



Tafsīr Specialization Program

This program has been designed to create the next generation of authors and researchers of traditional Qur'anic exegesis. Students will be provided the skillset to navigate through traditional tafsirs and provide contemporary explanations in light of it. They will be taught writing and publishing skills thus making their work quickly accessible to select target audiences in an efficient manner. Ideally, this program will create a multitude of scholars that will serve as a healthy alternative for the *ummah* to the publications on Qur'anic interpretation prepared by Orientalists.

The program has been divided into three modules:

Module 1: Orientation and Revision

This module will cover the following subjects:

1. *Tafsīr* Orientation: A study of *Sūrat Yāsīn* and *Sūrat al-Ṣāffāt* from the renowned work *Jalālayn* to acquaint students with the basic style of *tafsīr* followed by a study of two surahs from *Ṣafwat al-Tafāsīr* by Sh. Ṣābūnī رحمته; (1) *Sūrat al-Ra'd* for 'aqidah related matters and, (2) *Sūrat Hūd* for prophetic stories in which a comparative analysis is to be carried out with other surahs mentioning the same stories, and the Bible.
2. *Fiqh* of *Tafsīr*: A study of the verses on judicial regulations (*Āyāt al-Aḥkām*) from *Sūrat al-Baqarah* using Sh. Ṣābūnī's *Tafsīr Āyāt al-Aḥkām*.
3. Introduction to Classical *Tafāsīr*: A study of the styles of *tafsīr* employed by the likes of Ibn Kathīr, Qurṭubī, Fakhr al-Rāzī, Ālūsī, Ibn Sa'd etc. in their respective works.
4. Principles of *Tafsīr*: The history, classifications, terminologies and rules of *tafsīr* using Sh. Zurqānī's *Manāhil al-'Irfān*.
5. Principles of *Fiqh*: Rules pertaining to deducing rulings from the Qur'ān using *Uṣūl al-Fiqh* by Sh. Abū Zahrah
6. Advanced Arabic Grammar: A revision of the intermediate rules of Arabic grammar along with the introduction of advanced ones to assist in deciphering the Qur'anic text.
Book: *Ta'jīl al-Nadā* by Sh. Fawzān.

7. Arabic Poetry: A study of select classic Arabic poems to advance one's comprehension of the usage of the language using *Nafḥat al-ʿArab* by Sh. Iʿzāz ʿAlī.
8. Arabic Rhetoric: A review and advanced study of Arabic *Balāghah* to help develop the skills required to understand the nuances of the Qurʾan's language.
Book: *Balāghat al-Wāḍiḥah*.

Duration: 24 months

Class days and timings: Every Tuesday and Thursday from 6:45 pm to 9:30 pm.

Venue: Online

Module 2: Research

This module will cover:

1. Compilation and analysis: Students will be required to collect the explanations rendered on select surahs from chosen tafsirs. They will then:
 - Point out the differences in the explanations
 - Provide a conclusion on which explanation is better suited for the current climate and why
 - Provide the source and authenticity level of the hadiths and athars mentioned in the explanations

Surahs:

- *Sūrat al-Ḍuḥā*
- *Sūrat al-Taḥrīm*

Tafsirs to be used:

- *Tafsīr al-Qurṭubī*
- *Tafsīr ibn Kathīr*
- *Tafsīr Fakhr al-Rāzī*

2. Fiqh Analysis: Students will research select regulations from the chosen surahs and present the viewpoints of each *madhhab* on them. The viewpoints will be extracted from the authentic and relied upon texts of each *madhhab*, namely *Badāʾiʿ al-Ṣanāʾiʿ* for the Ḥanafī *Madhhab*, *Majmūʿ* for the Shāfiʿī *Madhhab*, *Mukhtaṣar al-Khalīl* for the Mālikī *Madhhab*, and *Iqnāʿ* for the Ḥanbalī *Madhhab*.

Surahs:

- *Sūrat al-Ṭalāq*
- *Sūrat al-Mā'idah*

Duration: 4 months

Module 3: Publication

Students will be taught the method of preparing a book which entails manuscript preparation, editing, typesetting and printing. Each student will then be assigned a specific surah in which they will have to write:

- Introduction and synopsis of the Surah
- Their own translation of the Arabic verses. (Other authors' translations will not be permitted)
- Explanation of each verse using classical tafsir literature supplemented by contemporary traditional scholarly viewpoints on how the verse is to be understood and applied
- Fiqh discussions pertaining to the relevant verses
- Lessons extracted from the verses
- Additional optional angles on how the verse may be viewed and analysed

Material will have to be prepared in manner that it is publishable. Upon successful completion and approval of the project, students will be conferred a certificate of "Scholar of Qur'anic Exegesis" by the Institute.