

Case Study: Centre for Muslim-Christian Studies

The first 'Oxford Muslim-Christian Summer School', organised by the Centre for Muslim-Christian Studies in association with Ebrahim College and the Islamic College for Advanced Studies



In September 2014 the Sir Halley Stewart Trust awarded a grant of £5,000 to the [Centre for Muslim-Christian Studies](#) to support the introduction of Summer Schools for Emerging Faith Leaders. The aim was to reach the next generation of Christian and Muslim faith leaders and improve inter-faith understanding and relations.



The 2015 Oxford Muslim-Christian Summer School was the first ever event of its kind in Britain, with Christian and Muslim colleges cooperating together on a residential school. It was a seven day programme of intensive shared study for six Christian and six Muslim UK-based theological students in their 20's and 30's. Together with other co-funders, the Trust's grant enabled participants to attend lectures, workshops and tutorials led by Christian and Muslim academics that explored sacred texts, shared history and contemporary issues, as well as plenty of time to get to know one another through group activities and explore areas of shared interest.



Muslims and Christians were able to learn about - and from - each other; not avoiding or denying differences and difficult topics but addressing them with gentleness and respect; seeking to understand before seeking to be understood; speaking positively of their own faith rather than speaking critically of the other. By facilitating the development and sustainability of an attendee network, including through reunion gatherings, the grantee has ensured the impact of this project will be felt long into the future.

"More than anything though it was the friendships I made that have excited me, full of honest conversation, and a desire to keep in touch and journey together. I'll certainly be calling people in the future!" (Christian)

"At the start of this week, I could not have imagined building such positive and, God-willing, fruitful relationships as the ones that I have built at the 2015 Summer School. A huge thank you to those who made it possible. I pray your generosity has ensured the start of a new future for inter-faith dialogue and work and continues to do so for years to come." (Muslim)



The project was a great success and the summer school programme is now in its third year. For more information, please visit: www.cmcsoxford.org.uk/studying/summer-courses.