the 2009 Muslim guide to life at Harvard

And hold fast, all together, by the rope which God (stretches out for you), and be not divided among yourselves; and remember with gratitude God’s favor upon you – Sura al-Imran v. 103, The Holy Qur’an
Welcome to the Harvard community!

We pray and hope that you have a fruitful and rewarding time here... and will try our very best to facilitate it. You hold in your hands a detailed guide on Muslim life at Harvard. Since its establishment in 1955, the Harvard Islamic Society (or HIS) has been supporting, supplying and engaging Muslim and non-Muslim students on campus.

In terms of support, HIS connects Muslims at Harvard as well as Muslims all over Boston. Through this connection, Harvard Muslims partake in various social activities including dinner gatherings, study-breaks, weekly halaqas, as well as many other fun-filled events. Everyone needs a pick-me-up every now and again, and nothing quite does the trick like enjoying free sundaes while engaging in discussions with other HIS members at a Sundae Study-Break or the like.

Furthermore, HIS supplies the Muslim community with free food, various forms of halal entertainment, and information related to all aspects of college life and beyond.

Finally, Muslims at Harvard are engaged spiritually and intellectually through various HIS sponsored classes on Islam, Saalatul Jumu’a (Friday congregational prayers), and spontaneous discussions/debates that arise from time to time. HIS has something to offer everyone. (Non-Muslims included!)

So check out the guide and we’ll see you around inshaAllah.

And as is often heard during halaqas, what happens at HIS-sponsored activities stays in Vegas.

Meet your new friends.

The Harvard Islamic Society officers dedicate rather large slices of their time and resources to make the lives of HIS members just a little bit better. Feel free to befriend them, discuss new ideas for HIS events or programs, debate complicated issues of fiqh, stalk them on the Facebook... But remember, you should never, under any circumstance, hesitate to ask them about anything, HIS-related or otherwise. Unless it’s midterm season, in which case you’re on your own.

Just kidding.
the officers
From different walks of life and competing.

**President: Na’eel Cajee ‘10**
naeel10@college.harvard.edu
A junior in Leverett House and History of Science concentrator who grew up in Oklahoma, South Africa, and California.

**Vice President: Fauzia Shaikh ‘10**
fshaikh@fas.harvard.edu

**Secretary: Harris Beg ‘12**
hbeg@fas.harvard.edu
A freshman in Pannypacker and soon to be a sophomore in Eliot, Harris grew up in Queens, NY and lived most of his life in Long Island, NY, and now lives in Crown Point, IN.

**Treasurer: Alexa Rahman ‘12**
arahman@fas.harvard.edu
A freshman in Hurlbut and soon to be a sophomore in Quincy House, Alexa grew up in Weston, Massachusetts. She will concentrate in either Government or History with a secondary field in Economics and Arabic.

**Co-director of Development: Abdelnasser Rashid ‘11**
arashid@fas.harvard.edu
A sophomore and Social Studies concentrator in Dunster House who currently lives in DeWolfe. He grew up in Chicago and in Palestine, near Ramallah.

**Co-director of Development: Chaima Bouhlel ‘11**
cbouhlel@fas.harvard.edu
Chaima is a sophomore from Saudi Arabia who currently resides in Eliot. She is concentrating in Molecular and Cellular Biology (MCB).

**Director of Islamic Learning: Bilal Siddiqui ‘11**
siddiqui@fas.harvard.edu
A sophomore in Winthrop House living in De Wolfe. Bilal is an MCB concentrator with a secondary in Moral and Political Philosophy from Texas.

**Director of External Relations: Fahmi Jahufar ‘11**
fjahufar@fas.harvard.edu
Fahmi is a sophomore from Framingham, MA residing in Currier House. She is an MCB concentrator with a secondary in Health Policy.

**Director of Internal Relations: Efi Akam ‘12**
eakam@fas.harvard.edu
Efi is a current freshman in Weld and soon to be a sophomore in Quincy. She lives in Arizona and plans to concentrate jointly in Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations and History and Science.

**The Graduate Advisors:**
Old (well not that old) and wizened, our graduate advisors are ready to impart the wisdom they have accumulated during their time here on earth. Ask them about their chosen career path, their views on the latest Muslim controversy… or just get a movie recommendation.

Celene Ayat (HDS)
Stephanie Young (HLS)
Arafat Razzaque (HDS)
Nebil Hussen (GSAS)
The United Ministry Representative:
The UM-Rep is HIS’ representative to the United Ministry, which is composed of the chaplains of the various religious traditions in the Harvard community. He has been involved with HIS for a very long time and is available for questions and consultation about Islamic belief and practice. Just shoot him an email!

Taha Abdul-Basser PhD Candidate in NELC
tbasser@fas.harvard.edu
AB, Harvard College ‘96
from NYC, NY

**membership**

The Harvard Islamic Society would not be here if it were not for Allah subhanahu wa ta’ala and then the members of the Harvard Muslim community (YOU!).

Official HIS members can participate in all HIS meetings and vote during elections. Past and current HIS members are distinguished by their individual and collective awesomeness. You know you want to join!

All Muslims (and non-Muslims!) at Harvard can become official members by e-mailing the secretary hbeg@fas.harvard.edu, the following information:

Name:
Harvard Affiliation:
Year of graduation (if a student):
Harvard ID number:

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**e-mail lists**

You won't be able to learn about upcoming HIS events, participate in the latest Islamic or political discussion, or help us plan events unless you join some of our HIS e-mail lists. Some of the lists are only open to certain members, so be sure to check the “Prerequisites”.

To join any of the lists, please e-mail hbeg@fas.harvard.edu

* **HIS-List**: The Moderated Announcement List
  Join this list to find out about the Society's numerous religious, social, and educational activities as well as events of interest to other members.
  **Prerequisites**: None--everyone is welcome!

* **HIS-Kalam**: The Open-Post Discussion List
  HIS-Kalam provides a forum for community announcements, and discussions on religious and political issues. All HIS-Kalam members are also HIS-list members. This list can get really interesting...
  **Prerequisites**: Attend at least two HIS events, which include but are not limited to: activities fairs, weekly Dinner Table, open board meetings, general body meetings, and HIS special events.

* **HIS-Sis-List**
  Join this list to exchange information about social and academic activities for sisters in the Harvard and wider Cambridge/Boston community.
  **Prerequisites**: Be absolutely sure that you’re a sister.
and more lists…

* **HIS-Bros**
This nascent list is a place for guys to organize their social events and have discussions amongst each other.  
*Prerequisites:* Be ineligible for the HIS-Sis-List

* **HIS-Planning**
If you want to help plan events, then this is the list to join. This list is open to ideas for future events as well as for planning out the logistics of any upcoming HIS events.  
*Prerequisites:* Attend at least two HIS general body meetings or open board meetings.

Another good list to be on if you want to know what’s happening in the Boston area is the Boston Wide Announcement List. To subscribe, send a blank e-mail to: boston-subscribe@msaonline.org

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**musalla the prayer room**

Within Harvard’s sprawling campus lies one of the most valued pieces of real-estate in all of Cambridge. Real-estate so prized and sought-after that many individuals have fought long and hard for it. We’re talking about the HIS Musalla.

You can find the Musalla at the end of a never-ending labyrinth beneath Canaday Hall. Once you enter the Canaday Common Room entryway, turn left and go downstairs. Go through the laundry room and follow the zig-zag hallway all the way to the end.

The very hip and chic HIS Musalla is accessible exclusively to all HIS members (and their friends) absolutely free of charge. Can we get an alhamdulillah?!

For card-swipe access to Canaday, e-mail your Name, Harvard Affiliation, Year of Graduation (if you're a student), and Harvard ID Number to: amabruk@fas.harvard.edu

Feel free to use the Musalla as a place to worship, study, reflect, organize and meet. Remember that its primary purpose is to facilitate prayer, so please be respectful of others who are there to pray when you aren’t.
qibla

Boston is centered at 42°22'11" N latitude, and 71°01'47" W longitude. The Great Circle direction of the Qibla from Boston & Cambridge is 60.476774 (From North Clockwise).

prayer timings

For prayer timings, visit http://www.islamicfinder.org, type 02138, click “Go” and you’ll see the prayer timings on the right.

You may also view Monthly Prayer Timings, print them out, and have the timings delivered to you every month via email. A copy of these monthly prayer timings is found inside the Musalla.

local mosque

Islamic Society of Boston

- [http://www.isboston.org](http://www.isboston.org)
- 204 Prospect Street / Cambridge, MA 02139
- (617) 876 3546

This mosque is the closest to Harvard Square and is located near Central Square, between Harvard and MIT. It serves as a meeting space for many college students in Boston.

Many youth-oriented activities are sponsored by Muslim American Society are held at the ISB, including a monthly qiyam (night prayer) with program exclusively for students. The ISB also organizes the udhiyah/qurbani during Eid ul Adha, a Hajj group, the city-wide Eid prayers, collection of zakatul fitr. The ISB is always looking for volunteers at its many activities, and particularly its non-Muslim committees. Its offices are located above al-Bustan preschool at the corner of Prospect and Broadway streets, a block away from the mosque. Contact the ISB Cultural Center at 617 876 3546.

You can take the Harvard shuttle to the mosque in the evenings before 2:45 AM. See the section “for your safety” on how to access the Harvard shuttle.
Imamia Muslim Foundation of New England

- 115 Wood Street
  Hopkinton, MA 01748
- (508) 497-3462

The Imamia Muslim Foundation of New England (IMFNE) is the only established Islamic Center which has been funded by the Shia community of Massachusetts. The building was initially purchased by the Masumeen Charitable Trust in 1994.

The Center provides weekly Juma’ Prayer, Weekly Recitation of Dua Kumail on Thursday nights, Eid prayers, programs during the holly month of Ramadan, the month of Muharram, the month of Safar, and all the occasions related to the birth, death, or martyrdom of each of the Masumeen.

It also runs a Sunday Religious School (in Urdu and English) and a Saturday School (in Farsi). The Center has also run interfaith activities including seminars, workshops, and conferences.

Boston Nizari Ismaili Cultural Center

- 1089 Commonwealth Ave.
  Boston, MA 02215
- 617-787-5455

Founded in 1973, the Boston Nizari Ismaili Cultural Center began with students gathering at MIT, then at Harvard. In 1990, the community relocated to its present facility, which houses the jamat khana (house of congregation) and two small classrooms where religious education classes are held.

With an abundance of floor space for people to sit, the jamat khana may resemble other Muslim prayer rooms, but in the Ismaili tradition women pray side by side with the men and play a central role in religious services. On either side of the prayer room are two pictures of the Aga Khan, the community’s religious leader. Encircling the room a band of small, blue and white tiles bear the names Allah, Muhammad, and Ali in stylized Arabic calligraphy. The physical setting reflects the interior focus of the worshippers.
weekly HIS events

jumu’a prayer

Friday prayer is held weekly on campus at Lowell Lecture Hall (second floor) which is located at the intersection of Oxford and Kirkland Streets. The first adhaan is given at 1:15 and prayer ends by 2:00. If you are planning to attend throughout the year, be sure to schedule your classes accordingly at the beginning of the semester.

dinner table

Do you like eating? Do you like eating food? How about eating halal food prepared by some of Harvard’s premiere culinary artists? If yes, then you will love the weekly Dinner Tables. If not, then there’s always Annenberg.

Weekly Dinner Tables are held at Adams Dining Hall on Thursday at 6:00 pm and Winthrop House on Mondays 6:00pm. The entrance to Adams House is located on Plympton Street off of Mass Ave and Winthrop House is located on Mill Street near Memorial Drive. Note that Dinner Tables are not held during Ramadan (see Ramadan).

halaqas study circles

For those unfamiliar with the term, halaqa literally means "circle" in Arabic. These study circles are opportunities for us to advance our religious education in an open and easily accessible setting.

Across Boston, halaqas of various types are held for various purposes:

- Muslim American Society open halaqa at the Islamic Society of Boston (www.isboston.org); co-ed

- Various collegiate halaqas, generally held on Friday nights (MIT, BU, Wellesley are all single-sex, Tufts is co-educational)

- Muslim American Society closed (by application or invitation only) "usra" halaqas for more intensive, movement-based discussion

At Harvard, the Brothers and Sisters halaqas have been held both jointly and separately. Usually, one or two attendees will prepare a topic for discussion in advance. There is also generally a halaqa coordinator who makes sure a quorum will be in attendance each week and handles assignments and advertising.
more halaqa info

Topics are generated by the participants themselves although following established syllabi are options. Some of the topics covered in Spring 2006 for the Harvard Islamic Society brothers’ halaqa included: Jinns, Angels, Tauba, Du’a, Purifying Character, Prophets and Messengers, Intergender Interaction, Multifaith/Interfaith Questions and Etiquette, Riya’a, with MIT’s Muslims Student Association, and many more.

Most importantly, the halaqas have strived to be a place for Muslims to come together on Friday nights and discuss their religion in an open and inviting setting. Everyone is welcome, irrespective of their knowledge or religious persuasion. Halaqas have strived to be discussion-oriented, educational and fun.

After the halaqas, groups of the participants usually go together to taste the culinary delights of Cambridge and Boston. A new feature of the Harvard halaqa in 2005 is for students to share a local homecooked dish with everyone. Random members have been known to comment, teary-eyed, on how wonderful Friday evenings become.

Halaqas are, of course, largely dependent on the people who come and participate – so please keep an eye on the email lists for halaqa announcements, and spend all or part of Friday evening with you Muslim family here at Harvard!

islam classes

The Bukhari Institute is a non-profit educational center that brings various Islamic events to Boston, and it currently offers courses on tajweed (Qur’anic recitation), aqeeda and Shafi’i fiqh at the YMCA near Northeastern University. You can contact Haroon Slevak at info@bukhari-institute.org

The Islamic Society of Boston’s imam, Shaykh Bassyouny, has taught several courses on the Fiqh of Salat and Fiqh of Da’wah in the last year. Visit the ISB website for more information.

Watch out for future announcements of classes hosted at Harvard, including possibly tajweed classes for brothers and sisters.

du’a kumayl

The Ithna Ashari Shi’i (Jafari) community has been meeting on Thursday nights to recite the Du’a Kumayl at the Harvard Business School chapel. Last year, thanks to Jameel and Zenub, Adams House Tutors, the Du’a Kumayl was moved to a meeting room in Adams House. Contact Jameel and Zenub to know more about events for the Shi’i student community:james_woodman@ksg05.harvard.edu, kaklize@gse.harvard.edu. Dua Kumayl is also recited every Thursday night after Dinner Table in the HIS Musalla. Please contact srzaidi@fas.harvard.edu for more information on that.
HIS holds weekly board meetings in the musalla. During these meetings, the board addresses issues that concern the Muslim community on campus, discusses ideas for new events, and works on logistics for any upcoming events. Timings will be announced over the email lists.

We strongly encourage anyone who would like to participate in planning events and decision-making, or anyone who would like to voice concerns to attend these meetings. Bring food if you want to win the coveted "Most Valuable Board Meeting Participant" award.

This year the board meets at 5pm on Sundays in the Musulla.

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The blessings of this fantastic month are felt the world over – and with the Grace of Allah, these blessings are truly palpable at iftar. Coming in early in the academic calendar, Ramadan is a time when the community meets every single day to break their fasts together; it has played a huge role in making many a freshman and transfer student feel at home in Cambridge.

Everyone (be members, non-members, or somewhere in between) is welcome to join us for the evening fast-breaking meal (iftar) in Ticknor Lounge, Boylston Hall (next to Widener Library, in between the Weld and Wigglesworth freshman dorms). Non-Muslims have found Ramadan to be a good time to meet and talk to members of the Muslim community, and roommates, dormmates, and random people hanging out next to Fong have been regularly seen at the iftars.

At sunset, we break our fast with dates, water, and 1% Reduced Fat Milk (or 2% if the organizers wish to risk the wrath of the People). After this, we pray Maghrib in congregation, followed by a short talk (a ‘naseeha’ – advice) delivered by an HIS member or someone in the community.

Then comes the food.
more ramadan info

Suffice it to say that we are blessed with delicious meals amongst wonderful people in the most sacred of months. It’s quite special.

Some iftars are co-sponsored by wonderful student groups that deserve your attention, such as the Society of Arab Students and the South Asian Association. Several are also hosted by some of the graduate schools’ Muslim organizations – notably one iftar each Ramadan is hosted at the Law and Divinity Schools.

Special suhoors (pre-dawn meal before the fast begins) are held at least once a week, during the weekend. Prepare to have your roommates ogle at you with a curious mixture of shock, confusion, and envy when you announce that you will be joining HIS for a meal at 4am Saturday morning.

At least once (possibly more, as demand demands!) we head down to IHOP for suhoor and wonder why there are other people to be found there at such an hour. Other suhoors are usually held in the Canaday Common Room. The word in the yard is that we’re going to have Belgian waffles this year.

Other highlights of Ramadan are the nightly taraweeh prayers held in the musalla after Isha prayers. During the second half of Ramadan, daily night programs are offered during the night at the Islamic Society of Boston in Central Square.

The program consists of prayer for two hours (roughly 8-10 raka’at) followed by sahoor and then fajr prayer. Most masajid in Boston pray 8 raka’at each night, with Masjid an-Nur in Roxbury praying a full 20. Each night after the fourth raka’a at ISB, they have a quiz competition called “Name that Famous Muslim” or “Name that Sahaba.” The winner gets a free hardcover Qur’an.

The Harvard Shuttle (617 495 0400) can take you to the mosque (204 Prospect Street) so long as you call before 2:30 AM. Coming home after fajr might involve a cab ride from Central Square or walking back with your friends.

The night programs are wonderfully spiritually uplifting, and small spontaneous groups are often formed to go together.

For the last ten days of Ramadan, the mosque is open continuously for itikaaf (continuous seclusion in the mosque). While this is difficult for most students, the 27th night is very special event with the completion of the whole Qur’an by Shaykh Bassyouny. The event is usually held jointly by all the mosques in the city, drawing over a thousand people.

It is important to note that these iftars and the other events during Ramadan are organized by a number of dedicated students who put a lot of time and effort into it – and find it endlessly rewarding. It’s quite amazing how much bonding takes place inside that little kitchen in Ticknor, and the lounge itself grows dear to many HIS members.
fastathon

Undoubtedly one of the highlights of the HIS calendar, Fast-a-thon simultaneously draws attention to the worldwide problem of starvation and hunger while encouraging interfaith dialogue and an understanding of some of the core ideals of Islam.

Students are encouraged to fast for the day, and in return Harvard University Dining Service donates money to a chosen charity. Other donations are strongly encouraged. In the evening, their fasts are broken together. Two years ago the Fast-a-thon benefited the Save The Children Foundation and was a resounding success with hundreds participating – we’re aiming even higher this year.

islam awareness week

If there’s one thing Muslims can agree upon, it’s that a lot of people need a lot of education about Islam. And fast. Early in the spring, HIS members organize a number of events for Islam Awareness Week (or IAW). Past events have included talks about the basics of Islamic Law (the shari`a), lectures on “Why Stereotypes Suck”, poetry readings, and discussions on sexuality and love in Islam.

Think of IAW as our way of putting some reliable information about Islam into the Harvard universe. Harvard is host to some of the most intelligent and most influential thinkers in the world.

Alhamdulillah, most people here are eager to listen to other perspectives and learn from them. As Muslims, we feel it’s our responsibility to give everyone here the opportunity to learn about Islam from the people who believe in it, practice it, and strive to embody its ideals in their daily life. While we try to do this throughout the year, IAW allows us to combine our efforts to good effect. Think of it as having a pint of ice cream all at once as opposed to one scoop at a time.

Mmm… now there’s a delicious analogy.
fall & spring dinners

Every year, when the leaves start adopting colorful hues, when the air becomes crisp, and the Cambridge meadow lark sings its somber tune, HIS thoroughly shames every other college Muslim group in Boston. This is done via the annual Fall Dinner which blows every other MSA dinner out of the water (especially MIT’s). College Muslims come from all over Boston to enjoy a night of good food, good friends, and good entertainment at Harvard. Look forward to this event as well as the Spring Dinner which is held just before spring reading period.

Come for the food. Stay for the MIT nerd bashing.

(Despite what some HIS groupies might say, dinners hosted by other MSAs in and around Boston are actually rather enjoyable. Announcements for these dinners are sent to the email lists, and groups spontaneously form and head out together to eat, mingle, and represent.)

other activities

HIS can be a very spontaneous student group at times. For this reason, it’s a good idea to keep informed about activities through the various email lists as well as simply talking to HIS officers or other HIS members. In addition to all the activities described in this guide, there are just as many official and unofficial activities going on year-round.

the halal goods

Apart from Ramadhan iftaars and the super-awesome weekly Dinner Table, there are two other methods of obtaining Halal food: in your dining hall (for undergrads) or out in the mean streets of Boston and Cambridge.

... in your dining hall!

As a result of strenuous negotiations between HUDS and HIS members, you have unlimited access to Halal burgers, hot dogs, chickwiches, and grilled chicken - all courtesy of your dining hall's grill.

In addition, hot Halal entrees are now served on Mondays at Winthrop Dining Hall. Halal bagged meals are also available for pick up throughout the week.

If for some reason these items are not available, speak to your dining hall manager, or get in touch with our Internal Relations Officer, Efi Akam. Let’s just say she has ways of making people talk... or insuring that there’s zabiha meat at your dining hall, whichever the case may be.

... at harvard hillel

Aside from being the social center for our Jewish friends on campus, Harvard Hillel, located 52 Mount Auburn Street, is also the on-campus site for premiere kosher cuisine. Don’t hesitate to drop in for a quick bite.
**halal off-campus**

Go to [http://www.zabiha.com](http://www.zabiha.com) and navigate to the Boston page. You’ll find user-added contact details for a number of Halal restaurants in the Boston, and a bunch of reviews (if you’re adventurous and are looking to do a bit of cooking, the site also has places from where you can obtain Halal meat). Look out for these perennial favorites: Boston Kabob and Pizza, Shawarma King, Boston Shawarma and the nearby Bengal Café.

Since the information on the above website isn’t regularly updated, you are well-advised to ask if the meat is indeed Zabiha.

**Halal Restaurants in Cambridge**

*Ali Baba Tandoor* (Pakistani/Afghan): Take the subway to Porter Square and walk up Massachusetts Ave. Ali Baba Tandoor will be on the southbound side of the street (on your left), next to the KFC/Taco Bell. Alternatively, you can take the #77 bus from the bus mall beneath Harvard Square (near the Dunkin Donuts in the subway). Get off at Walden Street. 2088 Massachusetts Ave, Cambridge, MA 02140-2012. (617) 876-8664

*Bengal Café* (Bangladeshi): Take the #77 bus towards Porter Square. Once past Porter, get off a stop after Rindge Avenue. Stay on the northbound side of the street. Bengal Café will be on your right. 2263 Massachusetts Avenue, Cambridge, MA 02140, (617) 492-1944.

**Halal Restaurants in Allston along the #66 bus route**

The 66 public city bus, which departs from in front of the Kennedy School on JFK Street and at the corner of Garden St. and Massachusetts Avenue, can take you to the Allston neighborhood which is home to many halal restaurants. In order of their appearance along the 66 bus route:

*Grain and Salt* (Pizza and Desi): One of the hot new entrants to the Boston Zabiha scene, this is the closest Allston halal restaurant to Harvard. Ride the 66 bus from Harvard Sq towards Dudley Station. The bus will go past Harvard Stadium and eventually make a right on Cambridge Street near. Once on Cambridge Street, keep an eye out for Emery or Denby Streets which come after the large Sports Depot bar & grill on your right-hand side. If you arrive at Union Square where the bus turns onto Brighton Avenue, you have gone a couple blocks too far. 431 Cambridge St. Allston 02134 (617) 254-337

*Reef Café* (Lebanese): Follow directions to Boston Kabob and Pizza, however stay on bus at Emery or Denby streets. Once the bus turns onto Brighton Avenue (Union Square) get off at Harvard Ave and head back to. 170 Brighton Avenue, Allston 02134 (617) 202-6366.
More halal food off-campus

**Stefani’s Pizzeria** (Pizza’s and other fastfood): Head southeast on Massachusetts Ave/RT-2A toward Inman St, turn right at Sidney S, turn right at Putnam Ave and the turn right at Brookline St. They also deliver in the Cambridge area. 263 Brookline St, Cambridge, MA 02139. (617) 547-4588. stefanispizzeria.com

**Medina Market** (Desi - Pakkistani): Stay on #66 bus until you reach the intersection of Brighton Avenue and Harvard Avenue. Get off the bus and cross Harvard Avenue walking along Brighton Avenue in the direction the bus was headed. Brighton Avenue will intersect Chester Street on the right hand side. Medina Market is located at the intersection of Chester and Brighton. 72 Brighton Avenue, Allston, 02134 (617) 787-4400

**JMP Foods** (Desi): Follow the directions to Medina Market. However, continue past Medina Market on Brighton Ave until you see a Super 88 Food Court with large Chinese characters on your left hand side. Inside the Super 88 Food Court is JMP Foods. You have to ask for your order to be halal. 1 Brighton Avenue, Super 88 Food Court, Allston, 02134. (617) 787-9700

**Anadolu Café** (Turkish): Follow the directions to Medina Market. However, continue past Medina Market and past Super 88 Food Court until you reach where Brighton merges with Commonwealth Avenue. Further down Commonwealth Avenue (three blocks) on the right hand side you will see Anadolu Café next to Angora Café. 1022 Commonwealth Avenue, Boston, 02215

**Shawarma King** (Lebanese): This is the farthest from Harvard, but well worth it. Stay on the #66 bus until you reach the intersection of Beacon Street and Harvard Avenue in Brookline. Once you get off the bus, turn onto Beacon Street and walk two blocks towards the Marriott Inn at Coolidge Corner. Shawarma King is on the left hand side of the street next to the Relax the Back store and Coldwell Banker Real Estate. 1383 Beacon St, Brookline, 02446 - (617) 731-6035

Restaurants in Boston

**Boston Shawarma** (Lebanese): This restaurant is located near Northeastern U. You can take the RedLine inbound to Park Street and switch onto the GreenLine, exiting at the Northeastern stop. Alternatively, you can take the #1 bus from infront of Holyoke Center and get off at Huntington Ave. Do not cross Mass Ave or Huntington Ave. Continue down Huntington Ave and Boston Shawarma will be on your right.
Islam related courses

Being the beautiful language of our sacred book it’s not hard to understand why many HIS members take some Arabic during their time here. The classes are challenging but extremely rewarding, the teachers are excellent and very dedicated – all in all, it’s a great experience to have here. If you want to talk to anyone who has studied/is studying Arabic here, tap one of the Officers on the shoulder. If they can’t help you out themselves, they will point you in the right direction. Outside of Arabic as well, Harvard has very strong language classes, and you can busy yourself with some of the Islamicate languages touch here.

Harvard offers a plethora of opportunities to delve into Islam academically, whether you are interested in exploring ancient Islamic architecture or modern European-Islamic relations. When you’re looking to take one of these courses, it is again a good idea to seek out the advice of HIS members who can help you negotiate the courses, find the gems and figure which to avoid. Some courses that may be of interest this Academic year are:

Fall 2009

Foreign Cultures 70. Understanding Islam and Contemporary Muslim Societies
History 1904. The History of Sub-Saharan Africa to 1860

*Islamic Civilizations 241r. Approaches to Studying Indo-Muslim Culture and South Asian Islam
Religion 1489. Contemporary Interpretations of Jesus
Religion 1801. For the Love of God and His Prophet: Religion, Literature, and the Arts in Muslim Cultures
Religion 1825. Issues in Feminism and Islam: A Historical Overview
Religion 1827. Themes in Islam in America
Religion 1840. Writing Lives: Readings in Contemporary Muslim and Arab Autobiography: Seminar

Spring 2010

African and African American Studies 141. Afro-Atlantic Religions
Historical Study A-67. Gendered Communities: Women, Islam, and Nationalism in the Middle East and North Africa
Historical Study B-11. The Crusades
*History of Science 90n. History of Science 90n. Science, Technology and Medicine in the Modern Middle East
*Islamic Civilizations 241r. Approaches to Studying Indo-Muslim Culture and South Asian Islam
*Religion 1820. Islam in South Asia: Religion, Culture, and Identity in South Asian Muslim Societies

The courses offered are subject to change, so check your course handbook for more information!
for your safety

So it’s late at night and you’re on your way back from the library. You hear a noise behind you and you whip around quickly, only to see that it was just a squirrel out for some air. You breathe a little easier but quicken your pace. However unlikely this scenario may seem to you, it’s always good to err on the side of caution. Now before we begin to sound more and more like your parents, and before you begin to roll your eyes at these sentences, understand that your meanest night-walking face isn’t too reliable in a tight spot – and Harvard students have been in these tight spots before, so, regardless of whether you look and walk around like a panther or a pansy, please just take a minute or two to read through this information right now, put the numbers into your cell phone, and keep the info somewhere safe.

Make use of a number of Harvard-offered options to keep you safe. One of the best – it can get you to or pick you up from the ISB mosque as well – is to call the evening van shuttle service if you are in the Allston/Cambridge area between 7 PM and 3 AM at (617) 495-0400. They will take calls until 2:30 AM, and transport you for free. NB: On weekends or rainy nights, you may have to wait up to 40 minutes, so call well before you need to go.

A recent HUPD email had the following advice to give:

“The Harvard University Police Department reminds community members to be vigilant while walking throughout campus both during the day and at night and to take the appropriate precautions, such as walking with others, traveling along the designated pathways (http://www.hupd.harvard.edu/designated_safety_pathways.pdf), and utilizing the shuttle buses and evening van service whenever possible.

For more information on shuttle buses and evening van service please visit the University’s Transportation Services website at (http://www.uos.harvard.edu/transportation/shu.shtml) or call (49) 5-0400. Students, faculty, and staff also may call the Harvard University Police Department at (49) 5-1212 if they believe they are in danger while waiting for transportation due to the hour or circumstance. The Harvard University Police Department will assist with transportation whenever appropriate.”

harvard u muslim alumni

The Harvard University Muslim Association was officially founded in 2005 and promises to be an excellent resource for Muslim students and alumni alike. Please consult the website for more information about membership: www.harvardmuslims.org

Contact Shahzad Bhatti, President at shahzad@sabonline.com for more information.
muslim grad student orgs

An important segment of the membership of Harvard Islamic Society are the many Muslim graduate students who attend the various schools across campus. Currently, there are official Muslim student organizations at four schools:

Islamic Society at Harvard Business School
http://www.hbs.edu/mba/studentlife/clubs/islamic.html

Shura: Islamic Forum at Harvard Divinity School
http://www.hds.harvard.edu/osl/studentorgs.html

Muslim Law Students Association (MLSA) at Harvard Law School
http://www.law.harvard.edu/students/orgs/mls/

Muslim Caucus at the Kennedy School of Government
does not have a website yet but is one of the most active of graduate student groups on campus.

area group info

The Cambridge and Boston area has a very large and active Muslim Community, alhamdulillah. To find out about events at our neighboring MSAs, or to find information about Islam, please visit some of these websites:

*MAS Youth Boston:
Holds halaqas, qiyams, and retreats for college students.
http://www.masboston.org/masyouth/college/index.html

*The Boston Council of Muslim Students Associations:
http://new.msa-natl.org/bostoncouncil/

*Council of American – Islamic Relations – MA Chapter:
http://www.cairmass.org

* MIT: http://web.mit.edu/mitmsa/www/

* Northeastern University Islamic Society:
http://www.islamicociety.neu.edu

* Tufts MSA: http://www.ase.tufts.edu/msat/

* Brandeis University MSA:
http://people.brandeis.edu/~msa/

* Wellesley College Al-Muslimat:
http://www.wellesley.edu/Activities/homepage/almuslimat/
In the end...

Keep it real, stay safe and we sincerely hope that HIS helps make your time at Harvard one of the most amazing and beneficial experiences of your life!

Truly in the heart there is a void that can not be removed except with the company of God. And in it there is a sadness that can not be removed except with the happiness of knowing God and being true to Him. And in it there is an emptiness that can not be filled except with love for Him and by turning to Him and always remembering Him. And if a person were given all of the world and what is in it, it would not fill this emptiness.

-- Ibn Qayyim al Jawziyya

comments

This is the fifth edition of our Muslim Guide to Life at Harvard. It is a continual work in progress. If you have feedback on this publication, please e-mail any board member. May Allah reward you.