

Trustees' Annual Report for the period

From	Period start date			To	Period end date		
	03	November	2021		15	November	2022

Section A Reference and administration details

Charity name British Association for Islamic Studies

Other names charity is known by BRAIS

Registered charity number (if any) 1196378

Charity's principal address The Middle East Centre

St Anthony's College

68 Woodstock Road, Oxford

Postcode

OX2 6JF

Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity

	Trustee name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year	Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint trustee (if any)
1	Fozia Bora	Chair	Whole year	BRAIS members
2	Tom Lea	Secretary	Whole year	BRAIS members
3	Haroon Sidat	Treasurer	Whole year	BRAIS members
4	Usaama Al-Azami	Communications Officer	Whole year	BRAIS members
5	Alyaa Ebbiary	EDI Officer	Whole year	BRAIS members
6	Jaan Islam	Events Officer	Whole year	BRAIS members
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20				

Names of the trustees for the charity, if any, (for example, any custodian trustees)

Name	Dates acted if not for whole year

Names and addresses of advisers (Optional information)

Type of adviser	Name	Address
Council Member	Mansur Ali	Cardiff University
Council Member	Omar Anchassi	Bern University
Council Member	Sariya Cheruvallil-Contractor	Coventry University
Council Member	Robert Gleave	University of Exeter
Council Member	Jon Hoover	University of Nottingham
Council Member	Hugh Kennedy	SOAS, University of London
Council Member	Seán McLoughlin	University of Leeds
Council Member	Shamim Miah	University of Huddersfield
Council Member	Shuruq Naguib	Lancaster University
Council Member	Hilary Kalmbach	University of Sussex
Council Member	Frédéric Volpi	University of Edinburgh
Council Member	Saeko Yazaki	University of Glasgow

Name of chief executive or names of senior staff members (Optional information)

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Section B Structure, governance and management

Description of the charity's trusts

Type of governing document (eg. trust deed, constitution)	Constitution
How the charity is constituted (eg. trust, association, company)	Association
Trustee selection methods (eg. appointed by, elected by)	Elected by membership

Additional governance issues (Optional information)

You **may choose** to include additional information, where relevant, about:

- policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of trustees;
- the charity's organisational structure and any wider network with which the charity works;
- relationship with any related parties;
- trustees' consideration of major risks and the system

BRAIS Trustees are supported by a wider Council who offer advice and guidance on an *ad-hoc* basis. BRAIS hosts a Council Meeting at least once a year, usually online.

BRAIS benefits from a close relationships with the Muslims in Britain Research Network and the British Society for Middle East Studies.

BRAIS's AGM takes place annually in November and is hosted online.

and procedures to manage them.

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Section C Objectives and activities

Summary of the objects of the charity set out in its governing document

The objects of the Association are the advancement of education for the public benefit through the promotion and enhancement of research and teaching about Islam and Muslim cultures and societies in UK higher and further education.

Summary of the main activities undertaken for the public benefit in relation to these objects (include within this section the statutory declaration that trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit)

BRAIS undertakes four main activities for the public benefit and these are listed below. BRAIS Trustees are fully aware of the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit and have taken this into account when making any decisions to which the guidance is relevant. At no time over the last year have BRAIS Trustees decided to depart from the guidance. Trustees acknowledge that if they do decide to depart from the guidance, they must have good reasons for doing so.

Main Activities:

1. Providing a forum for academic exchange for scholars with an interest in any aspect of Islam and the Muslim world, past and present, including Muslim minority societies;
2. The holding of conferences and events;
3. The support of access to archives and information about Islam and the Muslim world;
4. The pursuit of any other activities promoting Islamic studies as the Trustees may decide.

Additional details of objectives and activities (Optional information)

You **may choose** to include further statements, where relevant, about:

- policy on grantmaking;
- policy programme related investment;
- contribution made by volunteers.

BRAIS relies heavily on volunteers to deliver its yearly activities. BRAIS Trustees and Council Members are all volunteers, with additional support provided by our administrative hub at the Alwaleed Centre, University of Edinburgh, and BRAIS's Projects Coordinator, Sharaiz Chaudhry. BRAIS would like to offer its sincere thanks to all those people who have given so generously of their time over the course of the last year. The Association simply would not be able to function without these essential contributions.

BRAIS will be reinstituting its small grants programme over the next 18 months. Our current policy is to offer grants up to a maximum of £500 for workshops and seminars organised by members.

BRAIS offer student bursaries for PhD students who present at its annual conference. Our current policy is to offer a fee waiver + £100 towards travel and accommodation costs for PhD students.

Section D Achievements and performance

Summary of the main achievements of the charity during the year

Overview

With COVID-19 restrictions finally easing over the course of the past year, 2021/22 saw the British Association for Islamic Studies host its first in-person conference in three years at the University of Edinburgh. The seventh annual BRAIS-De Gruyter Prize was awarded to a ground-breaking thesis exploring prophecy in early Muslim theology, and BRAIS

Officers made significant progress in developing BRAIS's policy and strategy around Equality, Diversity and Inclusion.

BRAIS 2022 at the University of Edinburgh

BRAIS last hosted an in-person conference in 2019 at the University of Nottingham. The opportunity to meet colleagues and share new research is vital to the development of our field and, for this reason, BRAIS's annual conference has been sorely missed. We were therefore delighted to welcome over 120 scholars to the University of Edinburgh on Monday 6th and Tuesday 7th June 2022 for a conference that will live long in the memory. There was a palpable sense of joy as colleagues, new and old, came together for two days of memorable panels, papers and keynotes. We would like to express our particular thanks to Professor Salman Sayyid (University of Leeds) who opened the conference with his superb keynote 'Critical Muslim Studies: Decolonizing the Islamicate?' We were also delighted to welcome ten leading academic publishers to the conference and we would like to thank everyone who took part for contributing to such a stimulating and programme. Plans are now well underway for BRAIS 2023 which will be hosted in the stunning surroundings of the Aga Khan University's Institute for the Study of Muslim Civilisations, London, on Monday 15 and Tuesday 16 May. We are delighted to confirm that the conference will include a keynote panel featuring Professor Sarah Bowen Savant and team members from the AKU's trailblazing digital humanities project KITAB, alongside Professor Ousmane Kane (Harvard University) who will discuss the challenges of decolonising the study of Islam in Africa.

BRAIS De Gruyter Prize 2022

The seventh round of the BRAIS - De Gruyter Prize in the Study of Islam and the Muslim World attracted some outstanding submissions this year. After considerable deliberation, the Prize Committee awarded the 2022 prize to Elizabeth Grace Price (Yale University) for her submission 'The Barāhima's Dilemma: Ibn al-Rāwandī's Kitāb al-Zumurrud and the Epistemological Turn in the Debate on Prophecy'. The Committee also gave an Honourable Mention to Aziza Shanazarova for her submission 'A Female Saint in Muslim Polemics: Agha-yi Buzurg and her Legacy in Early Modern Central Asia'. Our sincere congratulations go to Elizabeth and Aziza. BRAIS would like to offer its profound thanks to the Prize Committee as well as all those colleagues who kindly reviewed this year's submissions. Particular thanks go to Prize Chair, Dr Saeko Yazaki, and Prize Coordinator, Dr Anthony Allison, who dedicated a tremendous amount of time and care to the process. Anthony stepped down as Prize Coordinator this year and we cannot thank him enough for the professionalism and commitment he has shown since he assumed the role.

Equality, Diversity and Inclusion

BRAIS Officers met in Edinburgh for a long overdue Away Day on Thursday 8 September 2022. The primary focus of the discussion was Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI), and we are extremely grateful to BRAIS's EDI Officer, Alyaa Ebbiary, for facilitating our discussions and taking the lead on BRAIS's EDI agenda. EDI will be a key priority for BRAIS over the next three years, with plans in place to collect EDI data across UK Islamic Studies and produce an EDI strategy within the next 18 months. A sub-group will be convened to take this vital work forward.

Brief statement of the charity's policy on reserves

Our policy is to maintain a reserve of at least £20,000. This is approximate to the yearly running costs of BRAIS assuming an annual conference is delivered.

Details of any funds materially in deficit

N/A

Further financial review details (Optional information)

You **may choose** to include additional information, where relevant about:

- the charity's principal sources of funds (including any fundraising);
- how expenditure has supported the key objectives of the charity;
- investment policy and objectives including any ethical investment policy adopted.

BRAIS is funded through two primary sources:

- 1) Membership subscriptions
- 2) Income from our annual conference

We have ambitions to diversify our funding sources and this will be a priority in the next 18 months.

Section F**Other optional information****Section G****Declaration**

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)



Full name(s)

Fozia Bora

Thomas Lea

Position (eg Secretary, Chair, etc)

Chair

Secretary

Date

30/08/2023



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

British Association for Islamic Studies

1196378

Receipts and payments accounts

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For the period
from

Period start date
03/11/2021

To

Period end date
15/11/2022

Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Endowment funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £	Last year to the nearest £
A1 Receipts					
Membership subscriptions	4,372	-	-	4,372	-
2022 Conference delegate fees	11,687	-	-	11,687	-
2022 Conference Publisher Exhibition income	3,022	-	-	3,022	-
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	19,080	-	-	19,080	8,893
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	19,080	-	-	19,080	8,893
A3 Payments					
2022 Conference Facilities	4,450	-	-	4,450	-
2022 Conference Catering	5,011	-	-	5,011	-
2022 Conference Keynote Expenses	505	-	-	505	-
2022 Conference Bursaries	900	-	-	900	-
Trustee Expenses (conference and away day)	2,354	-	-	2,354	-
Charity consultancy fee	700	-	-	700	-
Projects Coordinator fee	2,396	-	-	2,396	-
Bank charges	140	-	-	140	-
BRAIS-De Gruyter Prize	1,150	-	-	1,150	-
BRAIS-De Gruyter Prize Coordinator	500	-	-	500	-
TRS-UK Subscription	100	-	-	100	-
Website Redesign	2,880	-	-	2,880	-
Subscription refunds	120	-	-	120	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	21,207	-	-	21,207	11,312
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	21,207	-	-	21,207	11,312
Net of receipts/(payments)	- 2,126	-	-	- 2,126	- 2,420
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	34,318	-	-	34,318	36,738
Cash funds this year end	32,192	-	-	32,192	34,318

Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B1 Cash funds		32,192	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
	Total cash funds	32,192	-	-
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	OK	OK	OK



	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B2 Other monetary assets		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-

	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
B3 Investment assets			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-

	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-

	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
B5 Liabilities			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	

Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees

Signature	Print Name	Date of approval
	Haroon Sidat	01/09/2023
	Thomas Lea	31/08/2023