BAHRIA UNIVERSITY KARACHI CAMPUS

Department of Islamic Studies

Corporate Profile: Industry and Institutional Linkages, 2024–2026

Bahria School of Humanities & Social Sciences · Updated October 2026

The Department at a Glance

2021	Year established
1	Formal MoU signed (MIRC, 2026); a second, with Bank Makramah Ltd, in negotiation
3	Consecutive years of international conferences and symposia (2024, 2025, 2026)
29	Recorded external engagements, Feb 2024 – Oct 2026
26+	Partner organization across banking, academia, government and development
5	Industry members on the Corporate Advisory Council; 4th CAC meeting held April 2026

Overview

The Department of Islamic Studies was established in 2021 to impart quality Islamic education through modern methods and tools. It builds research grounded in Islamic principles, develops students' communication skills, and prepares graduates to act as agents of positive social change by advancing a holistic Islamic worldview and correcting misconceptions about Islam.

The department offers the **MPhil Islamic Studies** programme and delivers the university's Islamic Studies, Ethics and Qur'an courses across all departments of the campus through its Islamic Studies cluster. Its distinctive strengths lie at the meeting point of classical scholarship and contemporary practice: Islamic banking and finance, Seerah studies, sustainable development (SDGs), Shariah governance and interfaith understanding.

Since 2024 the department has moved from occasional guest sessions to a structured programme of linkages: a signed MoU, an active Corporate Advisory Council, an annual international conference, regular industry sessions embedded in the MS curriculum, and faculty representation on external boards and national platforms. This profile records that track record for partners and stakeholders.

Formal Partnerships and Agreements

Partner	Status	Scope
Al-Madinah Islamic Research Center (MIRC)	MoU signed: 30-09-26	Joint research, academic exchange, seminars and exhibitions. Builds on the 2025 joint Seerah Exhibition and the MIRC CEO's industry session on Islamic banking. Focal persons: Dr. Moosa Lakhani (BUKC) and Mr. Jamshed Sultan (MIRC).
City of Knowledge	MoU Signed: 23-05-2024	Joint research, academic exchange, seminars and promote cultural exchange.

Partner	Status	Scope
Bank Makramah Limited	MoU in negotiation (meeting held 1 Oct 2026)	Islamic banking collaboration, student internships and applied research, modelled on the MIRC MoU. Follows the December 2025 field workshop at the bank.
Learning & Professional Development Centre (LPDC), BUKC	Ongoing	Joint faculty development (SDGs in pedagogy and research, 2025) and a planned professional training series on Islamic banking and sustainable finance, designed with industry practitioners.
Corporate Advisory Council (CAC)	Active; 4th meeting April 2026	Industry and academic advisers review curriculum, graduate employability and collaboration (membership listed later in this profile).

Flagship Events: An Annual International Conference

Each year since 2024 the department has convened an international academic event with partner universities, alongside a calendar of national-level Seerah and Qur'anic events open to students across Karachi.

Year	Event	Partners and highlights
International conferences and symposia		
7 Aug 2024	Two-Day International Workshop & Research Symposium on Islamic Studies	With the University of Karachi, FUUAST and City of Knowledge (IRI). MPhil and PhD research evaluated by expert panels.
23 May 2025	AIU–BUKC International Seerah Conference 2025	With Al-Hamd Islamic University; book launch by Dr. Syed Aziz ur Rehman (Dawah Center, Karachi; CAC member).
27 Aug 2026	2nd International Seerah Conference	Co-hosted with Al-Hamd Islamic University at BUKC.
National events hosted by the department		
16 May 2024	Tajweed Symposium & Qira'at Competition	The first of its kind at Bahria University, in line with HEC guidance on Qur'an and Seerah education.
Sep 2024	All Karachi Seerah Competition 2024	Quiz, essay and Naat competitions open to institutions across Karachi.
24 Feb 2025	Seerah Exhibition (Nakhlah Society)	With MIRC: VR experience, 3D models, poster gallery and scholar-led explanation.
9 Oct 2025	Seerat-un-Nabi Conference 2025	Theme: the state's responsibility in training for beneficial use of social media, in the light of Seerah; competitions and panel discussion.

Research Symposium with the University of Karachi and FUUAST, 2024

Panel with Salman Asif Siddiqui (ERDC) and Dr. Umair Mahmood Siddiqui (City of Knowledge)

Industry–Academia Linkages in Islamic Banking and Finance

Islamic banking is the department's strongest industry interface. Practitioners teach inside the MS Islamic Economics & Banking course, students see banking operations first-hand, and alumni now hold Shariah compliance roles in the industry.

- **Classroom-to-industry sessions:** Mufti Abdul Basit (Shariah Board, Faysal Bank) on Diminishing Musharakah; Shaikh Usman Safdar (CEO, MIRC) on convergence and conflict in Islamic banking (April 2025).
- **Field workshop:** the first Islamic banking field visit for faculty and students, at Bank Makramah Limited, on the conversion of a conventional bank (December 2025). An MoU with the bank is now in negotiation.
- **Regulator outreach:** Islamic banking webinar with the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP-BSC Hyderabad) and MUET for students across Sindh (July 2025).
- **Industry forums and certification:** 4th AlBaraka Forum on Sukuk for Sustainable Development (January 2025); IoBM Islamic Banking Certification orientation at the invitation of a BUKC alumnus (June 2025).
- **Applied research:** supervised MS research on live industry questions, e.g. the 2026 thesis on the Salam contract and its application to agricultural finance in Islamic banking.

Policy, Development and Public Engagement

Department faculty represent BUKC on regulatory, governmental and international platforms, bringing Islamic scholarship into policy and development conversations.

- **Government and policy:** Seerah Seminar at Governor House Sindh (2026); Corporate Advisory Committee meeting at NIMA (2026); external Board of Studies membership at SZABUL for its LL.B. Shariah & Law programme (2026).
- **Development and international organisations:** The Asia Foundation and IRI-IIUI (GBV and justice-system capacity, 2024–25); ICRC course on Islam and International Humanitarian Law (2026); Enactus Global Research Network, Bangkok (2025).
- **Religious and research institutes:** Da'wah Academy, IIUI (Regional Da'wah Center, Sindh): sessions on advocacy in Islam and an invited Seerah Conference address (2025–26); MIRC; City of Knowledge; ERDC.
- **Trade bodies, industry events and media:** FPCCI (2024); ITCN Asia panels on SDG 4 (2024) and cybersecurity governance (2026); ARY's Sustainable Pakistan Initiative (2025); BUTV (2026); judging at BUKC's Business Incubation Centre Launch Pad (2025).

Linkage Scorecard, 2024–2026

Counts are drawn from the linkage register (next section). Each row counts engagements whose lead partner falls in that sector.

Sector	2024	2025	2026 (to Oct)	Total
Banking & Islamic finance	0	4	0	4
Academia	1	2	3	6
Religious & research institutes	0	3	2	5
Government, policy & regulatory	0	1	2	3
Development & international	2	2	1	5
Industry, trade & media	2	2	2	6
Total	**5**	**14**	**10**	**29**

2024 covers February–December only. 2026 is a partial year.

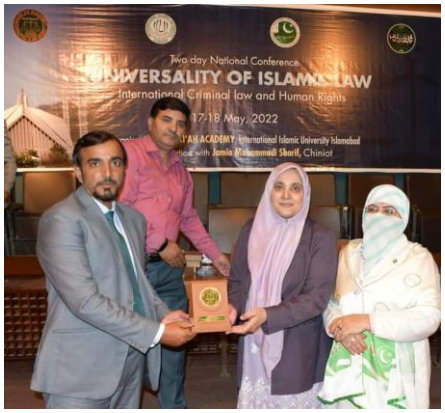
Linkage Register

Date	Partner	Sector	Engagement
2024			
29 Feb 2024	Shaoor Foundation for Education & Awareness	Development & international	Joint Peace Dialogue series on diversity and inclusion at BUKC
7 Aug 2024	University of Karachi; FUUAST; City of Knowledge (IRI)	Academia	Two-day International Workshop & Research Symposium on Islamic Studies; faculty evaluated MPhil/PhD projects
29 Aug 2024	Ecommerce Gateway Pakistan (ITCN Asia 2024)	Industry, trade & media	Faculty panellist on SDG 4: Quality Education and Disaster Resilience, Expo Centre Karachi
28 Nov 2024	FPCCI (Sindh Committees on Consumer & Public Services; Women Education & Training)	Industry, trade & media	Faculty presentation on consumer safety and SDG 5 alongside Sindh Minister for Women Development
27–31 Dec 2024	IRI-IIUI & The Asia Foundation	Development & international	Training of Trainers on gender-based violence and justice-system capacity
2025			
28 Jan 2025	Al-Iqtisad Al-Islami (4th AlBaraka Forum)	Banking & Islamic finance	Faculty participation in forum on Sukuk for sustainable development
24 Feb 2025	Al-Madinah Islamic Research Center (MIRC)	Religious & research institutes	Joint Seerah Exhibition with the Nakhlah Society: VR experience, 3D models, poster gallery
10 Apr 2025	Iqra University	Academia	Departmental delegation, led by the HoD, to the International Conference on Islamic Law & Justice
21 Apr 2025	Faysal Bank Ltd (Shariah Board)	Banking & Islamic finance	Industry session by Mufti Abdul Basit on Diminishing Musharakah, MS Islamic Economics & Banking course
28 Apr 2025	MIRC (CEO, Shaikh Usman Safdar)	Religious & research institutes	Industry session on Islamic banking: points of convergence and conflict
23 May 2025	Al-Hamd Islamic University (AIU)	Academia	AIU–BUKC International Seerah Conference 2025, with launch of a book by Dr. Syed Aziz ur Rehman (Dawah Center, Karachi)
4 Jun 2025	Institute of Business Management (IoBM)	Banking & Islamic finance	Islamic Banking Certification orientation, at the invitation of a BUKC alumnus heading Shariah compliance at Bank Makramah
Jun–Nov 2025	ARY Digital / ARY Zindagi (Sustainable Pakistan Initiative)	Industry, trade & media	Three media segments on SDG 4, SDG 2 and the Independence Day marathon
19 Jul 2025	State Bank of Pakistan (SBP-BSC Hyderabad) × MUET	Government, policy & regulatory	Islamic banking webinar for students across Sindh
28 Jul 2025	The Asia Foundation	Development & international	Faculty presentation on GBV through the SDG lens to judges, prosecutors, bankers and officials
25–28 Sep 2025	Enactus World Cup & Enactus Global Research Network, Bangkok	Development & international	Research paper, session chair (AI, higher education & sustainability) and World Cup judge
2 Dec 2025	Bank Makramah Ltd	Banking & Islamic finance	First Islamic banking field workshop for faculty and students on the conversion process
9 Dec 2025	Regional Da'wah Center (Sindh), Da'wah Academy, IIUI	Religious & research institutes	Session on Advocacy in Islam for seminary teachers and students

Date	Partner	Sector	Engagement
17–19 Dec 2025	Business Incubation Centre, BUKC (17th BIC Launch Pad)	Industry, trade & media	Faculty judge: 26 shortlisted start-ups from 200+ applications
2026			
10 Feb 2026	Denning Law School; Da'wah Academy	Academia	Session on the concept of advocacy in Islam for young lawyers and alumni
26 Feb 2026	Bahria University Television (BUTV)	Industry, trade & media	Special Ramazan transmission
22 Apr 2026	National Institute of Maritime Affairs (NIMA)	Government, policy & regulatory	4th Corporate Advisory Committee meeting: curriculum, employability and industry collaboration
Jul 2026	International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)	Development & international	Faculty training: Islam and International Humanitarian Law, Islamabad
21 Aug 2026	Shaheed Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto University of Law (SZABUL)	Academia	Faculty serves as external member, Board of Studies (LL.B. Shariah & Law programme)
23 Aug 2026	Governor House Sindh	Government, policy & regulatory	Seerah Seminar; departmental faculty delegation
10 Sep 2026	Regional Da'wah Center (Sindh), Da'wah Academy, IIUI	Religious & research institutes	Invited address at the Seerah Conference on state stability and the Prophetic model
24 Sep 2026	SDGs Academy & CIT Centers (ITCN Asia 2026)	Industry, trade & media	Faculty panellist on cybersecurity governance
2026, [date]	Al-Madinah Islamic Research Center (MIRC)	Religious & research institutes	Memorandum of Understanding signed for joint research, academic exchange and events
2026, [date]	Al-Hamd Islamic University (AIU)	Academia	2nd International Seerah Conference, co-hosted at BUKC

Established Academic and Institutional Partners

The department has a standing record of research activity with the University of Karachi and the Federal Urdu University of Arts, Science and Technology (FUUAST), and works with ERDC, City of Knowledge and the Dawah Academy on yearly guest-speaker sessions and trainings. These partnerships give scholars direct access to practitioners and specialists.



Faculty member and MS scholar receiving shields after paper presentations

Corporate Advisory Council

The council brings industry and academic expertise into curriculum and employability decisions. Its 4th meeting was held at the National Institute of Maritime Affairs, Karachi, on 22 April 2026. Confirm current membership before circulation.

#	Name	Designation	Institution / Company
1	Dr. Syed Aziz ur Rehman	In-Charge; Director	Regional Dawah Center, Karachi; Zawar Academy Publications
2	Dr. Umair Mahmood Siddiqui	Assistant Professor; Member	University of Karachi; Council of Islamic Ideology
3	Dr. M. Wasie Fasih Butt	Assistant Professor; Shariah Board Member	Hamdard University; Zarai Taraqiati Bank Ltd
4	Dr. Habib ur Rehman	Director General; Assistant Professor	Seerat Research Center; Quaid-e-Millat Degree College
5	Mr. Farhan ul Haq	EVP and Head of Shariah Audit	Meezan Bank Ltd

Graduate Employability

Islamic Studies graduates work across general professions (education, research, data collection and content writing) and in specialised fields: Islamic banking and Shariah compliance, translation, Islamic institutions, the armed forces' religious instruction branches and the halal industry. Alumni placements below show that pathway in practice.

Alumnus	In their words
Muhammad Zeeshan Farrukh Head of Shariah Compliance, Bank Makramah Ltd (formerly Summit Bank)	"The coursework of MS Islamic Studies (Islam & Life) at Bahria University gave me a broad horizon in the field of Islamic Studies. As a practitioner in Islamic banking and finance, I learned to explore new dimensions in my own field."
Lt. M. Awais Abid Religious Instructor, Pakistan Navy	"The syllabus covered the social, cultural and moral values of Muslims with their historical background. Discussions on the financial systems of Islamic countries, and training in statistical software for research, proved directly useful in my profession."
Mr. Shahbaz Ali Deputy Head, Jamiat-ur-Rasheed, Karachi	"I teach and serve in Ifta at Jamiat-ur-Rasheed, Karachi, where I am Deputy Head of the specialisation department covering Ifta, Hadith studies and economics. The university's open access to its library and online resources is rarely matched elsewhere."

Way Forward, 2026–27

- Conclude the Bank Makramah MoU, with a structured internship pipeline for MS and BS students.
- Operationalise the MIRC MoU through a joint annual calendar: one research seminar, one exhibition and one industry session per semester.
- Launch the LPDC professional training series in Islamic banking and sustainable finance for industry participants.
- Institutionalise the International Seerah Conference with Al-Hamd Islamic University as an annual event with published proceedings.
- Hold CAC meetings twice a year and track graduate placement data against the SMP KPIs.

Contact

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