



Activity Report

Islamic Sciences Accreditation Agency

2022

1. INTRODUCTION

The Islamic Sciences Accreditation Agency (IAA) is a non-profit association operating as a quality and accreditation registration body. Established on April 6, 2018, following a decision made at the 24th Deans' Meeting of Theology and Islamic Studies Faculties held in Malatya on March 24, 2018, the IAA aims to contribute to raising the quality of education, research, and religious services by providing information, external evaluation, and accreditation for theology programs. As there is no other accreditation body specifically for Islamic theology at the national and international levels, the IAA is unique in the world in this respect. The IAA was authorized by YÖKAK (Council of Higher Education Accreditation and Coordination) on September 11, 2019, receiving a two-year registration, which was renewed for another two-year period in 2021. The Islamic Sciences Accreditation Board (İAK) conducts its work and procedures through the International Accreditation Council (IAC), the Candidate Selection Committee (ATK), the Continuous Improvement Committee, the Education Committee, and the Criteria Committees.

2. COMPANY INFORMATION

a. Mission, Vision and Quality Policy

IAA is a non-profit civil society organization that contributes to raising the quality of education by providing information, external evaluation, and accreditation services for theology programs. IAA's aim is to be a leading agency that certifies the quality of education, research, and religious services by defining the educational and research activities/administrative processes of undergraduate and graduate theology and equivalent programs, as well as the quality of all kinds of religious services to society, according to national and international standards, and sharing the results with relevant institutions and organizations.

Based on this aim, IAA has defined its Mission as:

“To contribute to raising the quality of education, research, and religious services by providing information, external evaluation, and accreditation for theology programs”, and its Vision as: “To be a successful and pioneering organization in the field of theology accreditation”.

IAA's Strategic Goals are:

To disseminate a student-centered, competency-based, and outcome-oriented learning and teaching approach.

To expand research and development activities that are aligned with academic priorities, generate value, and can be transformed into social benefit. To ensure that social contribution activities are carried out in accordance with the goals and strategies, and in line with local, regional, and national religious needs and demands. To expand and extend the accreditation process to an international level. To ensure that governance processes and continuous improvement efforts are carried out with broad stakeholder participation.

b. Organizational Structure

The Islamic Sciences Accreditation Agency (IAA) has established its organizational structure to conduct its national and international processes. Accordingly, at the top is the Board of Directors, which includes members from multiple universities in line with the principle of inclusivity. However, IAA aims to further diversify the institutions of its board members. IAA conducts national accreditation processes through the Islamic Sciences Accreditation Board (IAK) and international accreditation processes through the International Accreditation Council (IAC). Care has been taken to ensure that IAC members come from different institutions and IAC members come from different countries. In addition, the Candidate Selection Committee (CSC), Criteria Committee, Education Committee, and Continuous Improvement Committee are in operation. Participation from different universities has been prioritized in the formation of these committees and boards. Similarly, inclusivity has been prioritized in the creation of the evaluator pool.

- ◆ [Organizational Chart](#)
- ◆ [Board of Directors](#)
- ◆ [National Boards and Committees](#)
- ◆ [International Accreditation Council \(IAC\)](#)

3. ACTIVITIES

a. Accredited Program Information

Following its authorization by YÖKAK (Council of Higher Education Accreditation and Coordination) in 2020, IAA began accepting accreditation applications. Prioritizing sustainability, transparency, and consistency, IAA has taken care to ensure the integrity of its accreditation activities, especially in the face of the pandemic. In 2022, it completed its first accreditation process for the regular and evening programs of the Faculty of Theology at Sakarya University.

Programs with Completed Accreditation Process

- Sakarya University Faculty of Theology (First Education)
- Sakarya University Faculty of Theology (Second Education)

Programs in the Completion Phase of the Accreditation Process

- Istanbul University Faculty of Theology (First Education)
- Istanbul University Faculty of Theology (First Education, English)

National and International Programs with Evaluation Teams Formed

- Amasya University Faculty of Theology (First Education)
- Amasya University Faculty of Theology (Second Education)
- Erciyes University Faculty of Theology (First Education)
- Erciyes University Faculty of Theology (Second Education)
- Bartın University Faculty of Islamic Sciences (First Education)
- Istanbul 29 May University Faculty of Theology (First Education)
- Hitit University Faculty of Theology (First Education)
- Hitit University Faculty of Theology (Second Education)
- Dicle University Faculty of Theology (First Education)

National Programs with Ongoing Evaluation Process

- Atatürk University Faculty of Theology (First Education) Çukurova University Faculty of Theology (First Education)
- Çukurova University Faculty of Theology (Second Education) Gaziantep University Faculty of Theology (First Education)
- Recep Tayyip Erdoğan University Faculty of Theology (First Education)
- Recep Tayyip Erdoğan University Faculty of Theology (Second Education)
- Ondokuz Mayıs University Faculty of Theology (First Education)

- Ondokuz Mayıs University Faculty of Theology (Second Education)
- İnönü University Faculty of Theology (First Education)
- İnönü University Faculty of Theology (Second Education)
- Ankara University Faculty of Theology (First Education Turkish)
- Ankara University Faculty of Theology (First Education English)
- Uşak University Faculty of Islamic Sciences (First Education)
- Uşak University Faculty of Islamic Sciences (Second Education)
- Süleyman Demirel University Faculty of Theology (First Education)
- Çanakkale Onsekiz Mart University Faculty of Theology (First Education)
- Çanakkale Onsekiz Mart University Faculty of Theology Faculty (First Year Education)

In 2022, the following programs entered the accreditation process.

- Sivas Cumhuriyet University Faculty of Theology (1st Education)
- Sivas Cumhuriyet University Faculty of Theology (2nd Education)
- Harran University Faculty of Theology (1st Education)
- Harran University Faculty of Theology (2nd Education)
- Kırıkkale University Faculty of Islamic Sciences (1st Education)
- Fırat University Faculty of Theology (1st Education)
- Sinop University Faculty of Theology (1st Education)

The international programs for which the accreditation process began in 2022 are listed below:

- Qatar University Faculty of Sharia and Islamic Studies - Bachelor's Program in Jurisprudence and Methodology of Jurisprudence
- Qatar University Faculty of Sharia and Islamic Studies - Bachelor's Program in Creed and Da'wah
- Qatar University Faculty of Sharia and Islamic Studies - Bachelor's Program in Quran and Sunnah (Process is ongoing)
- Qatar University Faculty of Sharia and Islamic Studies - Bachelor's Program in Islamic Studies
- Lebanon Tripoli University Faculty of Sharia and Islamic Studies - Sharia Program
- Jordan Amman Arab University
- Jordan Al al-Bayt University Faculty of Sharia

b. Evaluator Trainings

The IAA employs over 100 national and approximately 30 international evaluators. Student evaluators are included in both the national and international evaluator pools, and they actively participate in the teams. No evaluator training was conducted in 2022. Preparations are underway for national and international evaluator training in 2023.

c. Information Trainings

c.1. National Institution Information

IAA conducts information activities for faculties of national and international programs that have entered or intend to enter the accreditation process. Applications are received electronically. Information activities are conducted online or in person on specified dates. In 2022, information activities were conducted for 10 programs. Nine of these were online, and one was in person. In 2022, institutional information sessions were held for the following Faculties of Theology/Islamic Studies:

- ◆ Adana Çukurova University Faculty of Theology (February 23, 2022)

An online "Institutional Accreditation Information Meeting" was held with the Faculty of Theology at Adana Çukurova University.

- ◆ Erzincan Binali Yıldırım University Faculty of Theology (March 1, 2022)

An online "Institutional Accreditation Information Meeting" was held with the Faculty of Theology of Erzincan Binali Yıldırım University.

- ◆ İzmir Katip Çelebi University, Faculty of Islamic Studies (March 1, 2022)

An online "Institutional Accreditation Information Meeting" was held with the Faculty of Islamic Studies at Izmir Katip Çelebi University.

- ◆ Hatay Mustafa Kemal University Faculty of Theology (March 8, 2022)

An online "Institutional Accreditation Information Meeting" was held with the Faculty of Theology of Hatay Mustafa Kemal University.

- Ankara Hacı Bayram Veli University, Faculty of Islamic Studies (March 22, 2022)

An online "Institutional Accreditation Information Meeting" was held with the Faculty of Islamic Studies at Ankara Hacı Bayram Veli University.

- ◆ Kocaeli University Faculty of Theology (March 30, 2022)

An online "Institutional Accreditation Information Meeting" was held with Kocaeli University Faculty of Theology.

- ◆ Giresun University Faculty of Islamic Studies (June 7, 2022)
- ◆ Bursa Uludağ University Faculty of Theology (July 4, 2022)

A face-to-face institutional accreditation information meeting was held at the Faculty of Theology of Bursa Uludağ University.

- ◆ Kırklareli University Faculty of Theology (01.11.2022)

An online "Institutional Accreditation Information Meeting" was held with the Faculty of Theology of Kırklareli University.

- ◆ Tokat Gaziosmanpaşa University, Faculty of Islamic Studies (October 19, 2022)

An online "Institutional Accreditation Information Meeting" was held with the Faculty of Islamic Sciences of Tokat Gaziosmanpaşa University.

c.2. International Institution Information

Internationally, an awareness campaign was conducted at Al al-Bayt University in Jordan in 2022.

An online information meeting on international institutional accreditation was held with the Faculty of Sharia at Al-Al Bayt University in Jordan.

d. International Activities

IAA Since IAA is an organization that values internationalization alongside its national activities, it continued its international activities in 2022. It conducts its activities in areas such as international collaborations, accreditation activities, and institutional briefings. Accordingly, in 2022, an information session was held at the Faculty of Sharia at Al al-Bayt University in Jordan. On the other hand, the international programs for which the accreditation process began in 2022 are listed below:

- Qatar University Faculty of Sharia and Islamic Studies - Fiqh and Fiqh Methodology Bachelor's Program
- Qatar University Faculty of Sharia and Islamic Studies - Aqidah and Da'wah Bachelor's Program
- Qatar University Faculty of Sharia and Islamic Studies - Quran and Sunnah Bachelor's Program (Process Ongoing)
- Qatar University Faculty of Sharia and Islamic Studies - Islamic Studies Bachelor's Program
- Lebanon Tripoli University Faculty of Sharia and Islamic Studies - Sharia Program
- Jordan Amman Arab University
- Jordan Al-Bayt University Faculty of Sharia

e. Improvement Activities

Regarding the areas for improvement mentioned in the YÖKAK registration decision dated 15/09/2021:

- In 2021, work was done to expand the scope of the governing board. The governing board is not composed solely of members from one institution. Further expansion of inclusivity is planned. Inclusivity has been broadly ensured in other boards and committees. All established evaluation teams include student members. Members actively participate in the process.
- To ensure consistency between evaluations conducted in different

programs during the same evaluation period and across years, consistency checks of draft reports are performed by the Inter-Agency Committee (IAC). After consistency checks, the IAC creates the final Program Accreditation Report (PAR) and submits this report to the Islamic Sciences Accreditation Agency (IAA) for approval. (Program Accreditation and Monitoring Guide, p. 18) In 2022, the IAA conducted its first consistency study with the completion of the Sakarya University Faculty of Theology processes and announced it on its website. Preparation of the thematic analysis report is ongoing. The IAA also began preliminary preparations for strategic planning studies in 2022.

4. EVALUATION OF INSTITUTIONAL COMPETENCIES AND ACTIVITIES

a. Areas for Improvement

The following areas have been identified for improvement within the IAA (International Association of Businessmen):

- Improving the inclusivity of the executive board (Practices to improve inclusivity have begun, but further development is planned.)
- Incomplete Thematic Analysis reports. (The process for the first program to receive accreditation in July 2022 has been completed. Following a meeting with YÖKAK (Council of Higher Education), work on a Thematic Analysis Report template has been initiated. It will be published shortly.)
- Implementing strategic planning studies and monitoring strategic goals (Studies have been initiated.)
- Ensuring staff recruitment and strengthening digital infrastructure.

b. Strengths

- Initiation of international accreditation processes (Receiving applications, inclusion of 7 programs in the process,
- Completion of the first accreditation process, Active commencement of processes for other programs,
- Conducting international information activities).

c. Performance Metrics

Performance Metrics		
Criteria	Answers	Answers
Total accreditation period	240	The time between the accreditation application date and the decision date should be considered in days. A numerical value should be entered to be used for calculating the average completion time of the accreditation process.
Total number of programs for which accreditation services are offered.	105	Please specify the total number of programs for which accreditation services are provided. This information will be used to calculate the average completion time of the accreditation process.
Total number of evaluators	132	The total number of evaluators should be stated numerically. This information will be used to calculate the average number of evaluators.
Total number of active programs	31	The total number of active programs should be stated numerically. This is used in calculating the average number of evaluators.
Number of Information Meetings	11	The number of information meetings should be written in numerals.
Number of Evaluator Trainings	6	The number of evaluator trainings should be indicated with a numeral.

Performance Ratios		
Rate Name	Ratio Value	Definition
Average Completion Time of the Accreditation Process	2.29	<p>Total accreditation period / Total number of programs for which accreditation services are provided</p> <p>The time between the accreditation application date and the decision date should be considered in days.</p>
Average Number of Evaluators	4.26	Total number of evaluators / Total number of active programs

Accreditation Rates			
Program Name	Number of Accredited Programs	Total Number of Active Programs	Ratio Value
İLAHIYAT	1		0.01
There is a total of 1 Accreditation Rate record.			

University Departments			
University Name	Faculty Name	Section Name	Start Date
SAKARYA ÜNİVERSİTESİ	İLAHİYAT FAKÜLTESİ	İLAHİYAT PR.	25/07/2022
SAKARYA ÜNİVERSİTESİ	İLAHİYAT FAKÜLTESİ	İLAHİYAT PR. (İÖ)	25/07/2022

There are a total of 2 university departments.

d. Evaluation

In 2020, IAA received accreditation applications for the first time and included 24 programs that applied in the process. In 2021, 8 programs applied for accreditation and were included in the process. In 2022, 7 national and 7 international programs applied for accreditation. The process for 1 program was completed, and the process for 1 program is nearing completion. The evaluation teams for 4 national and 2 international programs are continuing their work. It is aimed to complete the processes of the other programs in 2023, in direct proportion to the increase in evaluator experience. Information activities continued in 2022; online accreditation information was provided for 10 programs, and face-to-face information was provided for 1 program. In addition to international information activities in 2022, the accreditation process was initiated for 7 programs that applied.

5. CONCLUSION

In conclusion, in 2022, IAA continued its efforts to enhance and develop its strengths, while also working on areas for improvement. Initiating international accreditation activities has been a significant step. Activities in this area continue both nationally and internationally.