone of civilization, and the preservation of it through education and intellectual engagement is a must. Future generations of Muslims will need to disseminate and advance the legacy. Therefore, higher learning that imparts traditional scholarship in a way that is current is imperative.



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