Aligarh Muslim University: A Centre of Excellence.. A Way of Life

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Aligarh Muslim University: An Introduction

- **Aligarh Muslim University (A.M.U.)** is a public university, funded by the central Government of India.

- It was established by **Sir Syed Ahmad Khan** as Madrasatul Uloom Musalmanan-e-Hind in 1875, which later became Mohammedan Anglo-Oriental College (MAO College).

- The Mohammedan Anglo-Oriental College became Aligarh Muslim University in 1920.

- The main campus of AMU is located in the city of Aligarh in Western Uttar Pradesh in North India, around 80 miles from New Delhi.
There are three fully functioning off-campus centers of the university located in the cities of Malappuram (Kerala), Murshidabad (West Bengal) and Kishanganj (Bihar).

The university campus occupies an area of over 468 hectares (1,155 acres).

It has total academic staff strength of 2,500 with around 35,000 students.

A special feature of the University is its residential character with most of the staff and students residing on the campus.

There are 19 Halls of Residence and one Non-Resident Students Centre (NRSC) (13 Halls of Residence for Boys and 04 for Girls).
A.M.U.: A Centre of Excellence

- Aligarh Muslim University (AMU) draws students from all corners of the country as well as foreign countries, especially Africa, West Asia and Southeast Asia. In some courses, seats are reserved for students from SAARC and Commonwealth Countries.

- The University has 12 Faculties viz.
  - Agricultural Sciences,
  - Arts
  - Commerce
  - Engineering & Technology
  - Law
  - Life Sciences
  - Medicine
  - Management Studies & Research
  - Science
  - Social Sciences
  - Theology
  - Unani Medicine,

Each faculty comprising of several Departments of Studies.
The University also maintains a number of Colleges, Institutes, Centres and Schools. Notably among them are:

- Women's College
- Centre of Professional Courses
- Interdisciplinary Biotechnology Unit
- Zakir Hussain College of Engineering & Technology
- Ajmal Khan Tibbiya College
- Jawaharlal Nehru Medical College
- Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad Dental College
- Institute of Ophthalmology
- Centre for Advanced Studies in History
- Centre for Women Studies
- Centre for Nehru Studies
- University Polytechnic University
- Women's Polytechnic
- K.A. Nizami Centre for Quranic Studies
- Schools including one special school for the visually challenged students deserve special mention.
Ranking & Foreign Collaboration

• In 2013, the University ranked 8th in the top 10 higher education institutions in India by Times Higher Education World University Rankings.
• Foreign students from various countries of Asia, Middle East, Africa pursue various courses. It has established MoU with various universities of Europe and US for student exchange and developing R & D.
• AMU had produced many notable alumni including the Head of the state & government, politicians, renowned authors & scholars, sportsmen, actors, scientists, etc.
• Alumni of the university are popularly known as ‘ALIGS’.

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A.M.U.: A Way of Life

- AMU is truly representative of the country's multi-religious, multi-racial and multi-lingual character.

- At AMU, Muslims, Hindus, Sikhs and Christians come from all parts of the country - right from Kashmir to Kerala and from Gujarat to Assam - bringing with them different cultural traditions. They share together the joys and concerns of residential life.

- This traditional and harmonious corporate living has made a major contribution to the development of a broad, cosmopolitan and secular attitude.

- The higher objective behind the establishment of this university was not merely the dissemination of knowledge but to provide the necessary skills and mental attitude to face the vagaries of life.

- The founder, Sir Syed Ahmad Khan made a distinction between Talim (Education) and Tarbiyat (Training) - the former prepared a person for an occupation, and the latter was designed to make him a refined person.

- AMU is not only an university, just providing the education and distributing the degrees, but it is regarded as a ‘Movement (a tehreek) to impart and imbibe among students the sense of responsibility towards their nation, society, friends and family.

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Department of Geography..

… the Mecca of Indian Geography
The Department of Geography was established in 1924 to give only undergraduate courses in Geography. Gradually postgraduate courses were also started.

- In 1931 the department produced the first batch of postgraduate students. In 1941, the department produced the first Ph.D.
- The late Prof. Sir L. Dudley Stamp, remarked on his visit to India that, 'Aligarh is the Mecca of Indian Geography' - in view of the notable contributions made by the Department in the field of teaching and research.

Main Areas of Academic Thrust:

The department has in total 17 faculty members, 10 Post Doc Fellows & 55 Ph.D. students.
A.M.U. Geographical Society

- The **A.M.U. Geographical Society** was formed on 27th March 1925. Since then the society is functioning to create interest in Geography among the students.

- The Department of Geography publishes a bi-annual research journal - *The Geographer* a refereed journal of International repute. The first issue came out in 1926.

- The Department also has a **Geographical Research Group** to intensify research, to inculcate interest and to develop observational skills in Geography. The meetings are held regularly every fortnight.

- It is a forum for research students to present their doctoral works, the research papers and their findings and to defend it.

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Infrastructure & Facilities

- The Departmental library contains one of the richest collections of Books and Journals of Geography. At present it has nearly 30,220 Books (reference and Texts Books) and 39 Journals (26 International and 13 national journals).
- The Department has a fully equipped Cartography Lab, Computer Lab, GIS Lab. and a Survey Lab.

- Web Link D/o Geography: http://www.amu.ac.in/departmentpage.jsp?did=5
Thanks

You all are cordially invited to visit AMU