

IIUM ARTS AND CULTURAL PERFORMANCE GUIDELINES (IACPG)

Preamble

The International Islamic University Malaysia is established to accomplish the greatly needed task of reforming contemporary Muslim mentality and to produce better quality graduates and professionals laced with faith ('iman), knowledge ('ilm) and good character (akhlaq). The University aims to carry out all activities to promote the advancement and unification of knowledge and theology in arts and sciences by infusing Islamic values and principles in their broader sense. The University subscribes to Islamic values and has adopted the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) since, with few exceptions, they are in conformity with the maqāṣid al-sharī'ah principles. This applies equally to arts and cultural activities in IIUM regardless of K/C/D/I/Os. Consequently, the University has drafted the following guidelines for IIUM students for the purpose of arts and cultural performances at the university.

These Guidelines shall apply to ALL cultural activities in IIUM regardless of K/C/D/I/Os, and has to be read with **IIUM Code of Conducts**. In the case where IIUM name and clubs are used, the performance and its training must adhere to the following criteria and guidelines.

The line that separates whether the form of entertainment is permissible or otherwise according to Islam is how far the entertainment achieves the aims and principles in Islam, which focus on the well-being of the people and reject any form of destruction. Elements that **promote the thinking modes, cultures and expressions of other than those that are in harmony with the teachings of Islam must be circumvented**.

a. Artiste

i. Personality

Good personality and character have to be constantly maintained at all times, even when not performing on stage and has never been:

- (i) Involved or subjected to disciplinary offences/action
- (ii) Convicted of any offence or crime.

ii. Appearance

1. Decent and well-mannered appearance have to be constantly maintained at all times, even when not performing on stage;
2. Dressed covering the '*aurah*, neat, decent and not wearing clothes that are revealing so as to avoid from being exploited by the audience, and not against Islamic requirements.
3. Dressing conduct, facial and hair grooming shall be moderate and do not resemble the opposite sex. Exception is for make-up that is applied to ensure a uniform appearance before the camera or on stage. As a creative art, make-up enables the actor or performer to take on the appearance of almost any type of character and to be in

character. It is important that make-up is applied skilfully, delicately and subtly so that facial expressions will have natural freedom.

4. Ornaments and grooming have to be appropriate and modest suitable to the custom of the community.

5. Cross dressing is strictly prohibited. However cross dressing in performance should be taken on case to case basis.

b. Performance

i. Performing Arts

1. Utterances, movement's etcetera shall not contain symbols that could be interpreted implicitly or explicitly to be in contradiction with Islamic beliefs, laws and values.

2. The sensitivity of other religions, cultures, races and ethnicities must always be taken into consideration.

3. Situations have to be appropriate so as to avoid feelings of uneasiness among the audience listening or watching.

4. Plot narration not based on reality but fantasy is permitted, if used to impart a worthy message of good virtues and values.

5. Humorous jokes must not be extreme or go beyond the limit, leading to fits of laughter or hysterics. Any comedy must be based on promotion of good virtues and values.

6. Humorous jokes must not be on serious matters, matters that are mourned upon and matters that degrade others.

7. Does not contain elements that are misleading or lies pertaining to certain facts, the use of harsh or obscene words, or slander.

8. Does not contain elements of insult on any individual or organisation.

9. Does not feature violence or any element that may lead to violence among the audience upon watching the performance.

10. Does not cause trauma, emotional stress, or extreme excitement that may lead to an uncontrolled situation of the audience, e.g.: screaming and shouting.

11. Does not act out roles resembling the opposite sex.

ii. Singing

1. Movements, singing, utterances et cetera must not contain symbols or anything that could be interpreted implicitly or explicitly to be in contradiction with the teaching and values of Islam.

2. Polite interaction with the audience whether through words or action.

3. Possess good physical, mental and emotional state of being, as well as not under the influence of harmful/abusive substances.
4. Well controlled performance on stage.
5. Does not show extreme behaviour or go beyond the limit.
6. Solo female singer to perform only in front of all female audience. Any combination of male & female singers is not allowed to perform in front of male audience.
7. Female choir singers can be placed in the background behind male singers.
8. Any performing singer must known to have good ethical conduct and practising religious teaching, free from all sorts of controversy that is related to any of the above stated.

iii. Dance

1. Dance movements must not symbolize or portray implicit or explicit meanings that go against Islamic beliefs, laws and values.
2. Any form of worship, whether directly or indirectly to a being or person is strictly prohibited.
3. Must be in accordance with Islamic laws and norms of the local community.
4. Appearance should not be open to audience exploitation and against Islamic requirements.
5. Dance movements must not bring about slander or incite lust, even though performance is with a legitimate partner or *mahram*.
6. No mixing between the opposite gender in a performance that may bring about *fitnah* or controversy.
7. Does not offend the religion or culture of a certain community.

c. Song

i. Lyrics

1. Shall contain / promote good virtues and moral values.
2. Shall promote awareness and lead to the realization of good virtues and moral values.
3. In keeping with being courteous.
4. The sensitivity of other religions, races and countries has to be observed.
5. Permissible to use translations from al-Qur'an and *Hadith*, ensuring that it regulates with Islamic law and norms.

6. Sacred texts of the Qur'an shall not be used as lyrics, unless the *Iqtibas* method is used (i.e. extracting some Qur'anic words in self-constructed phrases, whilst retaining contextual accuracy and meaning).
7. *Nasyid* in the form of invocation (*du'a*) is permitted.
8. It is not encouraged to use original or non-translated (*matan*) from the Qur'an or *Hadith* as it may result in the wrongful use of pronunciation leading to alteration in meaning.
9. Does not contain imperfect words of the *shahadah*.
10. Does not contain phrases from al-Qur'an translations and *Ahadith* that are manipulated for wrongful purposes;
11. Does not contain phrases of holy words in Islam that are manipulated for wrongful purposes.
12. Does not contain phrases that condemn one's fate and question the Will of Allah.
13. Does not bring about worshipping of any creature, object or person.
14. Does not contain elements of obscenity, inciting lust or symbolic words portraying vulgarity.
15. Does not contain any form of vice (*ma'siah* or *fasad* or that which will lead to actions that are forbidden).
16. Does not contain any form of insult, disrepute, abuse, slander and belittling of others.

ii. Musical Instruments

1. Musical instruments used in performances must be in accordance with the *shari'ah*.
2. Not to be used in accompaniment with the reciting of al-Quran.
3. Not to be used in any programmes held in the prayer hall of a mosque and *surau* or their immediate surrounding areas.

iii. Musical Elements

1. Shall generate a positive environment.
2. Shall evoke peacefulness.
3. Shall promote the feeling of good spirit.
4. Shall not symbolise or represent any form of worship or sacredness of other religions.
5. Shall not lead to disruptive or unintelligible thinking that may lead to one neglecting the remembrance of Allah.
6. Shall not evoke negative emotions that go against the teachings of Islam.

7. Shall not disturb the peace of the community.
8. Shall not lead to any form of vice.

d. Organisation of Entertainment Programmes

i. Any entertainment programmes organised shall take into account the following aspects:

1. Benefit and welfare of the community.
2. Suitable venue.
3. Suitable day and time that does not touch upon the sensitivity of Islamic teachings and community, such as the observance of the five daily prayers during training, practice, meetings and rehearsal. To stop playing musical instruments, singing, performance on stage etc. at the onset of the *adhan*, and to respect and observe prayers on time.
4. To attain approval from the relevant authorities before the programme is organised and prior to the onset of preparations for the performance.

ii. Programmes organised shall not contain the following factors:

1. Elements of ritual, sign or symbol that are against the teachings of Islam, whether directly or indirectly.
2. Actions that are forbidden in Islam or any form of vice and circumstances that may lead to certain undesirable, objectionable or questionable situations.
3. Situations that may lead to disruptions or disturbances to public order.
4. Events that are provocative and lead to prejudice and animosity.
5. Free social interaction between males and females during training or rehearsal.
6. Free mixing of the male and female audiences.
7. Wastage in programme organisation and execution.

iii. Advertisement and Promotion of Programme must adhere to the following:

1. Any printed and digital posters and advertisements must observe the guidelines below:
 - (i) People are appropriately dressed to cover the '*aurah*, are neat, and decent, and are not wearing revealing attires or those that are against Islamic requirement.
 - (ii) Visual displays shall promote good morals and develop the mind as well as instil good behaviour.
 - (iii) Visual displays are respectful, well arranged and accepted by good societal norms.

- (iv) Visual displays are carefully constructed with commendable Islamic ethics and aesthetics.
2. Any printed and digital posters and advertisements must be in compliance with the guidelines on (1) Artiste, (2) Performance, (3) Song and (4) Organization of Entertainment Programme.

e. Video Clips

i. Videos and video-clip recordings shall take into account the following aspects:

1. Video clip recording is done with good intention.
2. In compliance with the guidelines on: (1) Artiste, (2) Performance, (3) Song and (4) Organisation of Entertainment Programme.
3. Visual displays should contain good morals and develop the mind as well as instil good behaviour.
4. Visual displays are respectful, well arranged and with good societal norms.
5. Visual displays are carefully constructed with commendable Islamic ethics and aesthetics.

ii. Video clips shall NOT contain the following aspects:

1. Humiliation towards an individual or the beliefs of a certain community, religion, nation and country.
2. Shot displays (photos or pictures) that are obscene or indecent or shots that are against Islamic values and ethics.
3. Cause disturbances / distractions to the state of emotion, mind and to certain parts of the sensory system.
4. Implicit or explicit visual symbols or anything that contradict with Islamic beliefs, laws and ethical values.
5. Negative displays whether in the form of movement or language that may lead to imitating a certain questionable group.