



**Azad University (IR) in Oxford Offers Razi Scholarship
for Students from Islamic and African Countries
(2009-2011)**

APPENDIX

Background

Azad University in Oxford (AUO) is the UK branch of Azad University in Iran. We opened our premises in July 2004 as both a British private educational institution and the first Azad University campus in Europe. We are fully accredited by the British Accreditation Council (BAC) and have recently been granted a UKBA sponsorship license from the Home Office.

AUO offers undergraduate and graduate degree programmes in the humanities, social sciences, engineering and sciences, both pure and applied. In addition, we offer a number of short courses, workshops and academic conferences that run throughout the year.

Why Oxford?

For centuries the University of Oxford has been a leader the world over in academic excellence and robust intellectual endeavour. The extensive system of reference and lending libraries, research institutes, colleges and faculties, many of which have been made accessible to Azad students and staff, makes this a prime location for visiting scholars. The core members of the AUO academic staff have their degrees from Oxford and maintain close professional affiliations with the faculties and colleges where they studied. Our agreement with the Bodleian Library accords special readership privileges to Azad students. All this translates into a rich intellectual experience for the scholars and researchers who come to our campus, no matter what their institutional affiliation.

Location and facilities

Azad University Oxford is located at Stroud Court in the village of Farmoor just on the outskirts of Oxford's city centre and only two minute's walk from the River

Thames. The premises extend over nearly ten acres of wooded parkland with sweeping views of the Oxfordshire countryside. The site houses numerous classrooms, administrative offices, a seminar room, a library, computer facilities, an English language resource centre and a canteen.

Our partner universities

Working in partnership with UK universities is a fundamental part of our programme. Azad University in Oxford (AUO) has a distinct profile within British academia because of the partnership agreements we have established over the last four years with a select group of UK universities. These partnerships have allowed us to develop a unique network of academic and intellectual resources for both students and established scholars who come to the UK to further their professional life.

In particular, the terms of these agreements now allow Azad students from Iran to pursue degrees at UK universities in a way that is cost effective and tailored to their specific academic needs.

Our current students are enrolled in PhD programmes at the universities of **Glasgow, Kingston, City, Exeter, Bangor, Liverpool and London Metropolitan**. Their research covers a range of subjects within the arts, engineering and sciences including applied linguistics, finance, chemistry, business, civil and mechanical engineering, physics and IT. During their period of study students have access to the facilities of the partner university as well as the facilities and academic support available to them throughout the year at the Azad Oxford campus

Plans to expand these agreements to include a broader range of subjects and degree options are currently in the making.

Our collaboration with UK partner universities provides an effective means for furthering the goals and aspirations of our students and faculty alike. Above all, it provides the framework for making Azad a truly international university.

Our courses

Azad University in Oxford offers undergraduate and graduate programmes in collaboration with its UK partner universities

Foundation

Foundation Course for University Entrance (Pathways into Engineering, Computing, Science and Art & Design)

Azad offers a one year foundation programme in collaboration with Kingston University.

The International Foundation Programme (IFP) is designed for students whose academic qualifications are slightly below the normal entry requirement for a degree programme and who have not yet achieved the level of English proficiency needed for entrance to a UK university.

There are four specialised pathways to Engineering, Computing, Science and Art & Design. Students who successfully complete the course will be awarded a Certificate of Higher Education by Kingston University and will be qualified to transfer directly into selected degree programmes either at Kingston, Azad University (IR) in Oxford or one of the other UK partner universities.

Students will be required to achieve a minimum level of 6.0 in the IELTS exam by the end of the course. They must also have a competency in maths, study skills and information technology, as well as in their main academic subject and other related subject areas required by particular undergraduate programmes.

English Language for Academic Purposes

Throughout the year, Azad University (IR) in Oxford runs a series of intensive writing workshops designed to help research students with specific problems in thesis writing and structure. In the academic year 2009/2010 these workshops will be held every two weeks at the AUO campus. A range of independent courses in English Language for Academic purposes are delivered to students of different levels of English language proficiency.

Undergraduate programmes

Split site options for HND to BSc

Programmes in Engineering or Computer Science

Working in partnership with Kingston University, Azad University in Oxford offers an undergraduate course for holders of the Higher National Diploma who wish to obtain a BSc in the UK. This programme includes an option to continue to MSc in the third year but it is mainly aimed at students who wish to make a transfer from a skills based vocational training to an academic degree course.

These HND to BSc courses will begin in the academic year 2009/2010. They are full time 2 year BSc programmes with an optional 3rd year for the MSc. While these courses are designed to allow vocationally trained students to apply their skills to achieving a degree, they also offer the benefit of study in the two different academic environments of Oxford and London.

Both programmes are aimed at holders of the Higher National Diploma (HND) or equivalent with a minimum average of 14 out of 20. Part of the selection process will require candidates to complete an IELTS based examination in English for which the minimum band level will be 4.5.

Successful candidates will be offered partial scholarships from Azad University in Oxford enabling them to complete the programme at a substantially reduced fee.

All teaching will be in English and both courses are offered with a split site option. A first year Bridge Programme with a strong English for academic purposes component will be delivered at Azad University in Oxford specifically for those students whose English falls below the 6.5 IELTS level required for completing a UK degree. The second year will be delivered at Kingston. If necessary, further language studies can be continued at Kingston in the second year subject to additional fees.

Candidates who meet the IELTS requirement prior to enrolment will begin the BSc at Kingston in the first year.

The fields of study on offer are as follows:

1. BSc Aerospace Engineering
2. BSc Automotive Engineering
3. BSc Civil Engineering2
4. BSc Construction Management
5. BSc Mechanical Engineering
6. BSc Computer Science
7. BSc Computer Science, Network Communications specialisation
8. BSc Software Engineering
9. BSc Mobile Computing

All candidates opting for the MSc will continue in the third year at Kingston.

The BSc and MSc degrees will be awarded by Kingston University London.

Post graduate programmes

Split site options for 2 year MSc programmes in Engineering or Computer Science

The above MSc programmes are designed for students who wish to bridge the gap between the BSc degrees from their home countries and the requirements of an MSc delivered in English at UK university. AUO offers these programmes in partnership with Kingston University.

The above MSc degree courses are set to begin in the academic year 2009/2010. These are full time 24 month courses designed to give students the benefit of study in two different academic environments while working towards an MSc degree from Kingston University.

Successful candidates will be offered partial scholarships from Azad University in Oxford enabling them to complete the 2 year programme at a substantially reduced fee.

All teaching will be in English and candidates are required to have a minimum IELTS score of 5 prior to enrolment with further improvement to 6.5 during the first year.

These courses are aimed at graduates with good first degrees in subjects relevant to the chosen MSc programme. Both courses are offered with a split site option. A first year Foundation Course with a strong English for academic purposes component will be delivered at Azad University in Oxford specifically for those students whose English falls below the 6.5 IELTS level required for completing the degree at Kingston. The second year of this option will be delivered at Kingston. If necessary, further language studies can be continued at Kingston in the second year subject to additional fees.

Candidates with good BSc degrees who meet the IELTS requirement prior to enrolment will begin the MSc at Kingston in the first year.

The MSc degrees will be awarded by Kingston University London.

The fields of study on offer in collaboration with Kingston University are as follows:

A- Engineering Courses

1. (Automotive Engineering)
2. (Advanced Product Design)
3. (Advanced Industrial and Manufacturing Systems)
4. (Civil Engineering)
5. (Suitable Concrete Structure)
6. (Management in Construction)
7. (Engineering Project & System Management)

8. (Mechanical Engineering)
9. (Mechatronic Systems)
10. (Renewable Energy Engineering)

B- Computer Courses

1. (Computer Vision and Image Analysis)
2. (Electronic Commerce)
3. (Embedded Systems)
4. (IT and Strategic Innovation)
5. (Information Systems)
6. (Software Engineering)
7. (Network and Data Communications)
8. (Network and Information Security)
9. (Web Development)

Master of Philosophy (M.Phil.)

The M.Phil is primarily a research a degree programme, as opposed to the conventional Master's degree that involves taught modules as well as research components.

The MPhil degree can be completed as a stand-alone piece of research or as the first step towards a PhD programme.

The stand-alone Master of Philosophy degree is a two-year programme for those students who have already obtained a bachelor's degree.

Doctor of Philosophy(PhD)

Azad has dynamic partnerships with universities in Britain for delivering PhD programmes.

Successful applicants for the PhD programmes must already have the academic background and skills to conduct research in their chosen discipline. They must already have achieved a master's degree or its equivalent in the selected discipline.

We provide a strong training programme in research procedures, academic writing in English and academic reading with a focus on the essential literature related to the PhD research topic selected by each individual candidate.

The PhD programme at Azad is designed to support candidates to the maximum. The primary model adopted for the completion of the PhD programme is a split-site study. This requires having the student spending specific study duration in each of the two collaborating universities. The duration length may differ from one university to the other depending on the terms of the agreement and field of study.

There are two modalities of PhD programme enrolment. These are as follows:

Research Training + MPhil/PhD

(for candidates whose English is almost adequate for the research programme)

a. A three months of intensive research training, academic reading/writing/presentation and initial work on the dissertation.

b. followed by an MPhil year focused entirely on literature review, fieldwork identification, and design outline of the thesis.

c. on transfer from MPhil to PhD, there will be 2 years focused entirely on developing the thesis in its entirety in preparation for the writing and viva voce.

1 Foundation including Research Training + MPhil/PhD

(for candidates whose English requires considerable improvement)

a. one year of foundation studies particularly in academic English including a three months of intensive research training, research proposal construction and initial work on the thesis.

b. followed by an MPhil year focused entirely on literature review, fieldwork identification, and design outline of the thesis.

c. followed by three years focused entirely on the thesis in preparation for the writing up and viva voce.

The unique aspect of the programme is that the support is available to Azad students before and during their period of research at their chosen partner university.

On completion of the viva exam students are awarded a degree by the relevant partner university.

Research Training

Throughout the year, Azad University runs training courses in research methodology, not only to support postgraduate candidates in their academic work, but also to enable people in the private and public sector to gain state of the art research skills. It is also open to students from outside Azad who wish to develop their research skills to the standard required by British universities.

The programme begins with the following courses:

- 1. Research Methods and Sources.** Particular attention is devoted to the development of individual research proposals.
- 2. Information Search and Retrieval.** Candidates are involved in special libraries and on-line data bases.
- 3. Academic Reading.** The focus is on the literature of the candidate's selected discipline.

4. Academic Writing. Candidates are involved in the initial steps of composing the dissertation.

5. The Theoretical Context of Research. This seminar required major participation by the candidates. They will discuss various theoretical approaches to research and debate with each other about the appropriateness of particular approaches to specific research topics.

The overall goal of research training is to support students in their PhD work and to produce independent scholars. Students will be required to demonstrate sufficient understanding and mastery of these skills before transferring on to their partner university.

The AUO academic year is divided into three ten-week terms. This schedule will permit three intakes of new students during the academic year. It will also allow candidates who did not achieve their objectives during one term to have remedial research training during the following term. Remedial students do not need to complete the entire second term if they can demonstrate that they have mastered the required skills at an earlier stage.

Other Programmes from AUO

Professional short courses

For those students who are working or who have other demands upon their time, full-time degree programmes may not be a suitable option, especially if they wish simply to update their professional knowledge or develop a specific skill. Azad University (IR) in Oxford has a number of alternative routes into continuing professional development.

A short course can last from a few days to a few months, anything up to a full academic year. They can be taken on an ad hoc basis and are suitable for practicing professionals who wish to advance their knowledge in specific subjects and keep abreast of the latest developments in their field. In addition, some of the programmes are also offered as a series of modules or units, which in many cases, can be undertaken individually with credit gained for each one studied. In the next academic year

AUO is planning to offer short courses in the following areas:

- Management and Marketing
- Educational Studies
- Research Methods
- Higher Education Management
- Safety and Environmental Studies in the Petroleum Industry
- SAP Technical Training

- Oracle & Unix Technical Training

Each short course has its own specifications regarding duration, fees, entry requirements and application procedures.

For more information visit www.auo.ac

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