

With The Name of Allah,
The Intensely Merciful, The Eternally Merciful

Becoming Muslim

How do I become a Muslim?

Do I have to register?

Do I have to change my name?

What is the difference between
'born Muslims' and those who
embraced Islam?

Is a male required to circumcise
to become a Muslim?

Do I have to stop eating pork meat
immediately after becoming a Muslim?

What is *halal* food?

Do I have to learn Arabic?

Do I have to perform the daily prayers
and other obligatory duties in Islam
immediately after becoming a Muslim?

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Declaration of faith

Becoming a Muslim is a lot easier compared to getting a visa or passport!

You become a Muslim when you declare that there is no other god to be worshipped except Allah and Muhammad is His final Messenger.

The Noble Qur'an and the traditions of the Prophet (peace be upon him) will be the basis of a Muslim's effort to achieve the good life here and Paradise in the Hereafter.

Proof of Declaration

As proof of your status as a Muslim is required for certain things such as marriage or applying for a Hajj visa, it is better to register your declaration of faith.

You may do this in a mosque or with the Islamic authority in your country.

A certificate from the recognized authority is the formal proof of your Muslim identity.

Change of name

There is no requirement in Islam to change your name when you embrace Islam.

However, it is better for you to have a Muslim name as well as it will be easier for others to identify you as a Muslim.

Choose a name that reflects your desire to lead a life in the Way of Allah.

"The most beloved of your names to Allah The Exalted are Abdullah (Slave of Allah) and Abdur Rahman (Slave of The Most Merciful)."

[Muslim and Abu Dawud]

Brothers and sisters

In Islam there is no difference whatsoever between those born to Muslim parents and those who embraced Islam.

In Islam believers are differentiated only on the level of their piety.

When a person embraces Islam, he returns to his original sinless state like a newborn.

When a person declares the *shahadah*, he or she becomes a Muslim.

All believers are brothers and sisters in Islam.

You become a Muslim by the Mercy of Allah The Almighty.

Tradition of the Prophet

Circumcision is a tradition of the Prophet (pbuh). It is mentioned as *fitra* or a rule of cleanliness.

It is obligatory for Muslims to follow the traditions of the Prophet (pbuh).

It is exempted if it poses a health risk.

Not just pork meat

Those embracing Islam must ensure that their food consumption conforms to what is accepted in Islam.

It is not just pork meat and intoxicants that are prohibited in Islam.

The rule is that all food consumed must be *halal*.

Meaning of *halal* and *haram*

Halal means permitted or lawful.
Haram means prohibited or unlawful.

To be *halal*, food products must be clean, pure and safe for consumption.

In Islam, *halal* and *haram* apply not only to food products but to *all* aspects of life.

The original is The Word of Allah

It is not mandatory to know Arabic to become a Muslim.

As The Qur'an is recited during prayers, one has to memorize a few chapters.

The shortest chapter has only three verses.

Learning Arabic will be an advantage as there is a big difference between reading the translations of the meanings of The Qur'an and the original text in Arabic.

Allah knows what is in your heart

Obligatory duties in Islam are not "chores" that are performed reluctantly but a part of the joy of submission to Allah The Merciful.

They must be performed without delay in the spirit of gratitude to Allah The Merciful for the blessings that each of us has been given.

Remember that you perform these duties not to please others but to submit to Allah The Merciful Who knows what is in your heart.



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