



Global Islamic Studies Center

The University of Michigan Global Islamic Studies Center (GISC) serves the academic and broader communities by promoting a deeper understanding of global Islamic culture and Muslim societies worldwide. Students and faculty benefit from pioneering research, innovative instruction, and a commitment to building partnerships on campus and beyond. The University of Michigan – with its tremendous strength in humanities and social sciences, highly ranked professional schools, and vibrant arts and culture programming – is uniquely positioned to support the study of Islam across disciplines and build energy between U-M and southeast Michigan institutions and communities. As home to both a minor and master’s program, GISC supports a range of student opportunities, including summer fellowships, graduate student travel to conferences, internships with local Islamic organizations, and mentoring and support of campus events on Islam.

Gifts to GISC ensure the center will continue to advance the interdisciplinary study of Islam, and that U-M students will have opportunities to deepen their understanding of Islam and the culture and history of the Muslim world. Islam is one of the most common religions around the globe today, with nearly 2 billion Muslims on all seven continents and in all walks of life, yet it is often misunderstood. Your support gives our scholars and our community a global perspective while also helping to dispel common myths. Your generosity allows us to fund events, programming, and student research, as well as continue to recruit and retain the best academic talent.



Named Endowed Center

\$5M endowed

Endowing and naming the Center for Global Islamic Studies will assure future funding for the center's programs, create new possibilities for growth, and bring additional visibility and prestige to the center. Endowment income would cover the annual needs of the center, including operating and program costs; support for faculty- and student-led initiatives; visiting scholars; undergraduate and graduate fellowships; faculty research and travel; special events, lectures, initiatives, and outreach; and curriculum and program development. It would also provide the director with the flexibility to pursue exciting opportunities that promote the understanding of global Islamic cultures and history. As a robust hub for scholarship across disciplines, regions, and languages, an endowed center will increase U-M's visibility and leadership in the field.

Named Program Directorship

\$2.5M endowed

Outstanding leadership drives all GISC activities, including the development of curriculum and programming on Islamic societies throughout the world, unique opportunities to study, volunteer, intern, and work abroad, and conferences, pre-professional events and seminars here at U-M. An endowed directorship will help recruit and retain a leading scholar as director of the program. The GISC director also serves an important external role as representative for the program and as an expert in global Islam, sharing that expertise with U-M faculty and students. A gift to endow the directorship would position U-M as the foremost center for the academic study of global Muslim communities in the U.S.

Faculty Research and Initiatives

\$250,000-\$1M endowed / \$10,000-50,000 annual expendable

GISC funds a wide range of initiatives and opportunities to enhance the ways in which faculty engage in their scholarship and with others. By supporting faculty travel – both domestic and international – for research and conferences, the center fosters cutting-edge scholarship. Other initiatives bring guest lecturers, seminars and workshops, short-term faculty and artist residencies, and prominent visiting scholars to campus to enhance outreach and student engagement while also increasing collaboration and knowledge sharing. These initiatives help define the center's reputation.

Internships and Student Research Fellowships

\$250,000-\$1M endowed / \$10,000-50,000 annual expendable

GISC programming provides students with fellowships and grants for research, conference travel, and internships. Whether through a graduate research grant or an undergraduate summer fellowship to study abroad, GISC knows that being able to fund the experiences individual students seek in their unique educational journeys means these lives can be transformed.



We are seeking gifts to support this important area of the center's mission – to cultivate students' broad perspectives and extend their learning beyond the traditional classroom. Internships and fellowships are particularly valuable since they provide opportunities to improve interpersonal, practical, and cultural skills while gaining work or research experience in a variety of settings.

Named Special Programs

\$250,000-\$500,000 endowed / \$10,000-20,000 annual expendable

Lectures, conferences, film screenings, and other programs at U-M promote knowledge and appreciation of Islamic culture among students and faculty and bring community members to campus. We need funding to continue to attract people to Islamic Studies, build momentum across the region, and foster creative discourse. Some recent sponsored or co-sponsored programs include:

- Margins of the Mediterranean - *Understanding boundaries and transit zones*
- Destination Detroit - *Stories about migration and immigration in Detroit*
- Arts of Islam Symposium - *Being Muslim: Arts and Expressions*
- Kerning Cultures - *A Podcast Listening Party*
- Stories Never Told - *A traveling display visually narrating the artistic renaissance born out of Yemen's crisis*

WAYS TO FUND YOUR GIFT

Your gifts of cash, pledges, or appreciated securities change lives. Wills, estate, and planned gifts allow you to create a lasting legacy that will enable the best and brightest minds to experience a liberal arts education, solve problems in a changing world, and yield ideas and innovations that will make a difference in Michigan and around the globe.

CONTACT INFO

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