

SULTAN SHARIF ALI ISLAMIC UNIVERSITY

**2015/2016
PROSPECTUS**



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Rector's Message

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ
السَّلَامُ عَلَيْكُمْ وَرَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ وَبَرَكَاتُهُ

As a modern Islamic university, Sultan Sharif Ali Islamic University (UNISSA), has a distinctive mission and approach in delivering higher education in a vibrant Islamic community. Our promise of integrating faith, good manners (Sulouk Hasan), reason and integrity is not just rhetoric; it's something you will know and feel.

This Prospectus provides you with comprehensive information regarding UNISSA facilities, programs of study, admission requirements and procedures, academic and financial regulations, student services, and campus life.

With nearly a decade of experience in the field, UNISSA continuously strives to provide the best education for its students, in preparation for their active participation in this ever-changing world. As such, here in UNISSA, education is not simply to secure a career and a future. The education you experience in UNISSA is one that is grounded on Islam, one that will strengthen your faith as you broaden your knowledge. It will prepare you to be a model citizen and a contributing member of society. Here you will also interact with fellow scholars who share your keenness for knowledge and for making a difference in our society. Indeed, we are committed to scholarship and academic excellence, and devoted to promote education that blends religious values, intellectual substance and social action.

Accordingly, UNISSA has developed a unique curriculum for a holistic education that integrates Islamic values in its conventional programs. We believe that this will prepare the students to become educated authorities in their fields and future leaders who will make a difference in our modern world. All UNISSA programs are accredited by the Ministry of Education of Brunei Darussalam and recognized by ISESCO and other international educational organization.

Sincerely, UNISSA is keen to have you on board for your educational journey. We are committed to foster your spiritual growth and to support your pursuit of academic excellence.

Welcome, and we hope that you make UNISSA your second home.

﴿وَقُلِ اعْمَلُوا فَسَيَرَى اللَّهُ عَمَلَكُمْ وَرَسُولُهُ وَالْمُؤْمِنُونَ وَسَتُرَدُّونَ إِلَىٰ عَالِمِ الْغَيْبِ وَالشَّهَادَةِ فَيُنَبِّئُكُم بِمَا كُنتُمْ تَعْمَلُونَ﴾ التوبة: 105.

“And say, Do [as you will], for Allah will see your deeds, and [so, will] His Messenger and the believers. And you will be returned to the Knower of the unseen and the witnessed, and He will inform you of what you used to do.”

DR HAJI NORARFAN BIN HAJI ZAINAL

Rector

Sultan Sharif Ali Islamic University
Brunei Darussalam

UMSSA's Philosophy

Motto

﴿وَاتَّقُوا اللَّهَ وَيُعَلِّمُكُمُ اللَّهُ﴾

“Observe your duty to Allah, and it is Allah that teaches you”
(Surah al-Baqarah: 282)

Vision

To be a progressive and dynamic international Islamic university based on al-Qur'an and al-Sunnah

Mission

To be an international university which offers various programmes of study, research and human development using holistic methods and up-to-date technology in accordance with global development, in order to produce pious, high spirited and valuable graduates as well as to contribute to the development of the community and the country

Aims

Sultan Sharif Ali Islamic University was founded as a centre of scholarly excellence to sustain and support the country in upholding Islam, as stated in the Constitution of Brunei Darussalam, and to protect the creed of Ahlu al-Sunnah wa al-Jama'ah and Shafi'i Mazhab aiming to strengthen the religious commitment and solidarity of the ummah

Objectives

- ◆ Delivering well-designed tertiary programmes at undergraduate and postgraduate level founded in Islam, as part of a comprehensive educational system to produce 'ulama (Muslim scholars) and other human resources who are high-spirited, well-balanced, professional, knowledgeable, respectful and pious;
- ◆ Enhancing teaching-learning processes and skills and the effectiveness thereof;
- ◆ The application of modern technology in the delivery of educational programmes, research and publications;
- ◆ Promoting ongoing study and research as well as delivering consultation and experts services to the external environment within the context of Islam;
- ◆ Giving meaningful input to the country's philosophy 'Malay Islamic Monarchy', in the context of Islam as the main pillar of this philosophy;
- ◆ Assisting in the development of a knowledgeable, respectful and pious nation, which is founded on the teachings of Ahlu al-Sunnah wa al-Jama'ah and Shafi'i Mazhab;
- ◆ Enriching Islamic knowledge, heritage and references, as well as spreading this knowledge to benefit the community; and
- ◆ Establishing the importance and significance of Sultan Sharif Ali Islamic University by realising its potential as a centre of Islamic da'wah in Brunei Darussalam as well as in the Asia Pacific region and the world at large.

The Establishment of UMSSA

In a series of Titahs (royal addresses) His Majesty Paduka Seri Baginda Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddin, the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam expressed his desire, either directly or indirectly, that an Islamic university be established in Brunei Darussalam:

- ◆ 3 Sya'ban 1425H/18 September 2004, 16th Convocation of University of Brunei Darussalam (UBD):
 - ↳ His Majesty suggests that, in addition to UBD, which has reached its 20th anniversary of its establishment, now is the right time to establish another university in the country.

- ◆ 14 Muharram 1426H/23 February 2005, Brunei Darussalam's 21st National Day:
 - ↳ His Majesty stresses that the importance of strengthening the religious education system at elementary level; while at higher level religious education should produce *'ulama* (scholars) and intellectuals.

- ◆ 2 Sya'ban 1426H/6 September 2005, 17th Convocation of University of Brunei Darussalam (UBD):
 - ↳ His Majesty states that the second university he proposed previously, must be an Islamic university, since the country has a strong base for this, and which should fulfill the nation's needs.

- ◆ 11 Sya'ban 1427H/4 September 2006, 18th Convocation of University of Brunei Darussalam (UBD):
 - ↳ His Majesty emphasizes that the second university will be a pure Islamic higher educational institution to be our landmark in the world and in the hereafter.

On 11 Zulhijjah 1427H / 1 January 2007M UNISSA was established by the consent and announcement made by His Majesty Kebawah Duli Yang Maha Mulia Paduka Seri Baginda Sultan Haji Hassanah Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddin, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Negara Brunei Darussalam.

UNISSA was named after the third Sultan of Brunei, Sultan Sharif Ali who reigned from 1425M-1432M. Sultan Sharif Ali was a very pious ruler and was therefore nicknamed "Sultan Berkat" (Blessed Sultan). Sultan Sharif Ali was the direct-descendant of the Prophet Sallahu 'Alaihi Wasallam through his grandchild Sayyidina Hassan Radiallahu 'anhu. Sultan Sharif Ali was the first ruler to build a mosque and fortified the defense of Brunei by ordering his people to build a stone fortress. Sultan Sharif Ali governed Brunei according to Islamic principles and his reign was popular and highly respected.

UNISSA in General

QUALITY EDUCATION

UNISSA offers well-designed tertiary programmes at undergraduate level founded in Islam, as part of a comprehensive educational system to produce *'ulama*, Muslim scholars and other human resources who are high-spirited, well-balanced, professional, knowledgeable, respectful and pious.

In addition to its core programmes, UNISSA offers additional courses which aim to provide students with a competitive edge and useful competencies so that they will thrive in any environment whilst time portraying the virtues of a devout Muslim. These courses are:

- ↪ Al-Qur'an;
- ↪ Malay Islamic Monarchy;
- ↪ Islamic Virtues;
- ↪ Arabic Language;
- ↪ Co-Curriculum;
- ↪ ICT;
- ↪ Entrepreneurship; and
- ↪ Industrial Training

In order to strengthen student's proficiency in both Arabic and English languages, UNISSA organizes three months of intensive courses for students in the Arabic medium in these languages prior to them joining UNISSA's programmes.



STUDY ABROAD PROGRAMME (SAP)



Students who have obtained CGPA of B+ and above throughout the 4 semesters are given an opportunity to study abroad for a year (2 semesters) in at one of UNISSA's partner universities in the Middle East, United Kingdom and Malaysia.

This programme aims to give students a great opportunity to experience studying abroad within different education systems, ways of life and cultures. Apart from that, it also aims to nurture Muslims into becoming global citizens while sustaining the values of a good Muslim.

ACADEMIC EXERCISE

An Academic Exercise course is offered in the final year. It is an opportunity for undergraduate students to conduct research under the supervision of faculty members in their respective fields of study. Apart from engaging students in the processes of intellectual inquiry, problem solving and creative thinking, the course aims to enhance intellectual exchange and collaboration between undergraduates, faculty and the organization where they do their research.



INDUSTRIAL TRAINING

Industrial Training in the third year provides the students with work experience of the day-to-day operations at particular organizations so that they can understand practical work processes and gain valuable insights into the aspirations, needs, and views of the organization that they are attached to. The duration of the attachment is seven weeks and takes place during the third semester for all programmes except for Bachelor of Science in Islamic Finance and Bachelor of Business Management, the duration of the attachment is eighteen (18) weeks.

CO-CURRICULUM

Although co-curriculum is a non-academic course, yet it is a formal part of education at UNISSA with timetabled, compulsory sessions for all students. These activities are graded and are included in the students' overall CGPA. These are four areas in the co-curriculum: spiritual activities, clubs (including the army cadets), sport activities and community service.

The co-curriculum activities are meant to give students practical preparation for the future. As for the co-curriculum activities provide opportunities for students to work in teams, to practice leadership, and to take initiatives, UNISSA students enjoy a holistic education. In addition, these experiences will make students more attractive to potential employers.



STAFF AND UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS POPULATION

Currently, there are seventy-six (76) academic staff both local and expatriates working in UNISSA. Thirty-four (34) of the academic staff are expatriates originating from ASEAN countries, Asia, Middle East, Europe and Africa.

The student population in UNISSA is seven hundred and forty-seven (747) and 6.5% of them are international students who hail from the ASEAN region, Asia, Middle East and Africa.

The small ratio between staff and student makes UNISSA very attractive. The international student and staff population adds diversity to the UNISSA campus.

SERVICES AND FACILITIES

At present UNISSA is located on a temporary campus, which, nevertheless, provides all the amenities a university needs. These include a library, a gymnasium, a *surau* (small mosque), a football field, computer laboratories and student accommodations.

At present the university library has a collection of more than 80,000 books as well as some multi-media kits. Three-quarter of these items are in Arabic.



UNISSA provides male and female accommodations for students. This is self-catering accommodation with 5 rooms per compartment with a shared mini lounge, mini kitchen, toilet and shower. A nominal rent of BND45 is charged per month.



The UNISSA campus is situated in the heart of the Gadong area. It is within walking distance from banks, supermarkets, shops, the night market and the Mall which is one of the main shopping centres in Brunei.

Gadong is home to many good restaurants such as Japanese, Chinese, Indian and Italian restaurants and it is about 5 minutes driving to the Jame' 'Asr Hassaniil Bolkhiah mosque which is the largest mosque in Brunei and an excellent example of Islamic architecture.

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MoU) WITH OTHER UNIVERSITIES



UNISSA had signed MoU with other universities for cooperation in research, student and staff exchange and other cooperation that benefit both parties. The universities are:

- ✧ University of Brunei Darussalam, Brunei Darussalam (UBD);
- ✧ The Markfield Institute of Higher Education, United Kingdom (MIHE);
- ✧ International Islamic University of Malaysia (IIUM);
- ✧ Al-Azhar University, Egypt;
- ✧ Cairo University, Egypt;
- ✧ University of Technology, Malaysia (UTM);
- ✧ Islamic Science University of Malaysia (USIM);
- ✧ Darussalam Institute of Islamic Studies, Gontor, Indonesia (ISID);
- ✧ University of Yarmouk, Jordan;
- ✧ Al-Maktoum College of Higher Education, United Kingdom;
- ✧ Sultan Idris Education University, Malaysia (UPSI);
- ✧ University of Malaya, Malaysia (UM);
- ✧ Institute Agama Islam Negeri (IAIN) Sultan Amai Gorontalo, Indonesia;
- ✧ Syarif Hidayatullah State Islamic University, Jakarta, Indonesia;
- ✧ Gadjah Mada University (UGM), Indonesia;
- ✧ University of Science (USM), Malaysia;
- ✧ Sultan Zainal Abidin University (UniSZA), Malaysia;
- ✧ University Putra Malaysia (UPM), Malaysia;
- ✧ MARA University of Technology (UiTM), Malaysia;
- ✧ Prince of Songkla University (PSU), Thailand;
- ✧ Fatoni University, Thailand;
- ✧ University of Jordan (UJ), Jordan;
- ✧ World Islamic Sciences and Education University, Jordan;
- ✧ Al al-Bayt University, Jordan;
- ✧ University of Selangor, Malaysia;
- ✧ Daffodil International University, Bangladesh;
- ✧ Islamic Research and Training Institute (IRTI), Jeddah;
- ✧ Universiti Islam Malaysia (UIM);
- ✧ Universiti Syarif Kasim, Riau (UIN SUSKA RIAU), Indonesia;
- ✧ Kolej Universiti Islam Sultan Azlan Shah (KUIS), Malaysia;
- ✧ Kolej Universiti Islam Perlis (KUIPs), Malaysia;

↳ Institut Agama Islam Negeri (IAIN)
Sultan Maulana Hassanuddin
BANTEN, Indonesia;

↳ Institut Agama Islam (IAIN)
PADANG Sidimpuan, Sumatra
Indonesia;

↳ Sekolah Tinggi Agama Islam Negeri
(STAIN) KUDUS Central Java,
Indonesia.

Administration

EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

Rector

Dr Haji Norarfan bin Haji Zainal

Deputy Rector

Dr Haji Mohammed Hussain bin Pehin Penyurat Haji Ahmad

Assistant Rector

Dr Arman bin Haji Asmad

Registrar

Hajah Surianah binti Haji Alias (Acting)

Bursar

Haji Mohammad Samari bin Haji Mohammad Noh (Acting)

PRINCIPAL OFFICERS

Dean of Faculty of Usuluddin

Dr Hajah Sarinah binti Haji Yahya

Dean of Faculty of Shariah and Law

Dr Hajah Mas Nooraini binti Haji Mohiddin

Dean of Faculty of Arabic Language and Islamic Civilisation

Dr Siti Sara binti Haji Ahmad

Dean of Faculty of Business and Management Sciences

Dr Abdul Nasir bin Haji Abdul Rani

Director of Centre for the Promotion of Knowledge and Languages

Dr Salah Sebouai

Director of Centre for Postgraduate Studies

Dr Hajah Rasinah binti Haji Ahim

Director of Mazhab Shafi'i Research Centre

Dr Azme bin Haji Matali

Director of Centre for Research and Publication

Dr Hajah Rose binti Abdullah

Director of Centre for Public and International Relations

Dr Lilly Suzana binti Haji Shamsu

Director of Technology and Multimedia Centre

Dr Fadzliwati binti Mohiddin

Dean of Students

Ustaz Supri bin Haji Sudin

Faculties and Centres

Sultan Sharif Ali Islamic University comprises of four (4) faculties and six (6) centres, they are:

- ↳ Faculty of Usuluddin
- ↳ Faculty of Shariah and Law
- ↳ Faculty of Arabic Language and Islamic Civilisation
- ↳ Faculty of Business and Management Sciences
- ↳ Centre for Promotion of Knowledge and Language
- ↳ Centre for Postgraduate Studies
- ↳ Mazhab Shafi'i Research Centre
- ↳ Centre for Research and Publication
- ↳ Centre for Public and International Relations
- ↳ Technology and Multimedia Centre



Faculty of Usuluddin

The Faculty of Usuluddin aims to produce *'ulama* (scholars) who promote righteous values gained from knowledge and have expertise in the area of Tafsir, Hadith, Aqidah and Da'wah.

The establishment of the Faculty prior to fulfil these following objectives:

- ◆ Protection of Islamic faith and its sources and to defend it against deviational trends and inclinations;
- ◆ Preserving Islamic heritage and working for its propagation in and outside Brunei;
- ◆ Producing open-minded intelligent and able specialists in disciplines of Usuluddin combining traditional and modern knowledge equipped with ICT who can defend Islamic values and fight against destructive ideas with proofs and arguments and opposing all alien views;
- ◆ Striving for increasing the number of *'ulama* (scholars) combining knowledge with action and faith with practice in Brunei society in particular and other Islamic societies in general; and
- ◆ Producing Muslim preachers having understanding of al-Qur'an and al-Sunnah of the Prophet and are knowledgeable in contemporary sciences and varying resources.

Programmes offered by the Faculty are as follows:

Bachelor's Degree:

- ✦ Bachelor of Usuluddin (Tafsir and Hadith)
- ✦ Bachelor of Usuluddin (Aqidah and Da'wah)

Master's Degree:

- ✦ Master of Usuluddin (Coursework and Dissertation)
- ✦ Master of Usuluddin (Research)

Doctoral Degree:

- ✦ Doctor of Philosophy in Usuluddin (Research)

BACHELOR OF USULUDDIN (TAFSIR AND HADITH) AND BACHELOR OF USULUDDIN (AQIDAH AND DA'WAH)

For the four year Bachelor of Usuluddin studies, the programmes and courses are designed to produce competent graduates who are well versed in the disciplines of Tafsir, Hadith, Aqidah and Da'wah.

The Aqidah and Da'wah programme includes the following courses; Introduction to Da'wah (*al-Madkhal ila al-Da'wah*), The Islamic Sects (*al-Firaq al-Islamiyyah*), The Islamic World Today (*Hadir al-'Alam al-Islami*), Islamic Philosophy (*al-Falsafah al-Islamiyyah*), Contemporary Ideological Trends (*Tayyarat Fikriyyah Mu'asirah*), and Oratory (*Fann al-Khatabah*).

The Tafsir and Hadith programme includes the following courses; Science of al-Hadith (*Ulum al-Hadith*), Methodology of Exegetes (*Manahij al-Mufassirin*), Science of Impugment and Validation (*'Ilm al-Jarh wa al-Ta'dil*), Principles of Takhrij and its Rules (*Usul al-Takhrij wa Qawa'iduhu*), Methodology of Narrators of Hadith (*Manahij al-Muhaddithin*), and Thematic Exegesis (*al-Tafsir al-Maudu'i*).

In addition to the above mentioned courses, at the end of the third year, students from both programmes are required to participate in work attachment arranged by UNISSA. During their final year they will conduct a research project (*bahth al-takharruj*) to be written in Arabic in their selected area of study.

MASTER OF USULUDDIN (COURSEWORK AND DISSERTATION)

This two year Master's programme of study aims to enhance and strengthen students' knowledge in Islamic studies particularly in the major area of Usuluddin, namely the Qur'an, the sunnah, Islamic da'wah, and comparative religions. A total of six courses are offered. These include three compulsory courses: Studies in Books of Religion (*Dirasaat fi Kutub al-Adyan*), Miraculous Knowledge in the Qur'an (*al-I'jaz al-'Ilmy fi al-Qur'an al-Karim*), and Studies in the Hadith Books (*Dirasaat fi Kutub al-Sunnah*). These are offered in the first year of the programme. Students are compelled to pass all the compulsory courses before they are allowed to continue with their studies in the second year.

Upon completion of the coursework, they are required to write a dissertation (in Arabic) on an approved topic under the supervision of a member of the Faculty's academic staff. The master's degree will only be conferred after the student has successfully fulfilled all the requirements as prescribed in the Postgraduate Regulations of UNISSA.

MASTER OF USULUDDIN (RESEARCH)

The Faculty also offers a master's degree in Usuluddin by research. This programme is only offered to applicants who are exceptionally qualified to undertake research in Arabic, English and Malay language. Applicants are required to submit their research proposal to be assessed by the Postgraduate Studies Committee.

In line with the University's aim to produce qualified and competitive Muslim scholars, the Faculty welcomes qualified applicants to apply to this programme in any selected area of studies. Applicants are expected to have a good background in research methodology and to be fluent in the language selected for their research. As part of the evaluation process, candidates may be required to sit and pass a special examination as prescribed by Postgraduate Regulations as well as to engage with particular units of study or prescribed readings, at the Faculty's discretion.

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY IN USULUDDIN (RESEARCH)

The Faculty offers a doctoral programme of studies in the area of Usuluddin. This programme aims to encourage qualified candidates in the field of Usuluddin to conduct research projects in their area of interest. Applicants are required to submit their research proposal to be assessed by the Faculty before any final decision can be made by the Postgraduate Studies Committee.

Applicants are expected to have a good background in research methodology and to be fluent in the language selected for their research. As part of the evaluation process, they may be required to sit and pass a special examination together with oral examination to be conducted by the Faculty and fulfil necessary requirements as prescribed by Postgraduate Regulations. Successful applicants will be supervised by an academic staff member of the Faculty.

STAFF DIRECTORY AND SPECIALIZATION

DEAN

Dr Hajah Sarinah binti Haji Yahya (Lecturer)

Ph.D (*Qur'anic Studies/Tafsir*) International Islamic University Malaysia, Malaysia; M.A (*Tafsir*) University of Jordan, Jordan; B.A (*Usuluddin - Tafsir*) al-Azhar University, Egypt.
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DEPUTY DEAN

Dr Gumaa Ahmed Himmad Adam (Lecturer)

Ph.D (*Al-Qur'an and Al-Qira'at*); M.A (*Al-Qur'an and Al-Qira'at*); B.A (*Al-Qur'an and Al-Qira'at*) University of the Holy Qur'an & Islamic Sciences, Sudan.

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HEAD OF POSTGRADUATE STUDIES PROGRAMME

Dr Abdul Muthalif Afuwardeen (Lecturer)

Ph.D (*Comparative Religions*); M.A (*Al-Tasawwuf*); B.A (*Creed and Philosophy*) al-Azhar University, Egypt.

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HEAD OF UNDERGRADUTE PROGRAMME

Dr Sayyid Abdul Hamid al-Mahdaly (Lecturer)

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ASSISTANT REGISTRAR

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TAFSIR AND HADITH

Dr Haji Mohammed Hussain bin Pehin Penyurat Haji Ahmad (Deputy Rector)

Ph.D (*Arabic and Islamic Studies*) The University of Sydney, Australia; M.A (*Hadith*) University of Jordan, Jordan; B.A (*Hadith*) Islamic University of Madinah, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

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Dr Arman bin Haji Asmad (Assistant Rector)

Ph.D (*Al-Quran and Al-Sunnah Studies*) National University of Malaysia, Malaysia; M.A (*Hadith*) University of Jordan, Jordan; B.A (*Usuluddin – Hadith*) Al-Azhar University, Cairo, Egypt.

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Dr Umar Naggat Aly Abdelhafiz (Professor)

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Dr Ahmed Cherchel (Associate Professor)

Ph.D (*Tafsir and Al-Qira'at*); M.A (*Tafsir and Al-Qira'at*); B.A (*Tafsir and Al-Qira'at*) Islamic University of Madina, Saudi Arabia.

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Dr Jilani Ben Touhami Meftah (Associate Professor)

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Dr Lilly Suzana binti Haji Shamsu (Lecturer)

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Yusfariza binti Haji Yusop (Lecturer)

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Artini binti Haji Timbang (Lecturer)

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Yahia Mohamed Mohamed Sous (Assistant Lecturer)

M.A (*Usuluddin*); B.A (*Usuluddin*); Diploma (*Al-Qur'an and Al-Qira'at*); Diploma (*al-Hadith*) al-Azhar University, Egypt.

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Ahmad Baha bin Mokhtar (Assistant Lecturer)

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