

A large, vertical, decorative Islamic calligraphic element in shades of green and orange, featuring intricate floral and geometric patterns. It is positioned on the left side of the page, extending from the top to the bottom.

*In the Name of Allah,
the Beneficent the Merciful*

An Introduction to
Baqir al-Olum University
(affiliated to the Bureau of Islamic Propagation)
Prepared by: Office of Cultural
Affairs Public Relations
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Baqir al-Olum University



1. Introduction

Baqir al-Olum University is a seminary, educational, and scientific foundation established in 1984, under the title of Baqir al-Olum Institute, to promote seminary students' level of political knowledge with regard to the Islamic world, Iran, and international relations. Due to the necessity of expanding educational activities concerning Islamic and human sciences and of training seminary school students, Baqir al-Olum Institute was raised to the status of a university in 2005. Baqir al-Olum University is part of the Bureau of Islamic Propagation which was founded to prepare the ground for promoting religious propagation, research, expanding and producing religious knowledge, reconstructing Islamic sciences to meet the scientific, cultural, and religious needs of the Iranian society.

2. Goals

- 2-1. To help raise the level culture and knowledge of the Iranian society and expansion of Islamic human sciences;
- 2-2. To participate in the training of specialist human resources and elites from among the seminary school students needed in cultural arenas;
- 2-3. To cooperate for preparing the ground for the all-out participation of people for the expansion and raise of research and education in Iran;
- 2-4. To make use of the facilities and potentialities of the Islamic seminary schools to expand higher education;
- 2-5. To help produce and develop religious innovation in various fields of the Islamic sciences and humanities and preparing and the ground and facilities necessary for education, research and propagation of Islam.



3. Distinctive features of Baqir al-Olum University

- 3-1. Being a pioneer in the realm of rethinking religion in seminary schools in Qom;
- 3-2. Being a pioneer in organizing the education of seminary school students with respect to education, propagation, and research,
- 3-3. Presenting theoretical and practical education through improving traditional methods and using new methods and technologies.
- 3-4. Training religious intellectuals and scholars to expand religious thoughts and satisfy the needs of the Islamic society.

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4. The pillars of the university

Baqir al-Olum University is a non-governmental, non-profit educational unit dependent legally on the Bureau of Islamic Propagation of the Seminary Schools of Qom, based on the following four pillars:

1. Board of Founders,
2. Board of Trustees,
3. President of the university,
4. Council of the university.

5. Faculties

Baqir al-Olum University is composed of six faculties:

5-1. Faculty of Political Sciences.

Presenting courses in political sciences informally started when the university began working as an institute. Accepting male students in 1994, the faculty started its formal activities at bachelor's level. In 1996 the master's level and in 2002 the Ph.D. level were also initiated. Presently the faculty has students in two programs in political science at the master's and Ph.D. level and a program in Islamic Political Thought.





5-2. Faculty of History of Islam.

The faculty started accepting students at master's level in 1995. Now the faculty has students at master's level in two programs: History of Islam and History of Iran, with Ph.D. levels being initiated soon.



5-3. Faculty of social sciences.

This faculty started accepting students at bachelor's level in 1999 and at master's level in 2005. Ph.D. programs in Culture and Communication were also initiated in 2008. Now the following programs at master's and Ph.D. levels are being presented in this faculty:

- a. Social Sciences of Muslims (Master's),
- b. Propagation and Cultural Communication (Master's),
- c. Philosophy of Social Sciences (Master's),
- d. Sociology (Master's),
- e. Culture and Communication (Ph.D.).
- f. Cultural Policy Making (Ph.D.).

5-4. Faculty of Islamic Philosophy and Theology.

This faculty started its activity at master's level in 1998. The existing programs in this faculty are Islamic Philosophy and Theology at master's level, Islamic Philosophy at Ph.D. level, and Philosophy of Religion at master's level.



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5-5. Faculty of Islamic Sciences Professorship.

This faculty was established in 2005 and now has the following four programs:

- a. Islamic Ethics (master's and Ph.D.)
- b. Islamic Revolution (master's and Ph.D.)
- c. Theoretical Foundations of Islam (master's and Ph.D.)
- d. Islamic History and Civilization (master's)



5-6. Faculty of Foreign Languages.

Two types of language teaching programs are presented in this faculty: academic and free.

a. Academic language teaching. In 2005 the faculty obtained the permission for three language programs: Arabic, English, and French. In the same year, the faculty started accepting students at bachelor's level in English Translation.



b. Free language teaching. This type of language teaching, in which no academic degrees are given to language learners, was initiated with Arabic in 1981, English in 1982, and French 1999.

6. Journals

Baqir al-Olum University publishes four quarterly journals to improve scientific and research spirit among professors and students, to critically review various theories and approaches, to prepare the grounds for researchers in the field of Islamic studies to present their ideas, to help educational and research centers to have constructive relationships, and to achieve new scientific achievements.



6-1. Political Science Quarterly.

This quarterly is published by the Department of Political Science, aiming at producing knowledge, critically studying and reviving the Islamic legacy in the field of Islamic political studies, and critically studying the existing political thought in the world in general and in the Islamic world in particular. Publishing 51 issues so far, this quarterly also aims at a critical evaluation of methodologies of political science and political sociology of Iran, Islam, and Shiism.



6-2. History of Islam Quarterly.

This quarterly is being published by the Department of History from 2000 to relate scientific, educational, and research centers and scholars at universities and seminary schools in order to transfer new knowledge and experience related to History of Islam. It has published 40 issues so far.



6-3. A'een-e Hekmat Quarterly.

The Department of Islamic Philosophy and Theology publishes this quarterly to produce knowledge in the realm of rational sciences and Islamic wisdom. It has published 5 issues so far.



6-4. Farhang-e Pazhuhesh.

This is a journal published quarterly by the students of Baqir al- Olum and covers issues in political science, Islamic philosophy and theology, social sciences, and history of Islam. 8 issues of this periodical, which first appeared in 2008, were so far published.

7. Conferences and seminars

To promote scientific research among professors and students, Baqir al-Olum University holds conferences and seminars in various fields every year. So far the university has held seven conferences about topics such as Imam Khomeini, Imam Ali, Seminary Schools and Intellectuals, Science and Culture, Science

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and Identity, and Science and Religious Teachings. In addition, 30 seminars, 50 scientific meetings, and 12 festivals were also held at the university since 2003.



8. Dissertations

So far more than 1000 dissertations at bachelor's, master's, and Ph.D. levels were defended at the university, some of which have been selected as best dissertations.

9. Library

The specialized library of Baqir al-Olum University was founded in 1983 to support research activities. Now it covers about 1000 square meters and contains more than 37,000 Persian titles and 4000 English titles. With two study rooms, the library presents a wide range of support to students and professors.



10. Publications

Baqir al-Olum University Press has so far published about 50 books written by professors and students of the university.

11. Scientific-cultural trips and tours

Office of Cultural Affairs of the university arranges various scientific trips and cultural tours within and

out of Iran to promote the professors' and students' level of scientific and cultural knowledge. The office has arranged more than 40 trips to various provinces in Iran and trips to countries such as Austria, Germany, Belarus, Ukraine, India, Nakhjavan, Syria, Lebanon, and Iraq.



12. Scientific Agreements

Office of Scientific and International Cooperation of the university is to promote scientific, educational, and research cooperation with other universities and research centers. Thus, the university has so far signed 12 agreements and more 20 professors from Germany, Korea, Japan, Indonesia, Lebanon, Iraq, and Canada have visited Baqir al-Olum University. Two of Baqir al-Olum professors were also sent to England to spend their sabbatical leave.



13. Statistical view of students at Baqir al-Olum University

No.	Field of Study	Level	Female	Male	Total
1.	Political Science	M.A.	7	44	51
2.	Political Science	Ph.D.	2	30	32
3.	Islamic Philosophy and Theology	M.A.	38	26	64
4.	Social Sciences: Sociology	M.A.	1	21	22
5.	English Translation Studies	B.A.	0	13	13
6.	History of Islam	M.A.	26	42	68
7.	Islamic Sciences Professorship: Islamic Ethics	M. A.	7	10	17
8.	Philosophy of Religion	M.A.	5	22	27
9.	Propagation and Cultural Communication	M.A.	15	14	29
10.	Political Thought in Islam	M.A.	0	18	18
11.	Philosophy of Social Sciences	M.A.	0	20	20
12.	Islamic Sciences Professorship: Islamic Ethics	Ph.D.	6	11	17

13.	Islamic Philosophy	Ph.D.	4	13	17
14.	Culture and Communication	Ph.D.	0	17	17
15.	Cultural Policy Making	Ph.D.	0	10	10
16.	Islamic Sciences Professorship: Theoretical Foundations of Islam	Ph.D.	7	19	26
17.	Islamic Sciences Professorship: Theoretical Foundations of Islam	M.A.	3	7	10
18.	Islamic Sciences Professorship: Islamic Revolution	M.A.	0	5	5
19.	Islamic Sciences Professorship: Islamic Revolution	Ph.D.	0	7	7
20.	Islamic Sciences Professorship: Islamic History and Civilization	M.A.	0	3	3
	Total		121	353	474

14. The Achievements and Breakthroughs of the University of Bagher Al-olum University

A. The Educational Achievements

1. Winning the second place in the number of the students admitted for the M. A. degree throughout the country in the entrance exam in 2001;
2. Winning the first place in the number of the students admitted for the M. A. degree throughout the Qom Province in the entrance exam in 2001;
3. Winning the fifth place among 48 non-governmental higher education institutes, according to the statistical information and the indices of the non-governmental non-profitable higher education universities institutes in 2005-2004.

B. The Research Achievements

1. Wining the certification as a promotive journal by Political Science Quarterly in 2008;
2. Wining the second place in the country by The Zohur Magazine published by the students Basij, in the festival of the students press and magazines in the country in 2008;
3. Wining the first place by The Zohur Magazine published by the students Basij, in the festival of the students magazines in the country in 2007;
4. Wining the first place by The Zohur Magazine published by the students



- Basij, in the festival of elites and innovators 2007;
5. Winning a place in the festival of Nahj al-Balagha, (The competition among the universities of the country, 2000);
 6. Winning a place in the conference on Imam Ali's conducts and thoughts (Shiraz University, 2000);
 7. Winning a place in the conference of the outstanding Basiji clergymen and students of the universities in the country, (2001);
 8. Winning a place in the festival of Kharazmi, (2000);
 9. Winning a place in the festival of the press, (2001);
 10. Winning a place in the congress of Imam Ali (p.b.u.h.) and manifestation of leadership, (2001);
 11. Winning a place in the conference of the best researches on the religion, (2001);
 12. The acceptance of thirty post- graduate students in the entrance exam of the university for the degree of Ph. D. in political sciences;
 13. The presence of the graduated students of this university in the top political and academic positions of the country;
 14. The selection of the book: "The political Liberty in the Thoughts of Ayatollah Motahhari and Ayatollah Beheshti" in the Motahhari Conference in 2004;
 15. Winning the first place by the book: "The Islamic Movements of Pakistan" in the seventh festival of Sheikh Tusi in 2004.

15. Website of the university



Due to the necessity of introducing the university, presenting the news, and having scientific, educational, and research relationships with other scientific centers, the website of the university was launched in 2005 with the following address: www.bou.ac.ir

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