



Shaykh Musab Penfound

Lecturer and Researcher in Islamic Studies

Place of Birth and Origin: Manchester, England

Religious Journey and Early Education

Musab Penfound was born and raised in Manchester, England. In early 2005, at the age of eighteen, he embraced Islam, marking the beginning of his spiritual journey and commitment to Islamic learning. A year following his conversion, he traveled to pursue the study of Arabic and foundational religious sciences, recognizing the importance of linguistic and foundational knowledge for advanced Islamic study. Upon his return to England, he completed his university degree at the University of Manchester whilst simultaneously continuing his religious studies locally, demonstrating his dedication to integrating secular and Islamic education.

Traditional Islamic Training at Dar al-Mustafa

In 2010, Penfound returned to pursue advanced studies at Dar al-Mustafa, the renowned seminary located in Tarim, Hadramaut, Yemen. There he engaged in a comprehensive full-time program of religious training rooted in three foundational pillars: Sacred Knowledge (‘Ilm), Spiritual Discipline and Purification (Suluk), and Islamic Outreach and Calling (Da‘wah). This integrated approach provided him with both deep scholarly knowledge and practical spiritual development necessary for Islamic leadership and teaching.

Distinguished Teachers and Scholarly Formation

During his studies at Dar al-Mustafa, Penfound benefited from instruction under several of the most respected contemporary Islamic scholars, including Habib Ali al-Mashour bin Hafidh, Habib Umar bin Hafidh, Habib Kadhim al-Saqqaf, Habib Muhammad al-Aydarus, and Shaykh Umar al-Khatib. These luminaries provided him with comprehensive training in Islamic sciences, spiritual guidance, and the methodologies of Islamic teaching and da‘wah.

International Teaching and Translation Work

Since 2017, whilst continuing his advanced Islamic studies, Penfound has undertaken extensive international travel and service. He has traveled to numerous countries including Italy, Sweden, the United Kingdom, Singapore, Malaysia, Indonesia, South Africa, Kenya, Australia, New Zealand, and other nations. During these travels, he has engaged in two primary forms of service.



He has served as an interpreter and translator for distinguished Islamic scholars, facilitating communication and knowledge transfer between international Islamic teachers and local Muslim communities. He has also conducted Islamic classes and educational programs in various locations, transmitting Islamic knowledge and providing spiritual guidance to diverse audiences across multiple continents.

Educational Initiatives and Leadership

Penfound is currently engaged in various comprehensive educational initiatives designed to serve Muslim communities globally. He participates in and oversees a range of online educational initiatives that make Islamic knowledge accessible to students worldwide, transcending geographical boundaries and enabling global participation in Islamic education. In addition, he is actively involved in programs dedicated to supporting individuals who have recently embraced Islam, providing Islamic education, spiritual guidance, and community integration support tailored to the needs of new Muslims. He further serves in an advisory capacity for international Islamic outreach and calling initiatives, contributing his expertise and experience to projects designed to promote Islamic knowledge and understanding across diverse cultural and geographical contexts.

Community Leadership and Mentorship

Penfound serves as mushrif (Supervisor and Mentor) for the local community of students at Dar al-Mustafa, providing mentorship, spiritual guidance, and oversight of the academic and spiritual development of students. Additionally, he serves as mushrif for regular international initiatives, including the Dowra and the Winter Retreat in Tarim. The Dowra and the Winter Retreat in Tarim are intensive Islamic study programs that bring together students from around the world for focused learning, providing participants with intensive training in Islamic sciences and spiritual development. In these roles, he provides guidance, mentorship, and pastoral care to international participants, ensuring their spiritual and academic success.

Areas of Expertise

His specialized knowledge encompasses Islamic jurisprudence, Qur'anic sciences, hadith studies, Islamic theology and creed, Islamic spirituality and Sufism (Tasawwuf), Islamic da'wah and outreach methodology, Islamic education and pedagogy, and contemporary Islamic thought. He is particularly skilled in cross-cultural communication, international Islamic education, supporting converts to Islam, and facilitating dialogue between traditional Islamic scholarship and contemporary contexts.

Current Focus and Mission

His present work focuses on advancing Islamic education and da'wah on an international scale. Through his teaching, translation work, mentorship, and involvement in educational initiatives, he endeavors to make authentic Islamic knowledge accessible to diverse global audiences. His mission centers on supporting Muslim communities worldwide, particularly new Muslims and seekers of knowledge, while maintaining fidelity to classical Islamic tradition and promoting effective Islamic da'wah rooted in wisdom and compassionate engagement with contemporary society.

