



**THE RUSSIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH**  
Department for External Church Relations

## **DECR representative takes part in International Summer School "Bolgar Dialogue of Cultures"**



**DECR Communication Service, 25.08.2025.**

On August 21, the Bolgar Islamic Academy (BIA) in the city of Bolgar hosted the 8<sup>th</sup> International Summer School “Bolgar Dialogue of Cultures” on “Islamic Cultural Heritage: History and Modernity.” The event was organized by the BIA and the Group of Strategic Vision "Russia - Islamic world."

The main topics of the International Summer School are Islamic art and its contribution to world culture, and the role of Islamic art in maintaining traditional spiritual values. The participants included Ilfar hazrat Khasanov, first deputy of the Mufti of Tatarstan; Marat Gatin, deputy chairman of the Group of Strategic Vision “Russia - Islamic World” and assistant to the Rais of Tatarstan; Ms. Raisa G. Safiullina, advisor to the Minister of Culture of Tatarstan; Farkhat G. Khusnutdinov, rector of the BIA; Ms. Elmira L. Sadykova, head of the Center for Interreligious Dialogue of the BIA and deputy director of the Foundation for Assistance to Strategic Dialogue and Partnership; Rafik M. Mukhametshin, rector of the

Russian Islamic Institute and Kazan Islamic University and chair of the Council for Islamic Education; other religious figures, representatives of government, public, scientific and educational organizations, employees and students of secular and religious higher educational institutions, as well as leading scholars and experts in the field of Islamic art and culture.

The Kazan Orthodox Theological Seminary was represented by its vice-rector archpriest Alexander Pavlov, Mr. Vladimir N. Rogatin, head of the Department of Islamic studies; and associate professors of the Department Ms. Yelena S. Rogatina and Mr. Nail K. Garipov.

Attending the International Summer School online with the blessing of Metropolitan Anthony of Volokolamsk, chairman of the Moscow Patriarchate's Department for External Church Relations, was a DECR staff member, hieromonk Grigory (Matrusov), who addressed the participants with welcome remarks.

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Source: <https://mospat.ru/en/news/93488/>