

بسم الله الرحمن الرحيم



The 8th Madinah al- Ilm & Bab al-Ilm Youth Summer Courses

The World Federation KSIMC – Qum Office

بسم الله الرحمن الرحيم



Introduction

The Madinah al-Ilm and Bab al-Ilm Youth Summer Courses are a regular feature on The World Federation calendar; youths from around the globe gather together in the Islamic Republic of Iran for three weeks of education, appreciation of culture, spirituality, and recreation. The aim of the Course is to serve as a post-Madrasah education initiative; integrating academic Islamic scholarship with an experience of the cultural relevance of Islam in the modern age. It is packaged along with a sense of enhanced self-knowledge and understanding leading to higher levels of spirituality; as an end result it inspires the participants to a greater service to humanity and their communities back home.

Course Preparation

This year, The World Federation of KSI MC's Qum Office had the honour of hosting a group of 51 participants from four continents and from a variety of academic, familial, geographic and linguistic backgrounds. The course planning began almost six months prior to the arrival of the participants in Iran and was backed up by the constant and selfless administrative and logistical

support of the WF Islamic Education department office in Stanmore (London) and the Regional Federations of Africa, Europe, North America, Pakistan, and the Jamaat of Dubai.

Venue

The first week of the course was set in the spiritually charged city of Qum al-Muqaddasah, where the brothers resided in the well-equipped Madrasa e Sina while the sisters stayed at the pristine Jamia al-Zahra (sa). During their stay in Qum, students participated in many activities within the city and at the suburbs where they visited historical, natural and pilgrimage sites. The last two weeks of the Course was spent in the holy city of Mashhad where most of the academic and cultural programmes were conducted, including the Ziyarat of the 8th Imam (as), visiting scholars, shopping, and having lots of fun!

Course Details

Dates: 23 July 2011 (Saturday) – 11 August 2011 (Thursday)

Student distribution:

Bab al-Ilm students (ages 14-17) = 21

Madinah al-Ilm students (ages 18-24) = 26

Mentors = 4

	<i>Madinah al-Ilm Girls – Boys</i>		<i>Bab al-Ilm Girls – Boys</i>	
AFED	5	4	6	5
COEJ	3	7	2	3
NASIMCO	4	2	1	2
Dubai	-	-	-	1
Pakistan	1	-	-	1
Total	13	13	9	12

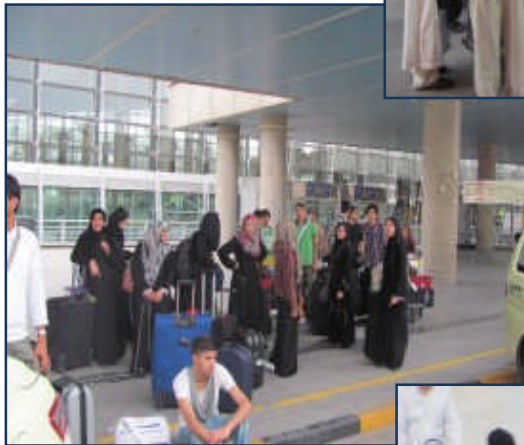
Gender Distribution of Campers 2011



The Arrival

On 23 July, the first group of students arrived and they were received at the airport by Qum Office staff members. The long flight and the overnight jet-lag had not dampened the spirits of the participants; their faces lit up in excitement for a journey of a lifetime, which would change their lives forever!

The participants settled into their residences and rested for most of the morning and the afternoon that day. After the arrival of the other groups on 24 and 25 July, an opening ceremony was held at The Institute of Short Term Education and Sabbaticals of our local hosts – Al-Mustafa University. After a warm welcome by WF Qum Office and Al-Mustafa University, an affiliated body to our Course, the students were briefed about the goals and expectations of the Courses and its management, and were advised on health and logistical tips for the duration of their stay in Iran. Later, the students were taken for their very first and very emotional Ziyarat to the Haram of Sayyida Fatima al-Ma'sumah (sa).



Welcome



Course Outline

The three week Courses were organised in a way to facilitate an encompassing personality development, keeping Islamic values and principles at its core whilst introducing the Hawza experience, and the programmes were planned and scheduled with this vision in mind.

Qum – Academic Programme

The academic component of the Course engaged the minds of the students and was designed to inspire them to furthering their study of Islam. The academic programme started with Fajr prayers at the Haram of Sayyida Fatima al-Ma'sumah (sa) followed by a reflective 'Twilight Programme' in one of the local parks. This was followed by a morning exercise routine and breakfast. Formal classes were then held, led by senior English-speaking scholars on the subjects of Aqaid, Akhlaq, Qur'anic Principles, and Fiqh (Practical laws and its Principles). Students greatly benefitted from these learning opportunities which continued beyond the classroom in informal settings and gatherings.

INSTRUCTORS	SUBJECTS TAUGHT
Sayyid Asim Ali Hashemi	Twilight Programme
Sayyid Akif Zaidi	Twilight Programme
Dr. Murtaza Alidina	Twilight Programme
Shaykh Safiullah Khan	The Role of the Quran in day-to-day Life
Shaykh Ali Azhar Arastu	Islamic Theology
Agha Duryab	Introduction to Al-Mustafa University and Opportunities in Qum
Sister Salma Alavi	Twilight Programme
Sister Najiya Shabbar Shah	Shiaism in comparison to Wahhabism
Mrs Shomali	Imam Husayn (as) & the Philosophy of Mourning
Sheikh Usama Abdulghani	Islamic Family Ethics

Shaykh Usama Addressing the Class



Gaining Attachment with the Quran



Lecture from Sayyid Tahai (translated by Sayyid Akif Zaidi)



In Lecture of Sayyid Tahai



Meeting with JM's representatives



At Mount Khizr

Twilight Programme by
Dr. Murtaza Alidina



Outside the Haram of
Bibi Ma'suma (sa)

Qum – Cultural/Recreational Programme

The primary aim of the cultural programme is to provide students a perspective on ‘living Islam’ and its manifestations in our day-to-day life. This consisted of performing Ziyarats of the progeny of the Imams (as) buried in Qum, visiting the Jamkaran Mosque of the Imam of our Time (atfs), meetings with high-ranking scholars, informal gatherings with local senior students and also taking part in various recreational activities such as hiking at Mount Khizr, swimming, and soccer.

<i>LIST OF PLACES VISITED</i>
Tour of Haram and Resting Place of many Great Scholars
Masjid-e-Jamkaran
Bait al-Noor: The Final Place of Worship of Bibi Ma’suma (sa)
Mount Khizr
House of Imam Khomeini (ra)
Audience with Ayatullah Musavi Laari
Swimming at the Quds Pool (Imam Khomeini Seminary)
Soccer Game at Local Stadium
Ansariyan Bookstore
Dua-e Kumail Programme in Haram
Namaaz-e-Jum’ah in Haram



Performing Ziyarat



Lunch as Guests of Bibi Ma'suma (sa)



Meeting with Ayatullah Mujtaba Moosavi Lari



Preparing for Jamkaran Mosque



**The Simple Abode of Imam
Khomeini (ra)**



Bait al-Noor



Enthusiasm in both Academia and Recreation

Qum to Mashhad

Qum was the preparatory grounds for the visit to Mashhad. The participants were now filled with spiritual energy and started their journey towards the essence of the programme – Mashhad. They began their long train journey to Mashhad with the knowledge that closeness to Allah was the essence of Islam, and hoped that they will gain this closeness by establishing a special connection with Imam Ridha (as).

Nishapur

En-route to Mashhad, participants stopped at Nishapur and paid respects to the footprints of Imam Ridha (as), and performed the ziyarat of Bibi Shateetah (as) and the shrine of Imamzadeh Mahrooq.



Breakfast at Nishapur, Shrine of Bibi Shateetah



Quenching their Spiritual Thirst at the Qadamgah of Imam Ridha (as)

Mashhad

The participants arrived at Mash'had, ready for their live changing journey during the Holy Month of Ramadhan. The programme was packed with classes, activities, visiting local sites, Ziyarat at the Haram, meeting personalities, and building a sense of belonging among the group.

The advent of the Holy month of Ramadhan added exponentially to the spirituality of the participants; an average day would begin at 11:30am followed by Zohrain Namaz and classes until the afternoon. After having their brains exercised, participants headed out to exercising their bodies at local parks and mountains, followed by Iftar, followed by more classes. The end of the day culminated in the group flocking to the Haram in search of inner peace and spiritual bliss. The day finished with a return to the accommodation for Sahri and morning prayers.

INSTRUCTORS	SUBJECTS TAUGHT
FOR BOYS	
Shaykh Muhammad Khalfan	The Beautiful Names of Allah
Shaykh Ali Azhar Arastu	Tafseer of Sura Yusuf
Shaykh Shabbar Shah	Islamic Theology and Contemporary Issues
Shaykh Kumail Rajani	Comparative Religions
Shaykh Ali Hemani	Life of Imam Ridha (as)

FOR GIRLS	
Sister Najiya Shabbar Shah	Theology and Contemporary Issues
Sister Batul Arastu	Tafseere Surah e Noor, Women's Issues
Sister Zaynab Arastu	A commentary on Dua e Makarimul Akhlaq
Shaykh Muhammad Khalfan	Etiquettes of Ziyarat, Spouse selection and Child upbringing
Shaykh Ali Hemani	Life of Imam Ridha (as)



Food for Thought and Food for Soul



Showers of Knowledge for Blossoming Gardens



Understanding God in Sessions of Theology

<i>LIST OF PLACES VISITED</i>
Tour of Haram and Haram Museum
Imamzadeh Yasir & Nasir (Brothers of Imam Ridha (as)) at local town Turqabe
Dua-e-Kumayl and Namaz-e-Jum'ah
Mellat Park
Koohe Sangi Park (Rocky Mountain Park)
Water Park
Local Shopping and Bazaars



Haram of Imam Ridha (as)



Jama'at at Rocky Mountain Park



Learning Wilayat of Ahlul Bayt (as) from the Imam e Jum'ah of Turqabe

Closing Ceremony

At the end of the two weeks in Mashhad, the students began setting their minds and spirits towards preparing for the end of the Course. At the ceremony, the students were also invited to share their thoughts and feelings about the Course; this was done through student representatives who spoke about their experiences on behalf of all participants. Thereafter, students were provided with certificates, and top performing teams and students were awarded. Al-Mustafa University team also had words for appreciation and thanks for the staff and students.



Tehran

The capital of the Islamic Republic was our final destination for a day-long field trip. The day consisted of memorable events: visiting the shrine of Imam Khomeini, visiting graves of Martyrs and victims of terrorist attacks at Behishte Zahra (sa) cemetery, recounting horrendous accounts of torture carried out at the Savak prison (currently the Ebrat Museum), and the Ziyarat of the Grand Sayyid – Abdul Azeem al-Hasani (ra).





Farewell

On Thursday 11 August, students from Africa, Europe, Dubai, Karachi, and North America, headed back to their homes from Tehran. They had spent memorable weeks together which seemed to pass by like mere seconds. They had made life-long friends, had learned about their faith, and had the opportunity to reflect upon their inner selves. Students were tearful as they separated from one another and boarded their respective buses. Along with this, the Qum Office staff and volunteers felt blessed and fulfilled once again to be part of this immensely successful Course: Alhamdu Lillah!

The WF-Qum Office would like to thank and sincerely appreciate the efforts of all parties involved to make the Course yet another cherished experience, and prays for the continued progress of all towards Allah.

ربنا تقبل منا انك انت السميع العليم