



An Introduction to **Jami'at al-Zahra**

an Islamic
University
for women

In the Name of Allah,
the Most Beneficent,
the Most Merciful



جامعه الزهراء
حوزه فقه و اصول

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Today, many students of different ages are studying Islamic sciences in various sections of Jami'at al-Zahra. More than 50,000 students from 68 countries have studied in this center since its establishment. The main focus of this institute is providing the highest level of learning Islamic sciences for women and helping them become knowledgeable individuals and educators in the society. Jami'at al-Zahra runs under supervision of a board of trustee comprised of noble scholars from Hawzah and some women scholars.



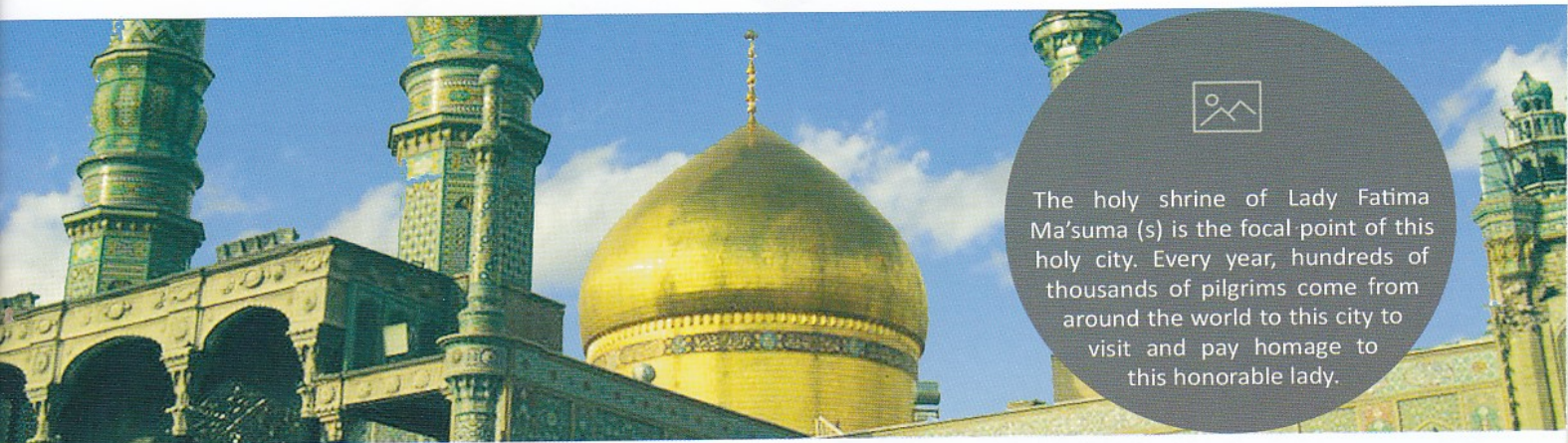
This institute is built as a modern complex in a 21 hectares land with a substructure area of 170,000 square meters to provide a purpose-built campus. It is situated in one of the best areas of the holy city of Qom near the holy shrine of Lady Fatima Ma'suma (s) and Qom's city center.



Qom is the second holy city in Iran after Mashhad. This city is located in central Iran, 125 km to the south of Tehran, the capital of Iran. Qom is a great place for studying and living.

Shaista, California, US / BA (Hons) in Islamic Studies

"Despite having visited Iran for Ziyarat, it was difficult to imagine what life here would be like until we settled down as full-time students in Qum. Immediately upon arriving I was struck by the standard of living, which is much higher than I had imagined life in a '3rd world' country to be like. The streets were clean and paved, with plenty of taxis and buses making it easy for both men and women to move about. Clean and spacious accommodations were relatively easy to find, and stores are stocked full with everything from cooking essentials to junk food to household appliances. Living off-campus, we were free to explore Qum as we pleased, and as we settled down, we began to realize what it meant to live in a spiritual environment, something we were experiencing for the first time in our lives. It was an environment that allowed us to experience the feeling of visiting the Holy Shrine of Lady Fatimah Masumah, the physical and spiritual center of Qum, of attending Salat al-Jumu'ah, of walking the streets on special occasions when the entire county is commemorating an occasion in the life of the A'imma, of hearing our teachers talk passionately about Islam and Islamic revolution in Iran, and of meeting scholars who truly believe and pray that this is the government Imam Zaman will take over upon his reappearance."



The holy shrine of Lady Fatima Ma'suma (s) is the focal point of this holy city. Every year, hundreds of thousands of pilgrims come from around the world to this city to visit and pay homage to this honorable lady.

"Soon Kufa will become empty of the faithful, and knowledge will go out of Kufa as a snake goes out of its lair. Then the knowledge will appear in a land called Qum. It will become the centre of knowledge and merits. No-one, not even the women at home, will be unaware of the religion of God. This will be close to the time of the reappearance of our Qa'im (Imam Mahdi)."

Imam Jafar al-sadiq, Bihar al-Anwar, vol 60, p 213

"A Lady from my children, by the name of Fatimah will be buried in Qum. Whoever visits her [shrine], will certainly be admitted to Heaven."

Imam Jafar al-sadiq, Bihar al-Anwar, vol 48, p317

Abida, Manchester, UK / BA (Hons) in Islamic Studies

"Being in Qum and studying Islam here is different from studying it anywhere else. Qum gives you a sense of peace, of being close and connected to the Ahlul-Bayt. Having Lady Masumah here is a gift from Allah. Being away from home, family and friends can be quite difficult. However I need help, or have a problem, or simply need inspiration, a visit to the Shrine answers all my problems. It is a source of motivation and inspiration."





There are many Islamic seminaries and scientific and research institutes which constitute the whole body of the Islamic seminary of Qom, hosting students from 108 countries of the world.



Educational Courses

Courses offered by Jami'at al-Zahra are in modular format. Every module has a credit rating. One credit represents 16 hours of study. Courses offered in the international department are as following:

Award	Credits required	Approximate duration of study
Persian Learning Program	34	5 – 8 months
BA in Islamic Studies	190	9 Semesters
MA in Islamic Studies	65	5 – 6 semesters



Fa

Persian Learning Program

The majority of classes at Jami'at al-Zahra are taught in Persian and a great number of books and scientific sources are in Persian. Therefore, the knowledge of Persian language is essential for studying at Jami'at al-Zahra. Jami'at al-Zahra's Persian learning program is designed to give students with no prior Persian knowledge, a basic mastery of the language within a period of approximately six months. By successfully passing the six month program, students are enabled to fully participate in the courses held in Persian. Students with some prior knowledge of Persian may be able to complete the course in a shorter period.

Zahra, Texas, USA / Farsi Programme

"Spending six months just to learn Farsi before I could start my Islamic Studies sounded really daunting to begin with. I was pleasantly surprised however. It's amazing to learn a new language and being able to pick it up so quickly. Also, the classes are not just about learning Farsi. Our teacher gives us lessons on Akhlaq, Islamic History, etc. within our Farsi class and so the learning process becomes a spiritual journey in itself and opens the door to whole new boundless sources of knowledge!"



BA

BA (honors)

The BA (Honors) program provides students with a broad and in-depth knowledge of Islamic sciences such as Qur'anic sciences, Islamic jurisprudence, Islamic law, Islamic beliefs, political system and current issues in the Muslim world.

Students must have acquired a complete mastery of Persian language in order to undertake this course.

The total number of credits in this course including the modules offered in the primary Islamic studies program is 190 credits.

Shaheen, London, UK / BA (Hons) in Islamic Studies

“Moving to Iran to study has been one of the hardest and yet, most satisfying, decisions of our lives. Leaving a stable job, a home, family and friends and a country in which you understand the language (!), was extremely daunting, and there were many times when my husband and I asked ourselves whether we were doing the right thing. However, once we moved to Qum and began experiencing the peace and spirituality of this Holy city, and of being in an environment where one is constantly stimulated to think and learn and act upon that, all of those question marks seemed to fade away. After all, once you accept the invitation of Lady Fatimah Masumah to be her guest for however long, you know in your heart that she will take care of everything for you, as only the best of hosts can do! My advice to those who are thinking of moving to Qum to study is: don't worry too much - it is amazing how everything falls into place with the help of Allah!”



Method for Running Persian Language Learning and Bachelor's Courses

Persian Language Learning and Bachelor's Courses are held in two physical and virtual ways:

A. Physical Education

In this method, students attend the classrooms of Jami'at al-Zahra (s).

The physical Bachelor's course is managed in two forms of fulltime and halftime. In the fulltime program, students take 18 to 23 credits in every semester; thus, the whole course will be about 8 semesters, but in the halftime program, students take 12 to 18 credits and the whole course will be about 11 semesters.

B. Education in electronic method is distance learning.

In this method, educational sources including the course text, sound and video files of taught lessons are uploaded on the virtual education system and also the teacher answers students' questions online in addition to explanation of the course lessons. Another feature of electronic education is the chatroom, where students make scientific discussions.

This method is very good alternative for those who cannot come to Iran and participate in physical classrooms; however, those who have to travel to Iran alone and without their families are advised to pass a virtual course of Persian language if they can, so that their staying in Iran and their distance from their families becomes shorter.



MA Program

This course aims to make students more familiar with genuine Islamic teachings and develop in them the necessary competence to research in Islamic texts and better benefit from them. This course also aims to educate competent scholars for fulfilling the needs of people.

This certificate program is offered for different Islamic sciences including Islamic jurisprudence and its principles, Islamic theology, history of the Ahl al-Bayt (a), Shia studies, family jurisprudence, history of Islamic civilization, Tafsir and Qur'anic sciences and educational psychology comprised of 95 credits.



PhD Program

Jami'at al-Zahra runs PhD program in 6 different fields for Iranian students and intends to run the same program for some disciplines for international students as well, the information for which will soon be published on the website of Jami'at al-Zahra.



In addition to holding education courses, Jami'at al-Zahra (s) makes serious efforts to educate researchers in Islamic sciences and therefore, has established the "Research Center for Islamic Sciences and Teachings". Educating studios researchers in different Islamic sciences, holding science-research meetings, monthly theorizing seats, publishing two scientific journals in Islamic sciences and women Islamic studies and several titles of scientific books are a part of the activities of this center.

Extra-curriculum Activities

A

Extra-curriculum Education

Besides its main education, this educational center teaches students some purposeful activities in order to provide education necessary for a successful student in the family and the society and in order to prepare knowledgeable individuals competent in family issues and in promoting religion. Some of such activities are as follows:

Educational classes

* Qur'anic courses

Qur'anic courses: Several courses held by Dar al-Qur'an of this center result in students' familiarity with the Qur'an, its rich and helpful teachings in the form of various educational courses.

These courses are held in the form of educational workshops on recitation and style, concepts, reflection and Qur'anic gatherings.

* Courses for teaching other languages

(Arabic and English)

Art classes

Classes for calligraphy and handcrafts are among art classes offered at this center.

Skill-enhancement course

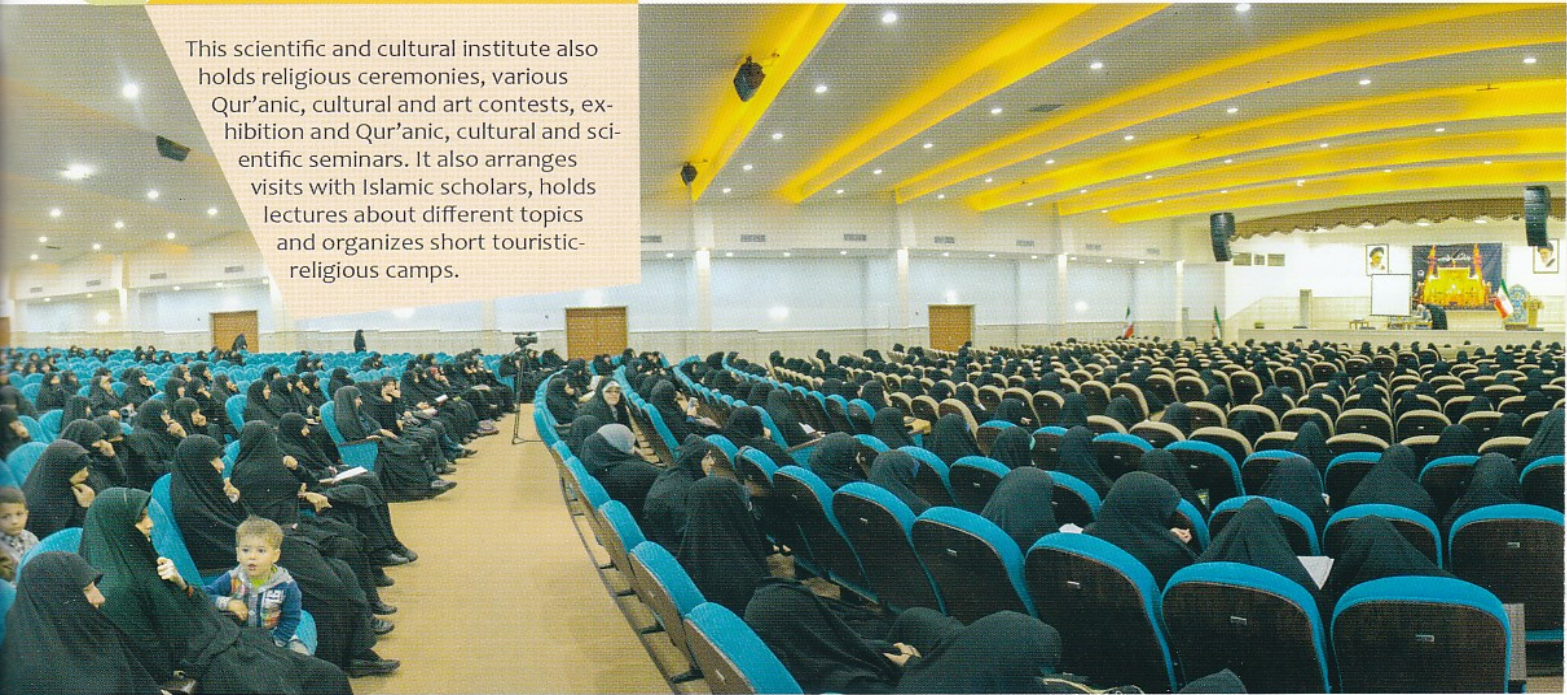
Preaching skills program: by passing this preparatory program, students will achieve necessary preparation for lecturing.



B

Other activities

This scientific and cultural institute also holds religious ceremonies, various Qur'anic, cultural and art contests, exhibition and Qur'anic, cultural and scientific seminars. It also arranges visits with Islamic scholars, holds lectures about different topics and organizes short touristic-religious camps.



Facilities

Educational complex

In Jami'at al-Zahra, there is an educational complex having three four-story blocks containing 150 classrooms in total, some of which are equipped with video projection facilities.



Library

Research center and library building of Jami'at al-Zahra is located in an area of 1284 square meters in five floors, three floors of which are dedicated to the library.

This library holds more than 32,000 titles in 89,000 volumes arranged in open shelves. The library contains a rich archive of journals and periodicals in humanities in different languages.

The library also supports a vast collection of electronic resources including an audio library which students can access from the IT center within the library during open hours.

The library also has other sections such as loaning books, references, documents and theses, information bank and scientific documents. It also has a hall for researchers, the collections in which are independently dedicated to the usage of researchers introduced to this center.



Dormitory

Dormitory of Jami'at al-Zahra is built in 4 four-story blocks using Islamic architecture and has a beautiful view and a friendly, secure and calm environment for the scientific, moral and educational growth of students. Cultural and educational activities in the dormitory provide the grounds for fulfillment of students' potentials in achieving Islamic educational skills and religious life skills.



To provide students' comfort, the dormitory contains offices, cultural section, Dar al-Qur'an, gym, kitchens, clinic, library and IT section. Activities in these sections are mentioned below:

1

Cultural section:

- Most important activities of cultural section:
- * Holding religious ceremonies, organizing camps, skill enhancement courses and organizing various contests in dormitory
 - * Providing regular access to the holy shrine and the holy mosque of Jamkaran and arrangements for students' visit of in the holy shrine
 - * Holding classes in applied ethics by great teachers of ethics in Qom

2

Dar al-Qur'an:

The Dar al-Qur'an in the dormitory plans and organizes Qur'anic activities in dormitory under supervision of Jami'at al-Zahra's Dar al-Qur'an.

3

Gymnasium:

Dormitory's gymnasium is equipped with different exercise equipment to provide students with the opportunity for performing regular exercises.

4

Kitchen:

Although the central kitchen of Jami'at al-Zahra provides students with two meals a day, dormitories as well have kitchens so that students can make food for themselves.

5

Clinic:

Benefitting from expert physicians, nurses and several educational counselors, the dormitory cleanses students' body and mind of any problem and provides a better treatment of any problem for students.

6

Library:

Providing references for educational access, dormitory's library is considered a good place for studying and in cases of students' emergency needs, makes them needless to refer to the central library.

7

IT section:

Equipped with computers and internet access, this section provides the grounds for students' research. There, IT experts are available to answer students' questions as well.

Masuma, Dubai, UAE / BA (Hons)



"When I came to Jami' at al-Zahra, I felt as though I had found the entire vast universe concentrated under one roof. One of the most exhilarating moments of my life was when about fifty girls from several countries came to welcome me when I arrived. The more I stayed in Jami' at, the more I increased my knowledge about other countries and particularly the problems they faced, their language, cultures, etiquettes, and foods! I saw how real and beautiful and uniting the religion of Allah is."

Malika, London, UK / Farsi Programme



"Imagine the scene ... to be woken up for Fajr by the melodious recitation of the Quran and adhaan. Then, after prayers to watch the sunrise over the mountaintops in the distance whilst listening to the glorious Dua-e-'Ahd. In the evenings, the shadows dance over the beautiful gardens below as you sit on the balcony overlooking a myriad of fountains and finally Sura e-Waqi' ah gently rocks you to sleep at night. Not far from a piece of heaven on earth? A different kind of living? ... that's a bit like what it is staying in the spiritual heaven that is Jami' at al-Zahra in Qum."

Provisions

Considering the great position of women in Islam and in order to provide a worry-free environment of scientific and educational growth, Jami'at al-Zahra has made the following provisions available:

1. Nursery home:

the modern nursery home of Jami'at al-Zahra has been built according to latest standards to provide the best place for keeping students and staffs' children.

2. Shopping facilities:

There are several shops in Jami'at al-Zahra which sell educational equipment and other things students need. Also, the bookshop at Jami'at al-Zahra has facilitated buying of textbooks and other books for students.



3. Bank:

In the open area of Jami'at al-Zahra, there is a small branch of bank which has made students quite needless to go to different bank branches outside Jami'at al-Zahra.



4. Sport center:

Having various sport halls and the swimming pool equipped with most modern equipment, the sport center of Jami'at al-Zahra teaches students and their families different sports such as swimming, body building, aerobics, body fitness, volleyball, basketball, table tennis, badminton, gymnastics, self-defense, shooting and skating.

5. Infirmary:

an infirmary benefitting from the permanent presence of a general practitioner takes the responsibility for the health and hygiene of students. In addition to constant and regular supervision of students' health, this infirmary takes care of emergency cases as well.



6. Other facilities:

- a. Provision of students with interest-free loans and financial helps for education
- b. Introducing students to banks for receiving banks' services
- c. Giving students a booklet for medical services
- d. Providing the students living in Qom with shuttle services to and back from Jami'at al-Zahra





Admission:

Educating in Jami'at al-Zahra at any level has its specific requirements which are mentioned below.

Admission requirements for BA Program:

1. Holding national Diplom certificate
2. Being Muslim (Shia)
3. Having complete mental, physical and moral health
4. Successfully passing the examination and interview
5. Having no problem for staying in Iran
6. Holding letter of consent from the applicant's legal guardian
7. Applicant's guardian should be student in Jami'at al-Mustafa al-'Alamiyya and have active student ID (for non-residential sisters)
8. Applicant should be living with her guardian in Qom (for non-residential sisters)
9. Maximum age of 23 years old (for residential sisters)

Admission requirements for MA Program:

1. Holding the certificate for Second level of Hawza or BA from Jami'at al-Mustafa al-'Alamiyya

Note 1: Sisters studying in the last semester of BA program or level Two can register for MA program only if they can submit the certificate for completion of their BA program or level Two until the end of the month of Bahman of the same year (February 18)

2. Being Muslim (Shia)
3. Holding the national Diplom in case of holding the internal certificate of Jami'at al-Zahra
4. Having no problem for staying in Iran
5. Successfully passing the written examination and interview
6. Holding valid residential permit for the student and her guardian in Iran (for non-residential sisters)





6. Holding valid residential permit for the student and her guardian in Iran (for non-residential sisters)

Note 2: Sisters holding valid identification card if admitted, need to submit the card and receive educational passport.

7. Living with the legal guardian in Qom (for non-residential sisters)
8. Having maximum age of 27 years old (for residential sisters)

Note 3: the time of admission will be informed via the website of Jami'at al-Zahra (www.jz.ac.ir)

Note 4: Registration and receiving the guide booklets can be made via the admission website (paziresh.jz.ac.ir)

Tuition

No fees are taken for tuition or accommodation at Jami'at al-Zahra from students who intend to study there.

* For further information, please refer to the website of Jami'at al-Zahra (www.jz.ac.ir)

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