




Maqasid Institute Projects Portfolio

2018

The Maqasid Institute is a global think tank that is working to effect a paradigm shift in the understanding and practice of Islam via Maqasid al-Shariah or the higher objectives of Islam as based on divine revelation, the Quran, and the Sunnah to help guard the sanctity of all life forms, promote peace and security, and substantiate the value of divine guidance in human affairs. MI is nonprofit, nonpartisan, nonsectarian and committed to the advancement of faith, life, knowledge, prosperity and the welfare of future generations.



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1. Maqasid Research Network (MRN)

1.1. Challenge

Research in the Maqasid area is scattered, lacks focus and often repeats itself therefore the rate of break through ideas is low and implementation of ideas is lagging. Also, it is very expensive for one organization to hire large enough research staff and provide the needed logistics to achieve the needed level of research quality and quantity. The creation of a global Maqasid Research Network (MRN) is crucial for reaching a critical mass and generating defining turning point of intellectual activities and contributions that can build on each other to generate more breakthrough ideas and real-life applications.

1.2. Objective

MRN's objective is to provide a conducive environment and resources for collaboration that allows learning and production of more quality research. MRN is focused on creating connections between researchers around the world and bring their studies to the larger population through practical applications.

1.3. Solution

Build a web based ecosystem to facilitate research in Maqasid that pools and synergizes expertise from around the world. MRN focus will be on what the end users/customers need to deliver the right product and produce desired results.



1.4. Audience

Maqasid researchers at research institutions and graduate students:

- Core theory researchers
- Fiqh theory researchers
- Applied theory researchers
- Graduate students in core, fiqh and applied areas.

1.5. Value

The creation of a global Maqasid Research Network (MRN) is crucial for generating critical mass of intellectual activities and contributions that can accumulate and build on each other to generate breakthrough ideas. MRN is mainly a cyber-infrastructure that will increase access to and enables the transference, analysis, and distribution of knowledge around the world. The MRN objective is to provide a conducive environment and resources for collaboration that allows learning and production of quality research. The cost of setting up and running the MRN project is a fraction of the cost of commissioning researchers worldwide and providing them with physical and other infrastructure.

Possible financing schemes:

- Initial investors to help this project stand on its feet and be self-sustainable
- Corporate/organizational sponsors interested in specific topics like women rights or sustainable development.
- Crowdfunding
- Grants

1.6. Budget

Admin Support	30k
IT support	30k
Technology	10k
MI Malaysia MRN Hub	30k
Total	100k





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2. Maqasid Research Methodology (MRM)

2.1. Challenge

Current approaches to researching the Quran tends to miss the big picture and the overall message of the Quran. Also, the current approach to maqasid research suffers from variability in quality.

2.2. Objective

Produce a seminal paper on the theory and methodology of maqasid. This paper will be the stepping stone for a full maqasid theory to be developed over the following five years.

2.3. Solution

Conduct research so that MRM provides a holistic, multi-dimensional and systematic approach to understanding the Quran and using its guidance to inform research in various fields.



2.4. Audience

- a) Core theory researchers
- b) Fiqh theory researchers
- c) Applied theory researchers
- d) Graduate students in core, fiqh and applied areas.

2.5. Value

This paper is critical for establishing a foundation for maqasid based research to be conducted in a systematic and consistent approach. The methodology will be essential for creating the required content that will drive the research topics for the Maqasid Research network, the design of new coursework and other efforts.

2.6. Budget

Administrative support	10k
Research assistance	20k
Resources/Conference to discuss paper	20k
Total	50k



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3. Maqasid Studies Program (MSP)

3.1. Challenge

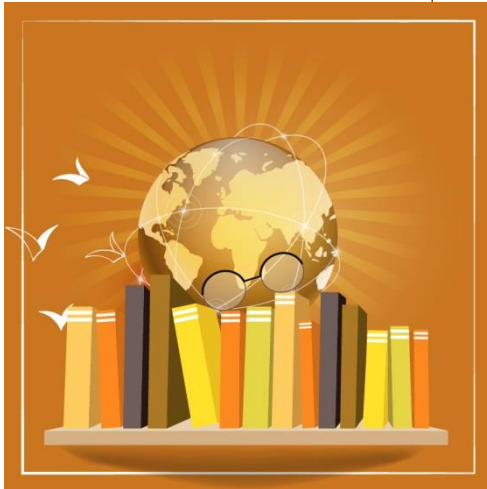
There is increasing demand for coursework in Maqasid studies to meet the needs of institutions of higher education, as well as, independent scholars and professionals, teachers, imams, etc. It is hard to meet this demand using in-person delivery due to the limited availability of qualified well-established scholars in this field in addition to the geographic dispersal of learners.

3.2. Objective

The program's primary aim is to provide students with the knowledge and skills needed to more accurately study real world phenomena by concomitantly identifying and analyzing purposes, concepts, values, universal laws and rulings found in Islam's primary sources, i.e., the Quran and Sunnah.

3.3. Solution

The program's education framework is comprised of three stages: **Educate – Collaborate – Activate**. The core of the program is comprised of four courses offered through a distributed collaborative online approach. This means the content of each course is taught by two to four maqasid scholars and/or experts in associated fields and reflects MI's belief that expertise is distributed throughout networks, among participants situated in diverse institutional contexts, within diverse material, geographic, and national settings. Completing these courses will enable participants to move on to bona fide action in their specific areas of interest.



3.4. Audience

Primarily graduate students. Customized/abridged programs can be provided to the public and to special interest groups like Imams, women rights...etc.

3.5. Value

This solution is expected to (1) reach a broad base of learners; and (2) be cheaper than relocating and hiring highly qualified staff at each of the institutes of higher learning interested in developing a university level maqasid coursework. Depending on the circumstances, e-learning courses can cost half the cost of traditional courses.

3.6. Budget

Dir of Education	70k
Course Design Specialist	50k
Online System Setup	20k
Technology Support	50k
E-learning courses (4 graduate level courses)	50k
Total	240k



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4. Maqasid Studies Journal (MSJ)

4.1. Challenge

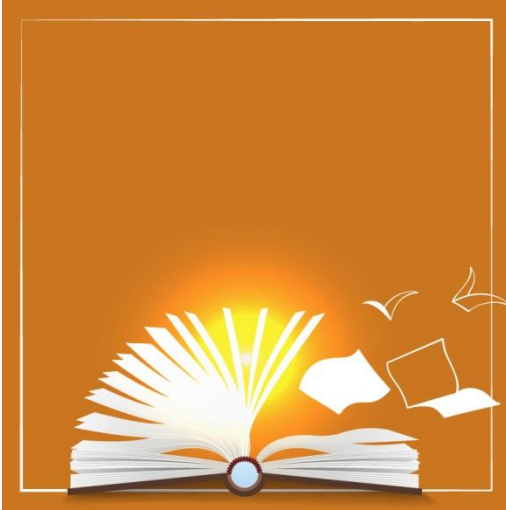
Academic recognition and quality research work requires publishing of articles and research findings in academically recognized journals. Also, the development of field of knowledge requires journals dedicated to publishing work in that field.

4.2. Objective

Establish an online journal for publishing high quality and refereed maqasid related research papers and scholarly work. Led by Dr. Sabrina Lei. The journal will be in Arabic, English, Malay and possibly Urdu and Turkish languages.

4.3. Solution

Use talents and resources from around the world, including members of MRN to build a publishing team that can issue a quarterly journal. Each journal will contain 2-4 original articles, 2-4 book reviews, 2-4 discussion of conferences or other events.



4.4. Target Audience

- Core theory researchers
- Fiqh theory researchers
- Applied theory researchers
- Graduate students in core, fiqh and applied areas.

4.5. Value

A combination of using online publishing tools and volunteers from the MRN will keep the cost of the journal low relative to traditional printed journals. The Maqasid Journal will be a huge catalyst for driving MI's research agendas by giving researchers a platform to publish their findings

4.6. Budget

Technology	10k
Editor	20k
Translation	10k
Other expenses	10k
Total	50k



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5. Maqasid Policy Center (MPC)

5.1. Challenge

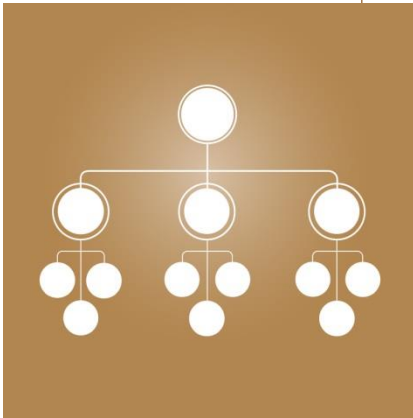
The primary sources of Islam present us with a wealth of knowledge that can be used to enhance the policy sciences. The challenge, however, of developing a robust methodology for governance and public policy from this perspective continues. Significant courage and leadership is required to research, develop and disseminate the potential contribution of public policy in Islam around the world.

5.2. Objective

The purpose of this non-partisan Centre is to provide innovative research, education and training in Muslim affairs and public policy in Islam locally, regionally and globally.

5.3. Solution

Establish a multi-disciplinary research center that promotes objective, fair and justified representation of public policy in Islam and Muslims in appropriate fora worldwide including within the public, private and non-profit sectors.



5.4. Target Audience

- a. Governments
- b. Civil society
- c. Private sector
- d. Academia

5.5. Value

No institution exists in Canada and the United States to serve as a focal point for maqasid-based research and training in public policy and governance in Islam. No institution exists that understands and accepts that Islamic contributions can and must be made irrespective of the political structures in existence. The proposed Centre will work to prepare the necessary research and publications and to provide the training required for those interested in making this contribution locally and internationally.

5.6. Budget

Tentative: \$300k



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6. Muslim Women Action Network(MWAN)

6.1. Challenge

The role of women in Islam is excessively influenced by the historical perceptions and productions of some Muslim scholars that neglect the overall teachings of the Quran, Sunnah and the experience of the early generations of Muslims. The uncritical reproduction of culturally biased and historically specific understandings of the nature and role of women in religion, family and society creates tensions for Muslim women, distorting how they see themselves within their societies and their religion, and limiting the potential they can achieve in their private and public lives. Therefore, Many Muslim women, in the west especially, struggle to reconcile dominant views within their communities with demands, challenges and aspirations of modern life, while remaining true to their faith.

6.2. Objective

- a) Develop a paradigm shift based on maqasid methodology and a holistic understanding of Islam that encourages women to realize their full potentials and aspirations.
 - b) Challenge harmful ideas and practices to women associated with culture and modern philosophies.
 - c) Promote positive and inspiring Islamic ideas and practices throughout everyday Muslim lives.
- The ultimate intention of MWAN is to promote positive and beneficial actions that realize the higher objectives/maqasid al-shariah of dignity, justice, equity and welfare for Muslim women and girls. This necessarily involves redressing and seeking justice in those areas that have inhibited the full realization of divinely ordained potential of women and girls.



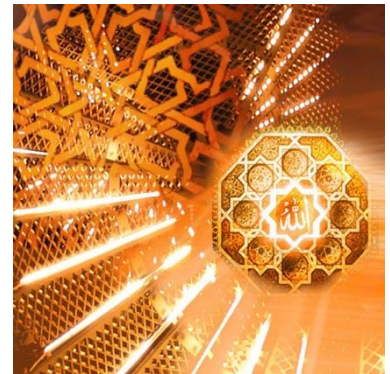
6.3. Solution

MWAN is based on a collaborative model with leading women-centered organizations throughout North America, joined by commitment to develop innovative and effective solutions to nurture Muslim women's ability to realize their full potentials, address critical challenges, and enhance their religious experiences. The network will facilitate strategic planning, flow of ideas and facts, sharing of Islamic and legal opinions, grassroots reform campaigns, as well as synergizing well-meaning efforts and talents throughout North America and the world. Examples of the activities that MWAN will coordinate are:

- Short high-impact educational videos
- Publications (infographics, flyers, pamphlets, booklets)
- Website FAQ and information page
- Presentations, lectures, and workshops
- 24-hour response hotline

6.4. Target Audience

- Women and Girls
- Men and boys
- Muslim communities
- Islamic scholars
- Community activists
- Legal professionals
- Policy makers



6.5. Value

Potential values gained from the research group includes ultimately ensuring educational rights for women and girls and reducing/ending: discrimination against women and girls worldwide in accordance with true Islamic guidance, financial injustice in access to ownership and control over land and other forms of property, harmful traditional practices, such as child/early and forced marriage and female genital mutilation, violence against all women and girls in the public and private spheres, including trafficking and sexual exploitation, and much more.

6.6 Budget

Programs	250k
Lead Researcher	80k
Project Manager	70k
Research Scholarship/Assistant	20k
Travel & Meetings	20k
Office, Technology & Logistics	40k
Total	500k