Umar Shareef
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Academic Positions

Sept 2026-2029 — **Postdoctoral Scholar, University of Chicago, USA**

- Joint postdoctoral scholar with the Divinity School and the Institute for the Study of Ancient Cultures (ISAC)

Higher Education

Sept 2018-May 2025 — **Georgetown University, USA**
Ph.D. Arabic and Islamic Studies.
GPA: 3.98/4.0
Received Distinction for highest score on Comprehensive Exams

Sept 2013-May 2017 — **Tufts University, USA**
B.A. Double Major: Political Science & Arabic.
GPA: 3.81/4.0 (*Summa Cum Laude*)

Educational Programs

August 2025-Present — **Darul Qasim College, USA**

- Completed three semesters from the intermediate Islamic Studies program in Islamic creed (*ʿaqida*), the methodology and principles of Quranic exegesis (*uṣūl al-Qurān*), theory of Hadith (*uṣūl al-ḥadīth*), Islamic jurisprudence (*fiqh*), and discursive theology (*kalām*).

June 2021-July 2021 — **EDEP Summer School for Advanced Islamic Studies, Turkey**

- Completed EDEP's intensive summer school program on Islamic jurisprudence (*fiqh*), legal theory (*uṣūl al-fiqh*), theology (*kalām*), and *ḥadīth* studies.

June 2020-July 2020 — **EDEP Summer School for Advanced Islamic Studies, Turkey**

- Completed EDEP's intensive summer school program on Islamic jurisprudence (*fiqh*), legal theory (*uṣūl al-fiqh*), theology (*kalām*), and *ḥadīth* studies.

Sept 2017-Mar 2018 — **Qasid Arabic Institute, Jordan**

- Completed Qasid's Classical Arabic track.

July-Aug 2017 — **IIIT 2017 Summer Program, USA**

- Completed IIIT's Summer Student Program on research skills in Islamic studies.

Jan 2016-May 2016 — **CET Intensive Arabic Language Program, Jordan**
- Studied modern standard Arabic at CET's intensive language program.

Aug 2013-May 2014 — **The Institute for Global Leadership. Tufts University, USA**
- Selected for the prestigious yearlong colloquium "Education for Public Inquiry and International Citizenship" (EPIIC) on the future of the Middle East and North Africa.

Academic Publications

Peer-Reviewed Articles:

Shareef, Umar. (2023). "*Taqyīd al-Mubāḥ* and Tobacco: Between Administrative and Legislative Authority." *Islamic Law and Society*, 1-30.

Book Reviews:

Shareef, Umar. (2020). "Hermeneutics in the Genre of Mukhtaṣar: Civil and Commercial Law in Islamic Law by Husain Kassim." *American Journal of Islam and Society*, 37 (1-2), 156–159. https://doi.org/10.35632/ajis.v37i1-2.721

Conference Proceedings:

Shareef, Umar. (2018). "Ibn Khaldūn: Scientific Instruction as Prolonging the Polity." *Journal of Ibn Haldun Studies* [İbn Haldun Çalışmaları Dergisi], Ibn Haldun University, 3 (2), 239-258.

Academic Presentations

May 2026 — **British Association for Islamic Studies (BRAIS). Aga Khan University, UK**
- "Revisiting the Islamic Secular."

April 2026 — **American Oriental Society (AOS). Los Angeles, USA**
- "Rethinking the Islamic Secular: *Taqyīd al-Mubāḥ* and the Boundaries of the *Sharīʿa* and *Siyāsa* in Premodern Islam"

February 2026 — **In/Between Conference, The University of Illinois Chicago (UIC), USA**
- "Governing from Within: How "Restricting the Permissible" (*Taqyīd al-Mubāḥ*) Reframes *Siyāsa* in Islamic Law."

November 2025 — **Qur'anic Ethics (Brauer Seminar), The University of Chicago Divinity School, USA**

- Invited to give a talk on "The Relationship Between the Political and Religious Spheres: Divorce as a Test Case."

October 2025 — **Middle East History and Theory (MEHAT). The University of Chicago, USA (Invited)**
- "Rethinking the Islamic Secular: *Taqyīd al-Mubāḥ* and the Boundaries of the *Sharīʿa* and *Siyāsa*."

April 2025 — **American Oriental Society (AOS). Boston, USA**
- "The Emergence of "Restricting the Permissible" (*Taqyīd al-Mubāḥ*) in Mamluk *Siyāsa* and the Relationship between *Siyāsa* and *Sharīʿa.*"

Nov 2024 — **American Academy of Religion (AAR). San Diego, USA**
- "Tracing the Genealogy of 'Restricting the Permissible.'"

Nov 2024 — **Middle East Studies Association (MESA). Online**
- "*Taqyīd al-Mubāḥ* and Tobacco."

April 2024 — **Princeton Islamic Studies Conference. Princeton University, USA**
- "Divorce and Polygyny Debates in Egypt."

March 2024 — **American Oriental Society (AOS). Chicago, USA**
- "'Judicial Specification' and 'Restricting the Permissible': Ottoman Legal Discussions on Statute of Limitations."

March 2024 — **Midwest American Academy of Religion (MAAR). Missouri State University, USA**
- "*Taqyīd al-Mubāḥ*: Restricting Polygyny in Nineteenth and Twentieth Centuries Egypt."

May 2023 — **British Association for Islamic Studies (BRAIS). Aga Khan University, UK**
- "The Marriage Crisis in Egypt: Restricting Verbal Divorce to the Courts."

Feb 2022 — **The Hermeneutics of Islamic Legal Authority. Georgetown University, USA**
- "Egypt's Legal Debate Over Verbal Divorce."

Nov 2020 — **Georgetown Arabic Department Graduate Association (GADGA). Georgetown University, USA**
- "What the Leading Debates Over Tobacco Tell Us about Islamic Law."

May 2017	**4th International Ibn Khaldūn Symposium. Ibn Haldun University, Turkey** ● "Ibn Khaldūn's View of Education and Politics."

Awards

May 2024	**Graduate Student Teaching Award. Georgetown University, USA** ● Awarded as the best graduate student teacher in the humanities for 2023- 4.
May 2023	**Graduate Student Teaching Assistant Award. Georgetown University, USA** ● Awarded as the best graduate student teaching assistant in the humanities for 2022-3.
May 2017	**Peter Belfer Award. Tufts University, USA** ● Awarded for the best political science senior thesis.
May 2017	**Arabic Language, Culture, and Literature Prize. Tufts University, USA** ● Awarded for excellence in the studies of Arabic Language, Culture, and Literature.

Fellowships

February 2026-2027	**Ummatics Institute Research Fellowship, USA**
November 2025-6	**Institute for Middle East Studies (IMES), George Washington University, USA** ● Selected to be a visiting scholar at IMES.
September 2025-2026	**Visiting Researcher in Arabic and Islamic Studies, Georgetown University, USA**

Scholarships and Grants

March 2024	**Spring 2024 Conference Travel Grant. Georgetown University, USA**
February 2024	**AIS Travel Grant. Georgetown University, USA**
June 2023	**Professional Development Award. Georgetown University, USA**
June 2023	**GSAS-GradGov Research Project Awards (GRPA). Georgetown University, USA**

May 2023	**Center for Islam in the Contemporary World (CICW) Research Grant. Shenandoah University, USA**
April 2023	**AIS Travel Grant. Georgetown University, USA**
Nov 2015	**Benjamin Gilman International Scholarship Program. Washington D.C.**
May 2015	**Summer Scholars Program. Tufts University, USA**
Dec 2014	**Research Grant. Tufts University, USA**

Teaching Experience

Jan 2026-May 2026

Ajunct Lecturer. The University of Illinois Chicago (UIC), Department of Religion, USA

- Teaching "Introduction to Islam" (REL 130)

Aug 2023-May 2025

Teaching Associate. Georgetown University, Department of Arabic and Islamic Studies, USA

- Fall 2023. Taught one section of *Introduction to Islamic Civilization* (ARAB-2202) at Georgetown University.
- Spring 2024. Teaching assistant for *Islam in South Asia* (ARAB-4450)

Aug 2023-May 2024

Teaching Instructor. Hidayah Academy, USA

- Fall 2023-Spring 2024. Taught two sections on *Islamic History* at the private High School, Hidayah Academy.

June 2023-June 2025

Teaching Instructor. Qurtuba Institute, USA

- Fall 2023. Taught a course on the *Fiqh of Worship* to young professional at Qurtuba Institute.
- Summer 2023. Taught a course on the *History of Islamic Jurisprudence* to young professional at Qurtuba Institute.

Jan 2023-May 2025

Adjunct Faculty. Mishkah University, USA

- Taught *Islamic Family Law* for the online dual enrollment program for high schoolers.

Aug 2022-May 2023

Adjunct Faculty. Frederick Community College, Department of History, USA

- Fall 2022 and Spring 2023.Taught three sections of *World History II* (HIST-122) for Frederick Community College's dual enrollment program at Frederick High School and Walkersville High School.

- Spring 2023. Taught *American History II* (HIST-201) at Frederick Community College.

Aug 2022-Dec 2022 **Teaching Instructor. Boston Islamic Seminary, USA**

- Fall 2022. Taught *The Development of Islamic Fiqh* for the Boston Islamic Seminary (BIS).

Sept 2018-May 2022 **Graduate Teaching Assistant. Georgetown University, USA**

- Spring 2022. Teaching assistant for *Intensive 3rd level Arabic* (ARAB-215).
- Fall 2021. Teaching assistant for *Introduction to Islamic Civilization* (ARAB-201).
- Fall 2018-Spring 2021. Teaching assistant for *Intensive 2nd level Arabic* (ARAB-112).
- Fall 2019-Spring 2020. Developed and ran a weekly Arabic conversation session (ARAB-111).

Aug 2016-May 2017 **Point Writing Fellow. Tufts University, USA**

- Assigned to a class to help students with their writing assignments for the Tufts Academic Resource Center.
- Served as the primary communicator between professors, fellows, and the program administration.

Aug 2015-May 2016 **Writing Fellow. Tufts University, USA**

- Assigned to a class to help students with their writing assignments for the Tufts Academic Resource Center.

Aug 2014-May 2017 **Arabic Tutor. Tufts, USA**

- Tutored Tufts students in Arabic 1, 2, 3, 4, 21, and 22 for the Tufts Academic Resource Center.

Language Skills

- Fluency in English
- Fluency in Arabic
- Reading proficiency in Persian
- Reading proficiency in German

References

1. Felicitas Opwis: Felicitas.Opwis@georgetown.edu (Main Advisor)
2. Jonathan Brown: brownj2@georgetown.edu (Thesis Committee Member)
3. Elliot Colla: ec393@georgetown.edu (Professor)
4. Ovamir Anjum: oganjum@gmail.com (Thesis Committee Member)