

YOUR GUIDE TO
MUSLIM LIFE ON CAMPUS
NEWCOMERS GUIDE
2023/24 EDITION
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1.0 OUR MISSION



We strive to serve Allah (SWT) by serving all Muslim students on campus, connecting with Muslims in the greater community, and promoting a better understanding of Islam for people of all backgrounds. By using the Qur'an, Sunnah and trusted scholarship as our guides, we strive to earn His pleasure and reward and actualize the ultimate purpose of our lives, which is to worship Him (SWT).

Our mission is to aid our Muslim brothers and sisters on campus in reaching the pinnacle of their potential, both in their spiritual and worldly pursuits. We strive to fulfill their academic, social, and spiritual needs through the numerous resources the MSA offers. Our efforts are rooted in our deep devotion to Allah (SWT) and our duty to nurture the UBC Muslim community by creating an Islamic environment for all.



2.0 THE 2023-24 MSA TEAM

EXECUTIVES

President: Abdullah Khawaja

Brothers' Vice-President: Mahad Maqsood **Sisters' Vice-President:** Jana Abdelhameed

Secretary: Shatha Abdelhameed **Treasurer:** Mohammed-Adam Fatih

LEAD VOLUNTEERS-TBD

Brothers' Education Director: Sisters' Education Director: Communications Director: Co-Marketing Director: Co-Marketing Director:

Co-Marketing Director: Brothers' Recreation Director:

Sisters' Recreation Director:

Brothers' Prayer Services Coordinator:

Sisters' Prayer Services Coordinator:

Da'wah Director:

First-Year Student Rep:

3.0 SALAH (PRAYER)

عن أبي هريرة رضي الله عنه قال: قال رسول الله صلى الله عليه وسلم: "إن أول ما يحاسب به العبد يوم القيامة من عمله صلاته، فإن صلحت، فقد أفلح وأنجح، وإن فسدت، فقد خاب وخسر، فإن انتقص من فريضته شيئًا، قال الرب، عز وجل: انظروا هل لعبدي من تطوع، فيكمل منها ما انتقص من الفريضة؟ ثم يكون سائر أعماله على هذا" ((رواه الترمذي وقال حديث حسن)).

Abu Hurairah (May Allah be pleased with him) reported: The Messenger of Allah (ﷺ) said, "The first of man's deeds for which he will be called to account on the Day of Resurrection will be Salat. If it is found to be perfect, he will be safe and successful; but if it is incomplete, he will be unfortunate and a loser. If any shortcoming is found in the obligatory Salat, the Glorious and Exalted Rubb will command to see whether His slave has offered any voluntary Salat so that the obligatory Salat may be made up by it. Then the rest of his actions will be treated in the same manner." [At-Tirmidhi].

What's the most **important** time of a Muslim's day? That's right, prayer time. That's why we place special importance on providing a daily prayer space for Muslims on campus. Feel free to drop by UBC's Musallah anytime to gain the immense reward for praying in a congregation (Jama'a). All prayer times are posted on the MSA <u>website</u>. The Musallah is located in Wesbrook Building: Room 116 & 118, <u>click here for the map.</u>

- SISTER'S SECTION: Wesbrook Building (Room 116)
- BROTHER'S SECTION: Wesbrook Building (Room 118)

For wudu/ablution, use the washrooms located in rooms 204A (for sisters) and 207A (for brothers). A new Wudu station is being built in the same building (Wesbrook). Please check out our website for our newly updated Prayer Space guidelines here.



For the sisters, you're welcome to use hijabs, and long skirts/abayas on the sisters' side of the Musallah!

3.1 PRAYER TIMES

Since prayer times continue to fluctuate throughout the year, we constantly update our website to inform you of the changes in prayer times. On the website home page and through our newsletter, you can see the iqama times for the daily prayers. The times that are posted are the times that we pray in Congregation in the Musallah. Prayer times are also published in the MSA newsletter.

3.2 JUMU'AH PRAYERS

Jumu'ah prayers are held at the Marine Drive Ballroom (2205 Lower Mall, V6T 1Z4. Click here for map). The times for each Jumu'ah in each location vary throughout the year. Please check the MSA UBC website, newsletter and social media for the latest updates. If you have a conflict with both of the Jumu'ah prayer times, you may email askmsaubc@gmail.com.

3.3 OTHER PRAYER LOCATIONS

Don't have time to go to the Musallah? Visit one of these spaces where you can conveniently pray before your next class. These spots are relatively private but are still public spaces.

- Acadia Park Commons Block: The Muslim graduate students and families living in the Acadia residence, and nearby areas, also regularly pray at the Commons Block on 2707 Tennis Crescent, V6T 2E5.
- Fred Kaiser Building: 2nd floor by the lounge area
- Civil and Mechanical Engineering (CEME): stairway, 3rd level
- Irving K. Barber Library: 3rd/4th floor between the book stacks
- Irving K. Barber Learning Centre: 1st floor, private corridor in front of Victoria Learning Theatre doors
- Allard Hall, Law Library: 2nd floor behind the book stacks
- Math Building: Any of the empty class rooms

Found another convenient prayer space you want to let your fellow Muslims know about? Email askmsaubc@gmail.com and we can let everyone know.

3.4 OFF-CAMPUS MASJIDS AND MUSALLAHS

- Masjid Omar Al Faroug
- Masjid Ul-Haqq
- Fraser Musalla
- Jamia Masjid Vancouver
- Ajyal Islamic Centre
- MAC Centre (Muslim Association of Canada)
- Marpole Musalla
- A further list of Masaajid off-campus can be found here and a list of all salah and Jum'uah timings for BC Masjids and Musallahs can be found here.

4.0 MSA SERVICES AND EVENTS

Asides from our core services which are to facilitate the compulsory five daily and Friday prayers, MSA provides other services such as educational, social, and community services. We also provide support by responding to questions through our social media platforms. Feel free to send that message, we are here to help!

4.1 EDUCATIONAL EVENTS

Allah SWT said in the Quran {Allah will elevate those of you who are faithful, and 'raise' those gifted with knowledge in rank. And Allah is All-Aware of what you do.} [58:11].

Looking for a place to gain Islamic knowledge on campus and be from those who Allah SWT raises? The halaqa is a gathering to share and improve our knowledge of Islam as well as an opportunity for Muslims on campus to meet and hang out. We host weekly **segregated** weekly Halaqat led by knowledgeable and credible shuyookh from the Lower Mainland for both sisters and brothers so that everyone can have a comfortable space to be able to learn and discuss matters related to Islam. We also have a weekly tajweed circle that is student-led by your fellow brothers and sisters who have the qualifications to teach such topics. We also hold separate sisters Halaqat led by knowledge and trusted Ustadhaat from the lower mainland and Canada at large. All of the Halaqat are interactive and usually contain stimulating discussions on diverse topics full of benefit to Muslims of all backgrounds, cultures, and experiences. Individuals inquiring about Islam are more than welcome! The atmosphere is one full of trust and attendees are sincerely concerned about one another's personal development and success.

Some of our previous topics include the Seerah of Prophet Mohammed صلى الله عليه وسلم the Seerah of his companions, Muslim Identity, as well as discussions on contemporary issues. So if you're interested in learning more about Islam and/or discussing contemporary issues from an Islamic perspective, the MSA halaga is the place for you!

4.2 MUSLIM PATHFINDERS PROGRAM

This year, in collaboration with Al-Ihsan Institute and 6 MSAs from across BC, we will be having a special tailor-made 9 months program for university students, like you, to help deepen your understanding of Islam and modern ideologies through the profound wisdom and teachings of our deen. Visit here for more information and to register!

4.3 RECREATIONAL AND SOCIAL EVENTS

Beyond education, our recreational and social events are the best way to connect with your fellow Muslims at UBC and learn from them! One of our most popular social events is Chat and Chai where the student body, including both Muslims and non-Muslims, have a safe and welcoming space to share their opinions and experiences on various topics from an Islamic lens

such as navigating family relationships, strengthening friendships, our relationship with the Quran, and the importance of referring unclear matters to the people of knowledge. We also hold many social events such as the welcome back social, sisters' socials, outdoor events, brothers' basketball team, and more.

Allah SWT said in the Quran {Indeed, those men and women who give in charity and lend to Allah a good loan will have it multiplied for them, and they will have an honourable reward.} [57:18].

Recognizing the importance of charity in Islam, the MSA organizes few events, such as Paint for Palestine, throughout the year in collaboration with trusted charities to raise funds and awareness toward causes that concern the Ummah. Besides the charity of money, the MSA provides opportunities for Muslims at UBC to participate in community services such as the Muslim food bank.

4.5 DAWAH EVENTS

Allah SWT said in the Quran {Invite 'all' to the Way of your Lord with wisdom and kind advice, and only debate with them in the best manner. Surely your Lord 'alone' knows best who has strayed from His Way and who is 'rightly' guided.} [16:125]

The MSA holds a weekly Dawah booth to educate the wider community of UBC about our beautiful religion Islam. We also organize various Dawah workshops and seminars to build a knowledgeable and strong generation of Daees.

Allah SWT said in the Quran {Ramaḍân is the month in which the Quran was revealed as a guide for humanity with clear proofs of guidance and the standard fto distinguish between right and wrong.} [2:185]

Ramadan is the holiest month of the year, a month where the hearts of the believers come closer to their creator and His divine religion. Throughout Ramadan, we hold community iftars, not just to give out food for Muslims on campus, but to create the sense of home and company this blessed month comes with. The MSA also has daily Taraweeh prayers and Tahajjud in the

last ten days. And one of our special and main events during Ramadan is the grant Iftar. We also hold Eid prayer for both Eid Al-fitr and Eid Al-Adha. And as a form of showing our happiness and to celebrate our two holidays, we organize Eid parties and socials.

4.7 SUPPORT

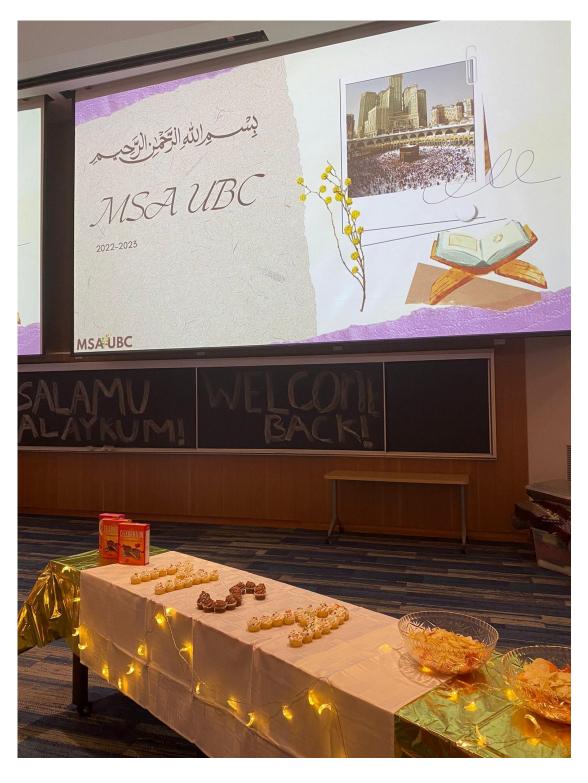
The MSA is here for you in case you need any form of support. Whether you are facing a problem with the UBC Administration or being discriminated against on campus, the MSA is here to back you up and help you figure things out. If you are ever in need of any help or advice, don't hesitate to contact us at askmsaubc@gmail.com. We will do our best to assist you or connect you with other support groups on campus or in the larger Muslim community, such as the Muslim Youth Helpline (1-800-550-6945).

5.0 MSA EVENTS

Stay tuned to the MSA Newsletter and social media for event postings! But for the meantime, here's a quick run through of some past events:



At the MSA booth during Imagine Day. You can always find us there looking to connect with you and our fellow UBC Muslims, especially newcomers and first years!



The MSA Welcome back social. Usually our first rec event of the academic year on campus with lots of fun, chats, and delicious food!





Our week long conference, Islam: Left Wing or Right Wing, with Ustadh Abdullah Al-Andalusi. We have great news, it was all recorded! stay tuned for the YT videos.





MSA UBC's annual fundraising dinner at Taste of Lahore! Everyone enjoyed their time there and loved the food so much that we will be going again this year In Shaa Allah. Keep an eye out for more details!



Community Iftars were the best change to our Ramadan programming!



Celebrating Eid Al-fitr and the end of a very successful winter term of the academic year 2022/23 at the one and only, UBC Rose Garden.



Eid Al-Adha Salah in MacInnes field on a gorgeous, sunny day that was followed by Eid treats!



The Sisters' Eid Al-Adha Social in collaboration with IDRF Canada, a Canadian based charity, was one of our favorite events!





A Legacy of excellence by Al-Ihsan in partnership with yours truly, MSA UBC, and 11 other Muslim organizations from the lower mainland! Easily one of the most beneficial events we've held.

6.0 HALAL FOOD GUIDE - currently being updated

We understand that verifying whether some places on campus are halal or not can be challenging, that's why we are working on updating the MSA's halal food guide for this year. However, we would strongly encourage you and advise that you verify such places yourself as well. Here's a <u>post</u> by Imam Yahya Momla of Masjid As-Salaam in Burnaby regarding the verification of Zabiha halal meat, take a quick read to learn more.

6.1 ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

A list of certified vendors in BC by Halal Inspection & Certification (HIC- Canada), BCMA can be found here. You can also visit the "Halal in Vancouver" Facebook page, run by a dedicated group of volunteers who verify if any places are halal or not right here.

6.2 MICROWAVES!

Do you bring your food from home? You'll need a place to warm it up! Microwaves can be found scattered across campus, some of our favourites are listed below!

- Brock Hall Center for Student Involvement and Careers
- The Nest: 1st floor by the Sushi place, 3rd floor in front of SASC, 4th-floor hallway
- Life Building Cafeteria
- Arts Students' Lounge, Buchanan D
- Sauder Exchange (Ground Floor)
- The Cube, ICICS Basement

7.0 VOLUNTEER AND JOB OPPORTUNITIES

Are you looking for volunteer opportunities? Don't miss out on all the chances you have to volunteer at MSA events! Gain lots of Ajr (reward) by Allah's (SWT) Will and put a smile on someone's face.

To volunteer at MSA events, watch out for posts requesting volunteers on our Instagram, Facebook, in the MSA newsletter, and on the website. Also, you can email askmsaubc@gmail.com, or message us on Facebook or Instagram, any time if you are looking to get more involved and want to join the team!

Looking for a part-time job on campus while studying? Check out UBC Work Learn by visiting the online Career Centre here.

8.0 KEEPING UP WITH THE JAMA'AH (MSA)

So you're thinking this is the sweetest club on campus and want in, right? Here's what you do:

Subscribe to our mailing list!



You'll receive a weekly newsletter updating you on what we're up to and how you can get involved. Click here to sign up. You only have to sign up once for the mailing list and you can unsubscribe whenever you want to – but why would you ever want to? You can also easily subscribe to the mailing list via our website or Facebook Page.



Like and follow our Facebook and Instagram Pages!

Our <u>Facebook page</u> is integrated with our website to bring you the most recent updates. You can also follow our Instagram <u>here</u>.



Join the Islam@UBC Discord server!

If you wish to have a more interactive virtual experience, join our new <u>Discord</u> <u>server</u> and get to know the wider community better.



Join the UBC Muslim community on LinkedIn!

Do you wish to grow your professional network and meet Muslim professionals? Then join the "UBC Muslim Students and Alumni" group on LinkedIn here and start building relationships and your experience!



Join the ISLAM@UBC WhatsApp group!

If you ever have any questions or want to interact with the wider UBC Muslim community, then the Islam@UBC group chat is your best option! Three of our respected Ulama' from the Lower Mainland are part of the group and generously take the time to answer your our Islam-related questions! As you

join, please take a quick read through the guidelines of the group.

Join our Whatsapp house-hunting groups!

Do you wish to live on or off-campus but can't find a place? Want to meet other Muslims also searching around? Join the <u>brothers'</u> or the <u>sisters'</u> house-hunting groups to find a home and some new friends insha'Allah!

Come to our meetings & attend our events!

The MSA wouldn't be what it is today without the help and mercy of Allah SWT first, then our active members that participate in and attend our many events throughout the year! We also have a general meeting twice every semester that you are welcome to attend. We value your ideas and feedback!

Last but not least, keep an eye on our website at www.msaubc.org!

9.0 PLACES TO HANG OUT

AMS Student Nest

The AMS Student Nest is a great place to spend your hour-long break. It's a convenient place to meet up with friends, buy some lunch, find a spot to sit in, and just hang out. There are also usually plenty of booths set up for you to browse through. Here, you can do things ranging from joining a new club to your winter scarf shopping!

Irving K. Barber Learning Centre

Irving is well known among students to be the best library to get together in. Whether it's for a group study session or killing time in the Irving lobby before class, Irving is the place to be. You can also grab a snack at Ike's Café or check your email on the computers, both located conveniently on the 2nd floor.

MacMillan Learning Commons

MacMillan Learning Commons, located in the H.R. MacMillan Building is a great place for group study. There's comfortable seating, whiteboards, and the Agora Café nearby to satiate those stomach grumblings. Also, if you manage to get in before the building closes, you can study here around the clock for 24 hours.

The Engineering Design Centre Atrium

This is a dedicated study space open to everyone from 7 am to 8 pm on Mondays to Fridays and 8 am to 6 pm on Saturdays and Sundays.

Kaiser Lobby

The lobby in the Fred Kaiser building is another cool place to hang out. Open 24 hours, but must have access to the building before doors are locked.

Brock Hall – 2nd Floor

Looking for a quiet study area? Check out Brock Hall Main, 2nd floor. There are plenty of individual and group study areas for you to choose from.

Forestry Building

The Forest Sciences Centre is located on the east side of Main Mall across from the MacMillan Building. It's got a great Tim Hortons and a very open, bright lobby area to hang out in.

Marine Drive Commons Block

The Marine Drive residences commons block, located at 2205 Lower Mall, has quiet study rooms with plenty of light and outlets.

Global Lounge

Since the MSA is part of the Global Lounge network, the space located near Marine Drive is open to use for studying!

UBC Learning Spaces

There are many places to study, teach, or hold an event on campus. Click <u>here</u> for more information.

The Musallah, of course!

Not only for prayers, but a space to study, chill with your friends, and take a short nap, perhaps?

10.0 ACADEMIC TIPS

- You will find answers online to a lot of your exams and assignments, but remember cheating is Haram (prohibited). If your professor specifies that you can't use any external resources or collaborate with each other, then doing so would be cheating. Abu Hurairah (May Allah be pleased with him) said: The Messenger of Allah (Allah (Allah
- If you want to see Barakah (blessing) and guidance in your academics, and in any aspect of your life, read the Quran on a daily basis. Allah SWT said in the Quran {Say, 'O Prophet,' "It is a guide and a healing to the believers}. [41:44] قُلْ هُوَ لِلَّذِينَ} عَامَنُوا هُدِّى [41:44]
- Feeling overwhelmed is a common emotion you will experience throughout your academic career. When that happens remember what Allah SWT said in His holy book {Allah does not require any soul more than what it can afford.} [2:286] ﴿ لَا يُكَلِّفُ اللهُ الله
- Try not to take more than 5 courses in one semester, if possible. With a lower course load, you will be able to absorb information and learn better – plus it's less stressful around exam time.
- Don't wait for the registration date to pick and choose your courses. Save the courses in a Worklist so that when your registration date opens, you can easily just click on register and everything will be saved.
- Wait until you attend the first class before buying textbooks. Listen to what the professor has to say about the book oftentimes, you'll find out that the book won't be used much, other than as a reference.
- Study regularly! Go over your notes after every class so that you don't have to cram the night before the exam.
- Take handwritten notes. It stays in your head longer.
- Pay attention during lectures, that's when the best learning is done.

- Take advantage of office hours and tutorials. Your profs/TAs set aside time specifically to help you, might as well use it.
- Try to study in groups. Once you find a good study group, you'll save a lot of time and more often than not, you'll learn a lot better.
- Don't skip classes! If you miss a couple of classes, it's really hard to catch up. Once you get into the upper years, many of the courses you will take will not even have books; therefore, it is VERY IMPORTANT that you attend your classes.
- Get enough sleep don't pull all-nighters. You'll crash eventually.
- Stay away from energy drinks! The crash is worse than the high. Instead, eat good nutritious food, including lots of fruits and vegetables that are as natural as possible (i.e. little to no preservatives). You'll be able to concentrate better, retain much more information, feel more energized, and be way more productive!
- The Co-op program offered by UBC is an excellent opportunity to gain technical work experience in your field of study and earn money at the same time! It will expose you to real-world jobs and hence help you in deciding what career you want to settle in for the future. You'll also have the opportunity to establish connections with professionals in different industries. Check out the UBC Co-op website.

11.0 FIRST-YEAR TIPS

- Lost on campus? Google Maps is your best friend! You can also plan your trip using the BC trip planning tools and resources. Click here for details.
- Classes are let off 10 minutes early to give time to get to your next class.
- Tired of carrying that laptop around? You can borrow laptops for four hours at most
 of the libraries on campus be warned that the laptops are old and not worth the \$
 on the waiver form you sign in case something happens to them!
- Don't buy textbooks until you attend the first few classes. Look for books on Amazon, Craigslist, saveonbook.com, Facebook Groups, or UBC Discount Bookstore before buying them from the bookstore.
- Check the editions of books sometimes old editions will work, so ask your professor.
- UBC pamphlets don't advertise rain but if you're new to Vancouver you should know that rain boots and a jacket are essential to surviving trips between classes in the pouring rain.
- If you live off-campus and need to spend the night at UBC and don't have anyone to stay with, you can stay at the Student Commuter Hostel (Walter Gage Towers) for \$35/night. But first, ask around; many of your fellow Muslims would be happy to have you stay over the night before that 8 am exam.
- Looking for a part-time job on campus while studying? Check out UBC Work Learn by visiting the online Career Centre here.
- Looking for a cheap residence near campus? Check out <u>www.amsrentsline.com</u>
- Try to make and maintain a schedule. Sleep right after Isha and wake up for Fajr your life will have barakah in it, and you'll be amazed at how long a day is!
- Use refillable water bottles! It's a win-win situation: Stay hydrated and the environment is protected from plastic water bottles that end up in landfills.
- Aiming Towards the Qibla: A Practical How-To Guide:
 - Qibla is 16.5 degrees east of true north
 - Google Qibla Finder is a useful and accurate mobile tool

• If you are outdoors and have no clue, head slightly to the right from the mountains of North Vancouver (can't miss them!).

12.0 MUSLIM ORGANIZATIONS IN BRITISH COLUMBIA

There are close to 70,000 Muslims in BC and quite a few Muslim Organizations that cater to the needs of the growing Muslim community. Some of them are listed below:

BCMA

The largest Muslim organization in BC manages several Masjids in Vancouver, Richmond, Surrey, Victoria, and more. Check out the <u>website</u>.

Al-Ihsan

An educational Islamic institute that provides authentic and quality Islamic Knowledge based in Surrey, BC. Refer to section 4.2 For more information about the MP program they offer in collaboration with us and 5 other MSAs from BC. Check out their website here.

Muslim Food Bank

A faith and community-based charitable organization that provides food assistance and advocates self-reliance by providing case management, emotional support, youth development and capacity building. Check out their website here.

IDRF

A non-profit Canadian registered charity with a 5-stars Ci rating. 91% of donations goes towards the cause, marking the highest amount among charities here in Canada. Check out their website here.

Simon Fraser University (SFU) MSA

Our counterparts at SFU! They too hold similar exciting events at SFU. Check out their website <u>here</u>.

Langara MSA

Our counterparts at Langara! They too hold similar exciting events at Langara. Check out their Instagram page.

NYMink

The Nation of Young Muslims organization was established in 2006 by a group of Western Canadian Muslim youth who dared to challenge the status quo of pop culture and offer the Muslim youth of today a better alternative. NYMink organizes an annual conference in Vancouver – The Generation Muslim Conference, and exciting programs like Camp Sunnah and Weekly Online Halaqat. More info can be found https://example.com/here/.

13.0 CONCLUSION

It was a long read but we hope this Newcomers Guide to UBC has helped you figure out Muslim life at UBC. If you have any questions, comments, or feedback on the guide (or anything else!) feel free to <u>contact us</u>. We'd love to hear from you and are always looking to improve our services.

Just remember that the MSA is YOUR club on campus. If there's something you want to see us doing - let us know! We wish you the very best in your studies and pray that Allah (SWT) grants you success in this life and the next. Ameen!

Assalamu alaikum, Your MSA Team 2023/2024 - 1445 A.H.