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USTAZ MOHAMED FURTHERS PHD STUDIES IN BRITAIN

By
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Ustaz Mohamed never tires of waging war against radical views and religious extremism.

He departs for Britain today to further his studies at PhD level, after completing his Masters last year.

Ustaz Mohamed, 35, will be undertaking a study in “Islam and the Arabic Language” at the Institute of Arabic and Islamic Studies, at Exeter University. Exeter is located south west of England.

His three-year studies, which will stretch till October 2011, is fully sponsored by a scholarship offered by the S Rajaratnam School of International Studies (RSIS), Nanyang Technological University.

Ustaz Mohamed is an Associate Research Fellow with RSIS since 2004.

Throughout his 4 years with RSIS, he has done much research on issues connected with extremism and violence. Besides that, he had also attended many international conferences and had completed papers on terrorism, in institutions around the world.

The father of a one-year old son, he will focus his research on understanding the *Al Wala' Wal Bara'* (Love and Hate) concept, at PhD level.

“I chose this area of research because it is very important to understand this concept in our efforts to wage a battle against radical views and religious extremism.”

“As widely known, waging war against violence and terrorism is a broad concept and the *Al Wala' Wal Bara'* concept is a basis for extremists to incur hate in others”, he said.

Overseeing Ustaz Mohamed's research are Dr Suha Fatouqi and Professor Rob Gleave. Both are experts in the Islamic political movements in the Middle East.

Ustaz Mohamed began his education in Madrasah Aljunied Al-Islamiah before achieving a bachelor's degree in Islamic Law (Syariah) from Al-Azhar University in Cairo, Egypt in 2001.

Subsequently he completed his Degree in International Relations at the RSIS in 2007.

At degree level, he has produced a thesis on “Countering the Transnational Jihadist Threat: Myth, Reality and Solution” under the supervision of Associate Professor Karim Douglas Crow.

Ustaz Mohamed is a member of the pioneer Religious Rehabilitation Group (RRG) since its inception in 2002.

While in RRG, he was appointed as a member of the Secretariat and counsellor.

Besides RRG, he is also a member of Board of Management of Khadijah Mosque.