



College of Business Administration Master of Science in Islamic Banking and Finance (SBF) Program

Mission

Master of Science in Islamic Banking and Finance (SBF) at the University of Bahrain seeks to equip our graduates with the needed knowledge and become ethically oriented leader able to deal successfully with globalized dynamic environment and succeed in taking up significant managerial positions in Islamic Banking and Finance in domestic and global business enterprises.

Vision

The MSc in SBF strives to be recognized as a leading graduate program in the region, and to meet the highest international quality standards for excellence in Islamic finance education.

Program Objectives

Upon completion of the program, graduates will be able to achieve the following Program Educational Objectives (PEOs):

1. Demonstrate a thorough understanding of the body of knowledge in Islamic banking and finance.
2. Communicate effectively and professionally in business situations.
3. Evaluate business issues and practices from ethical and global perspectives.
4. Demonstrate the research and analytical skills needed to solve problems in Islamic banking and finance.

Curriculum

Non-Business Graduates

Candidates who hold a *non-business* Bachelor's degree (e.g., engineering, medicine, chemistry) need to be brought up to a more or less comparable level with business graduates. This will be accomplished through three foundation courses (zero credit hours wherein the student can choose three out of four courses), in addition to six core courses (18 credit hours) and two optional courses (6 credit hours) as follows:

- A. Background Courses (Three courses: zero credit hours)
- B. Core Courses (Six courses: 18 credit hours)
- C. Optional Courses (Two courses: 6 credit hours)
- D. Thesis (9 credit hours)



Business Graduates

Candidates who hold a Bachelor's degree in Business Administration or a closely related field must complete 33 credit hours as follows:

- A. Core Courses (Six courses: 18 credit hours)
- B. Optional Courses (Two courses: 6 credit hours)
- C. Thesis (9 credit hours)

Admission Requirements

- 1 A Bachelor's degree in any discipline from a university or an institution accredited by the University of Bahrain, with a minimum GPA of 2.67 out of 4 (or its equivalent).
- 2 Proficiency in English language. Must have a minimum score of 5.5 in IELTS or its equivalent.
- 3 The final admission will be based on the merit list of the applicants.

Program Requirements

1. Background (Foundation) Courses: Three courses (zero credit hours):

- ACCM 500 Financial Accounting (No credit)
- ECONM 500 Survey of Economics (No credit)
- FINM 500 Managerial Finance (No credit)

2. Core Courses: Six courses (18 credit hours)

- SBF 670 Islamic Commercial Jurisprudence (3)
- SBF 671 Islamic Capital Markets (3)
- SBF 672 Risk Management in Islamic Financial Institutions (3)
- SBF 673 Islamic Juridical Theories (3)
- SBF 674 Corporate Governance for Islamic Financial Institutions (3)
- QM 650 Research Methods and Statistical Analysis (3)

3. Optional Courses: Two courses (6 credit hours) to be chosen from the following list:

- SBF 675 Islamic Economics and Fiqh of Zakat and Waqf (3)
- SBF 679 Current Issues in Islamic Banking and Finance and Takaful (3)
- ACC 610 Advanced Financial Accounting (3)
- FIN 620 Corporate Finance (3)
- ECON 640 Managerial Economics (3)
- MGT 635 Business Ethics (3)

4. Thesis: SBF 695 (9 credits)



Curriculum Plan

1. **Background Courses** (Three courses for non-business students only: zero credits)

2. **Core Courses**

Semester 1

Course Code	Course Title	Credit hours	Prerequisite
SBF 670	Islamic Commercial Jurisprudence	3	
SBF 671	Islamic Capital Markets	3	
SBF 672	Risk Management in Islamic Financial Institutions	3	
QM 650	Research Methods and Statistical Analysis	3	

Semester 2

Course Code	Course Title	Credit hours	Prerequisite
SBF 673	Islamic Juridical Theories	3	
SBF 674	Corporate Governance for Islamic Financial Institutions	3	
XXX 6XX	Optional course	3	
XXX 6XX	Optional course	3	

Semester 3

Course Code	Course Title	Credit hours	Prerequisite
SBF 695	Thesis	9	18 credits

Course Descriptions

ACCM 500: Financial Accounting (No credit)

Basic financial accounting principles for a business enterprise; accounting and the business environment; recording business transactions; the adjusting process and preparing financial statements; accounting for merchandising operations; plant assets and intangibles; accounting for corporations; introduction to cost accounting; and introduction to management accounting.

ACC 610: Advanced Financial Accounting (3 credits)

Accounting and financial reporting for business combinations (including consolidated financial statements); international accounting issues, foreign currency translation, reorganizations and liquidations; study of selected financial accounting topics including SEC regulations, bankruptcy, and reporting for segments and interim financial periods and major issues of technical accounting requirements.

ECONM 500: Survey of Economics (No credit)

Survey of both micro and macroeconomic concepts; microeconomics topics include scarcity, positive and normative economics, economic problem, demand and supply mechanism,

elasticity and market structure; macroeconomics topics include national accounts, unemployment, business cycles, inflation, money, banking and monetary and fiscal policies.

ECON 640: Survey of Economics (3 credits)

The firm and its goals; mathematics of demand and supply; demand and revenue analysis; demand elasticity; estimation of demand; theory and estimation of production; theory and estimation of costs; pricing and output decision under perfect and imperfect competitions; pricing in practices; case studies and managerial economics in action.

FINM 500: Managerial Finance (No credit)

The role of finance in the business organization, financial analysis, financial forecasting, capital investment decisions, financing decisions, cost of capital decision, convertible, international financial management, business failures and investment banking.

FIN 620: Corporate Finance (3 credits)

Market efficiency; shareholders' wealth value; cost of capital; capital assets pricing model; capital budgeting; dividend policy; risk management; mergers and bankruptcy.

MGT 635: Business Ethics (3 credits)

Introduction to a stakeholder management framework, emphasizing business's social and ethical responsibilities to both external and internal stakeholder groups. Discussing a twin theme of corporate business ethics and governance that illustrates how ethical considerations are included in the public issues facing organizations and the decision-making process of managers.

QM 650: Research Methods and Statistical Analysis (3 credits)

Introduction to business research, research process, problem definition and the research proposal, design of research strategies, questionnaire design, sampling procedures, sources, collection and presentation of data; hypotheses testing; bivariate and multivariate analyses; nonparametric significance test, and presenting results in written report.

SBF 670: Islamic Commercial Jurisprudence (3 credits)

Islamic law related to commerce, trade and finance (*Fiqh Al-Muamalat*) in contemporary commercial and financial environments. Sharia principles applied to financial transactions as encountered in Islamic financial institutions, including Takaful companies. Views on contentious issues in contemporary Islamic financial transactions. Commonly used contracts in light of the Sharia standards issued by Accounting and Auditing Organization for Islamic Financial Institutions (AAOIFI). The *maqasid*, or higher purposes, of Sharia in dealing with the broader spectrum of life.

SBF 671: Islamic Capital Markets (3 credits)

The impact of Sharia compliance on the development of Islamic capital market and product structuring. Products, models and the working mechanisms in the Islamic capital markets. Advanced topics in Sharia screening and portfolio management are covered and Sharia compliance issues with various asset classes, including equity and debt instruments.

SBF 672: Risk Management in Islamic Financial Institutions (3 credits)

The concept and nature of risk, especially in Islamic banking and finance. Risk identification, risk measurement and risk management in Islamic finance industry. Risk-related regulations and standards that address corporate governance, capital adequacy, transparency and other pertinent aspects in the comparative perspective of both conventional and Islamic finance.

SBF 673: Islamic Juridical Theories (3 credits)

The history and methodological principles of Islamic jurisprudence (*fiqh*). The origin and development of Islamic juridical theory. The endeavors of leading Muslim juridical theorists in explaining the ways human experience interacts with the revelation and how revelation relates to application of laws and regulations in human life. The theories of contracts (*Uqood*), *Gharar*, *Maslaha*, *Dharoorah*, and *Haq*.

SBF 674: Corporate Governance for Islamic Financial Institutions (3 credits)

Sharia's ethical and normative legal principles as interfaced with governance-related practices in a market-based economy. Theoretical and practical issues pertaining to private and public sectors as well as profit and non-profit organizations. The concept of corporation as a legal entity, the issues pertaining to incentives and conflicts of interest as well as the role of regulation and standard-setting for effective and ethical governance both from Sharia and management perspective.

SBF 675: Islamic Economics and *Fiqh* of *Zakah* and *Waqf* (3 credits)

The role of Islamic economics provide solutions to economic problems. The moral values, principles and norms that shape utilization of resources and determination of prices to facilitate production and consumption in free and regulated markets. The concepts and issues pertaining to *Zakah* and *Waqf* in facilitating economic development. The legal, theoretical and practical issues in making *Zakah* a result-oriented enterprise. The role of *Zakah* and *Waqf* in enhancing socio-economic welfare through both public and private sector activities.

SBF 679: Current Issues in Islamic Banking and Finance and *Takaful* (3 credits)

Major contemporary issues in Islamic banking, finance and *Takaful* (Islamic Insurance). The dynamics of the industry in light of the key contentious issues and alternative views. The opportunities and challenges the industry face in a dynamic, globalized, competitive environment.

SBF 695: Thesis (9 credits)

Prerequisite: 18 credits

Any topic, reflecting contemporary relevance and issues, will be chosen by the student with the assistance of an academic supervisor from the area of Islamic Banking and Finance. A thesis proposal consisting of problem area, objectives and proposed methodology will have to be submitted to the department council for approval before the start of actual field work.