

## Universities

The simplest type of early Muslim education was offered in the masjids, which gradually evolved into centres of higher learning. It is for this reason that the Arabic word for University Jami'ah, is derived from the Arabic word for masjid - Jami. All over the Muslim world, advanced subjects were taught in masjids, schools, observatories and the homes of scholars.

Fatima al-Fihri, an Arab woman found the Al-Qarawiyyin mosque in 859 C.E. in Fez, Morocco which gradually extended its education to all subjects. UNESCO and the Guinness World Records cite the Qarawiyyin as the oldest university or oldest continually operating higher learning institution in the world. Muslims institutionalized higher level of education. There were entrance exams, challenging finals, issuance of degrees and certificates, study circles, international students and grants. Muslim learning reached medieval Europe in the 12th century when a massive translation exercise of Arabic works began into medieval Latin. The first university in western Europe was at Salerno in Italy, in the 11th century.

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