



INTERNATIONAL PEACE COLLEGE
SOUTH AFRICA

كلية السلام العالمي بجنوب أفريقيا

Knowledge · Virtue · Civilization



THE FACES OF IPSA

(ALUMNI PROFILES)

Dept of Student's Affairs



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WHO IS IPSA?

International Peace College South Africa (IPSA) is an Islamic tertiary institution based in Cape Town, South Africa and hosts a basket of academic study programmes which carry full accreditation from all the legislated education regulatory authorities in South Africa. These include the Council for Higher Education (CHE), the Department of Higher Education and Training (DHET) and the South African Qualifications Authority (SAQA).

IPSA's vision is to build the institution as a Centre of Excellence in Islamic Tertiary Education and Research.

IPSA strives to give meaning and purpose to its vision through the Quranic Philosophy of the balanced middle way (Wasatiyyah), advocating social cohesion, fostering intercultural understanding, and preparing students to play a catalytic role in peace building & ethical leadership. Community engagement through various student outreach programmes keeps IPSA well-grounded as an institution where interconnectedness with our diverse communities is not compromised.

As the first officially registered Islamic Tertiary Education Institution in South Africa, IPSA has achieved important educational milestones for South African Muslims.

Our Academic Programmes cater for a wide range of study opportunities, from the 1-year Higher Certificate in Islamic Studies which serves as an Islamic foundation for subsequent professional studies, to the 3-year BA in Islamic Studies leading into Postgraduate BA (Hons) Islamic Studies and our Masters in Applied Islamic Thought located in the Higher purposes of Maqasid al-Shariah. We have now formally applied for a Phd program as well and await a positive reply from the department.

This is a strategic educational process which pursues the resurrection of Islamic Thought not only among students of Islamic Studies, but also amongst those of diverse professional backgrounds. We seek a multidisciplinary, ecologically integrated, holistic approach to knowledge in which mind, body & spirit are aligned, under a Qur'anic & Prophetic ethos.

IPSA hosts Colloquia, Symposia, and conferences addressing critical issues facing the Muslim and broader society in an endeavor to promote true Islamic values and ethics. As part of IPSA's academic trajectory, the publication of the IPSA academic Journal with a host of high-level research articles is in the final stages of publication.

IPSA's profound leadership is through the auspices of a Board of Directors who are in compliance with all the regulatory requirements. IPSA strives on ethical leadership and sound governance principles. IPSA enjoys the services of a high-level legal team and applies strict fiscal discipline through its annual audit in accordance with international standards on auditing.

We hope that with the accreditation of our membership in the academic fraternity we will have the opportunity to engage in deep and multilayered knowledge of societies, economies and cultures, from a unique Islamic perspective.

اللَّهُ وَلِيُّ الْمُؤْمِنِينَ



Dr Nafisa Akhalwaya Patel

Class of 2010

Career Path:

Did postgrad studies 2011-2021 at UCT (Dept for the Study of Religions)

PhD Research project focused on Muslim Childhoods & Madrasah spaces in RSA. Guest lectured on Islam & Gender at UCT & IPSA, facilitating conferences & symposia

Involved in local NPO and farming projects providing food security to the vulnerable. Serves on Masjid committee, facilitating women & children's programs

Currently Director of Transformation at an international engineering company overseeing economic & educational empowerment projects

Reflections on IPSA:

I am deeply appreciative of and have benefitted immensely from IPSA's teaching and learning program. It is rooted in traditional Islamic sciences, but also reflects and responds to South African experiences and expressions of Islam, both historically and presently. This grounding has guided and inspired my academic journey and continues to inform my community engagements.



Hafiz Raees Mohammed

Class of: 2020

Career Path:

Holds Postgraduate degree & is MBA candidate in management, Henley Business School Africa, University of Reading. Dean's scholarship!

Diploma in Arabic, Dar al-Mustafa Yemen, Author of *The Road to Tarim*

Sworn Translator for Arabic at RSA High Courts

Founder & CEO of Labbayk

Lectures in strategic management at various universities

Reflections on IPSA:

IPSA is indeed unique in their approach to teaching Islamic Studies.

The thing I respect the most about IPSA is that it does not force any specific ideology on the student.

IPSA allows for all students to grow in their own capacity, giving them the necessary tools to understand & practice Islam as per their context & requirements.

I will always cherish and appreciate that about IPSA!



Muallimah Masnoenah Kamalie

Class of 2011

Career Path:

MA in Semitic Languages & Cultures from the University of Johannesburg (UJ)
Honours in Religion Studies (UJ), Faculty Officer/Academic Administrator &
Acting HOD for the BED Intermediate Phase Programme at the Two Oceans
Graduate Institute

Reflections on IPSA:

IPSA is the institution where my journey in Higher Tertiary studies commenced.
IPSA's study programmes unlocked and nurtured my curiosity and desire to
better understand my *Deen*, my purpose as a believer and my relationship with
Allah as the creator and His beloved *Rasul* (SAW) as our guide.

The institution and its lecturers opened the pathway for my further Islamic
and Religious Studies. The institution and its lecturers, unto whom I will always
be indebted, thus ignited the spark that set me on my path of further tertiary
studies which I am still pursuing, *In-Sha-Allah*.



Hafiz Muhammad Lubwama

Class of 2019

Career Path:

Resident Imam at the Claremont Main Road mosque from 2017 until 2022

Currently teaching in a local school in Uganda

Returning back to IPSA to complete a Master's degree

Reflections on IPSA:

I love IPSA and the intellectual atmosphere that surrounds me there. It is an institute that really cares about its students. The college taught us critical thinking with a balanced approach.

This knowledge equipped us to deal with the issues in our communities and made us appreciated by them!



Aisha Nontobeko Mkhwanazi

Class of 2020

Career Path:

Journalist & regular Columnist for the Muslim Views Newspaper

Spoken word artist and performer

Does Da'wah community projects such as the Umhlangano Youth Dialogue

Reflections on IPSA:

A teacher of mine once said: A Daa'i without proper Islamic knowledge has the potential of misleading people and misrepresenting Islam.

Being born and raised in Soweto where Islamic knowledge is not easily accessible and with a majority of residents viewing Islam as a foreign religion, I have from a young age always made Dawah a prerogative in my life.

I dream of a South Africa where Islam is not a minority but a majority religion. In order for that to occur, I believe that every Muslim in South Africa ought to approach Dawah as the Holy Qur'an (An-Nahl 16:125) advises: with wisdom and good advice.

Wisdom cannot prevail without knowledge of Deen.

And it is at IPSA where I got to taste the empowering knowledge of the Deen!



Hafiz Mogammad Tauha Adjiet

Class 2019

Career Path:

Qualified Educator at Darul-Islam High School, Mitchell's Plain

Part-time Qur'an teacher & Islamic Studies tutor

Reflections on IPSA:

The International Peace College of South Africa played an important role in shaping the direction of my life. As a youth entering the real world, IPSA equipped me with the tools needed to successfully navigate through it.

In my opinion, the most valuable tools IPSA has instilled within their students are open-mindedness and independent thinking, which are crucial in contemporary times. I will always appreciate that about IPSA!



Yusra Mahrie

Class 2019

Career Path:

Qualified intermediate phase educator at Spine View Primary School in Mitchell's Plain

Reflections on IPSA:

Attending the International Peace College of South Africa influenced the direction of my life tremendously.

Not only has IPSA rooted me in my faith, but allowed me to view Islam through many different lenses. It has given me the necessary tools needed once I stepped into the real world; and with the knowledge I gained at IPSA, it has liberated me as a woman, and allowed me to navigate confidently through life.



Imam Dawood Salie

Class 2009

Career Path:

English Teacher in Saudi Arabian schools

Teacher of Islamic Studies courses in his local community in Cape Town Islamic
Radio show presenter

Authored many beneficial books such as *The 99 Questions on Inheritance* and
Colour Coded Grammar Qur'an, and currently completing: *Fun Activities using
the Holy Qur'an*.

Reflections on IPSA:

IPSA gave me a whole new perspective on life & Islam. They do not enforce
any particular sect or doctrine, and the students are free to choose whichever
opinion convinces them and suits their particular context.

It's a holistic approach to Islam, keeping global issues at heart. Because of
the rigorous research that students undergo, it exposes them to different
viewpoints and they quickly come to learn that Islam is quite diverse and that
opens up the mind to many possibilities in the work of Islam.



Advocate Dr Fatima Essop Salaam

Class of 2015

Career Path:

Furthered her Arabic studies at the ALIF Institute in Fez (Morocco)

Advocate of the High Court of South Africa and has practiced as an attorney in public interest litigation at the Legal Resources Centre & Women's Legal Centre in Cape Town and is currently a doctoral candidate in the Law Faculty at the University of Cape Town, where she also lectured (2018-2020)

She is also an accredited family law mediator with extensive experience in the area of Muslim family law. Her current research focuses on the practice of Muslim family law by the Muslim minority community in South Africa.

In Sept 2022, she will be taking up a Visiting Fellowship for one academic year at Harvard Law School in their Program Law & Society in the Muslim World

Reflections on IPSA:

My studies at IPSA sparked in me a deep interest in Usūl Al-Fiqh (Principles of Jurisprudence), The Laws of Marriage & Divorce and Mirāth (Islamic Inheritance Law), which was the area of focus in my PhD research.

Al-Hamdulillāh, I am grateful to all my IPSA teachers for their role in imparting the knowledge of the sacred Islamic sciences to me. May Allah reward them!



Hafiz Mogamat Abrahams

Class of 2019

Career Path:

Educator at Junior College Cape Town Principal at Pinelands Madrassa

Assists in Imamat & Tarawih at various local Masajid

Reflections on IPSA:

IPSA played a major role in my Islamic education *al-Hamdulillah*.

Furthermore, the skills and educational activities that I was exposed to at IPSA allowed me to be more comfortable and equipped in my academic studies.

I will always cherish my time at IPSA, as it developed in me a love for the quest to discover the truth through trusted evidences.



Natheerah Ajouhaar

Class of 2019

Career Path:

A qualified educator at a Primary School

Achieved a Bachelor's degree in Education & 200 Hour TEFL certification

Also a proud wife & mother!

Reflections on IPSA:

Throughout my years at IPSA I have not found anything more spiritual and mind blowing then being in the company of such great teachers. The amazing love and support they have given to me as a student will always be remembered.

I grew so attached to all my friends and lecturers at IPSA that I still yearn for their company. It was truly a great few years that I will never forget, especially those fruitful moments of gaining precious knowledge that one benefits from for the rest of one's life.

I am now a mother and wife and I make daily use of my knowledge to help my family gain closeness to Allah!



Shaykh Safwan Sasman

Class of 2012

Career Path:

The Shariah Compliance Auditor of the MJC Halaal Trust
Assistant Imam and prominent community spiritual leader

Reflections on IPSA:

My experience at IPSA has been phenomenal. IPSA is more than just an institution of knowledge. It's a nucleus for self-development, spiritual growth and flourishing the bonds of true Islamic brotherhood based purely on the pursuit of knowledge for the sake of Allah.

The vastness of rich, authentic Islamic knowledge, which is found in the IPSA lecturers is only outweighed by their genuine forbearance and unremitting wisdom.



Ahmad Themba Kumalo

Class of 2016

Career Path:

Working with Annur Educational Centre in Dawah activities in the townships of Gugulethu and Crossroads, as well as teaching afternoon madrassah for children

Reflections on IPSA:

I'm grateful for the opportunity IPSA granted me to study and revive my Islamic knowledge through honourable and knowledgeable teachers of Deen. During my 1st year already I experienced great spiritual upliftment, and it expanded my way of thinking and understanding of Islamic knowledge.

IPSA is a great Islamic college if one wants to further their Islamic education. I pray that Almighty Allah grants them strength and perseverance to carry on the good work they are doing. Ameen.



Yaseen Mallick

Class of 2004

Career Path:

Holds a Degree in Psychological Counselling & an Honours in Psychology from UNISA and has published several verses of Poetry in various manuscripts including *Murmuring Memoirs for the Poetry Institute of Africa*

Currently working for the South African National Zakah Fund as an analyst doing Quantitative and Qualitative Research (Psychometry) for the Marketing Department

Also does research in social dynamics and marketing strategy, and delivers Khutbahs & motivational talks

Reflections on IPSA:

I came to IPSA in search of knowledge and ended up leaving with a wealth of wisdom and inner strength. Being at IPSA strengthened my confidence and taught me moral ethics. I found like-minded individuals with similar passion and drive. I learned to focus on my talents. IPSA gave me the platform to pursue my new career as a psychology major. I thank all my spiritual mentors and wish them well in whatever their future undertakings hold!



Nasiefah Adhikarie

Class of 2019

Career Path:

Pursuing a Law degree and working for iConsult in the field of facilitating the Halal international market within the Halal fraternity of SA, handling projects related to the Halal F&B, Cosmetics and Pharmaceutical sectors

Also runs Naseefah's Sweet Bakes & Cakes!

Reflections on IPSA:

My studies at IPSA really brought about great perspective on life. It was more than just attaining the degree. The institution proved to be more than just an epicentre of knowledge with its multi-faceted lecturers. Instead it gave one purpose of life and how it should be navigated beyond the academics. I learnt how Islamic knowledge is far more than filtering information and more about implementation and being an ambassador of your Dīn.

IPSA is indeed a multi-cultural institution with a diverse amount of interesting modules which encapsulate one's mind, constantly ringing about a curious, current and critical thinker! Indeed the IPSA years were the best 5 years of my life, benefitting me tremendously in my Dunya and Akhirah!



Maulana Abdur-Rashid Ndlovu

Class of 2013

Career Path:

Teacher of Islamic Studies at Madrasa Hamidiyyah in Klerksdorp

Assists in Imamat at Local Mosque

Involved in Dawah activities in Local Townships

Reflections on IPSA:

IPSA as an institution has helped us greatly, especially coming from the previously disadvantaged communities, by empowering us with the knowledge of Deen while helping us to navigate the academic world of Universities.

We are more qualified and enlightened today because of IPSA.

We will always appreciate that and make Dua for IPSA!



Muallimah Soraya Salie

Class of 2008

Career Path:

Completed a BA Honours program in the Study of Islam with the University of Johannesburg in 2012. Thereafter completed a two year program with Maulana Zakariyya Philander at the Academy of Quran Specialization

Completed a Master's degree in the Study of Islam at the University of Johannesburg In 2016

Was a guest lecturer at IPSA in English Literacy as well as teaching the Contemporary Islamic Thought module to the final year BA Class Served on the working committee for curriculum matters at IPSA

Reflections on IPSA:

After more than twenty years in the corporate field I left my job to enroll at IPSA at its inception in 2005. I was thus one of the first cohort of graduates!

My initial intention was to complete the one year Diploma program and return to work, but my lecturers motivated me to complete the BA program. Many of them led by example furthering their own studies while teaching us. After my graduation at IPSA they encouraged me to further my studies!

I am forever indebted to the teachers of IPSA who have had such a profound influence on my journey as a student of our beautiful Deen, al-Hamdulillah!



Suhail Dalvie

Class of 2017

Career Path:

Completed a one year intensive Arabic course in Qatar, thereafter attaining a BA Honours degree, in Arabic studies (Cum Laude) from the University of the Western Cape

Currently working as a Teacher in an Islamic High school, and pursuing a Master's Degree in Arabic at UWC

Reflections on IPSA:

IPSA's discourse promotes a balanced approach to Islam (Wasatiyyah) which is inherently a middle ground between Modernism and Traditionalism. This is much needed in the secular world we find ourselves in with the rise of Islamophobia and Atheism.

IPSA excels in educating students on the fundamentals of the religious sciences. This can be attributed to building a good foundation for students in the Arabic language.



Muallimah Fatima Achmat

Class of 2009

Career Path:

Founder & Principal of Madrasah Al-Khayr online for children and Beginner females, and Janazah classes for ladies, after 15 years of teaching formal Madrasah. Attained the BA Honours degree in Islamic Studies at IPSA in 2019

Reflections on IPSA:

I thank Almighty Allāh for giving me the courage & strength to complete these degrees at the age of 55! I was looking for a deeper understanding of our Dīn than what the usual adult classes offered. As housewives & mothers and being the first teacher in the home, it is important that we take time for ourselves to further our Islamic knowledge. IPSA taught me how to balance between studies & family responsibilities.

IPSA has dedicated lecturers that are specialists in their field. My personal inspiration was our History lecturer, the late Dr Hoosain Ebrahim, who attained his PhD at the age of 63. IPSA offers Islamic programmes that are accredited by the Department of Higher Education and South African Qualifications Authority, and that itself is a great achievement. IPSA has been instrumental in me pursuing my current career and sharing the beauty, love and passion I have for our Dīn!



Ismail Alfred Kumanda

Class of 2016

Career Path:

Completed the ASRI (social-economic research institute) fellowship program
Currently a Court interpreter (Arabic to English & other Languages) working for
the Department of Justice and COJ. Also runs a small business

Also worked at Afro-Middle East Centre as a research assistant from 2017
to 2018, and serves as secretary for the Falaq Islamic community based in
Boksburg, Gauteng

Reflections on IPSA:

IPSA gave me the master key to the doors of Ilm, be it Islamic or any other form
of knowledge. I also appreciate the networks that I created during my time at
IPSA. Many brilliant ideas were exchanged with fellow students.

IPSA also taught me the importance of patience and staying focused on
anything that one starts in life. I will always remain grateful to IPSA and fondly
remember my days there!



Sabirah Vatiswa Guzana

Class of 2015

Career Path:

Taught English in Saudi Arabian School

Currently a Business English Instructor in Cape Town

Reflections on IPSA:

IPSA truly cemented the foundations of my knowledge and practice of Islam.

I enrolled into the BA course two years after I embraced Islam, and alhamdulillah it played an integral role in forming my Islamic worldview.

Since I graduated, I became a certified ESL Instructor through the University of Cambridge and I have been teaching both locally and abroad.

I'm eternally grateful to all my Shuyukh at IPSA for supporting me in becoming the Muslim I am today!



Ustadh Natheer Malick

Class of 2019

Career Path:

Project Manager for a small family owned business, and part-time Khatīb at various Masājīd around the Cape

Also a regular volunteer in feeding schemes and Da'wah programs

Reflections about IPSA:

IPSA has taught me to think beyond the dogmatism of ritualistic worship. The Maqāsīd approach taught me to look at the deeper meaning behind the rituals, which has equipped me with the tools needed to navigate my way through more contemporary issues that the classical scholars had not yet encountered.

While I am no scholar myself, I am now able to take from what the true scholars have said in their works, and adapt it to today's life and the challenges that come with it. I have been blessed to rub shoulders with the highest calibre of scholars, both the resident lecturers, as well as guest lecturers who pop in from time to time at IPSA. Al-Hamdulillah, IPSA gave me a solid foundation upon which to build and grow as a Muslim.



Muallimah Feroza Alexander

Class of 2011

Career Path:

Islamic Educator at the Rahmaniyyah Primary School

Currently an Islamic Studies teacher at Madrassah Imanul Awlad in Crawford

Working with 50 learners, ages 6 to Matric

Reflections about IPSA:

IPSA! A place of warmth, love and family...a home in Islam. No amount of attributes are enough to express the treasure of knowledge and excellence in tutorship this hub of Islam holds. IPSA gave us the tools to navigate through the world of Islamic Knowledge.

A prestigious institution with tuition from the highest calibre. I am immensely grateful to my beloved Lecturers. Their wisdom continue to bless me in my daily preparation of lessons for my students. May IPSA continue to remain steadfast in its service for Islam and may many students drink from their cup of knowledge in future In Sha Allah!



Imam Abdurraghman Ariefdien

Class of 2010

Career Path:

Imam & Community Leader at Masjidul Al-Rahmaan, Hanover Park for 13 years

Reflections on IPSA:

When I applied to study at IPSA, I was placed in the second year because of my previous learning. I finished the 4 year course in 3 years! During those 3 years I gained a better and more valuable insight into the Arabic language and other important subjects. My favourite subject at IPSA was Mirath (Inheritance), which was not popular at institutions at that time. Another subject I found very interesting was Hadith and how Ahadith were graded. The various subjects offered at IPSA

enabled me to conduct classes at my mosque in Tafsir, Fiqh and Sirah.

Al-Hamdulillah I was able to conduct Adult classes at the mosque where hundreds of people from various areas would attend and learn. I consider my 3 years at IPSA to have been the most pleasing and beneficial of my learning experience, and to be granted a BA degree from IPSA was a major highlight of my life.



Widad Sirkhotte Kriel

Class of 2010

Career Path:

Completed a Postgraduate certificate in Education (PGCE) at UWC

Attained BA Honours & Masters degree from CPUT

Has commenced PhD in Education at UCT

Educator at Islamia High School & Orient Academy (2012-2020)

Currently working as Course/Learning Designer at UCT and lectures on the PgDip Educational Technology and Higher Education Studies (HES) programmes

Studying Arabic Calligraphy under a renowned Master

Reflections on IPSA:

IPSA inspired me to use knowledge to empower and uplift communities.

The Variety of subjects provides students with opportunities to learn about different knowledges, different ways of being and connecting to the Divine which makes them appreciate their Deen, to be proud Muslims, and to be open-minded and critical thinking humans.

More than 10 years later, I am still in contact with my classmates and get excited to bump into IPSA graduates & lecturers.



Hafiz Zaid Cassiem

Class of 2016

Career Path:

Online Language Instructor at Saudi Electronic University Secretary of Maitland Muslim Congregation

Presenter on Radio Voice of the Cape

Part of the Imaamat at Masjidul Quran wa Sunnah - Maitland

Heads Social Media & Marketing at Madrassa Al-Ihsan

Reflections on IPSA:

IPSA is a unique institution that offers learners an amalgamation of knowledge steeped in tradition whilst still preparing them to deal with contemporary issues in society.

Whilst at IPSA, I managed to develop spiritually in terms of my relationship with Allah and my submission to Him. At the same time, I was able to develop as a person and as a citizen of a multi-cultural society. Al-Humduillah!



Waseema Abduraof

Class of 2019

Career Path:

Completed a post-graduate diploma in Arabic from Qatar University, and is currently pursuing an extended Masters programme in comparative literature (Arabic-Western) from the Doha Institute for Graduate Studies

Is also employed part-time as a junior research analyst in Arabic-English translation

Reflections on IPSA:

My studies at IPSA have provided me with a solid foundation for my current endeavors and this intellectually stimulating experience has aided me in all areas of my studies and will continue to do so.

Studying at IPSA also made me realize that the key component for effective leadership within our communities is to navigate through contextualization and relevance. IPSA delivers just that! Providing its students with both contextualization in their studies and application to the modern context, without losing the flavored nuances of our rich Islamic heritage, especially as South African Muslims!

May IPSA continue to cater for the needs of our upcoming generations!



Faldie Solomons

Class of 2008

Career Path:

Was Imam at my local Mosque (Kuils River) where he ran many community and youth programs

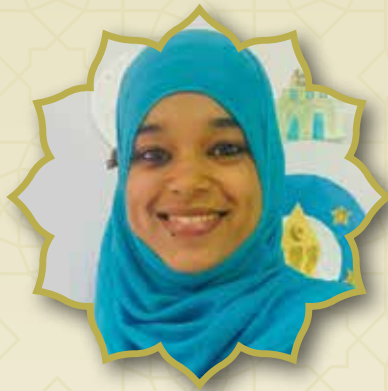
Currently a Maths and Science teacher at an American International school in Mauritania

Reflections on IPSA:

Teaching in an Islamic country (Mauritania) - where Dīn is valued above everything else - at an American International school with predominantly American teachers, my background in Arabic and Islamic studies enabled me to not only teach my students but to mentor them in a way they seem to yearn for.

In the era we are living in, our youth question every aspect of life and to be there for them, reminding them about the importance of loving Rasūlullāh ﷺ and being able to answer their pertinent questions gives them much needed peace of mind.

Our time spent at IPSA will forever remain among the most valued periods of our life as it continues to allow us to better serve our communities wherever we are. We thank Allāh for granting us the opportunity, and for each of our teachers we benefited from. Al-Hamdulillāh!



Aziza Isaacs

Class of 2007

Career Path:

Taught Madrasah to children in her local community

Currently teaching Third Graders at an international school overseas

Reflections on IPSA:

Firstly, I would like to thank all my teachers who facilitated a positive and inspiring learning environment. Their selfless efforts and sacrifice increased my eagerness to learn our Dīn.

My time at IPSA has allowed me to look at the world with an open-mind and also helped shape me into the person I am today. This positive experience has encouraged me to always strive to be a better Muslim and set a good example to my students.



Maulana Dilavar Baba

Class of 2010

Career Path:

Studied in Darul-Mustafa, Tarim

Served and assisted as the Imam at Sunni Ahmedi Masjid, Masjid Sulaimani, Masjid al-Munawwar and currently at Masjid al-Rasheed

Has regular Islamic classes for the community and is a Spiritual Leader & Guide for Hajj and Umrah groups as well

Reflections on IPSA:

Sacred knowledge is the most important form of knowledge for all believers to acquire. With this said, when ones studies at an institution such as IPSA or any institution teaching Sacred Knowledge, know that even the fish in the ocean are praying for their forgiveness (Hadith)

As a student at IPSA I gained a lot of beneficial knowledge al-Humdulillah, especially with regards to current Masa'il and an in depth understanding of Muslim Personal Law and Islamic Finance and its current situation in the world.

IPSA may not be the finishing line in Islamic Studies but definitely prepares you well for the path ahead in gaining further knowledge of the Deen.

May Allah increase us all in knowledge and allow us to remain students of this beautiful Deen!



Muallimah Faiza Gafiieldien Waggie

Class of 2012

Career Path:

Founder and Principal of Madrasatul-Faizeen (School of Winners) where she teaches Islamic Studies for children, from the ages of 5 till 18

Reflections on IPSA:

I chose to study at IPSA as it is a well-structured & accredited Islamic institution. IPSA transformed me as a student, increasing both my knowledge and spirituality simultaneously. IPSA prepares you with the methods needed to teach what has been taught to you. The good character and modesty developed over the years of studying at IPSA, ultimately prepares one to teach others in a similar manner with modesty and goodness.

IPSA had a great impact on my mindset and instilled wisdom in me that I apply till today with my learners. I still make Dua for all my lecturers, who I am incredibly grateful to. It was an honour to study under such renowned scholars who carried themselves with such modesty & discipline!



Hafiz Munowar Harneker

Class of 2008

Career Path:

Mathematics & Physics teacher at Islamia College

Student and teacher of Qira'at at al-Tanzil Institute

Founder of Noorun Mubeen Publications

Author of numerous books on Tajwid, Qira'at, 'Add al-Fawasil & compilations of forty Ahadith

Resident Imam at Masjid al-Raheem, Elfindale

Reflections on IPSA:

Completing the BA course at IPSA was a very enriching and rewarding experience, particularly due to the lovely teachers we had. The translation projects and assignments we had to complete equipped me with the skills to be able to write the books that I later did. I hope that these works will be a source of continuous reward for myself and my teachers, Ameen.



Ustadhah Nabeelah Salie

Class of 2017

Career Path:

Teacher of Islamic Studies at Al-Quds College (Cape Town)

Tutors English for the An-Nur boys Hostel in Schaapkraal

Teaches evening classes in Islamic studies in her community

Also pursuing a short course in psychology of mentorship, BA in psychology & the English language, at UNISA

Reflections on IPSA:

My few years of studies at IPSA were a stepping stone in realizing that I knew nothing. I have come to realize that it was the beginning of my journeying towards Allah in getting to know Him ﷻ better. I have learnt so many sacred jewels from my teachers that I have held dearly at heart and have cherished as I continue my journeying in serving others.

The environment of being accompanied by so many beautiful souls that I met at IPSA shaped my character and truly changed my perspective on life.



Hafiz Waseem Ryklief

Class of 2019

Career Path:

Currently a full-time Hifz teacher & Islamic Studies lecturer at Madrasatut Ta'liyah Hafith School under the tutelage of Sheikh Muhammad Adams

Reflections on IPSA:

After completing my Hifz, I knew I wanted to further my studies in the Deen. That's what brought me to IPSA. Al-Hamdullilah, it was an amazing experience for the 4 years I was there.

IPSA provided me not just with the knowledge of the various Islamic Sciences but also gave me the tools to be able to navigate through life after my studies.

My studies at IPSA also motivated me to pursue an Honours degree

A big Shukran to all my lecturers and peers for playing such a pivotal & positive role in my life!



Muallimah Aneeqah Petersen

Class of 2020

Career Path:

Teacher at Habibia Nursery School

Madrasa teacher and private academic tutor from home

Also pursuing a Teaching degree through UNISA

Happily married mother

Reflections on IPSA:

IPSA is a wonderful Islamic institution that deepens your understanding of our religion and makes you grow as an individual spiritually.

The teachers there were always willing to go the extra mile to help nurture every student.

I pray Allah places immense Barakah in this beloved institution. Amin!



Shaykh Umar Yusuf Doka

Class of 2012

Career Path:

Studied at Regent Business School in Islamic Finance

Imam at the Islamic Centre of Tableview (ICTV) and principal of Madrassah there

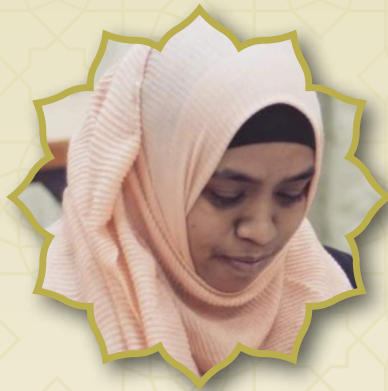
Also a senior Lecturer at Capetown Islamic Educational center (CTIEC)

Reflections on IPSA:

IPSA has been a great light in my life and assisted me in many ways. The lecturers were amazing and we developed a relationship with our teachers that has always helped us on our path of serving our communities.

We learnt that completing our courses only gave us a key to start understanding the vast ocean of knowledge and yearn for more knowledge and therefore we keep on seeking.

Thanks to IPSA for giving us an opportunity to study at College level and
Jazākumu llahu Khayran to our Teachers!



Ustadhah Waseema Hendricks

Class of 2011

Career Path:

Self-employed as a Women's Intuitive Life Coach, Meditation Facilitator and in the process of becoming an EFT Practitioner; as well as employed by The Islamic Centre of Tableview as an Islamic Educator, Administrative Assistant & also assists in managing the Social Media Platforms through Graphic Design & managing of accounts

Reflections on IPSA:

IPSA was a beautiful space for me, coming straight out of high school and needing direction. I had always been searching for something I could not name. IPSA offered a wholesome space for intellectual & spiritual growth, and I consider it to be my first Spiritual home, as many of the Shuyukh there were the first to plant in my heart the seeds of curiosity & enquiry to deepen my understanding of the various sciences of Islam; especially Tasawwuf.

It was the starting point of a wonderful journey for me and a springboard for an intimate relationship with my Lord. Anyone who chooses to study at IPSA should do so with an open heart, clear intentions & a mind that is fertile for beautiful nurturing. All the Teachers at IPSA contribute a unique perspective in understanding the Deen and instill a yearning to know more!



Hafiz Saleem Parker

Class of 2019

Career Path:

Natural Science Teacher at Iqbal Primary School

Founder of the Akhlāq Al-Qurān Institute

Pursuing postgraduate studies at UNISA

Reflections on IPSA:

One of the first lessons we were taught in our first year was:

Having the correct intention for an action; especially that of intending to be a student of *Deen*, Allāh will surely grant you success, *Dunya and Akhirah!*

IPSA really opened up doors for me in ways I never thought possible. With a simple intention of wanting to gain more knowledge and closeness to Allāh (SWT), He has blessed me with so much goodness in learning more about His Deen, and at the same time growing academically as well. *Al-Hamdulillāh!*



Gameeda Cornelius

Class of 2019

Career Path:

Did a Pharmacy Course at the Health Science Academy
Currently a Pharmacist Assistant at Tygerberg Hospital
& a happily married mother!

Reflections on IPSA:

Studying at IPSA rekindled my love for Islam and made me realize how much I still need to learn. Once you start with Islamic Studies, it's almost impossible to stop, Al-Hamdulillah. I hold my 3 years of study at IPSA very close to my heart as I spent it in an excellent academic and spiritual environment.

Here I met some of the best people who helped bring me closer to Allah (SWT), ultimately shaping me into a better version of myself. That's why, I always encourage people to do some sort of tertiary Islamic Studies after school as a way of attaining both spiritual & academic growth, even if it is only for one year!



Shaykh Fadhihl Emandien

Class of 2008

Career Path:

Currently holds the position of Treasurer as well as Head of the Social Development Department of the MJC (SA)

Imām of the Sunni Muhammadan Masjid also known as the Harvey Rd Masjid

Reflections on IPSA:

I miss my days as a student of IPSA, studying and admiring the Ulamā that came and taught us. Al-Hamdulillāh the tools we received at IPSA prepared ourselves to be part of guiding a society with an open mind and heart.

The foundation we received at IPSA was solid indeed!



Gadija Cassiem

Class of 2020

Career Path:

Sales & Customer Service & Consulting in the Tourism Industry

Business Administrator in the Building Industry

Also attained the BA Honours Degree in Islamic Studies from IPSA in 2021

Reflections on IPSA:

IPSA enabled me to grow far beyond my expectations both personally and spiritually, by the *Qadr* of Allah, *al-Hamdulillāh*.

This journey equipped me with the knowledge to become more cognizant of Islamic ideals and thought. In doing so, it allowed me to become a more refined Muslimah. Additionally, it enhanced my critical thinking as it pertains to Islamic spheres. Though the path was not without challenges and sacrifices, it remains a worthwhile one.

I hope that IPSA attracts many more students so that they may enrich themselves and gain closeness to Allah. This would surely aid in developing healthier lifestyles and in turn societies.



Imam Abu-Bakr Solomons

Class of 2014

Career Path:

Completed an Arabic intensive course in Qatar

Taught English in Saudi Arabia for 5 years

Currently the Imam of the Oceanview & Simonstown Mosques and involved in social work in downtrodden communities

Reflections on IPSA:

Furthering my studies at IPSA was one of the best decisions I ever made. IPSA had a very positive impact upon my life, spiritually, mentally & academically. IPSA has a way of preparing their students to deal with modern day challenges and social issues. When I matriculated, I felt so much chaos in the world and wanted to make a difference! I was lost, confused and searching for a stronger connection to my faith!

At IPSA we were spoilt to sit at the feet of so many teachers that studied in so many different places. In this age of confusion, being surrounded by such great individuals definitely had a positive impact! My advice to any young matriculant is to further their studies at IPSA. It will definitely give you the tools and mechanisms to be an asset for your family & your community at large!



Muallimah Nishaat Ebrahim

Class of 2018

Career Path:

Founder and teacher at Madrassah-tur-Rahmah in Cravenby
Currently in final year B.Ed (majoring in English & Arabic) at UNISA

Happily married mother of one!

Reflections on IPSA:

If there's one thing I can say about IPSA, it's that it changed my life for the better. I met the best of people, made the best of memories and learnt so much about life and how to please my Creator.

I started my journey in 2015 after finishing high-school, where I completed the one year higher certificate programme at IPSA. Little did I know that this would be the start of a journey towards finding myself! Just a small taste of Islamic knowledge awakened something inside me.

I then went ahead and joined the three year Bachelor of Arts in Islamic studies degree. History & Fiqh were two of my favourite subjects and I implement so many of the lessons learnt at IPSA in my daily life today, al-Humdulillah!



Abdul-Jaleel Jabodien

Class of 2017

Career Path:

High School Teacher

Youth Program Co-ordinator

Marriage Counsellor

Reflections about IPSA:

The International Peace College was my door to expanding my knowledge about the Deen. IPSA not only increased my knowledge about the Deen but also gave me vision and a purpose to strive for great things.

The lecturers we had, who I deemed as my heroes, are the ones that I personally accredit for the success I have achieved in life. They inspired me, motivated me, and 5 years later still continue to benefit me with their teachings.

IPSA is my intellectual home, a place I would recommend to anyone trying to not only get closer to Allah but also realize to what their purpose and potential in life is.

I promise you will find it there!



Muallimah Nurah Bloomberg

Class of 2018

Career Path:

Currently working as a Teacher's Aide in an Islamic primary school
Pursuing a PGCE degree to further her dream to become a qualified teacher
Also a happily married mother!

Reflections on IPSA:

IPSA is really a great institution in our community.
It's a place where you make your closest friends, who at the same time bring you closer to Allah. I learnt so much at IPSA. Truly a place I will never forget.
My teachers are always in my Duas for the amazing job that they did and continue to do so!
May Allah bless IPSA & it's lecturers!



Saadiq Behardien

Class of 2009

Career Path:

Senior Video Producer at UCT

Working in innovative teaching Studies

Doing Hifz at the Masarawi Centre South Africa

4th year student in part-time Imaamat course at Dar al-Turath al-Islami

Studying classical Arabic online with Zajel institute (Cairo)

Reflections on IPSA:

IPSA laid a beautiful foundation that exposed me to the Islamic sciences in a comfortable setting, helping students navigate classical Islamic texts. IPSA essentially opened up the door to sacred knowledge in an environment in which one could approach these sciences academically as well as spiritually. It exposed me to the basis of many Islamic sciences, which encouraged me to further pursue the path of seeking sacred knowledge consistently!



Gayaatoeniesah Terblanche

Class of 2009

Career Path:

Currently a Maths Teacher and Head of Department (HOD)
in the Intermediate & Senior Phase at Habibia Primary School

Reflections on IPSA:

My experience at IPSA was an amazing one! The courses were exciting and engaging, and the content was intellectually stimulating.

Not only does IPSA provide one with foundational Islamic values but the curriculum covers a variety of issues relevant to our current context, thereby promoting deep discussion and reflection. This increased my knowledge and awareness and broadened my understanding of Islam.

The lecturers and staff at IPSA provided unwavering support, which made the experience even more amazing.

My academic experience at IPSA equipped me for a future academic career, and the skills I gained there helped pave the way for my service to the community today!



Goolam Muhammed Husain

Class of 2016

Career Path:

Completed BCOM Degree at Pearson Institute

Started with marketing & sales in family business and did a short course in Supply Chain management

Started with Honours in HR management at Stellenbosch University

Doing humanitarian aid work locally as well as in Bangladesh for the Rohingya refugee camps where he visited twice with fellow volunteers

Reflections on IPSA:

I enrolled at IPSA in 2016, after completing my matric and it was one of the best decisions I ever made. The learning experience at IPSA granted me spiritual growth as well as better understanding of the Deen in all aspects. Six years later, my background at IPSA has allowed me to continue living an Islamic orientated lifestyle and this is due to the calibre and amazing teaching etiquette of our lecturers. They had a huge impact on my life and I continue to remember and reflect on what they taught me in my daily life!



Qudsiyah Toffar Fataar

Class of 2011

Career Path:

Attained an MA in linguistics/TESOL from the University of Birmingham in 2020

Is now a Candidate for MA in Educational Leadership and plans to do a PHD in it

Advance Diploma from the University of Cambridge

120-hour TEFL Teaching Certificate from the Language Centre Cape Town

Founder & Director of Little Flamingo Academy Montessori School

English Teacher - Princess Noura University, Saudi Arabia (6 years)

Educator & HOD Quloobul Moemineen School - Primary/Secondary School

Reflections on IPSA:

My Journey at IPSA was absolutely memorable! I am forever grateful to my lecturers who taught me not just Islamic Studies but life lessons too. Doing the BA course was not easy but I persevered with the grace of Allah.

I learnt my duties both as a Wife/Mother and a Business & Career driven Woman. All I can say is: It is absolutely imperative to equip yourself with proper Islamic knowledge in our age!



Imam Faheem Ahmad (USA)

Class of 2018

Career Path:

Founder of Tarbiyah Institute, an Islamic-Seminary in Troy, Michigan USA
Currently serves as Religious Director & Imam at Adam Community Centre USA

Reflections on IPSA:

I came to IPSA after completing the 7 year 'Alim Program at Darul-Ulum Zakariyya (JHB). However it was at IPSA that I was exposed to a contemporary method of learning. What stood out to me the most was the methodology of applying the teachings of Islām within our times! It was here I came to realize how important it is to adapt to innovative practices in learning, and the necessity to know how to implement Islām in the modern world.

Another distinction of IPSA was that every Faculty member came from a distinguished qualified background of Islamic scholarship.

IPSA also facilitated for its students various community outreach activities. At IPSA, I was able to strengthen my knowledge, broaden my understanding of Dīn and develop skills that would assist me in serving my community today!



Muallimah Ibtiesam Samodien

Class of 2008

Career Path:

Graduated with a Bachelor of Information Science Degree from UNISA Worked as a Librarian at IPSA (2008-2018)

Completed the BA Honours Degree at IPSA (2019)

Reflections on IPSA:

IPSA gave me the opportunity to flourish academically. I improved my ability to read academic texts with understanding. IPSA elevated my understanding and reading of classical Arabic as well. With my IPSA grounding, I have taken a keen interest in community matters and immersed myself in educating others. I have become an advocate of positivity, instilling hope in young & old, teaching reverts and youth, as well as feeding the hungry.

My advice to future graduates of IPSA is: trust yourself and believe in your potential! Don't give up on the things you believe in and don't give up on yourself! Have confidence and believe that through the guidance of the lecturers at IPSA, you can achieve your goal! IPSA is truly a unique institution of learning with vibrantly committed staff & lecturers. Benefit from it!



إِنْ شَاءَ اللَّهُ



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Compiled by:

Shaykh Fakhruddin Owaisi

HOD Students Affairs

At IPSA, our students are our pride and joy. The fruit of our labour! We strive to produce a graduate who will be a good Muslim and a good citizen, without any conflict, and regardless of whatever career & passion they pursue in life. Our aim is to produce ethical leaders who will be a light unto others and agents of faith, peace & progress in their communities & fraternities. The profiles you will read in this booklet are a testimony to that. Al-Humdulillah!



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