

UniCORE 2026

Implementation Handbook

University Required Courses

Purpose

This handbook explains the approved UniCORE 2026 structure, student pathways, course mappings, and institutional responsibilities for implementation.

Implementation reference

Applicable to undergraduate students from Cohort 261XXXX and above, subject to the pathway and exemption provisions stated in this handbook.

OFFICE OF KNOWLEDGE FOR CHANGE AND ADVANCEMENT (KCA)

INTERNATIONAL ISLAMIC UNIVERSITY MALAYSIA

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1 Background

University Required Courses (UniCORE) are compulsory courses for IIUM undergraduate students. UniCORE provides a shared foundation aligned with the philosophy, vision, and mission of the University.

The curriculum supports students in understanding the self, developing noble character through a balanced formation of the individual, and recognising the purpose and responsibilities of life. It aims to nurture an insan of adab who values knowledge and acts responsibly as an abd and khalifah.

UniCORE courses are offered by the Centre for Languages and Pre-University Academic Development (CELPAD), the Department of Fundamental and Inter-Disciplinary Studies (FIDS), and the Centre for Credited Co-Curricular (CCC).

2 UniCORE 2026 Structure

Course code	Course title or component	Credit hours	Offered by	Applicability
MPUG 3122	Falsafah dan Cabaran Semasa	2	FIDS	Malaysian students
UNGS 3122	Philosophy and Contemporary Challenges	2	FIDS	Non-Malaysian students
MPUG 3112	Aspirasi Negara Bangsa	2	FIDS	Malaysian students
MPUG 3142	Malaysian Citra	2	FIDS	Non-Malaysian students
MPUG 3132	Integrity and Anti-Corruption	2	FIDS	All students
UNGS 1213	Tawhidic Epistemology and Islamic Worldview	2	FIDS	All students
LEED 1201	Academic English for Sustainability	2	CELPAD	All students
See Section 3	Arabic and Tilawah package	3	CELPAD	Pathway based
See Section 4	Bahasa Melayu package	2	CELPAD	Pathway based
See Section 5	Usrah package	1	CCC	Pathway based
CCLF 2000	Leadership and Family Management	1	CCC	All students
See Section 6	Approved skills course	1	CCC	Student selection

Total UniCORE credit hours 18

3 Arabic and Tilawah Packages

The Arabic and Tilawah components are organised as student-centred pathways that accommodate different backgrounds while maintaining a standard requirement of 3 credit hours. The sequence supports progressive development and measurable learning outcomes.

3.1 Muslim student pathway

- Tilawah Al-Quran 1 and 2 strengthen foundational Quranic recitation and accuracy.
- Arabic for Understanding Ibadah I and II support basic comprehension and the use of Arabic in Islamic practices.

3.2 Non-Muslim student pathway

- Arabic for Effective Communication I and II develop basic communicative competence for everyday interaction and intercultural communication.

Students	Course code	Course title	Credit hours
Muslim	TQTD 1002	Tilawah Al-Quran 1	0.5
Muslim	TQTD 2002	Tilawah Al-Quran 2	0.5
Muslim	LQAD 1113	Arabic for Understanding Ibadah I	1
Muslim	LQAD 2123	Arabic for Understanding Ibadah II	1
Non-Muslim	LQAD 1131	Arabic for Effective Communication I	1
Non-Muslim	LQAD 2232	Arabic for Effective Communication II	2

Each pathway carries a total of 3 credit hours.

3.3 Exemption criteria for Arabic courses

Category	Requirement or action
English-medium CFS graduates	Students who completed LQAF 0813 and LQAF 0823, or LQAF 0823 only, at CFS proceed to LQAD 2123 at the Main Campus.
High proficiency	CFS and Main Campus students in English-medium programmes who obtain Band 4 or above in the Arabic Proficiency Test are exempted from LQAD 1113 and LQAD 2123.
APT Band 2.5 to 3	CFS students in English-medium programmes who obtain Band 2.5 to 3 are exempted from LQAD 1113 at CFS and take LQAD 2123 at the Main Campus.
Arabic-medium institutions	Students who graduated from high schools or universities in Arab countries where Arabic was the sole medium of instruction are exempted from LQAD 1113 and LQAD 2123.
Arabic-medium programmes	Students enrolled in Arabic-medium programmes are exempted from LQAD 1113 and LQAD 2123 because they follow a separate UniCORE Arabic pathway.

Applicability: The exemption policy applies to undergraduate students from Cohort 261XXXX and above.

3.4 Pre-Tilawah requirement

Pre-Tilawah Al-Quran (TQTD 1001) is a prerequisite to Tilawah Al-Quran 1. It develops the foundational competencies required for Quranic recitation, including recognition of Hijaiyyah letters and correct articulation.

TQTD 1001 is preparatory and does not form part of the 18-credit-hour UniCORE structure. Based on the Exit Tilawah Placement Test, a student may proceed directly to Tilawah Al-Quran 1 or fulfil the requirement, subject to the instructor recommendation.

4 Bahasa Melayu Packages

Bahasa Melayu is included in UniCORE to strengthen its use as a language of knowledge in higher education. The pathways accommodate different linguistic backgrounds. Each pathway carries 2 credit hours.

- Malaysian students take Bahasa Melayu Kerjaya according to their field of study.
- Non-Malaysian students from Indonesia, Singapore, and Brunei Darussalam take Bahasa Melayu Komunikasi Nusantara.
- Other international students take Bahasa Melayu Komunikasi to develop basic functional proficiency.

Course code	Course title	Credit hours	Students
LMBD 3201	Bahasa Melayu Kerjaya Sains Sosial	2	Malaysian students in social sciences: AHAS KIRKHS, KOED, and KSTCL
LMBD 3202	Bahasa Melayu Kerjaya Perundangan	2	Malaysian students in law: AIKOL
LMBD 3203	Bahasa Melayu Kerjaya Perniagaan	2	Malaysian students in business: KENMS
LMBD 3204	Bahasa Melayu Kerjaya Sains dan Teknologi	2	Malaysian students in science and technology: KAED, KICT, KOE, and KOS
LMBD 3205	Bahasa Melayu Kerjaya Sains Kesihatan	2	Malaysian students in health sciences: KOM, KOD, KOP, KON, and KAHS
MPUG 3162	Bahasa Melayu Komunikasi Nusantara	2	Students from Indonesia, Singapore, and Brunei Darussalam
MPUG 3152	Bahasa Melayu Komunikasi	2	Other international students

5 Usrah Packages

The Usrah component comprises three pathways. Placement for Muslim students is based on the Fard Ain Test. Non-Muslim students follow an inclusive values-based pathway aligned with MPU Category U4 and the Sejahtera Academic Framework.

Course code	Course title	Placement
CCUB 1011	Usrah Fard Ain	Malaysian Muslim students requiring foundational strengthening, based on FAT outcomes
CCUB 1021	Usrah for Tawhidic and Holistic Development	Malaysian Muslim students with adequate foundational competency, based on FAT outcomes
CCUB 1031	Study Circle for Holistic Human Development	Non-Muslim students through an inclusive values-based pathway aligned with MPU Category U4 and SAF

5.1 Fard Ain Test

The Fard Ain Test is a diagnostic placement instrument for all Muslim students. It assesses foundational Islamic literacy, including basic aqidah, ibadah, akhlaq, Quranic literacy, and essential religious practices. The result determines placement in CCUB 1011 or CCUB 1021.

6 Skills Courses

Students select an approved skills course in accordance with the applicable registration and programme requirements. The standard skills component carries 1 credit hour.

No	Course code	Course title	No	Course code	Course title
1	CCSS 3001	Aikido	38	CCSS 3039	Tennis
2	CCSS 3002	Archery	39	CCSS 3040	Special Tahfiz Class
3	CCSS 3003	Badminton	40	CCSS 3041	Tahfiz Class
4	CCSS 3004	Baking Skills	41	CCSS 3042	Volleyball
5	CCSS 3005	Basic Life Support	42	CCSS 3043	Baristapreneur Skills
6	CCSS 3006	Digital Graphic Design	43	CCSS 3044	Manicure Services
7	CCSS 3007	Creative Content Creation	44	CCSS 3045	Facial Service and Facial Electrotherapy
8	CCSS 3008	Chess	45	CCSS 3046	Sport Massage
9	CCSS 3009	Cooking Skills	46	CCSS 3047	Wind Cupping Therapy
10	CCSS 3011	Silat Cekak	47	CCSS 3048	Hairdressing
11	CCSS 3012	Basic Counseling Skills	48	CCSS 3049	Artificial Intelligence for Marketing
12	CCSS 3013	Dodgeball	49	CCSS 3050	Spa Therapy
13	CCSS 3014	Presentation Skills and Public Speaking	50	CCPA 1591	KOR SISPA 1
14	CCSS 3015	Debate and Critical Thinking	51	CCPA 1592	KOR SISPA 2
15	CCSS 3016	Event Management Skills	52	CCPA 2591	KOR SISPA 3
16	CCSS 3017	First Aid Skills	53	CCPA 2592	KOR SISPA 4
17	CCSS 3018	Football	54	CCPA 3591	KOR SISPA 5
18	CCSS 3019	Futsal	55	CCPA 3592	KOR SISPA 6
19	CCSS 3020	Gamelan	56	CCSP 1521	SUKSIS 1
20	CCSS 3021	Percussion Instruments	57	CCSP 1522	SUKSIS 2
21	CCSS 3022	Khat Skills	58	CCSP 2521	SUKSIS 3
22	CCSS 3023	Master of Ceremony	59	CCSP 2522	SUKSIS 4
23	CCSS 3024	Mosque Management	60	CCSP 3521	SUKSIS 5
24	CCSS 3025	Karate Skills	61	CCSP 3522	SUKSIS 6
25	CCSS 3026	Taekwondo	62	CCZD 1551	ROTU Army 1
26	CCSS 3027	Netball	63	CCZD 1552	ROTU Army 2
27	CCSS 3028	Physical Fitness	64	CCZD 2551	ROTU Army 3
28	CCSS 3029	Prophetic Healing	65	CCZD 2552	ROTU Army 4
29	CCSS 3030	Photography Skills	66	CCZD 3551	ROTU Army 5
30	CCSS 3031	Recreation	67	CCZD 3552	ROTU Army 6
31	CCSS 3032	Swimming Skills Brother	68	CCZU 1541	ROTU Air Force 1
32	CCSS 3033	Swimming Skills Sister	69	CCZU 1542	ROTU Air Force 2
33	CCSS 3034	Malaysian Sign Language	70	CCZU 2541	ROTU Air Force 3
34	CCSS 3035	Smart Money Management	71	CCZU 2542	ROTU Air Force 4
35	CCSS 3036	Squash	72	CCZU 3541	ROTU Air Force 5
36	CCSS 3037	Sepak Takraw	73	CCZU 3542	ROTU Air Force 6
37	CCSS 3038	Sewing Skills			

7 Service Learning Malaysia University for Society

Service Learning Malaysia - University for Society (SULAM) courses are offered by the respective programmes. Each programme must ensure compliance with the Garis Panduan Pelaksanaan SULAM di IPT and map the selected course to the relevant Programme Learning Outcomes.

SULAM implementation emphasises Values-Based Education and Education for Sustainable Development in accordance with the Malaysian Qualifications Framework 2024. Each Kulliyah is responsible for identifying or developing an appropriate SULAM course, embedding it within the programme, and monitoring its implementation.

8 Key Changes

UniCORE 2026 revises the curriculum structure, reduces the overall credit requirement, and realigns course components with institutional and national requirements.

Area	UniCORE 2026 change
Credit requirement	Reduced from 20 to 18 credit hours
SULAM	Embedded within selected programme courses and monitored by the respective Kulliyah
Islamic fundamental knowledge	Consolidated into Tawhidic Epistemology and Islamic Worldview
Arabic and Tilawah	Reorganised as integrated, student-centred pathways
Usrah	Streamlined into one 1-credit course selected through the applicable pathway
Leadership and skills	Leadership, family management, and skills courses are consolidated within the revised structure
English and sustainability	Integrated in Academic English for Sustainability
Bahasa Melayu	Added as a 2-credit component with student-centred pathways
Curriculum alignment	UniCORE Objectives revised and UniCORE Learning Outcomes streamlined and realigned

9 MPU Components and Course Mapping

MPU component	Focus
U1	Appreciating philosophy, values, and history
U2	Mastering human skills
U3	Broadening knowledge
U4	Developing practical, community-oriented skills

Course code	Course or component	MPU component
MPUG 3122 / UNGS 3122	Falsafah dan Cabaran Semasa / Philosophy and Contemporary Challenges	U1
MPUG 3112 / MPUG 3142	Aspirasi Negara Bangsa / Malaysian Citra	U1
MPUG 3132	Integrity and Anti-Corruption	U1
UNGS 1213	Tawhidic Epistemology and Islamic Worldview	U3
LEED 1201	Academic English for Sustainability	U3

Course code	Course or component	MPU component
Various	Arabic and Tilawah	U2
Various	Bahasa Melayu	U2
CCUB 1011 / 1021 / 1031	Usrah	U4
CCLF 2000	Leadership and Family Management	U2
Various	Skills	U4

10 UniCORE Objectives and Learning Outcomes

Objective	Statement
UO 1	Affirm that all knowledge originates from Allah as its ultimate source and is acquired by humans through diverse means.
UO 2	Cultivate awareness of the meanings, roles, and responsibilities of human beings as abd and khalifah.
UO 3	Foster a culture of adab through respect, humility, and moral integrity.
UO 4	Develop students who are enriched with Islamic knowledge, values, and ethics and can engage meaningfully with contemporary issues.

Outcome	Statement
ULO 1	Engage in continuous self-development based on the knowledge-seeking spirit.
ULO 2	Make informed decisions in life using strategic thinking and practical skills.
ULO 3	Practise adab in their behaviour.
ULO 4	Participate in intellectual discussions on religious and contemporary issues using knowledge and reasoning from a tawhidic perspective.
ULO 5	Demonstrate commitment to fundamental religious duties through a tawhidic epistemological framework.
ULO 6	Demonstrate intercultural competencies that reflect ummatic excellence in interaction and collaboration.

11 Alignment Matrices

11.1 UniCORE Objectives and IIUM Graduate Attributes

	Khalifah	Amanah	Iqra	Rahmatan lil alamin
UO 1	✓	✓		✓
UO 2	✓			✓
UO 3		✓	✓	
UO 4	✓		✓	

11.2 UniCORE Learning Outcomes and UniCORE Objectives

	UO 1	UO 2	UO 3	UO 4
ULO 1	✓			
ULO 2			✓	✓
ULO 3			✓	
ULO 4	✓			
ULO 5		✓		
ULO 6				✓

11.3 UniCORE Learning Outcomes and MQF 2.0 2024

	ULO 1	ULO 2	ULO 3	ULO 4	ULO 5	ULO 6
Knowledge and Understanding	✓			✓		
Cognitive Skills		✓		✓		
Practical Skills		✓				
Interpersonal Skills				✓		✓
Communication Skills				✓		✓
Digital Skills		✓				
Numeracy Skills		✓				
Leadership Autonomy and Responsibility					✓	✓
Personal Skills	✓		✓			✓
Entrepreneurial Skills			✓			✓
Ethics and Professionalism			✓		✓	✓

11.4 Courses and UniCORE Learning Outcomes

Course code	Course title	CH	ULO 1	ULO 2	ULO 3	ULO 4	ULO 5	ULO 6
CCLF 2000	Leadership and Family Management	1	✓	✓				
Approved CCSS course	Skills	1	✓		✓			
CCUB pathway	Usrah	1			✓		✓	
LEED 1201	Academic English for Sustainability	2			✓	✓		
LMBD 3201	Bahasa Melayu Kerjaya Sains Sosial	2	✓	✓	✓			
LMBD 3202	Bahasa Melayu Kerjaya Perundangan	2	✓	✓	✓			
LMBD 3203	Bahasa Melayu Kerjaya Perniagaan	2	✓	✓	✓			
LMBD 3204	Bahasa Melayu Kerjaya Sains dan Teknologi	2	✓	✓	✓			
LMBD 3205	Bahasa Melayu Kerjaya Sains Kesihatan	2	✓	✓	✓			
LQAD 1113	Arabic for Understanding Ibadah I	1	✓				✓	
LQAD 1131	Arabic for Effective Communication I	1	✓					
LQAD 2123	Arabic for Understanding Ibadah II	1	✓				✓	
LQAD 2232	Arabic for Effective Communication II	2	✓					
MPUG 3112	Aspirasi Negara Bangsa	2		✓			✓	✓
MPUG 3122	Falsafah dan Cabaran Semasa	2	✓			✓	✓	
MPUG 3132	Integrity and Anti-Corruption	2	✓	✓		✓		
MPUG 3142	Malaysian Citra	2				✓	✓	✓
MPUG 3152	Bahasa Melayu Komunikasi	2	✓	✓				
MPUG 3162	Bahasa Melayu Komunikasi Nusantara	2	✓	✓	✓			
TQTD 1002	Tilawah Al-Quran 1	0.5	✓				✓	
TQTD 2002	Tilawah Al-Quran 2	0.5	✓				✓	
UNGS 1213	Tawhidic Epistemology and Islamic Worldview	2	✓		✓	✓		
UNGS 3122	Philosophy and Contemporary Challenges	2	✓			✓	✓	

12 UniCORE Task Force Committee

No	Name	Role
1	Prof. Dr. Gairuzazmi Mat Ghani	Chairman; Dean, Kuliyah of Economics and Management Sciences
2	Assoc. Prof. Dr. Muhammad Irwan Ariffin	Deputy Chairman; Director, Office of Knowledge for Change and Advancement
3	Prof. Dr. Amir Akramin Shafie	Principal Director, Office of Deputy Rector Academic and Internationalisation
4	Prof. Dr. Shukran Abdul Rahman	Principal Director, Office for Strategy and Institutional Change
5	Assoc. Prof. Dr. Mohd Arifin bin Kaderi	Deputy Campus Director, Office of the Campus Director, Kuantan Campus
6	Assoc. Prof. Dr. Haslina Hassan	Director, Academic Management and Admission Division
7	Dr. Arbaiah binti Abdul Razak	Covering Director, Centre for Professional Development
8	Assoc. Prof. Dr. Mohd. Azrul Azlen Abd. Hamid	Dean, Kuliyah of Sustainable Tourism and Contemporary Languages
9	Sr. Ruzai Syarilili Aiyu Abd. Rashid	Special Officer, Office of Deputy Rector Student Development and Community Engagement

Secretariat

No	Name	Role
1	Assoc. Prof. Dr. Hamwira Sakti Yaacob	Deputy Director (Innovation), Office of Knowledge for Change and Advancement
2	Assoc. Prof. Dr. Afiza Mohammad Ali	Deputy Director (Advancement), Office of Knowledge for Change and Advancement
3	Assoc. Prof. Dr. Nurul Nuha Abdul Molok	Deputy Director (Governance), Office of Knowledge for Change and Advancement
4	Dr. Khadijah Khalilah Abdul Rashid	Deputy Director (Accreditation), Office of Knowledge for Change and Advancement
5	Madam Mazlilawati Murad	Deputy Director (Administration), Office of Knowledge for Change and Advancement

Former Members

No	Name
1	Prof. Ar. Dr. Abdul Razak Sopian
2	Prof. Dr. Azila Ahmad Sarkawi
3	Prof. Ts. Dr. Mira Kartiwi
4	Dr. Haziqah Zulaikha Aris