



## 10<sup>th</sup> Graduation Ceremony

**LIFELONG LEARNING**  
**“FROM THE CRADLE TO THE GRAVE”**

DELIVERED BY  
The Most Eminent

**Sheikh Abdul Quddoos Al Azhari**

National Grand Mufti of Australia

15 November 2021

Brisbane

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ  
الحمد لله رب العالمين والصلاة والسلام على أشرف الأنبياء والمرسلين

I would like to pay my respect to the original custodians of the land on which we meet this evening and pay my respect to their elders past, present and emerging.

Honourable Lord Mayor Mr Adrienne Schrinner, Mr Milton Dick Federal member for Oxley, Councillor Angela Owen, Chairman of AICC Board Mr Mohammed Taher Sukkarieh, Mr Azeem Ahmad CEO of AICC, Principal Christine Harmen, board members, trustees, Imams, learned teachers, graduands, parents, and community leaders.

السلام عليكم ورحمة الله وبركاته

This is the 10<sup>th</sup> graduation of AICC and we have alhamdulillah passed a new milestone. This year, we have 42 year 12 students graduating. I congratulate you, your respected parents, dedicated teachers and wider community leaders on the successful completion of a remarkable journey.

May Allah bless and protect the graduands to continue and further your quest for knowledge and learning.

The graduation ceremony is always such a special occasion. The culmination of years of hard work, the actualisation of goal attainment and the acknowledgement of success achieved, so it is only fitting that tonight we commemorate the road that we have all travelled together for the past few years.

We have experienced the exceptional and magical moments and created memories that will be fondly remembered in the years to come.

For the last two years, Covid changed much of our educational system. There was a distinctive rise of eLearning whereby teaching is undertaken remotely and on digital platforms.

The pandemic is an opportunity to remind ourselves of the skills students need in this unpredictable world, such as informed decision-making, creative problem solving and perhaps above all adaptability to ensure those skills remain a priority for all students.

With this sudden shift away from the classroom in many parts of the globe, some are wondering whether the adoption of online learning will continue to persist post pandemic and how much a shift would impact the worldwide education space.

One thing is very sure that the integration of information technology in education will be further accelerated and that online education will eventually be an integral component of school education.

If online learning technology can play a role here, it is incumbent upon all of us to explore its full potential.

I would like to remind our enthusiastic graduands that when Allah created Adam (a.s), He taught Adam: al asma kullaha (Absolute knowledge)(*Al Quran 2:31-32*)

۳۱ وَعَلَّمَ آدَمَ الْأَسْمَاءَ كُلَّهَا ثُمَّ عَرَضَهُمْ عَلَى الْمَلَائِكَةِ فَقَالَ أَنْبِئُونِي بِأَسْمَاءِ هَٰؤُلَاءِ إِنْ كُنْتُمْ صَادِقِينَ  
۳۲ قَالُوا سُبْحَانَكَ لَا عِلْمَ لَنَا إِلَّا مَا عَلَّمْتَنَا إِنَّكَ أَنْتَ الْعَلِيمُ الْحَكِيمُ

And He taught Adam the names, all of them; then he presented them to the angels, and said, "Tell Me the names of these, if you are sincere."

They said, "Glory be to You! We have no knowledge except what You have taught us. You are the Knowledgeable, the Wise."

I also remind you of the famous hadeeth of Rasulullah (SAW) who taught us to ask Allah (SWT)

اللَّهُمَّ إِنَّا أَسْأَلُكَ عِلْمًا نَافِعًا

“Allahuma inna nasaluka ilman nafi’an”

*Oh, Allah bless us with beneficial knowledge.*

I would also like to remind you here that must be productive.

Imam Bukhari recorded on the authority of Zaid bin Thabit, that Nabi Mohammed (SAW) commanded him to learn the writing of the Syriac language so that he could write for the Prophet (SAW) his letters and read out to him their letters. (Bukhari 93:40)

Skills always need to be upgraded; knowledge needs to be continuously updated otherwise it becomes stale and obsolete. The dynamic of knowledge and education requires continuing improvement.

Islam has stressed the importance of knowledge to such an extent that Arabs developed the saying:

اطلبوا العلم من المهد إلى اللحد

It means: Pursue learning from the cradle to the grave. In English, we say lifelong learning.

Our beloved prophet Muhammad (S.A.W) said:

خير سليمان بين الملك والمال والعلم فاختر العلم،  
فأعطى العلم والمال والملك باختياره العلم.

*Prophet Sulaiman was given a choice between Kingdom, wealth or learning, he chose learning and as a result, he was given knowledge, wealth and kingdom.*

And

لا خير فيمن كان في أمته ليس بعالم ولا متعلم.

*There is no good in a member of my community if he is not learned or learning.*

And

فضل العلم خير من فضل العبادة.

*The benefit of knowledge is greater than the benefit of worship*

A baby continuously learns to walk from numerous falls until the moment he or she walks briskly and even to win the gold medal in walking or running.

Dear brothers and sisters, distinguished guests and graduands please allow me on this happy and important occasion to give you some beneficial advice.

1. You all know the famous hadeeth, that you have heard many times that Prophet Mohammed (SAW) has said:

لَا يُؤْمِنُ أَحَدُكُمْ حَتَّى يُحِبَّ لِأَخِيهِ مَا يُحِبُّ لِنَفْسِهِ

'La Yu'minu Ahadukum Hatta Yu Hibba li akihihi Ma Yu Hibu Li Naf Sihi'

"You will not be a proper Mu'min until you love for others what you love for yourself".

That means you should treat others, as you want to be treated.

2. You are the next generation, the power of the present moment, take the torch and leave your mark, put your stake in the ground and build the future that YOU want and YOU believe, work and fight hard to achieve it.

3. Make sure that you learn to communicate well. Communication is perhaps the least emphasised skill set in most educational programs but I guarantee you that the effective communication is the ultimate key to your success.

4. Understand your position, your strengths and weaknesses and try to rectify and improve and remember what Imam Ghazali said: “There are four types of people in regard to education, these are:

- i. One who does not know and doesn't know that he doesn't know.
- ii. One does not know, but thinks he knows.
- iii. One who knows but doesn't know that he knows.
- iv. One who knows and knows that he knows.

Dear Graduands, who do you want to be out of these four people? I am very sure you all want to be the fourth person. You want to be a person who knows and knows that he/she knows.

My dear graduates , may Allah bless you, may your years ahead continue to be characterized by empathy, compassion, objectivity and that the risks your take are planned and calculated well.

May you always lead by example and work hard and play straight.

I wish and pray to Allah (SWT) to guide you towards every success.

It has been an absolute honour and great privilege and pleasure to serve you, to watch you grow and to be with you to celebrate your success.

Please come back to tell us your success stories and to get moral support from our Imams when you need it. Remember, life is not just work, it is also family, friends, community and society. Make sure that you always protect and preserve your connection with your faith community.

## **AUSTRALIAN INTERNATIONAL ISLAMIC COLLEGE 2021 YEAR 12 GRADUANDS TO REMEMBER FOR STUDYING AT UNIVERSITY**

1. University has more self-directed learning – you need to manage your own time effectively in order to keep on top of assignments and study independently. (Nobody will be there to remind you).
2. University lets you study what YOU want to study (unlike the school system, where subjects are chosen for you). You can pick a degree in the field of interest that you are passionate about.
3. Academic integrity is given much more importance and is checked very regularly – there are extreme legal consequences for plagiarising (do not copy someone's assignment, do not falsify data).
4. University has more flexibility with online learning – lectures are offered online or in person, for you to choose your option (or to hear a lecture again).
5. With university you have to do your own planning – each semester you pick your classes and make your weekly timetable with lectures, tutorials and practicals for each course.
6. You need to keep track of how well you are doing in each course if you want a good grade. It's crucial to look at the weighting for different assignments and keep on top of your scores if you want to get a high percentage overall and get a high GPA (Grade Point Average)
7. University has many extracurricular activities you can be a part of, including leading a student club, student politics, exchange programs, sports teams, volunteering, internships etc. Make sure that you choose wisely, your time is precious, so use it well!
8. Every university has a Chaplaincy for different religious denominations, you also have Muslim prayer room (Musalah). Make sure you know where these are so that you do not miss your five times Salaat and Jumah.
9. Be a part of the University Musalah Jamaat. (Congregation)



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