



PROGRAM REVIEW **DOCUMENT**

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Doctorate in Humanitarian Leadership

Contents

| | |
|--|----|
| BACKGROUND, HISTORY & OWNERSHIP | 2 |
| MISSION & OBJECTIVES | 3 |
| CURRENT & PROPOSED PROGRAMS | 4 |
| LONG TERM GOALS OF ZFI (3 TO 5 YEARS) | 5 |
| PROGRAM OVERVIEW | 6 |
| ENROLLMENT | 6 |
| GRADUATION OUTCOMES | 7 |
| GRADUATE CERTIFICATE IN HUMANITARIAN LEADERSHIP | 7 |
| MASTER OF ARTS (M.A.) IN HUMANITARIAN LEADERSHIP | 9 |
| PROGRAM FACULTY | 10 |

BACKGROUND, HISTORY & OWNERSHIP

After years of planning and consultation with experts and scholars, Zakat Foundation Institute was founded and launched in 2020 during the height of the global COVID-19 pandemic as a long-term professional training and scholarly research initiative. The Institute is sponsored by Zakat Foundation of America, a leading humanitarian organization with specialized expertise in disaster response and development in global Muslim societies and is fiscally sponsored by the Center on Muslim Philanthropy, a nonprofit capacity building and training organization providing services across the United States. With the Lilly School of Philanthropy at Indiana University-Indianapolis, Zakat Foundation Institute admitted an inaugural cohort of eighteen students into its first joint-graduate certificate program, the Zakat Foundation Institute Fellowship in Muslim Philanthropy and Humanitarian Studies for the 2020-2021 academic calendar.

Incorporation

The Zakat Foundation Institute (ZFI) was established on **March 12, 2020**, as a domestic nonprofit corporation under Indiana law. With its principal office located at **6818 E County Rd 675 S, Plainfield, IN, USA**, ZFI is classified as a **public benefit corporation** dedicated to advancing charitable, educational, and scientific objectives. The institute focuses on empowering professionals in the humanitarian, philanthropic, and nonprofit sectors through specialized education and training.

Key details about ZFI:

- **Founders:** Incorporated by **Rasheed Ahmed** and **Shariq Siddiqui**, with Siddiqui serving as the registered agent.
- **Tax Compliance:** Operates as a **501(c)(3)** tax-exempt organization, allowing contributions to be tax-deductible.
- **Commitment:** Aligns with strict nonprofit standards, ensuring its activities serve the public benefit exclusively.

CEO & Co Founder

Rasheed Ahmed is ZFI's Executive Director. Rasheed Ahmed is an American Muslim leader of Indian descent. Over four decades since Rasheed made United States his adopted country, he remained focused on community building, furthering social justice and building bridges among diverse communities. His passion is to embed social good and social justice in philanthropic discourses and practices to make the world a better place. His first career was in corporate sector mostly with multinational IBM. Later he transitioned into social good sector starting with one of the largest physicians' associations in North America, Islamic Medical Association of North America (IMANA). He currently leads social good organizations in leadership roles. He serves as the Executive Director of Zakat Foundation Institute, Founding Board Member of Center on Muslim Philanthropy (CMP), and a member of the Council of Advisors to the Muslim Philanthropy Initiative (MPI) at the Lilly Family School of Philanthropy of Indiana University. Previously he served as the Treasurer of the World Congress of Muslim Philanthropy (WCMP) as an Adjunct Faculty at the Fund-Raising School (TFRS) of Indiana University, and a Past-President of US India Policy Institute (USIPI) and Indian American Muslim Council.

MISSION & OBJECTIVES

Mission:

Our mission is to offer a solution-oriented educational experience that accelerates the success of the social good sector by empowering local charitable work leaders with specialized knowledge and professional skills and integrating them into the services of global humanitarianism and philanthropy.

Objectives:

- Developing specialized training programs to prepare leaders for success in the social good sector.
- Promoting research and knowledge exchange, specifically focusing on humanitarianism.
- Expanding international collaborations to integrate local leaders into global humanitarian efforts.
- Enhancing practical skills for local charity leaders to better manage and scale their organizations.

CURRENT & PROPOSED PROGRAMS

| CIP Code | Program Name | Status (Active, or Proposed) | Approval Date |
|----------|--|------------------------------|----------------|
| 30.2001 | Doctorate in Humanitarian Leadership | Proposed | |
| 30.2001 | Master of Arts (M.A.) in Humanitarian Leadership | Active | March 08, 2024 |
| 30.2001 | Graduate Certificate in Humanitarian Leadership | Active | 2022 |

LONG TERM GOALS OF ZFI (3 TO 5 YEARS)

A. Advance Research on Charitable Practices

Establish a research center dedicated to humanitarianism and social finance, aiming to publish influential papers and contribute to the global dialogue on charitable practices and policies.

B. Strengthen Local and Regional Partnerships

Build stronger ties with local charities and grassroots organizations, focusing on empowering them with the tools and leadership skills necessary to amplify their social impact.

C. Enhance Global Accessibility Through Online Learning

Invest in online learning platforms to offer flexible, high-quality programs that make ZFI's courses accessible to students and professionals worldwide, particularly those in underserved regions.

D. Engage Alumni and Foster Global Partnerships

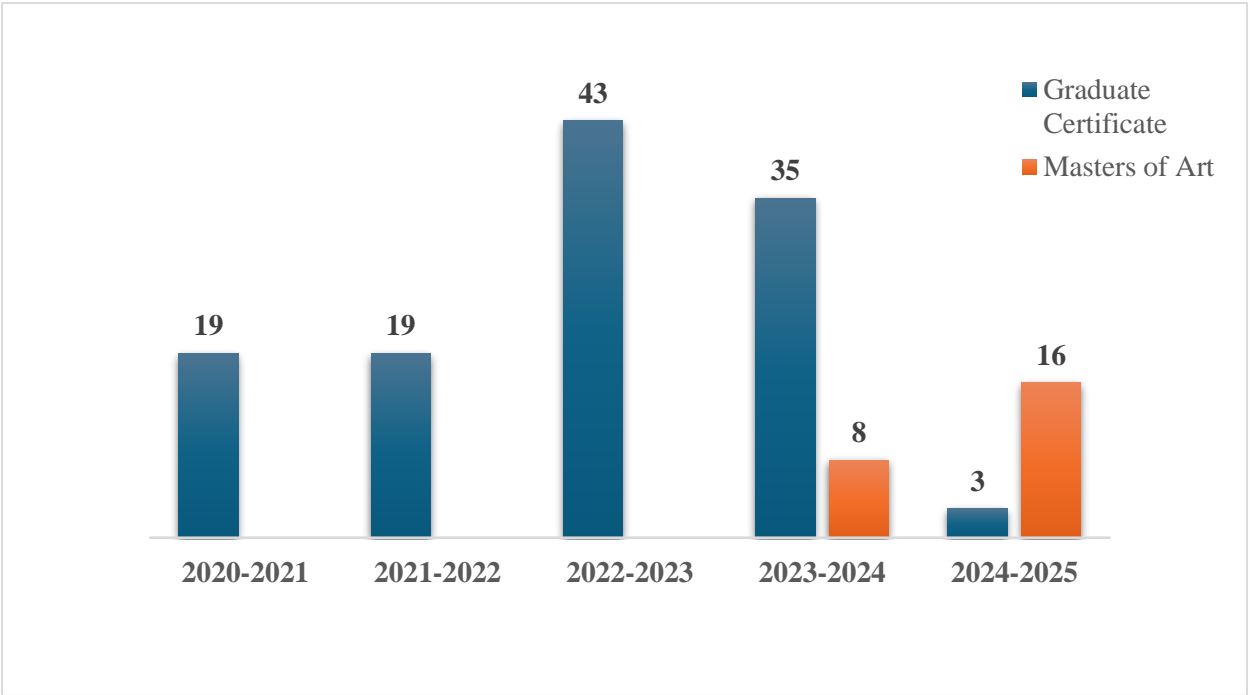
Develop a robust alumni network and strengthen partnerships with international organizations to provide career development opportunities, internships, and collaborative projects that benefit both alumni and current students.

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

ENROLLMENT

For AY 2020/21 to 2024/25

The Zakat Foundation Institute has seen consistent and impressive enrollment in both its Graduate Certificate and Masters programs over the years. The Graduate Certificate program attracts a diverse group of students seeking to enhance their professional skills and knowledge in a shorter time frame, while the Masters program, introduced in Summer 2024, appeals to those aiming for an in-depth and comprehensive understanding of their field. The steady increase in enrollment numbers reflects the institute's growing reputation for academic excellence and its commitment to providing quality education that meets the needs of its students. This trend highlights the institute's success in fostering an environment conducive to learning and professional development.



GRADUATION OUTCOMES

GRADUATE CERTIFICATE IN HUMANITARIAN LEADERSHIP

| Program Title | Graduation Rate | Graduation Rate | Graduation Rate | Graduation Rate | Graduation Rate | Graduation Rate |
|---|-----------------|---|--|--|---|--|
| | 2020-2021 | 2021-2022 | 2022-2023 | 2023-2024 | 2024-2025 | Overall Graduation Rate |
| Graduate Certificate in Humanitarian Leadership | 95% | 53% | 33% | 3% | 0% | 36% |
| | - | 3 x students are currently enrolled. The graduation rate will be finalized upon the conclusion of their academic cycle. | 13 x students are currently enrolled. The graduation rate will be finalized upon the conclusion of their academic cycle. | 15 x students are currently enrolled. The graduation rate will be finalized upon the conclusion of their academic cycle. | 2 x students are currently enrolled. The graduation rate will be finalized upon the conclusion of their academic cycle. | 33 x students are currently enrolled. The graduation rate will be finalized upon the conclusion of their academic cycle. |

Year Wise Enrollment & Graduates Break Down

| <u>Graduate Certificate in Humanitarian Leadership</u> | | | | | | |
|--|-------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|------------|--|
| ACADEMIC YEAR | TOTAL | PROGRESS | | | GRADUATION | REMARKS |
| | ENROLLMENTS | Enrolled | Withdrawn | Graduates | RATE | |
| | a | b | c | d | = d÷a | |
| 2020-2021 | 19 | 0 | 1 | 18 | 95% | - |
| 2021-2022 | 19 | 3 | 6 | 10 | 53% | 3 x students are currently enrolled. The graduation rate will be finalized upon the conclusion of their academic cycle. |
| 2022-2023 | 43 | 13 | 16 | 14 | 33% | 13 x students are currently enrolled. The graduation rate will be finalized upon the conclusion of their academic cycle. |
| 2023-2024 | 35 | 15 | 19 | 1 | 3% | 15 x students are currently enrolled. The graduation rate will be finalized upon the conclusion of their academic cycle. |
| 2024-2025 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 0% | 2 x students are currently enrolled. The graduation rate will be finalized upon the conclusion of their academic cycle. |
| Grand Total | 119 | 33 | 43 | 43 | 36% | 33 x students are currently enrolled. The graduation rate will be finalized upon the conclusion of their academic cycle. |

MASTER OF ARTS (M.A.) IN HUMANITARIAN LEADERSHIP

| Academic Year | Total Enrollments | Progress | | | Graduation Rate | Remarks |
|---------------|-------------------|----------|-----------|--------|-----------------|--|
| | | Enrolled | Withdrawn | Alumni | | |
| | a | b | c | d | =d÷a | |
| 2023-2024 | 8 | 8 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 8 x students are currently enrolled. The graduation rate will be finalized upon the conclusion of their academic cycle. |
| 2024-2025 | 16 | 14 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 14 x students are currently enrolled. The graduation rate will be finalized upon the conclusion of their academic cycle. |
| Grand Total | 24 | 22 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 22 x students are currently enrolled. The graduation rate will be finalized upon the conclusion of their academic cycle. |

PROGRAM FACULTY

The faculty at **Zakat Foundation Institute (ZFI)** includes accomplished scholars and practitioners with extensive expertise in philanthropy, nonprofit management, and social impact. Their diverse backgrounds and real-world experience enrich the academic environment, fostering innovative, solution-oriented education that aligns with ZFI's mission to empower leaders in the social good sector. Through teaching, research, and mentorship, the faculty integrate local charitable.

A. Proposed Program: Doctorate in Humanitarian Leadership

| <u>Name</u> | <u>Title</u> | <u>Year of Experience</u> | <u>Brief Profile</u> |
|-------------------------|--|---------------------------|---|
| Dr. Kim Williams-Pulfer | Ph.D., Philanthropic Studies | 10 years | Specializes in philanthropy, civil society, and social movements with a strong background in nonprofit management and Caribbean studies. |
| Dr. Richard Klopp | Ph.D., Philanthropic Studies | 33 years | Extensive experience in social ventures, nonprofit leadership, and international development, with a focus on Africa and cross-cultural communication. |
| Dr. Amr Abdalla | PhD., Conflict Analysis and Resolution." Professor Emeritus | 25 years | Expert in peacebuilding, conflict resolution, and academic leadership with extensive teaching and administrative roles in global universities and institutions. |
| Dr. Shariq Siddiqui | PhD., Philanthropic Studies | Over 10 years | Dr. Shariq Siddiqui is an Assistant Professor and Director of the Muslim Philanthropy Initiative at Indiana University. He holds a Ph.D. and M.A. in Philanthropic Studies and a JD from Indiana University. Dr. Siddiqui has authored several books and numerous peer-reviewed articles on Muslim philanthropy and nonprofit organizations. He also serves as the editor-in-chief of the Journal of Muslim Philanthropy and Civil Society. |
| Dr. Aisha Azhar | PhD., Public Administration & Policy | 22 years | Dr. Aisha Azhar has a rich background in public administration and policy, with significant teaching and research experience. She has held various academic and administrative positions, including Director of MS & PhD programs and Editor of academic journals. Dr. Azhar has been involved in numerous funded research projects and has published extensively in the fields of |

| | | | |
|-------------------|--|----------|---|
| | | | public administration, governance, and disaster management. |
| Dr. Mehnaz Gul | PhD., Communication | 22 years | Dr. Mehnaz Gul holds extensive experience in teaching qualitative research methods, management, communication, and leadership courses. She has supervised numerous research theses and published research articles in peer-reviewed journals. Dr. Gul has also organized seminars and trainings on various topics, including entrepreneurship and women empowerment. |
| Dr. Rafeel Wasif | PhD., Political Science | 10 years | Focuses on nonprofit management and Muslim philanthropy, with research on the intersection of politics and charitable giving post-9/11. |
| Dr. Selman Kesgin | PhD. | 10 years | Dr. Selman Kesgin is a distinguished academic and researcher with extensive experience in disaster management and humanitarian aid. He has held various academic positions and has been involved in significant research projects related to disaster response and management. Dr. Kesgin has also delivered lectures and presentations on the impacts of natural disasters, such as earthquakes, and has collaborated with international institutions for educational and research purposes. |
| Dr. Zainab Farhat | PhD., Public Policy Law and Governance | 6 years | She teaches Muslim philanthropy and humanitarian studies, focusing on globalization and localization, to diverse students worldwide. Her work emphasizes Islamic philanthropy, equipping students with the knowledge to address global challenges and foster impactful community contributions. |
| Dr. Zeshan Noor | PhD., Public Affairs | 6 years | He has served as a Research Manager and Affiliate Faculty at the Indiana University Lilly Family School of Philanthropy, focusing on the Muslim Philanthropy Initiative ¹² . Additionally, he has been a Lecturer and Student Advisor at the Zakat Foundation Institute (ZFI) |

B. Program: Master of Arts (M.A.) in Humanitarian Leadership

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|-----------------------|-------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|
| ▪ Dr. Richard Klopp | ▪ Dr. Aisha Azhar | ▪ Dr. Selman Kesgin | ▪ Dr. Kim Williams-Pulfer |
| ▪ Dr. Shariq Siddiqui | ▪ Dr. Mehnaz Gul | ▪ Dr. Zainab Farhat | ▪ Dr. Zeeshan Noor |

C. Program: Graduate Certificate in Humanitarian Leadership

- | | | |
|-----------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|
| ▪ Dr. Richard Klopp | ▪ Dr. Selman Kesgin | ▪ Dr. Kim Williams-Pulfer |
| ▪ Dr. Shariq Siddiqui | ▪ Dr. Zainab Farhat | ▪ Dr. Zeeshan Noor |

*Please refer **Table A**, for Faculty Details of Masters and Graduate Certificate program