

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ



## Research University

*Date: 18 Shawwal 1446 / 16 April 2025*

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

### 1. Our University's Mission and Purpose

Research University (RU) is a global, online learning platform that combines Islamic and natural sciences. Led by Professor Rafiqul Islam, this university will propel a generation of Muslims who will uphold Islamic justice, pioneer economic growth through resource production and invention, and serve as an example for scholarship in the Muslim Ummah. RU utilizes the traditional education system used in the Islamic golden age, one which combines Divine and religious motivation with scientific discovery, under the guidance of the world's most

accomplished scholars and academics. RU provides education in Islamic sciences and specialization (تخصص) in one of four knowledge disciplines: a) **Shari'ah** and Fiqh; b) **Natural Science and Agriculture**; c) **Resource engineering** and extraction; and d) **Military science**. RU's central goals can be summarized as follows:

- ❖ *Instilling an Islamic education culture*: being the first in the world to revive learning in the Islamic golden age
- ❖ *Economic growth and independence*: Teaching Muslims resource extraction of oil/gas, precious metals, rare earth elements, gemstones, and advanced agricultural practices to enhance economic growth and make the Ummah economically independent and self-sustainable
- ❖ *International cooperation*: Research University will serve as a lifeline for international cooperation with Muslim countries, including engineering and construction projects, educational cooperation, agricultural projects, and training partnerships
- ❖ *Islamic justice*: the university will raise a generation of judges, jurists, muftis and students of knowledge who will strive to uphold and represent Islamic law in the world

## 2. Our Mission

This proposal is aimed at creating an Islamic education system that brings back the gold standard of education introduced by the prophets in every epoch and perfected by the practices of the Prophet Muhammad (ﷺ). As Allah states in the Qur'an, every nation had a prophet tasked with the duty of purifying the general mass, teaching them from the book, and teaching them what the public did not know:

كَمَا أَرْسَلْنَا فِيكُمْ رَسُولًا مِّنْكُمْ يَتْلُوا عَلَيْكُمْ ءَايَاتِنَا وَيُزَكِّيكُمْ وَيُعَلِّمُكُمُ الْكِتَابَ وَالْحِكْمَةَ وَيُعَلِّمُكُم مَّا لَمْ تَكُونُوا تَعْلَمُونَ (١٥١)

“Just as We sent among you a messenger from yourselves, reading Our signs to you, and purifying you, and teaching you the Scripture and wisdom, and teaching you what you did not know” (Qur'an 2:151).

This knowledge corresponds with the word ‘ILM’, the learning of which was made mandatory by the prophet Muhammad (ﷺ), who said:

“Seeking knowledge is an obligation upon every Muslim.”<sup>1</sup>

An Islamic education system would correctly put the Prophet Muhammad (ﷺ) and his righteous followers as the most educated while putting Shaytan and his followers as the most ignorant and uneducated. Such a university has been absent in modern era, particularly in Europe and the West, where education has been replaced with training programs to serve the establishment for many centuries. In the post-colonial period, eastern countries have adopted the educational system of the

عَنْ أَنَسِ بْنِ مَالِكٍ قَالَ قَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ طَلَبُ الْعِلْمِ فَرِيضَةٌ عَلَى كُلِّ مُسْلِمٍ  
سنن ابن ماجه كتاب المقدمة باب فضل العلماء والحث على طلب العلم 224  
المحدث الألباني خلاصة حكم المحدث صحيح في صحيح الجامع 3914

West. In brief, the true Islamic education system has been absent around the globe. **The current proposal will establish a program that would produce graduates who are devout Muslims with the ability to answer today's questions with Islamically correct answers.**

Different faculties are introduced so the graduates become expert of one or more of those fields. **Jurisprudence, Health, Material Science, and Military Technology** are main faculties of specialization. Each discipline will create a new paradigm, distinctly separate from the currently used format orchestrated by the Liberal International Order. Each slogan of the neocolonial era will be dismantled and rebuilt with Islamic values stemming from the Qur'an and Sunnah. For instance, the concept of sustainability will be replaced with Islamic concepts of 'halal' and 'tayyib'; the West's population reduction scheme will be replaced with Allah's description of humans as the "best creation". It will replace promoting an interest-based economic system with the Islamic Gold standard. It will replace toxic pharmaceutical drugs and even more, profit-based treatments with sustainable Prophetic medicine. Jurisprudence with Manteq will replace Western philosophy.

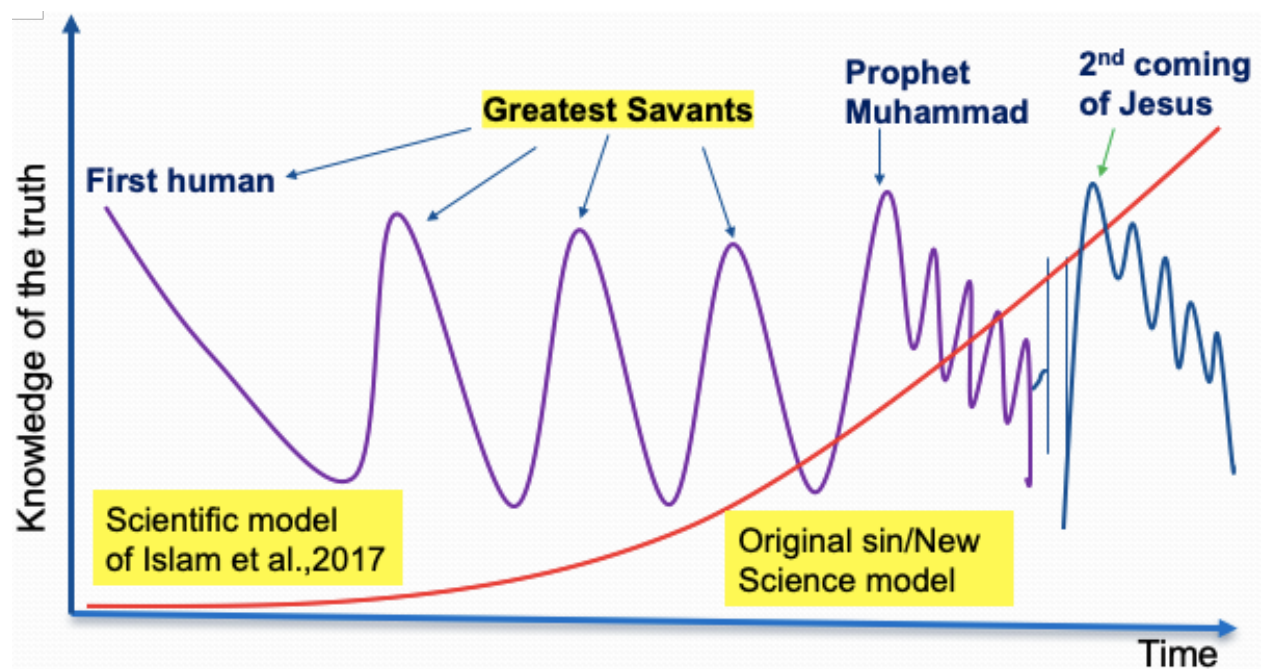
Overall, the Research University aims to reconstitute the natural sciences following centuries of damaging the Divine balance between human and nature:

وَلَا ضَلَّتْهُمْ وَلَا مَنِيَّتْهُمْ وَلَأْمَرْنَهُمْ فَلْيُبَيِّنَنَّ عَادَانَ الْأَنْعَمِ وَلَأْمَرْنَهُمْ فَلْيَغَيِّرَنَّ خَلْقَ اللَّهِ وَمَنْ يَتَّخِذِ الشَّيْطَانَ وَلِيًّا مِّنْ دُونِ اللَّهِ فَقَدْ خَسِرَ خُسْرَانًا مُّبِينًا (١١٩)

“And I will most surely lead them astray and fill them with fancies, and I will most surely command them so they will most surely slit the ears of cattle, and most surely I will command them so they will most surely

alter the creation of Allah.’ Thus, whoever takes Satan for a guardian apart from Allah has truly lost an evident loss.”

This university revives the historic method of teaching Islamic science and technology. In doing so, it aims to reverse the decline of the Muslim world, economic extremism and technological disaster of the modern era with one that is just and truly sustainable.



Visual Abstract: Purpose of a University is to emulate Islamic education system, used by the Prophets (عليهم الصلاة والسلام) throughout.

### 3. Who can Learn, Teach at RU?

The mission of Research University will be the production of world-leading scholars who will become leaders in each discipline of their choice. The University is not beholden to a physical location, making cooperation with Muslims around the world possible. Both students and teachers belong to an elite network of Muslim intellectuals with both worldly and Islamic qualifications.

**Entry requirements:** (a) Reaching the of *mental maturity*, when a person is capable of using Mantiq; (b) A Muslim of sound *moral character* (أخلاق) and justice (عدل); (c) *Knowledge* of the language of instruction. **Preference will be given** to Muslims who have gone through the process of spiritual conditioning (تركية) resulting from years of struggling against global oppression.

**Common core for all students:** Foundational knowledge of Quran, hadith, Mantiq, Fiqh, and Arabic language.

**Specialization** in four disciplines:

- Law and Jurisprudence (Shari'ah, fiqh, usul al-fiqh)
- Natural Science and Agriculture
- Sustainable Resource Engineering (metals, rocks, gemstones, etc.)
- Military science and defence

**Initial specialization** consists of short courses culminating in receipt of authorization to practice (**Ijazah**). Short courses, 6 months in duration, are based upon texts studied with scholars in addition to practical training if necessary.

**Final Degree:** Graduation with a doctoral degree (*ustadh*) upon completion of classes, apprenticeship and a comprehensive research project which introduces a new contribution to the research field. This degree lasts between 4-10 years depending on subject. Each student will be empowered with the ability to be a professional expert in the subject. This university will utilize the Islamic method of education, where a person remains a student until he is able to master the subject and introduce new findings into the field. This is done through practical research, demonstration and apprenticeship, and not merely with lectures and exams.

**Faculty:** Teachers are scholars of Islam with a high level research knowledge of their respective disciplines.

**Methodology:** The Islamic and time-honored methodology of question and answer will be used for each topic. After learning cognitive skills and the foundational principle of knowledge gathering (as part of the common core), each subject will be divided in research questions. These questions will be revised each year, so the knowledge envelop grows perpetually. Reference book: *Reconstituting the Curriculum*, Wiley, 2014.

**Benefits to the Ummah:** Students will be able to guide the global community toward (a) Islamic justice, and (b) economic prosperity through the development of natural resources, thus creating a community thriving in all aspects of social growth and economic development. Students will become scholars, entrepreneurs, leading technology experts, and inventors, the likes of which existed during Islamic golden era.

**Benefits to government:** This university will be the intellectual powerhouse of the Muslim Ummah. It will fill the vacuum in the world

stage where the West is in its demise and the education systems of Muslim countries remain reliant upon the West. This university will raise the status of the Ummah by raising a generation of Muslims who will lead it through both Islamic scholarship and material science. It will develop innovative and new technologies governments can produce for self-defense, the aim being to develop low-cost, highly technologically innovative technology built in an asymmetric fashion vis-à-vis the global capitalist system.

#### **4. Vision**

The university vision is to be a preeminent institution known in history for its true scholarship in all disciplines of knowledge, including law and jurisprudence (الشريعة والفقه), economics (Islamic economics and labour laws), and sustainable technology development (halal technology). The University will produce competitive graduates with cutting edge research, and promote leadership by emphasizing true, Islamically-motivated education and sustainable living. The University is aimed at reforming the education system with its own commercial operations, which will be fueled by the research conducted by the students and faculty members alike. The combination of fundamental knowledge with technological advances is unprecedented in modern history.

## **5. University Management, Administration and Ownership**

Research University is not the property of any government or private enterprise – not is it a physical institution bound to the laws of any nation-state. It is a waqf solely to Allah, wherein courses, resources and time expended by teachers and students are limited to their sincere actions. In terms of funding, the online platform as tight-knit network of students and teachers does not have fixed costs. Practical training in the form of internships, apprenticeships and employment (coop) is conducted in agreement with private, Muslim-owned companies in the fields of technological development and health. Muslim-owned R&D firms operate with their own independent budgets, investors and clients – all of whom share the University's vision.

## 6. Project Leader

The university project will be led by highly qualified Muslim scholars in various sciences. RU's project founder and head of administration, **Professor M. Rafiqul Islam**.

Professor M. R. Islam is known as the most published engineer in the world, specializing in environment and energy-related issues, natural resource engineering and pharmaceutical science. Dr. Islam's most notable contribution is in the areas sustainability, environmental integrity, and knowledge modelling, on which topic he has written dozens of books and nearly **800 research papers**.

In his **40-year** professional career, Professor Islam has held faculty positions with seven different universities and supervised over 150 research students and post-doctoral fellows. He received approximately **30 million dollars** in research funding from various government and industrial entities. In recognition of his research and teaching excellence, he has received a number of international awards, including Einstein Gold Medal of Honor, and Crown and Eagle Gold Medal for both of which Dr. Islam is the first recipient in Canada. He taught 30 different academic courses and some dozen industry professional development workshops around the world. He gave numerous invited and guest speeches in many countries.

The following are some subjects Professor Islam has pioneered along with a small selection of books published on each subject:

❖ ***Sustainable and Islamic Medicine:***

*Greening of Pharmaceutical Engineering*, volume 1-4: these books criticize modern toxic treatments for mental and physical illnesses and propose natural and sustainable alternatives to

major ailments, including: Cancer, Diabetes, Heart Disease, COVID-19, Depression, and Schizophrenia.

<https://www.wiley.com/en-gb/The+Greening+of+Pharmaceutical+Engineering%2C+Volume+1%2C+Practice%2C+Analysis%2C+and+Methodology-p-9781119184218>

<https://www.wiley.com/en-gb/The+Greening+of+Pharmaceutical+Engineering%2C+Volume+2%2C+Theories+and+Solutions-p-9781119159681>

<https://www.wiley.com/en-gb/The+Greening+of+Pharmaceutical+Engineering%2C+Volume+3%2C+Applications+for+Mental+Disorder+Treatments-p-9781119183822>

<https://www.scrivenerpublishing.com/cart/title.php?id=757>

- ❖ **Education: Reconstituting the Curriculum:** this book explains the Islamic methodology of learning for Research University, and criticizes the western education system  
<https://www.wiley.com/en-gb/Reconstituting+the+Curriculum-p-9781118867907>

- ❖ **Natural Resource Engineering: Reservoir Development,**  
<https://www.elsevier.com/books/reservoir-development/islam/978-0-12-820053-7>

*The Greening of Petroleum Operations: The Science of Sustainable Energy Production*

<https://www.wiley.com/en-gb/The+Greening+of+Petroleum+Operations%3A+The+Science+of+Sustainable+Energy+Production-p-9780470922903>

*Advanced Drilling Engineering,*

<https://www.elsevier.com/books/drilling-engineering/islam/978-0-12-820193-0>

*Hydrocarbons in Base Formations,*

<https://www.wiley.com/en-us/Hydrocarbons+in+Basement+Formations-p-9781119294221>

*Unconventional Gas Reservoirs,*

<https://www.elsevier.com/books/unconventional-gas-reservoirs/islam/978-0-12-800390-9>

- ❖ **Sustainable, Interest-Free Economics: Economics of Sustainable Energy**  
<https://www.scrivenerpublishing.com/cart/title.php?id=429>

*Economics of Intangibles*

[https://books.google.co.uk/books?id=TBbPArT2KnoC&printsec=frontcover&source=gbs\\_atb&redir\\_esc=y#v=onepage&q&f=false](https://books.google.co.uk/books?id=TBbPArT2KnoC&printsec=frontcover&source=gbs_atb&redir_esc=y#v=onepage&q&f=false)

- ❖ **Water Purification: Sustainable Water Purification**  
<https://www.wiley.com/en-gb/Sustainable+Water+Purification-p-9781119650997>

- ❖ **Environmental Sustainability: True sustainability in technological development and natural resource management**  
<https://searchworks-lb.stanford.edu/view/6796713>

*Economically and Environmentally Sustainable Enhanced Oil Recovery*

<https://www.wiley.com/en-gb/Economically+and+Environmentally+Sustainable+Enhanced+Oil+Recovery-p-9781119479277>

❖ **Computer Programming and Mathematics: Advanced Petroleum Reservoir Simulation: Towards Developing Reservoir Emulators**

<https://www.wiley.com/en-gb/Advanced+Petroleum+Reservoir+Simulation%3A+Towards+Developing+Reservoir+Emulators%2C+2nd+Edition-p-9781119038788>

***The Following is a Summary of Professor Islam's Curriculum Vitae:***

No. of Technology Transfer Companies created:	4
No. of Awards and national/international recognitions received	10
No. of Awards and recognitions received by students	20
Faculty members mentored	65
Post-doc/Research fellow supervised	18
Graduate students supervised	83
Undergraduate research students supervised	46
No. of Industry courses taught	22
No. of Graduate courses taught	23
No. of Undergraduate courses taught	17
No. of research projects completed and underway	24
Research fund raised (personal)	>\$5 million
Research fund raised (institutional)	>\$20 million
No. of Services as editor/co-editor of refereed journals	17
No. of Editorial reviews	>40
No. of Services for funding agencies	15
No. of services for National/International Conferences	23
Conference/Session Chairmanship	23
Books/monographs	41
Books chapters	22
Refereed Book reviews	8
Refereed journal publications	241
Refereed conference proceedings	99
Invited/Keynote speeches	77
Non-Refereed Conference proceedings/presentations	285