

MPhil in Islam, Gender, and Sexuality

A new Masters degree at the Faculty of Humanities, UCT, jointly offered by:

- Department for the Study of Religions
- Department of African Feminist Studies

Degree Overview

A new, exciting and challenging Masters degree in Islam, Gender and Sexuality is offered jointly between the Department for the Study of Religions and the Department for African Feminist Studies at the University of Cape Town.

To study how religion, and Islam in particular, shapes everyday beliefs and practices about gender difference, this specialised two-year Masters programme focuses on the links between Islamic thought, gender and sexuality. The programme focuses on both theoretical and practical gender-based reform and transformation in religious spaces. Students in the programme have the opportunity to draw relevance between current realities and historical thought, in ways that respond to the concerns of contemporary young Muslims.

The programme encourages critical engagement at the intersections of religious authority, community building and Muslim ethics. Students develop critical thinking for transformational engagement in local communities towards new moral and ethical visions.

OPEN: POSTGRAD FUNDING

The call for postgraduate funding by the NRF is open and the deadline for Masters applications is the 08 July 2022.
[View more info here](#)



Outcomes

As an academic space for creative and critical thinking and reflection on the gendered nature and practice of religious traditions, students graduating from the programme will have competencies in:

- identifying the critical gender, social and cultural issues facing religious and faith communities within the local and global contexts.
- conducting theoretically sound, empirical, and non-empirical research in the fields of Islam, gender and sexuality
- bringing their individual and communal history and experiences to bear on gendered issues
- researching equality in the Muslim family, reproductive and sexual ethics, ethical parenting, gender-based violence and spiritual grooming, as well as online, digital and media challenges faced by Muslims
- imagining new Muslim futures

This is a full time in-person two-year degree that begins in February, every alternate year starting 2023. In the first year students take two core modules, an elective and a research module. In the second year students take a second research module as they complete their mini-dissertation (25,000 words) by October of the second year.

The programme includes a series of Cohort Dissertation Writing Seminars supported by a dedicated team of supervisors and mentors who will provide the necessary support and structure for students to complete the programme success.

Degree Requirements

The MPhil is open to students who hold an Honours degree in Religious Studies, Theology, Gender Studies, African Feminist Studies, Islamic Studies, or related fields and a demonstrated focus on gender with an average pass at 68%. Students must demonstrate:

- a commitment to scholarly excellence
- a commitment to gender analysis
- a commitment to critical engagement with religion
- a high level of academic competence, in research and writing, and
- personal motivation

Information & Application

For more information, please contact the Programme Convenors:

- **Associate Professor Sa'diyya Shaikh**
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Department for the Study of Religions
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- **Dr. Fatima Seedat**
(PhD, McGill University)
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FIRST
APPLICATION
DEADLINE
15 Sept 2022

Apply for the MPhil via the UCT online Admissions portal

Candidates are required to submit a CV, letter of motivation and a sample of academic writing. The motivation letter must be no less than 1000 words and display knowledge and interest in issues of gender, religion, and sexuality.

International applicants are advised to apply immediately to allow enough time for evaluation of qualifications.

UCT application portal:
<http://www.humanities.uct.ac.za/hum/apply/postgraduate/requirements/overview>