

15-25 AUGUST 2019

INTERNATIONAL SUMMER COURSE

*"We provide an academic platform
for the study of modern Iranian
culture, politics, and society"*



CONTEMPORARY IRANIAN STUDIES

University of Religions and Denominations



1
DAYS
TEHRAN
ISFAHAN
SHIRAZ
QOM

VISA WITHOUT
LABEL & STAMP

// 01 ACADEMIC LECTURES

The core course is team taught, which provides hours of on-site and on-campus lectures to be followed by Q & A sessions and free discussion.

// 02 SOCIAL PROGRAMS

Our handpicked social programs offer you a taste of real-life experiences that can't be Googled. It provides a unique experience of living in Iran.

// 03 CULTURAL TOURS

You have the expert advice of leading scholars guiding you for an academic tour of Iran, including 4 cities of Qom, Isfahan, Shiraz and Tehran.

REGISTRATION DEADLINE: 20 JUNE 2019



University of
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11 DAYS IN IRAN



Qom

15-16 August 2019
Religion in Contemporary Iran

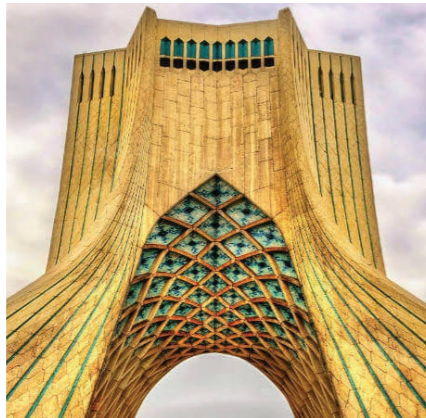
Iran's second-holiest city, Qom is home to both the magnificent Hazrat-e Masumeh shrine and the clerics who have ruled the country since 1979.



Tehran

23-25 August 2019
Politics in Contemporary Iran

Capital of the country, Tehran is Iran's most secular and liberal city. This is the nation's dynamic beating heart and the place to get a handle on modern Iran and what its future will likely be.



Isfahan

17-19 August 2019
Art in Contemporary Iran

A glorious city rich in art, cultural wonders, and architecture lives on to this day; all give it a visual appeal unmatched by any other city. "Isfahan is half the world".



Shiraz

20-22 August 2019
Culture in Contemporary Iran

Celebrated as the heartland of Persian culture for over 2000 years, Shiraz has become synonymous with education, nightingales, and poetry. It's also home to whispered echoes of ancient Persepolis.



COURSE DESCRIPTION

Iran as a civilization is one of the oldest and richest in the world, and modern Iran bears the memory of that rich and glorious heritage. As this country continues to play a more active role in both regional and global cultural and political arenas, the inherent advantage of cultivating a deeper understanding of Iran becomes increasingly apparent.

Organized by the Open Education Department at the University of Religions and Denominations (URD), the Contemporary Iranian Studies summer course provides an interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary platform for the study of modern Iranian culture, politics, and society.

It seeks to deliver an enriching experience and offer a unique academic program for those who wish an intimate, insider's look at modern Iran.

This intensive course is a well-balanced mixture of 1) academic lectures by outstanding professors, 2) handpicked social programs, and 3) cultural tours guided by experts of the field.

The academic lectures give you plenty of opportunity to better understand contemporary Iran. The social programs give you the chance to take part in reflective events and activities to taste real life experiences in Iran. And the guided tours of Iran let you truly immerse yourself in the vibrant atmosphere that Iran has to offer.

The main purpose is to allow those interested from abroad to explore Iran, to be directly in touch with their subject of interest, to learn about Iran from a multidisciplinary academic approach and to gain a first-hand experience of living in Iran.

OUR UNIQUENESS



Many universities offer courses related to the study of Iran throughout the world, however, a true understanding of Iran can only be gained through an interdisciplinary academic approach coupled with first-hand experience.

University of Religions and Denominations (URD) in the heart of religious capital of Iran provides the ideal opportunity to gain a comprehensive and insightful understanding of Iran. The Faculty of Open Education at URD is the only faculty in Iran that offers intensive courses on Iranian Studies exclusively to and specifically for international participants.

We welcome both applicants

wishing to attain a formal academic certificate or enthusiasts wishing to have a real-life experience of today Iran.

We provide a unique experience of living in Iran. Participants learn about Iran from an insider perspective in the form of academic knowledge taught by Iranian lecturers, and at the same time gain direct access to their field of study by living amongst its friendly people, exploring its historic and cultural sights, and discovering its social and cultural atmosphere.

Our program offers a unique first-hand and in-depth academic experience that extends beyond the politicized perspective offered by some overseas institutions.

The Iranian Studies summer course is a well-balanced mixture of

1) academic lectures by outstanding professors as well as 2) handpicked social programs and 3) cultural tours guided by experts of the field.

1) Academic Lectures

These lectures are designed to provide participants with the foundational knowledge, and critical thinking required to understand contemporary Iran in terms of culture, politics, art, history, religion, etc. The goal is to not simply provide an outline of the subjects, but to continuously put these various topics into conversation.

The core course is team taught, which gives participants the unique opportunity to work with several professors and scholars. It provides hours of specialized lectures to be followed by Q&A sessions and free discussion in dialogical space. Lectures will be presented both on and off campus by professors affiliated to top universities of Iran. On-site lectures will be offered throughout the program as well, which is among the distinctive features of our program.

2) Social Programs

In Social Programs we are taking you to those local secrets that can't be Googled. With our handpicked social activities, you can taste real-life experiences you won't find in search engines. It would be the moment you find yourself in the middle of a black tent of Iranian nomads, spending an unforgettable night sleeping in desert, being

COURSE STRUCTURE



treated to a home-cooked meal in evening family, meeting with Grand Ayatollahs of Hawza or sharing joy with thousands of Iranians in a Festival. These unexpected moments are what giving you an experience like no other.

3) Cultural Tours

Follow in pilgrims' footsteps and explore the history of old Persia and the spirit of the new Iran. You will have the expert advice of leading scholars guiding you each step of the Iran Tour, deciphering the complex world of this rich culture with you. Our itineraries are specifically crafted to include the best of Iran tour. They're not simply about getting from point A to point B, or 'seeing the sights.

What we offer is the local knowledge and experience to help you get behind the scenes of a culture and understand what makes that destination tick. These are unique and authentic insights into local life in Iran.

Accreditation

Iran Studies summer course is recognized and accredited by the University of Religions and Denominations. A formal certificate will be awarded to each participant upon successful completion of the program.

SCHEDULE OVERVIEW



- The final schedule and detailed itinerary will be sent to all applicants before the program starts.
- Lectures will be presented on-site and on-campus in cooperation with the University of Tehran, Isfahan University of Art, and Shiraz University.
- Further information on workshop and lecturers will be available on our website.
- 2 hours of bus tour (BT) and a short walking tour (WT) is designed for each city.

DAY	CITY	THEME	WORKSHOP TOPICS	SOCIAL PROGRAMS	TOUR ACTIVITIES
15-16 Aug 2019	Qom: City of Ayatollahs	Religion & Contemporary Iran	Shi'ism: Doctrines and Rituals Religiosity and Secularity Ijtihad, Fatwa & Religious Authority	Meeting with a Grand Ayatollah Hawzah Ilmiyah Imam Khomeini House	WT: Gozar Khan Bazaar/ Timche Farsh/ Jameh Mosque/ Traditional bath/ Jahangir Khan Seminary
					BT: Jamkaran Mosque/ Golzar-e Shuhada/ Gonbad Sabz Garden/ Mont Élie Fatima Masumeh Shrine
17-19 Aug 2019	Isfahan: Half the World's Beauty	Art & Contemporary Iran	Iranian Fine Arts Iranian Music Islamic Iranian Architecture	Handicraft Workshop Traditional Live Music Evening Family Vank Cathedral	WT: Naqsh-e Jahan Square/ Ali Qapu Palace/ Lotfollah & Imam Mosques/ Qeysarie Gate
					BT: Khaju Bridge/ Si-o-seh Pol/ Fire temple/ Menar Jonban Jolfa Neighborhood/ Chehelsetoon Palace
20-22 Aug 2019	Shiraz: Hub of Culture	Culture & Contemporary Iran	History and Civilization Culture and Society	Hafez Khani Ghadir Festival Shah Cheragh Night With Nomads	WT: Vakil Mosque/ Vakil Bazaar/ Vakil Bath/ Saraye Moshir
					BT: Tomb of Saadi/ Qur'an Gate/ Eram Garden/ Afif-Abad Garden/ Karim Khan Castle
					Nasir-ol-molk Mosque/ Tomb of Hafez/ Persepolis/ Naqsh-e Rostam
23-25 Aug 2019	Tehran: Beating Heart of Iran	Politics & Contemporary Iran	Revolution and Political Changes Power Structure, State and Governance Gender and Woman's right	Islamic Consultative Assembly Muslim Women's Organization Zurkhaneh Ritual Tehran Synagogue	WT: 30 Tir St./ National Garden Gate/ Bazaar
					BT: Baharestan Square/ Azadi Tower/ Milad Tower/ Oudlajan Neighborhood Golestan Palace/ Tabiat Bridge



HOW TO APPLY?

Individuals from a wide range of academic and/or professional interests are welcome to apply.

The Iranian Studies summer course is open to professors, scholars, & students from all around the world who want to explore Iran through an academic lens.

Others who are engaged in activism in these fields or encounters with Persianate world and who wish to sharpen their insights will also find this intensive course very helpful. Professionals working in Muslim contexts, in education, government, NGOs and even corporations will also benefit from the program.

Application Steps

1. Complete and submit application form.
2. Make sure the correct documents are attached as requested.
3. Applicants will be notified of their acceptance at the latest, 7 days after their application.
4. Once you are admitted, you will be required to provide within a deposit of refundable €70 or a copy of your purchased flight ticket to Iran which will count as your final acceptance.

5. As soon as we receive the deposit or flight ticket, we start your visa application process if you prefer us to take care of the visa affairs.
6. Full payment will be received at your arrival in Iran in cash. We are regrettably unable to offer credit card payment service for course fees.

Important Dates

- Early Registration Deadline: 30th May 2019
- Final Registration Deadline: 20th June 2019
- Course begins: 15th August 2019
- Course ends: 25th August 2019





FEES & FELLOWSHIP

Standard and Special Rates

Package	Standard Fee	Early Birds	MoU*	Group (3-5)
11-Day All Inclusive	€ 1120	€ 970	€ 870	€ 830
Inclusions				
Accommodation (10 nights): Twin share room in 4/3-star hotel or traditional house				
Transport (11 days): Private Transport, Bus, Plane				
Meals (11 days): All meals and refreshments				
Airport transfers: Pick-up and drop-off				
Travel insurance				
Site entrance fees				
Other related costs				
Exclusions				
International Flight & Visa fee				

* Single room is available with an additional €17 per night.

* MoU: Participants from Uni/ Institutes we have a memorandum of understanding in between.

The course fee includes registration fee, course materials, accommodation, meals, transport, airport transfers (pick-up and drop-off), site entrance, travel insurance and all costs related to the social programs and trips. However, international flight expenses (to and from Iran) and visa fee are not included.

Fellowship

We sincerely regret our inability to offer full scholarship or subsidize travel costs. We do not receive any funds from private nor public institutions and, thus, we fully

depend on the participants' tuition to be able to do the program. Nevertheless, we are passionate about education and do our best for individuals to fulfil their potential. We are providing several partial financial aids available for applicants who would otherwise not have had the opportunity to attend.

While we cannot guarantee to cover all applications, we are working on partial sponsorships and we would like to hear from you if the financial issue would be a big concern for your enrollment to the program. Please contact us for more information.

VISA WITHOUT LABEL & STAMP

The University of Religions and Denominations provides visa sponsorship for all confirmed applicants. As in every other country, visa process is subject to background checks by related authorities. The visa approval process can take up to 3 weeks after applicants are notified of their successful application. However, if you are travelling on UK, USA or CANADIAN passport, please be aware that your visa process takes longer (up to 2 months) and you need to apply before May 30th.

Steps in Detail

1. Upon the registration you will be required to email us 1) a color scan of your passport; and 2) a recently-taken color passport photo. Once your registration is confirmed, we submit your documents to the Iranian Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) in Tehran.
2. The MFA will issue your visa authorization code that will be transmitted to the Iranian consulate/

“Travel to Iran without a passport stamp of entry and exit!”

- embassy which you have indicated in your application form. If you are opting to collect your visa on arrival please select ‘Tehran Imam Khomeini International Airport IKA’ in the form.
3. Once your visa code approved, we will send you a ‘Visa Grant Notice’ (VGN) letter Issued by the MFA.
4. The VGN letter is only valid to the mentioned consulate. But, you may request us to forward it to another consulate in case of emergency.
5. Let us know the feedback. If there is any problem, we will remain with you for solving it until you receive the visa.
6. By having the Visa Grant Notice, you will be able to collect your visa within 30 days and before the code expires.
7. According to the new policy, Iran does not stamp the passport on arrival or departure. Therefore, you will travel to Iran without a visa label or stamp of entry and exit on your passport!

