Further Requirements in Islamic Studies

The languages issue:

Language competency expectations for MELC students who are admitted into the Islamic Studies track differ somewhat from the general language expectations for the MELC program, as follows: All Islamic Studies students, regardless of specific research interests, are expected to achieve research-level competency in Arabic. Furthermore, all students are expected to attain mastery in at least one ME language. This primary language may be Arabic, or another ME language. For students who select Arabic as their primary language, competency in a second ME language will not be required. For students who select Persian or Turkish as their primary language, competency in Arabic will also be required. Determinations of which language(s) are required will depend upon the student’s specific research interests and his/her adviser.

As with all MELC students, ISL-track students are also required to achieve research-level competency in a Western language appropriate to their specific interests. While this is typically French or German, a student might petition for the approval of a different Western language, or a non-Western language, with his/her mentor’s permission, assuming the alternate language is appropriate to the student’s area of research.

General requirements regarding MA-level coursework, thesis/report, PhD-level coursework, exams (3 exams/areas/faculty):

ISL-track students are expected, like all MELC students, to pursue theoretical/methodological training in a particular discipline. In the case of ISL students, this disciplinary training will typically be in Religious Studies, and may include pursuing a Portfolio in Religious Studies. However, other disciplinary training may be chosen, such as History, Social Sciences, Women and Gender Studies, or Art. Details will be determined through consultation with one’s adviser and specific area of inquiry.

Overall program requirements for ISL-track students on issues related to faculty mentor/adviser, MA-level coursework, submission of MA thesis/report, PhD-level coursework, comprehensive exams/committee, and doctoral dissertation/committee are the same as those described for the generality of MELC students.