



INTERNATIONAL CENTRE FOR ADVANCED ISLAMIC RESEARCH

The World Federation

Vision Statement: To be a spiritually vibrant progressive and unified global community for the pleasure of Allah.

Mission Statement: To connect and lead the global membership into a unified community to represent its voice and enable them to achieve a shared vision.

Core values of The World Federation

- Serve with simplicity, sincerity, tenacity and patience
- Strive for excellence in all fields especially in education
- Enable and facilitate all community endeavours
- Engage grassroots
- Prevent duplication and support local efforts and innovations
- Respect others at all times

About ICAIR

The International Centre for Advanced Islamic Research (ICAIR) was established by the World Federation of the KSIMC in 2021 with a mission to address the ethical and intellectual challenges confronting the global Shi'a community. Combining the depth of traditional seminary studies with the innovative approaches of contemporary academic research, ICAIR works with a range of partners in pursuit of this mission. At its core, the centre is committed to pioneering research in the realm of Islamic studies, making its findings accessible through various avenues, including publications, lectures, courses, and notably, its bi-annual journal, al-Qalam ('the Pen'). Located in the heart of London, ICAIR's primary facilities house an auditorium, dedicated workspaces, classrooms, and a curated library. Beyond its physical presence, the ICAIR digital platform serves as an expansive gateway, detailing its multifaceted programs, events, and academic endeavours. With a deep-rooted commitment to fostering community growth and promoting vibrant discourses, ICAIR embodies a profound dedication to advancing the study of Shi'i Islam.

Job Title: Research Associate

Department: International Centre for Advanced Islamic Research (ICAIR)

Hours per week: 40

Length of contract: 2 years, with the possibility of extension

Salary: c. £35,000–£45,000 (according to experience)

Location: The WF House, Harefield, London, UK (in-person)

Responsible to: Head of ICAIR.

Job Purpose Statement:

Applications are invited for a Research Associate in Shi'i Studies at the International Centre of Advanced Islamic Research (ICAIR), London. The postholder will be expected to engage in high quality research in the field of Islamic Studies, with a focus on Twelver Shi'ism. The postholder will also be expected to actively participate in the work of ICAIR, including its journal, publications, courses, and events.

Role Responsibilities:

Job Purpose:

The postholder will be expected to contribute to the intellectual life of ICAIR and the wider field of Islamic studies. Duties will include the following: - Produce research of the highest quality and make important contributions to the field - Advance the field of research through publications, creative work, and other forms of work including the organization of relevant events both online and in person - Contribute to the production of the journal, publications, seminars, conferences and other events at ICAIR. - Demonstrate flexibility and adaptability in undertaking diverse responsibilities due to the lean team structure. - Aid in the achievement of ICAIR's Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) through research, publications, and active participation in the institute's projects.

Main Duties and Responsibilities:

- Deliver interdisciplinary and impactful research that advances Shi'i studies nationally and internationally, contributing to the Institute's mission of being a leading institution of academic excellence in the field.
- Publish original research of excellent quality targeted at specialist and general readership in a manner appropriate to the research field and academic discipline and relevant to the research and scholarship mission of the Institute.
- Engage in translation projects, translating pivotal texts or research from Arabic and Persian to English to bolster ICAIR's repository and outreach.
- Assist or lead in converting academic research, including potential PhD theses, into comprehensive publications like books for ICAIR's series.
- Engage with the research community at an appropriate level through conferences, committees, advisory and editorial bodies, and research reviews.
- Participate actively in outreach programs, podcasts, and other public engagements to promote ICAIR's research findings and contributions.

Service, Leadership, and Collegiality

- Contribute to fostering collegiality through role-modeling.
- Fulfil the Centre's responsibilities as agreed with the Head of ICAIR and engage with the wider Institute's mission and agenda in line with its strategies and policies.
- Make constructive contributions to the mission of ICAIR and the vision and leadership of the Centre as well as wider relevant academic and learned bodies.
- Support and contribute to community and public engagement ICAIR.
- Promote a culture of collaboration and teamwork, ensuring smooth communication within the institute.

Knowledge, Experience, Skills:

Criteria tested by Key: A=CV and statements C=Certification I=Interview P=Presentation R=Research papers T=Test.

Experience:

- Proven track-record of high-quality research and publication (A/I/R)
- Experience of working in higher education (A/I)
- Evidence of the development and delivery of research-led teaching and assessment at the postgraduate level (A/I/C/R).
- Background in traditional seminary (Hawza) studies is a distinct advantage (A/I).

Qualifications:

- PhD in the relevant fields of Islamic studies with a focus on Shi'i studies pertaining to Twelver Shi'ism (A/C/I/P/R)
- Higher education teaching accreditation at least on the level of Associate Fellow or Fellow of HEA level (A/C).

Knowledge:

- Excellent command of English and ability to produce high-quality research and writing in English (A/I/P)
- Excellent command of Arabic and, preferably also Persian (A/C)
- Good working knowledge of at least one more language of relevance to the field as well as one more European language (A/C)
- Clear and ambitious research plan for the future (A/I/P).
- Thorough understanding of traditional seminary (Hawza) studies is highly advantageous (A/I).

Skills:

- Ability to develop research proposals, proposals for conferences, and other appropriate types of events for academia (A/R)
- Working with manuscripts (A/P)

- Ability to communicate new and complex ideas and information in an effective and analytical manner, both verbally and in writing (A/I/P)
- The ability to engage various audiences including through lecturing students, presenting work at meetings, presenting academic papers at conferences, and delivering talks to larger audiences of non-specialists (I/P)
- Proficiency in translation, with an emphasis on translating academic and religious texts from Arabic and Persian (A/I/R)
- Good IT skills and knowledge of Word, PowerPoint, Moodle, Blackboard, Zoom, Teams, and other relevant applications (A/I/P).

How to apply

Send the following:

- Covering letter
- CV
- Academic writing sample (7,000 words)
- A research statement illustrating your proposed contributions to the field of Shi'i Studies and ICAIR

On: <https://lnk.worldfed.org/ra-icair>