

Matrimonial Program FAQ

What is the purpose of the matrimonial program?

To provide a respectable, Islamic and comfortable environment for Muslims to meet potential spouses.

Who are the participants?

Anyone eligible for marriage (single, divorced, widowed).

What are the ages of the participants?

Participants must be legally eligible to be married (at least 18 years old). Most participants are over the age of 23. There is no grouping by age, the breakdown of the age cohorts varies each year based on who the participants are.

What is the general format?

- Registration and light lunch or dinner (please arrive no later than 30 min before your session). We strive to start on time and if you come late you will miss meeting a certain number of people.
- Seating arrangement: Approximately 150 participants, split into groups of 10-15 at each table.
- Introduction (10 minutes)
- Rotations (2.5 hours) - this will be a table-by-table rotation where the men will move from one table to the next as a group. Each table has approximately 5 men and 5 women. One facilitator at each table takes the group through a discussion asking various questions for the participants to share their thoughts on. Everyone is encouraged to engage in the discussion. After the discussion time is up, all the men move to the next table while the women remain seated. Due to the large number of people it is not possible to meet everyone during the rotations, and participants are encouraged to speak to anyone they wish during the facilitated introductions.
- Facilitated introductions (1 hour) - the last hour of the event will be open for you to approach anyone you are interested in via the help of a volunteer facilitator. If both parties agree to speak, they can have a conversation with each other and exchange any information they feel comfortable sharing. You are encouraged to step outside your comfort zone and take this time to seek out anyone you are interested in speaking to. The volunteers will facilitate the introduction for you.
- Each session runs for approximately 4 hours
- Sessions will be held on Saturday 11am-3pm and 4pm-8pm and Sunday from 11am-3pm
 - If you are attending the 4pm session, please pray Salaatul Asr prior to your arrival.

Can parents attend?

Parents/guardians can be present but they are requested not to interfere with the sessions. Parents/ Guardian must purchase a ticket to observe.

Registration:

You must purchase a separate ticket for each session. Tickets to the matrimonial program does not include admission to the convention.

Other important information:

Please **bring pens and paper with you to make notes**. Remember to write down the name, table number and other identifying information for anyone you are interested in contacting. Without these details the volunteers might not be able to track the person you are looking to speak to.

The matrimonial committee will be on site and will be available to answer any questions and provide each participant with a comfortable experience.

A light meal is included in registration fee and will be provided during the session.

Prayer arrangements will be made for prayers that fall during the program. Please arrive with wudu if possible, lineups at the washrooms have been long in previous years. Pray in advance of the session in the main RIS prayer hall where time permits. Reminder: ensure you arrive 30 min in advance of your session.

Please complete the "Bio Sheet" Word document (available on the RIS matrimonial website page) ***in advance***, print and bring multiple copies to the event for express registration.

LIMITED TICKETS AVAILABLE. TICKETS WILL SELL OUT AS THEY HAVE IN ALL PRIOR YEARS.

PURCHASE YOUR TICKET EARLY ONLINE TO AVOID DISAPPOINTMENT.