IIIT was established as an educational and academic institute that combines contemporary and traditional Muslim thought for modern times. IIIT is dedicated to empowering both Muslim-majority and Muslim-minority societies to tackle present and future challenges while also contributing to the progress of human civilization. IIIT achieves its vision by focusing on reform through advancing education, research and knowledge creation which is disseminated through publication and translation, instruction, policy recommendations, and strategic engagements.

The International Institute of Islamic Thought (IIIT), founded in the early 1980s, has been working with Muslim communities in North America and around the globe for more than 30 years.
Advancing Education in Muslim Societies (AEMS) is a vehicle to achieve the institute’s vision of thriving Muslim societies through transformative learning, social development and personal growth. AEMS defines education in its broadest sense that encompasses systems along with social and geopolitical contextual settings and conditions. The theoretical as well as the field-based research and programs will contribute to achieving the vision through authentic and high-quality publications, policy briefs and reports, education programs and intervention.

The areas we are active in and see our impact and reach are...

1. Education Research

By designing and implementing educational studies (theoretical, quantitative and qualitative) to investigate well-being of youth and adults in Muslim societies, IIIT contributes to the global dialogue on educational reform and improving education. In addition, the cumulative knowledge will result in publications in academic journals as well as a State of Education report in Muslim societies. This whole person approach to research in Muslim societies makes our education research distinctive.

2. Policy

The Policy Department identifies gaps in current policies and offers potential solutions for educational practices to be transformative, so that education is a means for advancing holistic human development. It involves decision-making processes at the highest levels of educational systems. This area impacts educational systems that set the bar for standards, guiding principles, teacher qualifications and accreditation, and curriculum among others. Reform on that level will ensure a “trickledown” effect into other areas and levels of education.

3. Publication & Translation

This department is the institute’s flagship portal to address core intellectual, topical and epistemological issues whose methodology and significance is relevant to time and space. The aim is to give both value and appropriate response to the latter by stimulating wider discourse through production of key works in the form of books and research papers. IIIT has published more than 600 titles in English, Arabic and other languages.

4. Teaching & Learning

The main goals of the teaching and learning activities of IIIT are continued education, community outreach and inter-faith dialogue which are accomplished by providing enrichment courses, training workshops, seminars and career development programs. IIIT’s educational arm, The Fairfax Institute, connects global networks of scholars and ideas to the community by translating scholarship into practical courses.