

HEFCE Quarterly Update on Islamic Studies: June 2009

UK Islamic Studies Network

In January 2009, the Higher Education Academy was funded to develop a UK Islamic Studies Network. Work is progressing well on a number of areas, including:

- Agreeing the boundaries and definitions for the Network
- Collecting data on the current picture for UK Islamic Studies
- Working with JISC to develop models of sustainability for the Network
- Planning consultation with stakeholders (due to take place July 2009) to agree the most useful format for the Network
- Developing a business case for the 3-year funded phase, expected to start in September 2009
- Planning for the launch and promotion of the Network in the Autumn

For further information on the Network and how to contribute, please contact Julie Anderson at the Higher Education Academy (Julie.Anderson@heacademy.ac.uk, Tel 0117 331 4290).

Digitisation of Islamic Studies Resources

Earlier this year, HEFCE funded JISC to manage the digitisation of Islamic Studies resources, which will complement the UK Islamic Studies Network.

The preparatory work for the thesis digitisation project has been completed and the work formally starts on 1 June. It is expected work will be finished at the end of November 2009.

The JISC call for the digitisation of manuscripts and catalogues closes on 1 June (http://www.jisc.ac.uk/fundingopportunities/funding_calls/2009/03/0409islamicstudies.aspx). Projects are expected to start in Autumn 2009, aiming to finish in February/March 2011.

Changes in HEFCE staffing

Victoria Waite will be managing the Islamic Studies programme of work from July 2009. She will work alongside Natasha Mulvihill during June to ensure a smooth handover and is looking forward to meeting external stakeholders. Contact details on HEFCE's external web pages will be updated in due course.