

**CENTRAL SPIRITUAL DIRECTORATE  
OF MUSLIMS OF RUSSIA**



**RUSSIAN  
ISLAMIC  
UNIVERSITY**



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**The Russian Islamic University CSDM of Russia:  
The History and nowadays**

**UFA 2011**

UDC 63.3 (2 Rus. Bash) - 8  
BBKT 12

Published by the decision of the Academic Council  
Russian Islamic University CSDM of RF.

Yakupov RI The author. Russian Islamic University CSDM of Russia: history and nowadays. Ufa: RIU, 2011. 35p. Ill.

*This publication provides basic information about the Russian Islamic University, the Central Spiritual Directorate of Muslims of Russia, about the origin, formation and development stages. Particular attention is paid to the prehistory RIU - Galia prerevolutionary madrassas, madrasas in the mosque of Abdulkadira Dzhaylyani ("Tukaevsky"), and the Islamic Institute of R. Fahretdinov. Revealed the structure and features of the educational process at the RIU, internal and external communications, long-term objectives of the development.*

*For professionals and students of Muslim religious educational Institutions and for everybody who is interested in the history of Islam and religious educational systems.*

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ISBN

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## **FROM THE HISTORY OF MUSLIM EDUCATION IN UFA**



*The city of Ufa since the reign of Catherine II was a center of Islamic science, culture and education in Russia. Time from the end of XIX - early XX centuries. – is the time of foundation of new Madrasah. In 1906, in Ufa was opened madrasahs' Galia-Diniya "- which later became a well-known center for education in the Muslim world. One of the initiators and the madrasah was a permanent rector Zia*

*Kamali . In 10 of October 1906 the first lesson in madrasah "Galia" for 70 Shakirds of the first tread was began in the cellar of the second parish mosque of Ufa. Zia Kamali, with the help of patrons Nazyrovs S. and noblewoman S. Yanturinovs and other residents of Ufa City and Ural-Volga region are organized a new constructing of madrasah. The building was constructed in the shortest possible terms. It was the best creation of the architecture and one of the best building in the City at that time. As a rule, mostly of government agencies accommodated in such buildings. The well knowing poet of Bashkortostan S. Kudashov recalled: "The first time*



*when I getting into the madrasah "Galia ", I was a witness of miracle events. Everything here in this large three-storey building was new to me, especially central heating system, kitchen, dining room, coffee shop and luggage storage at the ground floor of it. On the second floor there are the office, study physics,*

*Shakirds hostel with bunk beds in rooms. On the third floor there are a rich library, reading room, classrooms.....". Zia Kamali invited to profess in madrasah a high educated staff. Galimzhan Ibragimov who was teaching Tatar language and literature used to be a very authoritative person for students and colleague. Very diligent and highly educated teacher of Arabic was Bagadi, who got education in Kazan and the Hijaz Saitsharif Ziganshin who lived 18 years in Saudi Arabia and got education there. The teacher of History was Fatih Saifi Kazanskiy who had an extensive knowledge. Gabdulla Shunasi (Ibragimov) who graduated of Islamic teachers' institute in Turkey, was teaching physics, chemistry, pedagogy, methodology and French. Habibullah Zain, who graduated from Pedagogical University in Turkey, was leading lessons of Geography and History. He was fluent in Turkish and Russian languages.*



*Madrasah "Galia" had three preclasses and three main classes with annual study. In the preclasses were taken only those young men who have successfully graduated a course of ordinary madrasah and successfully passed the entrance exams. Pedagogy was studied in three main classes: on the first*

*course – the general pedagogy and main aspects of the theory of education and psychology, in the second and third courses - didactics and methodology of primary education in madrasah and mosques. Six-year course of study in madrasah "Galia" included three steps: Rushdie (the lower), Igdadi (middle), Gali (the highest). Curriculum and programs in all subjects were consisted of a differential principles like an ascending line which have been permanently improving and developing and every time new methods and teaching materials were appeared. Madrasah "Galia" has earned wide popularity. It was an educational center for study the Muslims of Ufa, Orenburg and Kazan, and place*



*where students came from Central Russia, the Crimea, Siberia, Central Asia, the Caucasus and beyond. Among the inmates of madrasah 'Galia' were well known cultural figures of Bashkortostan: H. Ibragimov, A.Z. Validi, M. Gafuri, S. Babich, M. Zhumabayev, B. Suleev, I. Sultanov, S. Gabyashi, uzbek writer M. Shermukhamedov, kazakh*

*poet B. Myleene, kyrgyz writer A. Sadykov, poet A. Hatkov and many other prominent personalities of science, culture and education. One thousand and a half students have finished madrasah since its foundation and that's why its became well known madrasah around the Islamic world. 'Galia' means - "High". Madrasah "Galia" was the pride of the national religious education of the last century that this purpose has never changed. Madrasah were existing for thirteen years - from 1906 to 1919. Then became the long period of state unbelief. After the revolution of 1917 madrasah "Galia" was closed. Its building became a school for worker and peasant youth. Just in January, 1989, became possible to revival of spiritual education system. And, since the fate of this high Madrasah intertwined with other Islamic universities of the new type.*



### *The connection of time and fate*

*In 1989, under the Council Regulation for Religious Affairs of the Cabinet of Ministers of the USSR, in Ufa under the Central Spiritual Directorate of Muslims of European part of USSR and Siberia, the first higher educational institution - madrasah - a two-year training imams and clerics was reborn. At the first flow there were filed more than 300 applications, but the government of those days allowed to enter only 71 students.*

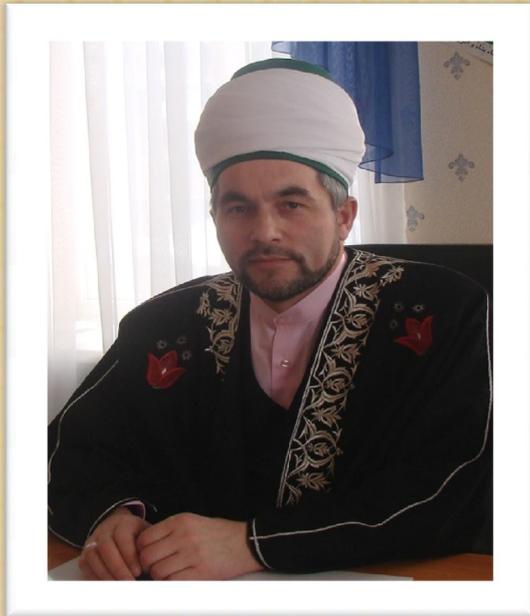
*The first head of madrasah was Kasim Hazrat Salimov and the Rector of the Institute was Ravil Utyabay-Karimi. Talgat Hazrat Tajuddin also has put all his efforts and his outstanding teaching and organizational skills for the establishing of Madrasah. Ravil hazrat Mamleev has taken an active part in the educational process. According to the current requirements of Higher education, on the base of madrasah, the Central Spiritual Directorate of Muslims of Russia founded the Islamic Institution of Rizaetdin ibn Fakhretdin.*

*For a while, it was headed by Rinat Hazrat Raev, the graduate of the Ufa Madrasah. In 2001, according the decision of the Presidium of the Republic of Bashkortostan and Ufa City Council of the Republic of Bashkortostan, the building of madrasah "Galia" was returned and owned CSDM of Russia. So, streamed and joined the historical fate of this famous Institution and the future of the Russian Islamic University.*

*In a short time, the building was repairing, all equipment were purchased and the physical infrastructure and the infrastructure for the implementation of educational activities were developed. Since that, Islamic Institute of R. Fahretdin located here. The further development of the Islamic Institute has made possible to convert it into the Russian Islamic University of Central Spiritual Administration of Muslims of Russia.*

*The head department includes Rectorat and full-time office is located in the main building of University in Madrasah Ghalia. By the way, earlier, the complex of historical buildings which includes standing Mosque and Madrasah of Hakimov were given under control of CSDM of Russia. With the creation of The Russian Islamic University this historical complex of building was transferred under its jurisdiction.*

*Firstly, it was the hostel for female students, and after the reconstruction, it became a teaching department for female of the theological-pedagogical faculty of the RIU. The University was developing according to the society requirements to get spiritual education. The increasing interest of the elder generation to study the background of Islam led to open on the basis of the Mosque "Lyalya-Tulip" which was built in 1998, evening and part-distance branches of*



*the University, which were streamed into the Faculty of the Fundamentals of the Faith and the History of Islam in 2007. Comfortable classes, previously used for Shariah study courses and hostel which was included into the complex of the Mosque "Lyalya – Tulip" became the base of the Faculty and the third educational building of the Russian Islamic University. For the period of twenty years of existence, starting up as a small Madrasah of "Tukaevsky" Mosque which miracle saved in the Soviet era of unbelief, and*

*became to full-fledged University, the first University in the post-Soviet Russia, has prepared more than one thousand Islamic Imam-Khatibs for the parishes of Muslim communities in Russia and CIS. They upbringing education work in their regions and preach traditional values of Islam.*

*From madrassas "Hakimia" and "Galia", the Russian Islamic University of CSDM of Russia inherited not only historical educational buildings. These walls seemed embodies the spirit of striving for knowledge and spiritual development, a high spirit of serving to the people. Zia Kamali said: "Madrasah for me - my blood that flows in my veins, it is - my sleepless nights without end, it is - all my joy and life." This imperative of the famous predecessor actually in nowadays for all teachers of the Russian Islamic University.*



## UNIVERSITY TODAY: HIGHLIGHTS

### Legal base of activity

*The founder of the university is the Central Spiritual Administration of Muslims of Russia. Founder defines the main directions of educational work at the University, defines the standards and basic educational programs, defines the regulations of the departments and supervises all activities of the University.*

*The basis of the inner life of the University is the Sharia Law. At the same time, the Russian*

*Islamic University acts in accordance with laws and regulations according to the legislation of the Russian Federation.*

*The Russian Islamic University has its own state registration at the Ministry of Justice of the Russian Federation - and the license of the Ministry of Education and Science to provide educational processes. The University has got the first license in 2004, and in 2009 successfully passed the Expert Control Committee of high education and re-licensing. Thus, the activity of the University is guided by regulations and decrees of CSDM of Russia and is under the Federal legislation, but at the same time, the University aimed to bring the curricula and training programs to the Government requirements and standards used by the secular Universities.*

*It means that the University makes all efforts to get compatibility of the educational resources with all Institutions in part of general education courses. At the same time, the Russian Islamic University strictly follows all standards of spiritual education and teaching training in the preparation of priests and teachers of Islam.*





*The background of the educational process is constantly being improved and expanded. The next step is to bring curricula and training programs of theology for imams and teachers of Islam, according to the international standards, both for European standards and standards of Muslim world. According to this decision, since 2009 the Russian Islamic University has been developing compatible education standards and master's training programs.*

***The main and the one founder of the Russian Islamic University is the Central Spiritual Directorate of Muslims of Russia.***

*The history of the Central Spiritual Directorate of Muslims of Russia was beginning in 1773, when by order of Empress Catherine was given a decree of the Synod "About the tolerance of all religions ..." which declare in part, "... as God on Earth tolerates all faiths, languages and religions, so and her Majesty deigns to do like this reigned wishing always love and harmony. ". This document broken up the semi-legal status of Islam in Russia and attempted to force Muslims to accept Christianity. Fifteen years later, in September 1788, the Decree of the Empress was issued which declare "... the determination of the mullahs and other religious officials of the Mohammedan law and establishing a Spiritual Meeting in Ufa for the further management of all spiritual officials which is taking place in Russia." Since that time, Ufa became the Center of the Muslim community of Russia, and Mohammedan Spiritual Assembly became the main spiritual official which headed by Mufti.. The first Mufti was Mukhamedzhan Huseynov, after him was Mufti Gabdusalyam Gabdrahimov, then Mifti Gabdulvahid Suleymanov , Mufti Salingarey Tevkelev, then - Mufti Mukhamedyar Sultanov, after him – Mufti Muhammad al-Safa Bayazitov. Immediately after the February Revolution of 1917, national figures of Ufa took under control and ousted the Mufti OMDS M. Bayazitov.*



*To lead OMDS was established a special Committee which consisted of 16 people and chaired by Imam Ahtjamov Habibullah. Spiritual Assembly was renamed the TsDUM. In 1920 Galimzhan Baroody has taken the post of*

*Mufti, in 1923 he was replaced by Rizaettdin Fahrettdin (1859-1936), in 1936 Gabdrahman Rasulev has got the post of Mufti. TsDUM was transformed into the Spiritual Administration of Muslims of European USSR and Siberia (DUMES) in 1948 by the decision of Congress of*



*Muslim Clergy. After Gabdrahman Rasulev, Shakir Hilyalettdinov was Mufti for a short time, then Gabdulbari Isaev and finally, in 1980, Sheikh ul-Islam Talgat Safa Tajuddin became the Mufti. In*

*1992, at the VI Extraordinary Congress of Muslims of Russia, was taken a decision to transform the structure DUMES in the Central Spiritual Directorate of Muslims of Russia and European CIS countries. Tthe Spiritual Administration of Muslims was the Center of the Muslim community in Russia every time. It regulated all directions of the inner life of Muslims. In the last quarter of XIX century OMDS headed 4254 parish, 3.4 million parishioners of both sexes, 65 Akhunds, 2734 Imam-Khatibs, 2621 Mudarrises, 2783 Muadzins. In the second decade of the twentieth century, there were 4.5 million parishioners of both sexes, 5771 and the arrival of 12,341 clergy of various ranks. Novadays, the TsDUM includes of about fifteen hundred communities (Mahalla) and Mosques which headed by well-educated Imams. Local management is carried out by Muhtasibats which total number to approximately three hundred. "*

*That's why, the CSDM of Russia has become a stronghold revival of Muslim education in Russia in early 1990 - ies of the XX century and became the founder of the first educational institutions. The first stream of students in Madres which was at the Congregational Ufa Mosque of Dzhelalatdin Dzhaylyani ("Tukaevsky") consisted of 71 people. Today, the number of annual entrants is in three times more, and the number of students of all courses is more in ten times. The Founder defines the main directions of the RIU, the content of the educational process, its ideology, current and future plans, and acts as a guarantor, the guarantor and protector of RIU in all its external relations and projects. The Central Spiritual Board is controlling the quality of teaching process and student's education according to the tradition of the Muslims high - level school of Russia.*

### ***The Structure of the Russian Islamic University***

*During the period of formation of the University, it was planned to create only two*



*faculties: the faculty of theology and the faculty of pedagogy. The Theological faculty was established in 2003 and had three divisions: full time, part-time (evening) and correspondence. All key functions of management and organization of*

*educational process were served by the Administration and the Dean of the Theological faculty. At the same time, some branches of the RIU were developing in Oktyabrsky, Ulyanovsk, s. Alkino Samara Region, Orenburg in the status of Madrasah. Time has making corrections to the principles of the educational process and therefore in the management structure of the University. They were due to an increase in the number of students of all departments, increasing quality requirements for teaching in high school and increased governments attention to issues of theological education, correcting the aim of the RIU and due to multiplication directions of working. The situation has been particularly active began to change in 2007 according to the initiative of Russian President Vladimir Putin and the Russian State Program "About the support of theological education, education of tolerance, prevention of extremism and training students with in-depth knowledge of the history and culture of Islam."*

*To achieve the main aims of the above mentioned program, the State "Foundation «For the Support of the Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization" was established and the Consortium of leading secular and Islamic schools was created, which was aimed to the development of professional skills of teachers, Muslims madrasahs and University and to establish in them optimal educational process and improve the quality of teaching. At the end of 2007, the RIU of CSDM of Russia streamed in the Consortium and has made a contractual relationship with the University partner - Bashkir State Teacher Training University, and actively began to form of new curricula and educational programs. It made changes in the structure of University. In 2007-2008. two faculties were distinguishing: the Theological and Pedagogical Faculty is divided into two divisions (male and female), Faculty of Background and Islamic history is also divided into internal-distance and distance. In 2010, the Faculty of retraining, advanced training and further education was established and in 2011 a Preparatory Department in the status of the faculty was also established. All branches of the RIU CSDM of Russia are acquired an independent status (special secondary education institutions - madrasahs) and have got a license of the regional education departments and education and have got an official state registration, through the treaties established a Partnership "The Russian Islamic University."*

*The structure of the university management is also changed. There are a lot of new services appeared: The Service Vice President for Academic, scientific, educational, administrative and economic work, financial and economic department and Academic Secretariat. Services are formed and including: the educational and scientific management, management of property, editorial and publishing department, archives and library department, practices, Certification Commission (in the status of the department), the Selection Committee, the Academic Council, a training board, the Disciplinary Commission.*

*The faculty offices are formed. The scientific and methodological work is going through the work of five faculty and two interfaculty departments. Among these departments are: the Department of Philosophy and Chair of Islamic history and Law (fiqh) in Theological-pedagogical faculty, Department of History of Islam, Department of the Background of Faith (Akaid) at the Faculty of the foundations of Faith and history of Islam; interfaculty - "The Department of teaching Quran", "The Department of Linguistics "" The Department of Arts and Sciences. "*