



## ANNEX A: BACKGROUND OF PCICS

The Postgraduate Certificate in Islam in Contemporary Societies (PCICS) was announced during the 2019 Committee of Supply as an enhanced mandatory programme for aspiring asatizah to be recognised under the Asatizah Recognition Scheme. PCICS will equip returning graduates with relevant knowledge and skills to serve in the religious sector and deepen their understanding of how Islam can be applied effectively in Singapore's context.

### Collaboration with local and overseas universities

2 MUIS is partnering with two local Autonomous Universities (AUs) and two overseas Islamic universities for the PCICS. Each university is involved in developing and delivering specific modules. The foreign universities are the Al-Azhar University and the University of Jordan, given their expertise in teaching the traditional Islamic sciences and the Arabic language. The local AU partners are the National University of Singapore (NUS) and the Singapore University of Social Sciences (SUSS), given their expertise in the social sciences as well as areas relevant to the PCICS programme such as social work and counselling.

3 With the support of both its local and foreign partners, MUIS has developed a rigorous and comprehensive PCICS programme to best prepare our aspiring asatizah to serve the community.

### Programme Structure

4 The five core PCICS modules are Islam in Singapore, Understanding Our Social World, Methodologies of Teaching Islam in Contemporary Societies, Contemporary Issues in Islam and Classical Texts in Perspective. Students are also required to complete two elective modules, four workshops including English Academic Writing, Introduction to Teaching and Education, and a capstone project that synthesises the learning from the various modules to a real-world project.

### Refinements to PCICS

5 Refinements to the PCICS were gradually introduced to enhance the learning experience of PCICS students. Enhancements include the incorporation of blended learning components and interactive study guides to accommodate flexible learning needs of students who are largely working adults.

6 The capstone project was introduced in 2023 to supersede the practicum module. It better enables students to work collaboratively to apply PCICS learning objectives to real-world socio-religious issues. The objective of the capstone project is to provide students with a unique opportunity to embark on independent research with the aim to develop an innovative solution for a real-world challenge. Currently, students are given



the option to either develop videos, research studies or courseware development as part of their capstone project.

### Programme evaluation

7 In mid-2025, MUIS embarked on a comprehensive evaluation of the PCICS programme to assess its effectiveness in delivering the programme objectives over the past five years of implementation. The evaluation follows a rigorous process that includes lesson observations, surveys, interviews, focus group discussions and document analysis. The study will conclude by the end of 2026, with the findings intended to inform future programme refinements.