



Activity Report

Islamic Sciences Accreditation Agency

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) in 2019 with a two-year registration. This authorization was renewed for another two-year period in 2021. IAA conducts its work and procedures with the Islamic Sciences Accreditation Board (İAK), 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

1. Mission, Vision and Objectives

IAA, a non-profit civil society organization that contributes to raising the quality of education by providing information, external evaluation, and accreditation services for theology/Islamic studies and equivalent programs, has defined its mission as "contributing to raising the quality of education, research, and religious services by providing information, external evaluation, and accreditation for theology programs"; and its vision as "becoming a successful and pioneering organization in the field of theology accreditation at national and international levels." IAA's aim is to "become a leading agency that certifies the quality of education and research activities/administrative processes of undergraduate and postgraduate theology and equivalent programs, as well as the quality of all kinds of religious services to society, by defining them with national and international standards and sharing the results with relevant institutions and organizations."

1. Quality Policy

To achieve its goals in line with its vision, the IAA has defined its policies as follows:

Ethical Conduct: IAA employees and volunteers, as responsible individuals toward stakeholders, have adopted a high level of ethical approach that is transparent and accountable. Therefore, they exhibit professional behavior, avoiding conflicts of interest within the framework of the IAA Code of Ethics.

Continuous Learning: Continuous learning is a prerequisite for continuous improvement. Therefore, IAA continuously learns from both its own activities and performance, as well as from the experiences of other similar institutions. The development of employees and volunteers is supported and encouraged in a way that creates an environment for them to realize and utilize their full potential.

Value Creation: IAA provides services that add value to its stakeholders, primarily the institutions it serves. The added value of the service is monitored through direct feedback. In particular, IAA evaluation teams strive to provide useful feedback for the continuous improvement of Theology/Islamic Studies education and the evaluation process.

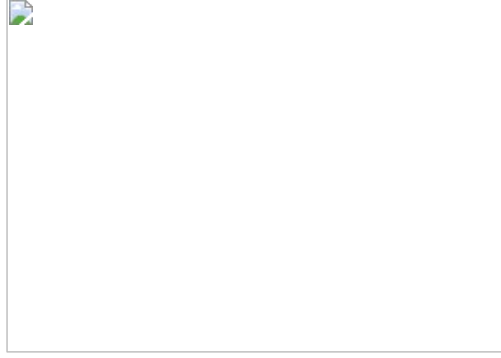
Developing Collaborations: Maximizing the value provided and increasing success depends on developing collaborations. Therefore, IAA seeks and develops opportunities for cooperation with national and international organizations.

Transparency and Accountability: IAA is responsible for informing and being accountable to its stakeholders and the public about all its activities, especially its program evaluation and accreditation activities.

Service Orientation: IAA employees and volunteers establish and maintain respectful and caring relationships with all the institutions they serve. They are sensitive to their current needs and expectations. They are aware that the institutions receiving the services are the final judges of the quality of the services.

b. Organizational Structure

The organizational structure of the IAA has been determined and announced on its official website. The duties and responsibilities of the boards and committees are guaranteed by the bylaws, regulations, and guidelines. (Bkz. <https://iaa.org.tr/belgeler/liste/>)



The highest body of the Islamic Sciences Accreditation Agency Association is the General Assembly. The IAA General Assembly consists of association members. The management and internal audit mechanisms of the IAA are carried out by a Board of Directors consisting of seven members and an Audit Committee consisting of three members, as required by legal regulations. The IAA Board of Directors consists of seven members: a president, a vice-president, a treasurer, a secretary, and three other members. Below the IAA Board of Directors are boards and committees that manage the IAA's operations. Since the IAA is an organization that conducts both national and international accreditation activities, it has established two boards to manage the accreditation processes. National accreditation decisions are made by the Islamic Sciences Accreditation Board (İAK), and international accreditation decisions are made by the International Accreditation Council (IAC). Furthermore, the Candidate Selection Committee (ATK) actively participates in the process of selecting evaluators, the Training Committee in the process of organizing training, and the Continuing Education Committee in identifying areas for improvement and taking necessary measures. All these boards and committees are established and operate in accordance with the principles set forth in the IAA Working Regulations.. (Bkz. <https://iaa.org.tr/belgeler/liste/iaa-calisma-yonetmeligi/>)

In order for the association to have an independent and sustainable financial structure, the Islamic Sciences Accreditation Agency Association (IAA) Economic Enterprise was established with the Trade Registry Certificate dated 18.04.2019 and numbered 2019-GD-985, and an Enterprise Authority was appointed.. (Bkz. <https://iaa.org.tr/iaa-iktisadi-isletmesi/>)

The IAA conducts its accreditation evaluation processes through national and international evaluators. The IAA has more than 100 national and over 30 international evaluators. The evaluator pool includes student evaluators and representatives from stakeholder organizations such as the Ministry of National Education and the Directorate of Religious Affairs. (Bkz. <https://iaa.org.tr/egitimler/iaa-degerlendirici-egitimi-modulleri/iaa-degerlendirici-egitimi-modulleri/>)

3. ACTIVITIES

a. Accredited Program Information

Having started its accreditation activities in 2020, IAA has prioritized sustainability, transparency, and consistency, and in 2023, it completed the accreditation processes for the regular and evening programs of Istanbul University Faculty of Theology.. (<https://iaa.org.tr/akreditasyon/surecteki-programlar/>)

Programs with Ongoing Accreditation in 2023

1. Sakarya University Faculty of Theology (First Education)
2. Sakarya University Faculty of Theology (Second Education)

Programs that completed the accreditation process in 2023 (https://iaa.org.tr/en/accreditation/iaa-accredited-programs/?preview_id=7328&preview_nonce=8026645332&preview=true/)

1. Istanbul University Faculty of Theology (First Year Program)
2. Istanbul University Faculty of Theology (First Year Program, English)

Programs (National-International) for which the Evaluation Team is working in the Accreditation Process, has completed the Site Visit, and is in the Consistency or Decision Phase.

1. Amasya University Faculty of Theology (First Education) - National
2. Amasya University Faculty of Theology (Second Education) - National
3. Erciyes University Faculty of Theology (First Education) - National

4. Erciyes University Faculty of Theology (Second Education) - National
5. Bartın University Faculty of Islamic Sciences (First Education) - National
6. Istanbul 29 May University Faculty of Theology (First Education) - National
7. Hitit University Faculty of Theology (First Education) - International
8. Hitit University Faculty of Theology (Second Education) - International
9. Dicle University Faculty of Theology (First Education) - International
10. Dicle University Faculty of Theology (Second Education) – International

Programs with Ongoing Evaluation Process

1. Atatürk University Faculty of Theology (First Year)
2. Çukurova University Faculty of Theology (First Year)
3. Çukurova University Faculty of Theology (Second Year)
4. Gaziantep University Faculty of Theology (First Year)
5. Recep Tayyip Erdoğan University Faculty of Theology (First Year)
6. Recep Tayyip Erdoğan University Faculty of Theology (Second Year)
7. İnönü University Faculty of Theology (First Year)
8. İnönü University Faculty of Theology (Second Year)
9. Uşak University Faculty of Islamic Sciences (First Year)
10. Uşak University Faculty of Islamic Sciences (Second Year)
11. Süleyman Demirel University Faculty of Theology (First Year)
12. Çanakkale Onsekiz Mart University Faculty of Theology (First Year)
13. Çanakkale Onsekiz Mart University Faculty of Theology (First Year)
14. Sivas Cumhuriyet University Faculty of Theology (First Year) 15. Sivas Cumhuriyet University Faculty of Theology (2nd Education)
15. Harran University Faculty of Theology (1st Education)
16. Harran University Faculty of Theology (2nd Education)
17. Kırıkkale University Faculty of Islamic Sciences (1st Education)
18. Fırat University Faculty of Theology (1st Education)
19. Sinop University Faculty of Theology (1st Education)

In 2023, the following programs entered the accreditation process.

1. Uludağ University Faculty of Theology (1st Education) – International
2. Lebanon Tripoli University Faculty of Sharia and Islamic Studies (1 program)
3. Jordan Al-Al Bayt University Faculty of Sharia (1 program)
4. Jordan Amman Arab University (1 program)

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 2023. International evaluator training is planned for May 2024, and a call for applications has been issued. (<https://iaa.org.tr/duyurular/iaa-uluslararası-degerlendirici-egitimi/>)

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 2023, national information activities were conducted for 4 programs. All information sessions were conducted online. In 2023, institutional information sessions were held for the Theology/Islamic Studies Faculties listed below:

Notification Date	Person Notified	Method of Notification	Type of Notification	Evidence Link
04/04/2023	Fakülte Ankara Yıldırım Beyazıt Üniversitesi İslami İlimler Fakültesi (II)	Online	National	https://iaa.org.tr/faaliyetler/kurum-bilgilendirmeleri/ankara-yildirim-beyazit-universitesi-islami-ilimler-fakultesinde-akreditasyon-bilgilendirmesi-gerceklestirildi/
31/05/2023	Zonguldak Bülent Ecevit Üniversitesi İlahiyat Fakültesi	Online	National	https://iaa.org.tr/faaliyetler/kurum-bilgilendirmeleri/zonguldak-bulent-ecevit-universitesi-ilahiyat-fakultesi-ile-cevrimici-ortamda-kurum-akreditasyon-bilgilendirme-toplantisi-yapildi/
04/10/2023	Selçuk Üniversitesi İslami İlimler Fakültesi	Online	National	https://iaa.org.tr/faaliyetler/kurum-bilgilendirmeleri/selcuk-universitesi-islami-ilimler-fakultesi-ile-cevrimici-ortamda-kurum-akreditasyon-bilgilendirme-toplantisi-yapildi-2/
26/12/2023	Ardahan Üniversitesi İlahiyat Fakültesi	Online	National	https://iaa.org.tr/faaliyetler/kurum-bilgilendirmeleri/selcuk-universitesi-islami-ilimler-fakultesi-ile-cevrimici-ortamda-kurum-akreditasyon-bilgilendirme-toplantisi-yapildi/

c.2. International Institution Information

Internationally, in 2023, online information activities were carried out in 2 faculties.

Notification Date	Person Notified	Method of Notification	Type of Notification	Evidence Link
27/05/2023	Ürdün Al-Al Bayt Üniversitesi Şeriat Fakültesi (II. kez)	Online	International	https://iaa.org.tr/faaliyetler/kurum-bilgilendirmeleri/urdun-al-al-bayt-universitesi-seriat-fakultesi-ile-cevrimici-ortamda-uluslararasi-kurum-akreditasyon-bilgilendirme-toplantisi-yapildi-2/
14/03/2023	Lübnan Tripoli Üniversitesi Şeriat ve İslami İlimler Fakültesi	Online	International	https://iaa.org.tr/faaliyetler/uluslararasi-bilgilendirme/lubnan-tripoli-universitesi-seriat-ve-islami-ilimler-fakultesinde-akreditasyon-bilgilendirmesi-gerceklestirildi/

d. International Activities

IAA, which defines internationalization as part of its vision and purpose, continued its international activities in 2023 alongside its national activities. IAA conducts its international activities in areas such as collaborations, accreditation activities, institutional briefings, and mentoring. Accordingly, in 2023, online briefing activities were held for the second time at the Faculty of Sharia at Al Bayt University in Jordan and at the Faculty of Sharia and Islamic Sciences at the University of Tripoli in Lebanon. (See

vol. 2. International Institution Briefings)

On the other hand, the international programs whose accreditation process is ongoing as of 2023 are listed below:

1. Qatar University, College of Sharia and Islamic Studies - Bachelor's Program in Fiqh and Methodology of Fiqh
2. Qatar University, College of Sharia and Islamic Studies - Bachelor's Program in Aqidah and Da'wah
3. Qatar University, College of Sharia and Islamic Studies - Bachelor's Program in Quran and Sunnah
4. Qatar University, College of Sharia and Islamic Studies - Bachelor's Program in Islamic Studies
5. Lebanon, Tripoli University, Faculty of Sharia and Islamic Studies - Sharia Program
6. Jordan, Amman Arab University
7. Jordan, Al Bayt University, Faculty of Sharia - Methodology of Fiqh Program

In 2023, IAA continued its mentoring activities, providing mentorship to the faculties of the programs regarding processes and evaluation criteria.

Date	University and Faculty	Information Format	Information Category	Evidence
24-26/01/2023	Katar Üniversitesi Şeriat ve İslami İlimler Fakültesi	Face to face	International	https://iaa.org.tr/faaliyetler/mentorluk-faaliyetleri/katar-universitesi-seriat-ve-islami-ilimler-fakultesi-mentorluk-uygulamasi/
16-18/03/2023	Ahmet Yesevi Üniversitesi Uluslararası Türk-Kazak Üniversitesi İlahiyat Fakültesi	Face to face	International	https://iaa.org.tr/faaliyetler/mentorluk-faaliyetleri/ahmet-yesevi-universitesi-uluslararasi-turk-kazak-universitesi-ilahiyat-fakultesinde-mentorluk-uygulamasi-yapildi/

e. Improvement Activities

The areas for improvement and areas for enhancement of the IAA, as stated in the 2022 monitoring report prepared by YÖKAK, are expressed below.

Areas for Improvement and Where Improvement Can Be Made:

1. Expanding the institutional distribution of those serving on the Executive Board
2. Work has been initiated and implemented to expand the institutional distribution of those serving on the IAA's executive board.
3. Lack of a Thematic Analysis Report
4. In line with the recommendations of YÖKAK (Higher Education Council of Turkey), the 2022 thematic analysis report has been prepared.
5. Lack of Strategic Plans
6. Work on IAA's strategic plan has begun, but the work is not yet complete. The process is ongoing.
7. Lack of insured employee employment at IAA
8. IAA's financial affairs are managed through its Economic Enterprise. The Economic Enterprise has an authorized person, and accounting services are purchased externally through a service procurement method for monitoring financial affairs. Regarding staff recruitment at the IAA office, due to economic reasons, no paid staff has been hired so far. However, board members actively participate in all processes of the IAA, and the IAA continues its activities without any disruption. Staff recruitment holds an important place in the future perspective of the IAA.
9. Low Number of Completed Accreditation Programs
10. The accreditation of Theology and Islamic Studies programs is a current process, and the quality culture in this field is in the development phase. For this reason, the IAA aims to spread the quality culture in accreditation evaluation processes. As a result, evaluation processes can be lengthy. According to the IAA regulations, the training and field assignment of team leaders is possible only if they serve in two evaluation teams. Therefore, the number of IAA teams in the field is determined in direct proportion to the

number of team leaders. So far, the accreditation of 4 programs has been completed, and field visits have been completed in the evaluation process of 10 programs. The decision stage has been reached. As the number of team leaders increases, the number of programs that have completed the accreditation process will also increase proportionally.

11. Lack of feedback from accredited institutions
12. As stated in the report, IAA has adopted and implemented a 360-point evaluation method. In this context, evaluators evaluate the team leader and the evaluation team, the team leader evaluates the evaluation team, and the institution evaluates the team leader and the evaluation team through a questionnaire created electronically.
13. Lack of evaluator training in 2022
14. IAA, which conducts accreditation activities at national and international levels, has over 100 national and over 30 international evaluators. Some of these evaluators have been assigned to the teams formed so far. Other evaluators are waiting to be assigned by IAA. Assigning evaluators from the existing pool to enable evaluators who are willing to become IAA evaluators to take on roles and to maintain their motivation is among IAA's priorities. Based on the feedback data obtained from the assignments, new evaluator training programs are planned. A call for international evaluator training was issued in May 2024.

4. EVALUATION OF INSTITUTIONAL COMPETENCIES AND ACTIVITIES

a. Areas for Improvement

The areas for improvement identified by IAA are as follows:

- Ensuring staff recruitment
- Strengthening digital infrastructure

b. Strengths

The strengths of the IAA have been identified as follows:

1. Receiving applications and managing processes for international accreditation
2. Continuation of information activities
3. High level of interest and applications for the accreditation process
4. Sufficient number of national evaluators
5. Increasing number of accredited programs and those nearing completion of the process
6. Actively ensuring internationalization

c. Performance Metrics

Performance Metrics		
Criteria	Answers	Explanation
Total accreditation period	1500	The time between the accreditation application date and the decision date should be considered in days. A numerical value should be written 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 in numbers. 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 specified in numbers. This information will be used to calculate the Average Number of Evaluators.
Total number of active	33	The total number of active programs should be specified in numbers. This is used in the calculation of the Average Number of Evaluators.
Number of Information Meetings	6	The number of information meetings should be written in numbers.
0		

Performance Ratios		
Rate Name	Ratio Value	Definition
Accreditation Process Average Completion Time	14.29	Total accreditation period / Total number of programs for which accreditation services are provided
Average Number of Evaluators	4	Total accreditation period / Total number of active programs

Accreditation Rates			
University Departments			
University Name	Faculty Name	Department Name	Start Date
İSTANBUL ÜNİVERSİTESİ	İLAHİYAT FAKÜLTESİ	İLAHİYAT PR.	27/05/2023
İSTANBUL ÜNİVERSİTESİ	İLAHİYAT FAKÜLTESİ	İLAHİYAT PR. (İNGİLİZCE)	27/05/2023

Toplam 2 üniversite bölümü bulunmaktadır.

d. Evaluation

In 2020, the IAA received accreditation applications for the first time and included 24 programs 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. In 2023, 2 national and 3 international programs were included in the process. In 2023, the process for 2 programs was completed, and the process for 10 programs was nearing completion. Teams are being formed for 10 programs. The goal is to complete the processes for the remaining programs in a short time, in direct proportion to the increasing experience of evaluators and team leaders. Information activities continued in 2023; online accreditation briefings were given for 6 programs. In addition to international information activities in 2023, the accreditation process was initiated for 3 programs that applied.

5. CONCLUSION

In conclusion, the Islamic Sciences Accreditation Agency (IAA) aims to contribute to raising the quality of education by providing information, external evaluation, and accreditation services for Theology and Islamic Studies programs. Through its activities, the IAA aims to contribute to the training of well-educated and qualified graduates in Theology and Islamic Studies, thereby advancing society further. Since its establishment, the IAA has commenced accreditation activities both nationally and internationally, thus contributing to the spread and establishment of a culture of program accreditation in both fields. In 2023, the IAA continued its efforts to strengthen and develop its capabilities, while also initiating improvement efforts in areas open to development. The IAA's activities continue both nationally and internationally.