

In the Name of Allah the Most Beneficent the Most Merciful

University of Cambridge Islamic Society (Isoc)

Constitution

Mission

The University of Cambridge Islamic Society strives to create an environment of unity whilst catering to the academic, social and spiritual needs of Muslim students and encourages learning and discussion on Islam amongst members and the wider community.

Aims and Objectives

To support Muslim members of the University, with special regard to but not exclusively their needs on religious matters

To encourage Muslims to practice Islam

To encourage learning and discussion on Islam amongst members and the wider community

Develop clear avenues and organise activities whereby members can get involved in the Isoc to the extent they desire

To strengthen the bond of brotherhood and sisterhood by promoting an environment that enables Muslims to fulfil their Islamic duties

To maintain a focus on raising awareness about Islam among non-Muslims

To strive to always act in accordance with the injunctions of the Holy Qur'an and the Sunnah

Structure

The society will function at three levels: Shura (executive body), the Committee and Members.

Shura

Shura oversees the general well-being and the running of the society. The Shura consists of:

The President: is the head and the spokesperson of the society, and makes the final decision on all matters with due deference to the opinions of other Shura members.

The Vice president (male): strives to represent the views of the brothers in the society, is in charge of their welfare and ensures their participation in the society.

The Vice president (female): strives to represent the views of the sisters in the society, is in charge of their welfare and ensures their participation in the society.

The Deputy Vice (male/female, different in gender to elected President): represents the society along with the VP of their gender, and strives to support the Vice Presidents.

The Secretary: deals with all the correspondence of the society and keeps minutes of executive meetings and membership records.

The Treasurer: Deals with all financial matters and dues of the society, and keeps the accounts.

Other members of Isoc may be added on to Shura who, in the unanimous view of all Shura members, will considerably benefit the Society with their participation. The added members (maximum two) shall opine personally to Shura regarding any issues. The Secretary should email the members lists to inform them of the addition.

Shura members must together aim to accurately represent the wishes of the society. The authority Shura holds should be used to improve collective affairs and fulfil the aims of Isoc. Advice must be listened to and when reasonable acted upon. Shura may consult scholars and specialists. In all cases Shura must strive to adhere to Islamic practice in accordance with the Holy Qur'an and the Sunnah.

Committee

The Committee comprises the full range of sub-committees. The sub-committees organise and co-ordinate events in their own sector. They are supervised by Shura. All Isoc members are free to join any sub-committee, and thereby join the Committee. Any individual can be removed from the Committee by the Shura at its discretion after providing reasons for the decision.

The creation and compilation and removal of sub-committees and the Committee in general are to be decided by Shura. A head member of a sub-committee may be elected from within the sub-committee and approved by Shura.

Membership

Any University of Cambridge student or member of staff is eligible to join the Isoc as a member. Membership requires registration and subsequent addition to the mailing list (soc-cuiss) and is free of charge.

Anyone else can be added to the mailing list (soc-cuiss) free of charge.

Meetings

Annual General Meeting

An annual general meeting to elect the Isoc President, Brothers' Vice President, Sisters' Vice President, Deputy Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer will be called by Shura annually, during the Lent term. Any Isoc member can be nominated provided they are to remain Isoc members throughout their elected term.

The procedure of the AGM is as follows (more details on the procedures can be found in the "Procedures for Elections" Appendix to Isoc Guidelines):

1. Details of the AGM and the elections procedure will be sent to all members at least two weeks before the AGM date. Nominations will open and a Chair will be declared at this time. Another Chair for the separate brothers' or sisters' elections will also be declared. An elections committee will be convened, and will comprise of the Chair and three Isoc members (1 male and 1 female and another member of the opposite gender to the chair) as nominated by Shura. The elections committee members will be considered ineligible for nomination. All nominations will be sent to the elections committee.
2. Any member may request a change of Chair within two days of the initial declaration. Any member may request a change of Chair or members of elections committee within two days

of the initial declaration and if 15 people do so, then a vote will be taken at the start of the AGM to debate, nominate and elect other candidates. Alternatively shura may put forward other candidates. The Chair must remain impartial throughout the proceedings.

3. Nominations will close ten days before the AGM, and nominees will be informed that they have been nominated within 24 hours after closure. If they should wish to stand down, they must inform the elections committee of their decision within the next 48 hours. The corresponding nominator(s) will then be informed within 24 hours that their nominee intends to stand down. Any nominee that has informed the elections committee that he/she wish to stand down then has a further 72 hours to inform the elections committee if he/she no longer wishes to stand down. After that period, the elections committee has 24 hours to issue a statement with the names of all nominees. No nominee may then stand down.
4. The final decision to stand down will belong to the nominee. First the President will be elected, then the Vice Presidents (by the brothers and sisters separately), then the Deputy Vice President (by members of their gender), then the Secretary and finally the Treasurer. All unsuccessful candidates will automatically be considered as nominees for the following positions to be voted on unless they decide to stand down from elections for the following positions. Only members whose membership was registered at the end of Michaelmas Term may vote. Only brothers may nominate, be present at, and vote at the brothers' election. Only sisters may nominate, be present at, and vote at the sisters' election.
5. For the election of each position in turn:
 - i. All candidates will be allowed if they wish to give a brief speech and to answer questions from the floor. Any candidate can request the floor for a brief speech in the absence of other candidates. All candidates will then leave the room, and a discussion as to the suitability of the candidates will take place.
 - ii. After the discussion the candidates return to the room and voting by secret ballot takes place immediately. The elections committee can act as proxy for members unable to attend for reasons deemed sufficiently important by the elections committee. The elections committee then count the votes and announce the outcome. A breakdown of the votes will be given.

Open General Meeting

If at least 3 Shura members or 15 Isoc members demand an open general meeting in writing, one is to be called by the Secretary within 2 academic weeks of the request. A minimum of 25 members must be present to qualify the meeting. The OGM Chair is elected at the meeting by vote. Any topic can be discussed, including but not limited to:

Constitution/Isoc Guidelines amendments: Any member may propose in writing to Shura any amendment. At the OGM it requires ratification by at least 2/3 of attendees.

No Confidence Vote: At an AGM or OGM, a 'no confidence' vote can be passed against any Shura member by 2/3 of attendees, with a minimum of 25 attendees.

Shura meetings

Shura meetings must be held at least once a term. At least 4 members of Shura must be in attendance to qualify a Shura meeting, including at least one of each gender.

Affiliations

The Isoc is affiliated to and is a member of Cambridge University Students' Union (CUSU). It also works closely with various organisations that promote the wellbeing of Muslim students and share its aims

Guidelines

Further guidance on code of conduct and other issues can be found in the Isoc Guidelines. The Guidelines are not binding but are intended to complement the Constitution and act as guidance for the running of Isoc.