



Seeing the Unseen

Why Inara?

As Muslim educators, we all share a concern that science—and every subject—be taught from “an Islamic worldview.” At Inara, we believe Muslims already have a sound worldview: every Muslim affirms Allah, His Messenger, the angels, His books, the Day of Judgment and Allah’s decree. What we are feeling the absence of is something we call a “mental habit.”

Muslim science teachers (and students) have iman, yet science education as it currently stands tends to cultivate a mental habit of viewing the seen world as a closed system—one that seems to leave “no real need” for the unseen or for meaning. In this setting, any “Islamic reflection” risks feeling like a sprinkling on top of an otherwise self-contained body of information.

This intensive equips participants to break that pattern. It helps them begin to form a Qur’anic mental habit—so that they and their students begin to see science not as a closed system, but as signs reflecting the unseen, and ultimately connecting us to Allah. Best of all, it does this using the clarity and simplicity of the Quranic language—without complex, philosophical terms.

Inara aims to build a bridge. It relies on the same rigorous foundations referenced by scholars, translating them into an intuitive, experience-based language that any Muslim teacher who knows their religious basics can understand.

In fact, Inara was initially developed for an eleven-year-old.

The Inara Foundations Intensive

The Foundations Intensive is a professional development course for Islamic school educators. Before a teacher can teach students to see the world differently, they themselves must do so.

Unit	Title	Core Focus	Select Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs)
Intro	What is a Mental Habit?	Mental Habit vs. Worldview	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Define the difference between a worldview and a mental habit ✓ Explain how current science pedagogy shapes mental habits ✓ Differentiate between horizontal, direct vertical, and indirect vertical mental habits ✓ State the goal of the Inara Foundations Intensive
1	The Spectrum of Creation	Knowledge between seen and unseen	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Construct a unified framework for “religious” and “scientific” subjects by plotting knowledge on a seen–unseen spectrum ✓ Identify the different modes of direct perception of truth ✓ Explain how these modes change along the spectrum ✓ Analyze the role of trust/report in both scientific and religious knowledge
2	The Human Being: Intellect, Heart, and Layers of the Self	The tools of knowledge; Types of perception; Contingency.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Differentiate the roles of <i>qalb</i>, <i>‘aql</i>, <i>nafs</i>, <i>khayal</i> and <i>hiss</i> in learning ✓ Explain how scientific reasoning entails belief in a Creator ✓ Justify why true learning must address the heart as well as the mind ✓ For ELA teachers: explain why having an accurate map of the human being is foundational for literary analysis ✓ For ELA teachers: apply the map and develop initial exploratory concepts for a new approach to literary analysis
3	Layers of Creation and the Meaning of Āyāt	The unseen structure of the cosmos & how nature reflects it	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Describe creation as existing in layers ✓ Explain the shared role of meaning in language, mind, and creation ✓ Apply the principle of Start with What You See (SWYS) to interpret scientific content ✓ Use the Simple Meaning Language (SML) method* to uncover unseen meanings in scientific facts

*Rooted in a luminous insight found in Imām al-Ghazālī’s *Mishkāt al-Anwār*, the Inara “SML method” uncovers unseen meanings behind the ayahs/signs of Allah in nature.

A New Way of Seeing

The above SLO's convene on a single goal: to show teachers how it is possible to develop a Quranic mental habit—of connecting the seen, to the unseen, to Allah—through their engagement with science.

Inara helps teachers and students see how the unseen, meaning and language are central to the study of science and nature. We do this by helping participants realize the implications of what they already believe—with help from our intellectual and spiritual tradition.¹

The culmination of the course is in Learning the SML method—but even this is just the beginning. Inara invites educators to collaborate in shaping a future where science is reimagined as an exploration of meaning—meaning that connects even the most abstract of scientific facts back to Allah in a coherent and compelling manner.

Who Is This For?

- Muslim Science Teachers seeking to teach biology, chemistry, or physics from a Quranic lens.
- Curriculum Developers & School Leaders ready to rebuild a unified Islamic educational philosophy.
- Any Teacher (of any subject) who senses a disconnect between their belief in their hearts and the way they have been educated to think.

Format

- The Inara Foundations is an intensive. It was originally designed as a semester long course taught two hours a week. We have **condensed it** to: eight, 3-hour, in-person sessions, delivered in one of two models:
 1. Across two weekends (Friday evening, Sat/Sun)
 2. Over one full week (weekday evenings plus weekend).

See sample schedules below.

¹ At Inara, we avoid philosophical jargon. For those philosophically inclined, however: the course guides participants to establish a universal epistemology (drawing on al-Nasafi's framework and applying it to both scientific and religious knowledge). It operationalizes Qur'anic teachings about the heart as a faculty of perception, explored alongside the other faculties. It introduces a layered Qur'anic cosmology and shows how these foundations illuminate scientific facts—especially through a deep exploration of the word *āyah*. Qur'anic interpretive principles are applied to natural phenomena in a way that guards against ontological reductionism, fostering mental habits that naturally move from the seen, to the unseen, to Allah. Importantly, none of this requires philosophy—only Qur'an, hadith, scholarly synthesis and guided conversation.

Model 1: Two-Weekend Intensive (Fri–Sun | Sat—Sun)

Day	Session	Time Breakdown	Topics
Weekend One			
Friday	1	6:00 – 7:15 pm (75 min) 7:15 – 7:35 pm (Break, 20 min) 7:35 – 8:50 pm (75 min)	Intro: What is a Mental Habit? The Spectrum of Creation 1
Saturday	2	8:00 – 9:15 am (75 min) 9:15 – 9:35 am (Break, 20 min) 9:35 – 10:50 am (75 min)	The Spectrum of Creation 2 Spectrum 3 Heart-Perception
	Lunch Break	11:00 – 12:00 pm (60 min)	
	3	1:00 – 2:15 pm (75 min) 2:15 – 2:35 pm (Break, 20 min) 2:35 – 3:50 pm (75 min)	Intellect-Perception 1 Intellect-Perception 2 The Raji'un Model of the Human Being
Sunday	4	8:00 – 9:15 am (75 min) 9:15 – 9:35 am (Break, 20 min) 9:35 – 10:50 am (75 min)	The Layers of Creation 1 The Layers of Creation 2
	Lunch Break	11:00 – 12:00 pm (60 min)	
	5	1:00 – 2:15 pm (75 min) 2:15 – 2:35 pm (Break, 20 min) 2:35 – 3:50 pm (75 min)	Created-Ayah Tafsir Principle: Start with What You See Created-Ayah Tafsir Principle: Every Sign in its Place
Weekend Two			
Saturday	6	8:00 – 9:15 am (75 min) 9:15 – 9:35 am (Break, 20 min) 9:35 – 10:50 am (75 min)	The Layers of Creation 3 (Shooting Stars/Time) The SML Method (The Meaning of $E=mc^2$)
	Lunch Break	11:00 – 12:00 pm (60 min)	
	7	1:00 – 2:15 pm (75 min) 2:15 – 2:35 pm (Break, 20 min) 2:35 – 3:50 pm (75 min)	Language, Meaning & Science The SML Method (The Meaning of Gravity)
Sunday	8	8:00 – 9:15 am (75 min) 9:15 – 9:35 am (Break, 20 min) 9:35 – 10:50 am (75 min)	The SML Method (The Meaning of the Dead Sea Transform) The SML Method (“Noble” Gases & Introduction to Cross-Cutting Meanings)

Model 2: Weekday Evenings + Weekend

Day	Session	Time Breakdown	Topics
Monday	1	6:00 – 7:15 pm (75 min) 7:15 – 7:35 pm (Break, 20 min) 7:35 – 8:50 pm (75 min)	Intro: What is a Mental Habit? The Spectrum of Creation 1
Tuesday	2	6:00 – 7:15 pm (75 min) 7:15 – 7:35 pm (Break, 20 min) 7:35 – 8:50 pm (75 min)	The Spectrum of Creation 2 Spectrum 3 Heart-Perception
Wednesday	3	6:00 – 7:15 pm (75 min) 7:15 – 7:35 pm (Break, 20 min) 7:35 – 8:50 pm (75 min)	Intellect-Perception 1 Intellect-Perception 2 The Raji'un Model of the Human Being
Thursday	4	6:00 – 7:15 pm (75 min) 7:15 – 7:35 pm (Break, 20 min) 7:35 – 8:50 pm (75 min)	The Layers of Creation 1 The Layers of Creation 2
Friday	5	6:00 – 7:15 pm (75 min) 7:15 – 7:35 pm (Break, 20 min) 7:35 – 8:50 pm (75 min)	Created-Ayah Tafsir Principle: Start with What You See Created-Ayah Tafsir Principle: Every Sign in its Place
Saturday	6	8:00 – 9:15 am (75 min) 9:15 – 9:35 am (Break, 20 min) 9:35 – 10:50 am (75 min)	The Layers of Creation 3 (Shooting Stars/Time) The SML Method (The Meaning of $E=mc^2$)
	Lunch	11:00 – 12:00 pm (60 min)	
	7	1:00 – 2:15 pm (75 min) 2:15 – 2:35 pm (Break, 20 min) 2:35 – 3:50 pm (75 min)	Language, Meaning & Science The SML Method (The Meaning of Gravity)
Sunday	8	8:00 – 9:15 am (75 min) 9:15 – 9:35 am (Break, 20 min) 9:35 – 10:50 am (75 min)	The SML Method (The Meaning of the Dead Sea Transform) The SML Method (“Noble” Gases & Introduction to Cross-Cutting Meanings)

High School Students & Schedule Restrictions

For High Schoolers we reduce some of the content and offer the intensive in **five (not eight), 3-hour sessions across a single weekend, or M-F in the evenings**. We can offer the same for adults if neither of the above two intensive options work, though it is (of course) more intensive.

Fees

Course Fees \$375 per participant. Includes healthy refreshments, and 160+ page text with online supplementary material. However, we do not want fees get in the way of this work, which is of utmost importance. The fees mostly cover cost, with some extra to help Inara grow. We are happy to discuss fees further with admin if this cost is restrictive. Again, the work is more important than any other consideration.

Universal Principles

Our goal is to help your teachers learn a Quranically grounded, meaning-centered science pedagogy.

However, we have had the blessing of teaching the Inara Foundations Intensive to Darul Ulum students, college students, high schoolers and parents, including people who work across a variety of fields—not just science. While our focus is science, the foundational principles taught here are universal and can ultimately be applied to any subject area. We pray that in the future we will be able to offer focused courses for each subject, helping students, teachers and parents apply the principles learned in this intensive so that they might see the meanings of the signs in nature, literature, history or mathematics—reconnecting modern knowledge with a new—yet ancient—perspective.

We ask Allah for His aid.

If you are interested in scheduling an Inara Foundations Intensive, please get in touch:

saleem@inaraeducation.org.