

About me

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[...]

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[...]

## Background and Early years

I was born in the Southern part of Nigeria in a predominantly non-Muslim part of the Country. At the age of 6 my family then moved to the Northern part of the country where it is predominantly Muslim. At the age of 12, I moved to a boarding school outside Nigeria where I studied at the British School of Lome in Togo. Togo is a Francophone country with a sizeable muslim community. At the age of 15 I was appointed the Ameer by the Muslim Chaplain. The other senior students were overlooked for the position due to their inactiveness. The muslims are a minority in the school. My main task was in enjoining and establishing The Salaah on campus and in dormitories, and encouraging people to attend Quran classes and student Halaqahs I ran.

Alhamdulillah within a year, a special praying area was built on our behalf. Initially we just prayed on grass, empty classrooms and where not? The position instilled in me an added responsibility to be a good ambassador of islam and a caller towards Allah. The school was small with only about 250 students, but there were more than 40 different nationalities from all over the world, from the West Indies to Europe and Africa itself. We established a good reputation and alhamdulillah, Allah guided 2 people to Islam with many others inclined but unable to revert back to their Fitrah for fear of a backlash from their friends and family. (May Allah guide them. Ameen)

## Global Youth and Leadership Conference, in the US

I was one of two representatives of our school at the Global Youth and Leadership Conference 2004, organised by the Congressional Youth Leadership Council Foundation. This took place in Washington DC and New York. Throughout the conference, a group of 20 people from different parts of the world and America are put together to represent a country. At different times, we act as foreign ministers, ambassadors and policy makers. A sample schedule to demonstrate both the scope and intensity of the program can be seen on the link below;

[http://www.cylc.org/gylc/GYLC\\_sample\\_schedule.cfm](http://www.cylc.org/gylc/GYLC_sample_schedule.cfm)

It was an opportunity to explore and exchange ideas on pertinent global issues from people all around the world who have shown good leadership qualities. It was also an opportunity to learn from top business leaders, policy officials, diplomats, lobbyists, leading academics and journalists.

## University

I study Mechanical Engineering with Business Finance UCL. The major is in Mechanical Engineering which I study at UCL and the minor is in Business Finance which I study at LSE. UCL was ranked 9th in the world in the Times Higher Education Supplement (THES) University rankings. LSE is ranked 3rd in the World after Harvard and Berkeley in the Social Sciences also according to the THES QS rankings. The course is demanding and challenging. The aim is for one to come out stronger in an ever competitive world after going through such a rigorous vetting process. InshaAllah I will be graduating this year after my final exams in June.

## Ameer of UCL Islamic Society

I was President of the Islamic Society towards the end of my first year and I became the Ameer in my second year. The President is in charge of the day to day running of the Islamic Society and is accountable to the University Student Union. The Ameer is the Chairman of the society and is responsible for chairing the meetings, Khutbahs and serves as a mentor to the president. In other words the President is like the CEO while the Ameer is the final decision maker. This set up was there before I came in and works pretty well.

There were many ups and downs during my time as a volunteer and leader in the Islamic society. All Praise and thanks to Allah who surrounded me with a wonderful team of brothers and sisters, who in truth were the backbone and engineers of all the successful projects we carried out, and I take all blame for our shortcomings during that period.

The position of leadership exposes ones weaknesses and it was an opportunity for me to review my intentions, building leadership skills and turn to Allah more in repentance. Our society are pioneers of making trailers to advertise events for Islamic societies in the UK on Youtube, which has now become a phenomenon among all other Islamic Societies in the UK.

<http://youtube.com/watch?v=rRozXRCTPz4>

Below is a link of some of the variety of Events we did and a view of some of our breath taking Posters..

[http://www.makeaneasywebsite.com/uclisoc/preparing\\_to\\_stand\\_before\\_allah\\_series](http://www.makeaneasywebsite.com/uclisoc/preparing_to_stand_before_allah_series)

## Sabeel Retreat Course- Minhaj-ul-Istidhlal

This course was a 3 day intensive program organised by the Muslim Research and Development Foundation headed by Sheikh Haytham Al-Haddad. The MRDF committee includes students from Madinah University and Professional from a variety of backgrounds.

The course Manhaj Al Istidhlal was the first 3 day intensive retreat organised by MRDF and alhamdulillah I was one of the pioneering students. The course is actually in 3 parts and the 2 parts are to come in the near future. We studied the sources of Knowledge in Islam. We looked at the Quran, Sunnah, Ijma and Qiyaas. The course also included sessions on build many team building and media skills sessions. The other two parts of the course will look at the understanding and implementation of the sources. Alhamdulillah I passed the Exams with a Distinction.

[www.mrdf.co.uk](http://www.mrdf.co.uk)

## OneEid Project

I volunteered in organising The OneEid event December 2007 in London under Alfitrah. The project is in its infancy and its aim is to promote unity through Eid celebration, reviving the sunnah of praying

Eid Salah in the open, giving the women the opportunity to come out with their family and listen to the Eid khutba (rather than just cooking food for the men who rush out of the Masjid to come back home to eat) and make the children have something to look forward to, after they have been seeing the Christmas phenomenon. The main organiser is inspired by his experience of massive Eid celebrations in North America, while here in London where there is a large population of muslims within very close proximity, there is no such massive Eid Salaah. Indeed whoever revives a Sunnah will get the reward of all those who follow it. This is the main motive for all the organisers and volunteers.

<http://1eid.net/home.html>

### Weekend Local Masjid Quran Class

After some persistent demand from the youth, the local masjid has recently started Weekend Quran classes for males and females of all ages. I attend the classes to polish my Tajweed, work on my quran memorisation and help the younger students improve their reading. Indeed as a hadith from Uthman (RA) reported: the Prophet (SAW) said the best among you are those who learn the quran and then teach it. This is why I strive to establish these weekend classes.

### Arabic

I went to Yemen where the spoken dialect is closer to fusha than most other spoken Arabic dialects today. I spent 3 months during the summer on a One-on-One intensive Arabic program and alhamdulillah, I left able to read the Quran without refering to the English translation, and that

was my main goal. This was instrumental in easing my path to memorising the Quran and more importantly developing Khushoo in Salaah. I visited several parts of Yemen in search of some of the oldest Islamic historical sites. And the beautiful scenery of the Yemeni landscape . Indeed Allah says “Travel through the world and see what was the end of those who denied the truth”. The new capital city is interlinked with the old city from 100 of years ago, and it is a humbling experience to meet get the best of both worlds, interact with the locals, and visit the old Souks.

I still have some way to go in grammar and maintaining speaking fluently. I consolidated my grammar afterwords with a part time Arabic Institute, in London Ibn Jabal ([www.ibnjabal.com](http://www.ibnjabal.com)). The 15 week course covers Arabic grammar taught over 3 years in British Universities. I passed the Exam with 75%.