

# EXCELLENCE IN Education

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## Qatar Foundation: A world-class academic hub

FAZEENA SALEEM  
THE PENINSULA

When Education City was first conceived, Qatar Foundation's (QF) vision was to provide world-class education to the people of Qatar.

QF began its mission with the founding of a single school named Qatar Academy. Today, a city of knowledge has grown around that one school and QF continues to expand its offerings to foster a culture of lifelong learning.

For almost 25 years, this mission has achieved beyond that goal and the result is a world-class academic hub providing unique opportunities and initiatives. Collaborations between some of the world's best institutions are happening right here in Doha.

QF was established in 1995 by H H Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani, the Father Amir, and H H Sheikha Moza bint Nasser, Chairperson of QF.

"Our original vision was to provide Qatar not just with education, but with quality education, of a kind that blends the best educational practices and approaches from Qatar and around the world to equip young people to be leaders, nationally and globally," said

Khalifa Al Kubaisi, Manager, Media Relations at QF.

"At QF, everything starts with education. It is how we began. We believe education is a lifelong journey, and that innovation in education is vital to cultivating ideas. By providing an environment that enables the delivery of quality education, we encourage people to develop and become active citizens, where their desire to seek out knowledge is nurtured," he told *The Peninsula* during an exclusive interview.

From preschool through to doctoral studies, QF offers learning opportunities for students of all ages and abilities. "We lay the foundations for lifelong learning, and empower future generations to thrive in a global environment. Our unique education cycle at QF caters to children from the age of six months through to postgraduate students. This range of academic diversity is unlike any other system in the world and offers residents of Qatar and the region meaningful and unique learning opportunities," said Al Kubaisi.

"Pre-University Education (PUE) is the beginning of QF's education cycle, and fortifies the organization's commitment to lifelong learning. PUE has created schools and devised curricula in Qatar that support diversity, catering for the needs of Qatar's varied com-



Khalifa Al Kubaisi, Manager, Media Relations at QF.

learning school, Qatar Academy for Science & Technology, a program for Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) subjects and Academic Bridge Program, a program that transitions high students to university.

QF, the home grown Hamad bin Khalifa University (HBKU) and the partner universities, provide access to high-quality, research-focused education that caters to the needs of Qatar, promoting a culture of national excellence.

"We have always recognized that our model of education must constantly innovate and evolve, to meet the needs of our youth and reflect an ever-changing world," said Al Kubaisi.

This mindset has driven us to grow our educational platform from one school to a 'multiversity': create a culture of life-wide, lifelong, experiential learning; establish a pioneering university cross-registration program, specialised schools, and innovation hubs within our universities. This led us to provide our students with a direct pathway into research and innovation careers, and opportunities to develop startups launched while at university within Qatar Science & Technology Park, enabling them to apply what they have learned at QF within QF," he added.

For almost 25 years, the pillars of

QF's mission have been education, science and research, and community development. But within those pillars, QF has always recognized the need to adapt and evolve in line with the way the world changes.

"Education City is QF's flagship development, housing eight international partner universities and our homegrown higher education institution HBKU. At QF, we recognize that the only guarantee of prosperity for any country is the ability of its people to develop, adapt, and innovate. Our particular emphasis on science, research, and innovation enables students to become researchers and entrepreneurs in areas of priority for our country," said Al Kubaisi.

"QF's high-quality education opportunities empower and support young people from their first day of school all the way through to advanced post-graduate studies. Our multidisciplinary higher education system produces an immensely competent and diverse workforce that is serving the needs of our country, and who will become the future leaders of Qatar," he added.

A total of 3,097 students have enrolled this academic year (2018-2019) from all QF universities. And there are more than 5,000 QF alumni who graduated from QF partner universities.



جامعة جورجتاون قطر  
GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY QATAR

## Educating *the* Whole Person

In addition to the hard work that takes place inside the classroom, students at Georgetown University in Qatar participate in various sports and social activities, take part in community service initiatives, engage in research projects, and work for organizations in government, international banking, consulting, journalism, and many other fields. The university offers a Bachelor of Science in Foreign Service (BSFS) degree in the following majors:

- International Politics
- International Economics
- Culture and Politics
- International History

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## Northwestern University in Qatar

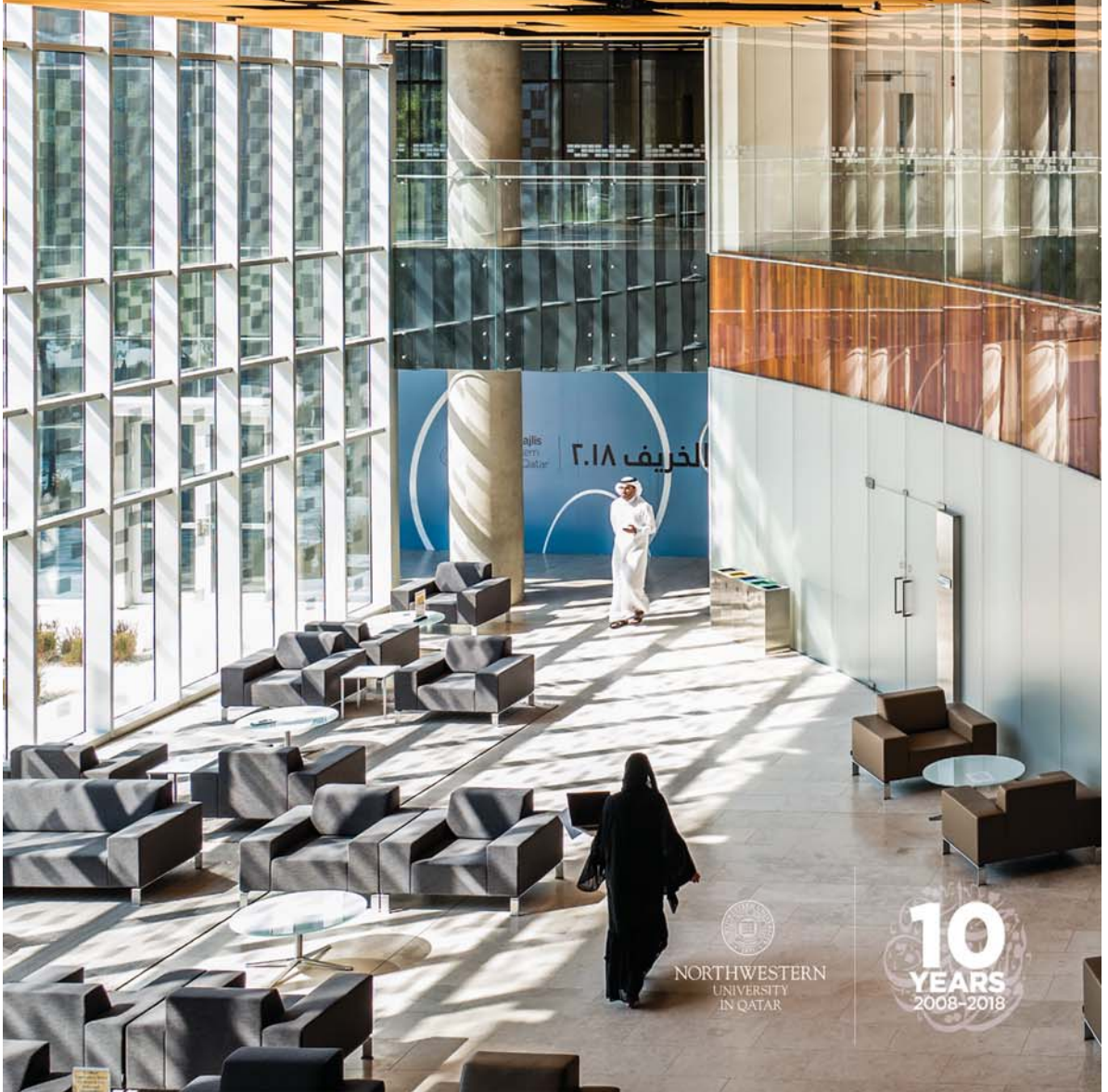
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Study in Qatar and abroad



NORTHWESTERN  
UNIVERSITY  
IN QATAR



# CMU-Q: Ideas that shape your world start here

**A**t the invitation of Qatar Foundation, Carnegie Mellon joined Education City in 2004 to deliver select programs that will support and contribute to the long-term development of Qatar.

Carnegie Mellon University attracts a certain type of student: Motivated, inventive, and driven to make a difference. A private, global university, Carnegie Mellon stands among the world's most renowned educational institutions, setting its own course with programs that inspire creativity and collaboration.

## PROGRAMS OF STUDY

CMU-Q offers undergraduate programs in fields at the forefront of technology, innovation, scientific discovery and economic growth. All undergraduate majors require four years of full-time study, after which students earn a bachelor of science degree.

- **Biological Sciences** has a core curriculum of biology, chemistry, computer science, mathematics and physics. In-depth exposure to multiple disciplines prepares students for careers at the forefront of emerging new fields.

- **Business Administration** provides the foundation for motivated students to become leaders in the business arena within Qatar, the region and the world. The program emphasizes an analytical approach to problem-solving, providing the tools to adapt to an evolving business environment.

- **Computational Biology** applies computer science techniques to complex biological and biomedical problems. The program provides an intensive, interdisciplinary education grounded in the disciplines of biology and computer science.

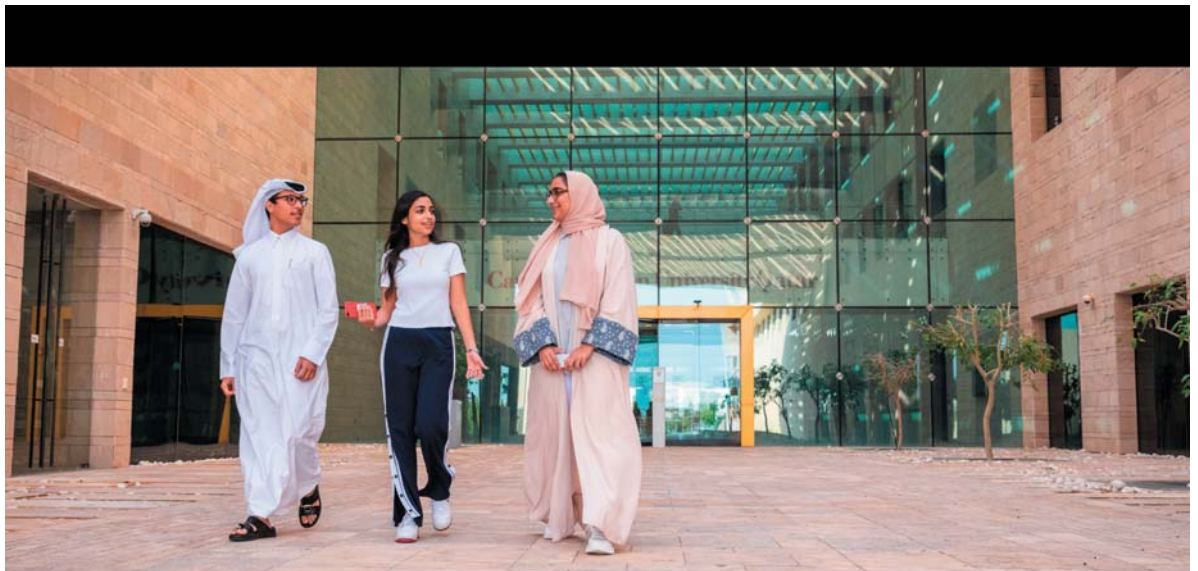
- **Computer Science** provides students with the core skills of mathematical reasoning, algorithmic thinking, and programming. The program encourages creativity and provides the fundamental skills to develop new technologies.

- **Information Systems** is based on professional core courses that teach students to analyze, design, implement and test information systems using current and emerging practices. The flexible nature of the program encourages students to work outside of traditional disciplinary boundaries.

The CMU-Q student body is exceptionally diverse, representing 38 nations. Students form a busy and active community, participating in clubs, organizing events, traveling for service and academics, and competing in local and international contests. The low student-to-professor ratio means students receive unparalleled individual attention.



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 YouTube: www.youtube.com/CarnegieMellonQatar  
 To learn more, visit [www.qatar.cmu.edu](http://www.qatar.cmu.edu).



Ideas that shape your world start here.

Carnegie Mellon University attracts a certain type of student: motivated, inventive and driven to make a difference. Students come to Carnegie Mellon to learn, create and innovate with the very best. They leave with the passion, connections, credentials and lifelong friends who will help them change the world.

[www.qatar.cmu.edu](http://www.qatar.cmu.edu)

Carnegie Mellon University Qatar

# GU-Q: Educating the Whole Person

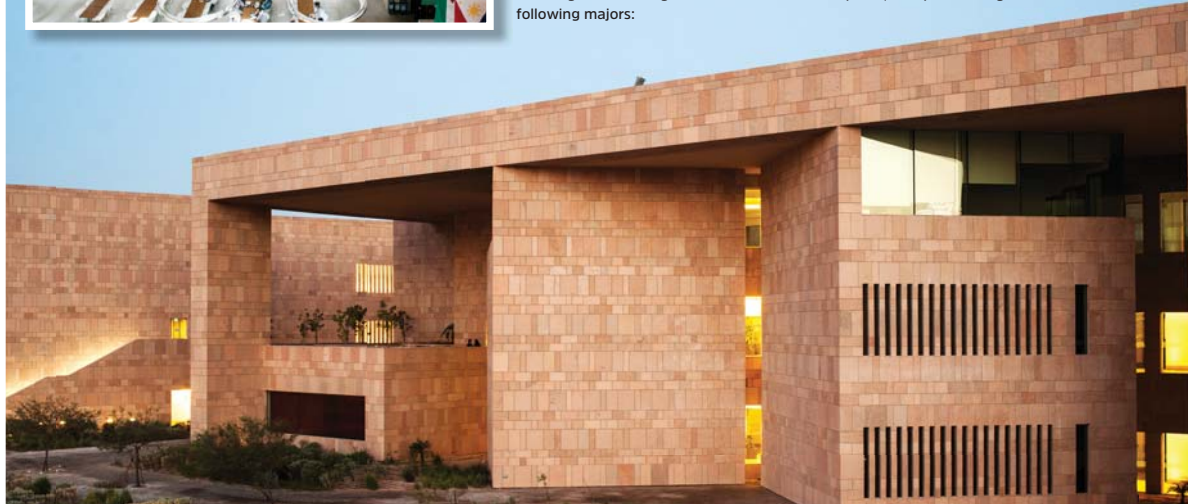


In addition to the engagement and learning that takes place inside the classroom, students at Georgetown University in Qatar participate in a range of sports, social, and community service activities, engage in research projects, and participate in internships in a variety of sectors.

With the choice of an optional minor in Arabic, and a variety of certificates to enhance their studies along the way, students graduate with the prestigious Georgetown University Bachelor of Science in Foreign Service degree in one of the following majors:

- International Politics
- International Economics
- Culture and Politics
- International History

With more than 500 alumni, Georgetown University in Qatar (GU-Q) is making a significant contribution to a wide range of industries throughout Qatar, the Middle East, North Africa, and Asia. Graduates of the Qatar campus work in a broad array of fields including diplomacy, communications, consulting, finance, marketing, public relations, arts, and education in the for-profit, non-profit and governmental sectors.



## 6 smart goals for college students



College should challenge you in a number of new and rewarding ways, from broadening your experience with unfamiliar classes to expanding your horizons intellectually. Yet with all these new challenges, it's also important to develop the skills you need to be able to cope with stress, a hectic schedule and impending deadlines. Learning how to set realistic, productive goals for yourself throughout each term can help you stay on top of things and make the most of your education.

Below are six smart goals for college students, as well as some criteria for setting new goals for yourself.

### SET S.M.A.R.T. GOALS

One of the most important things about setting goals while you're in college is that each one needs to be distinct, achievable, and rewarding in order to keep you moving forward. Before you set any major goals for yourself, try to ensure they meet the following criteria.

**SPECIFIC:** Know exactly what you need to accomplish and what you hope to gain from doing so, whether it's simply finishing a paper, writing a personal statement for an internship or scholarship application or finishing some research for a larger project.

**MEASURABLE:** Make sure you can easily evaluate whether or not your goal was met and how beneficial it ultimately was to you.

**ACHIEVABLE:** Be realistic when setting goals. This can help you avoid missing deadlines and getting behind, as well as giving you a more accurate overview of how much time you have to invest in other tasks throughout the week.

**RESULTS-FOCUSED:** Have very clear, distinct outcomes for meeting your goals, and hold yourself to them.

**TIME-BOUND:** Set a deadline for each goal

or, for more complex tasks with multiple steps, establish deadlines for each major stage of the process.

### SET A GOAL FOR GRADES IN EACH CLASS

While you always want to strive to do your best in every class, there are a number of factors that may impact how you're able to do from course to course. First, take into account the subject matter, the level of the class, how essential the course is to your degree program and the other courses you're taking during the same term.

Then set a realistic goal for the grade you think you can earn if you work hard, and invest a reasonable amount of time working toward this goal. Some courses are just harder, or more relevant to your intended career path, than others, and setting a specific grade goal can help you prioritize effectively.

### PLAN STUDY TIMES FOR EVERY COURSE

At the beginning of the term, try to plan out specific time blocks for each class throughout the week, and hold yourself accountable for spending these time periods completing homework and studying. If something comes up and you're unable to devote the usual time to a course one week, make sure you can reschedule the entire block of time for that class to another day (which can help prevent you from getting behind or missing an assignment).

If you have trouble making good use of study time you set aside for a specific class, consider rescheduling your study block for this course at another time when you're more productive. You may also set specific goals for each study block week-by-week, such as not stopping or moving onto your next task until a particular section of a book is read, or the assignment for the week is finished.

### VISIT WITH EACH INSTRUCTOR AT LEAST ONCE PER TERM

This one can be helpful even if you're taking online or remote courses. Visiting an instructor during office hours or scheduling some time to talk over the phone or through email can be a great way to get to know someone who may be a great resource down the road.

Instructors who know you well can speak to your strengths in recommendation letters, and it's always good to have someone to go to for help and support during especially difficult periods like during finals or when you're approaching graduation. Try to get to know at least one instructor well during each term, and make sure to take some time to speak personally with each one at some point.

### TAKE AN EXTRA CHALLENGING COURSE

Look for courses that interest you outside your degree program or current area of focus, and try to challenge yourself to move out of your comfort zone. While there may not be time to do this every session,

you can calculate how many elective credits you need to take and then set aside a certain number of these for challenging, unfamiliar courses. Pushing yourself to try something new can be a great way to keep yourself intellectually engaged, especially during sessions where your coursework is otherwise focused on general education credits or basic introductory classes in your degree program.

### JOIN AN EXTRACURRICULAR GROUP

Getting an on-campus job or joining a student group (which you can also do when taking online classes) can be a great way to get to know other students — and sometimes faculty — in your degree program. While this offers valuable networking opportunities for when you eventually go on the job market, it can also be a great way to reduce stress and allow yourself to take much-needed breaks from studying and work.

Just remember, you still need to make sure you have time and energy to invest in coursework, so try to set goals for what days you can spend on extracurriculars and how much time you can set aside for activities. Even if you're still in your first year, learning about your career options can be a valuable experience. Set aside some time to speak with someone from the career services department each year, and consider scheduling more frequent appointments the closer you get to graduation. Setting specific goals to visit each term can help avoid procrastination and ensure you start planning ahead.

# VCUarts Qatar: A Center of Educational Excellence for Art and Design



**V**CUarts Qatar is the international branch campus of Virginia Commonwealth University's prestigious School of the Arts (VCUarts), which has been a top-ranked art and design program in the US for more than 10 years, according to US News & World Report.

Established in 1998 through a partnership with Qatar Foundation, VCUarts Qatar offers students the opportunity to earn a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in fashion design, graphic design, interior design and painting and printmaking, a Bachelor of Arts degree in art history and a Master of Fine Arts degree in design. In addition, VCUarts Qatar's Libraries have the broadest range of art and design books in Doha, as well as the region's only Materials Library.

The current student body of 379 represents 36 nationalities. The campus attracts major contributors to contemporary visual culture for speaking and teaching engagements, and major events such as the University's annual fashion show, the BFA + MFA exhibition by graduating students, the Tasmeeem Doha art and design conference, regular exhibitions at its Gallery, and the Hamad bin Khalifa Symposium on Islamic Art draw large and diverse audiences and shine a light on the talents and achievements of VCUarts Qatar's students, alumni, faculty and staff.

The general public is also welcome at VCUarts Qatar. Short courses in art and design are offered to all through the university's Community Education Program.

No prior experience or education is required and the courses take place throughout the year. Subjects range from fashion design and ceramics to photography.



VIRGINIA COMMONWEALTH UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF THE ARTS IN QATAR

**BACHELOR OF ARTS (BA)**  
Art History

**BACHELOR OF FINE ARTS (BFA)**  
Fashion Design  
Graphic Design  
Interior Design  
Painting & Printmaking

**MASTER OF FINE ARTS (MFA)**  
Design

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[www.qatar.vcu.edu](http://www.qatar.vcu.edu)

**BOUTHAYNA ALI AL-MUFTAH**  
BFA in Graphic Design '09

# Creating a smiling future together!



Become one of the first dentists educated within the Qatari healthcare system and join the new program for dental medicine this Fall.

## WHY DENTISTRY?

The new College of Dental Medicine will

- Follow a high quality curriculum, which will be in line with international standards and combine multiple teaching methodologies to prepare you best for your future workplace.

- Combine subject-oriented learning, especially during the first year, with organ-centered modular teaching and clinical skills training, to ensure a full integration of all relevant knowledge and skill domains.

- Apply advanced e-learning and learning technologies to foster active learning and critical thinking.

- Use the strong collaboration with Hamad Medical Corporation (HMC) and the Primary Health Care Corporation (PHCC), to offer you early clinical experience in state-of-the-art facilities, including a dental simulation clinic and academic dental hospital at HMC.
- Offer student-tailored Electives, community-based education, and research possibilities.

- Be the fourth college under QU Health and provide substantial opportunities for inter-professional learning and exchange between different health professional programs.

- Be routed within the national healthcare system to educate dentists who will be capable to address local challenges in oral health and to support the further development of



the Qatari healthcare system.

and benefit of our community.

### VISION

To be the leading College of Dental Medicine, preparing healthcare providers in providing comprehensive care through collaboration, and committed to advancing knowledge for the service

### MISSION

The College of Dental Medicine strives to provide comprehensive, integrated and collaborative best practice education and patient care to be the dental college of choice for Qatari students. With our passionate, dedicated faculty and students and a state-of-the-art academic dental hospital, we prepare competent students to be healthcare providers for the future and health of the nation. Our mission is aligned with the university's goals to continuously expand knowledge through education and research opportunities.

### CORE VALUES

- To provide support in alignment with the mission of Qatar University and build on the strengths of the University
- Integrate education and patient care for individuals and groups
- To inspire students to learn through humanistic comprehensive models of education incorporating individual and collective critical thinking that is evidence-based
- Incorporating innovative and supportive education methods that showcase dentistry at the forefront
- Enhance community health through patient-centered care supporting a healthy community
- Provide quality and best-practice integrated education
- Provide quality patient care in the art and science of health and oral health, and the integration between health and oral health
- Collaborative translational research to improve the oral health of the nation
- To support an educational and patient care environment in which faculty and students can excel



professionally benefiting the public and the organized profession

- Be fiscally responsible in leadership and management

### ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Admission to the College of Dental Medicine is competitive for Qatari and non-Qatari applicants. Due to the limited number of 25 seats, students with the minimum requirements are not automatically guaranteed acceptance to the College.

Minimum Requirements for high school applicants:

- High school GPA\* of 85%
- English\*\*: IELTS = 5.5 TOEFL = 500
- Mathematics\*\*: SAT = 500 ACT = 21

- Completion of 2 out of 3 science subject classes in high school (biology, chemistry &/or physics). Having biology courses in high school is highly recommended

- Supporting evidence of previous volunteering experience in the healthcare sector, medical or scientific internships, or community work (recommended)

- Passing a personal interview with the College Admission Committee (where relevant)

\* For international curriculum schools, letter grades will be equalized to percent numbers by QU Admission

Department. Please refer to QU Admission for further information.

\*\* Test scores for English and Mathematics must be submitted to the QU Testing Center prior to the start of the applications. Late scores will affect the assessment of the application.

### CURRICULUM OVERVIEW

- Structure: 6-year program leading to a Doctor of Dental Medicine
- Year 1: Joined Common First Year with all students at QU Health
- Single entry, multiple exit
- Innovative and flexible Global Learning Experience; early clinical exposure

- Years 2-3.5: Integrated Pre-clinical and Clinical Learning across disciplines (including simulation training)

- Years 3.5-6: Final Clinical Phase to prepare competent students to provide dental care on graduation

- No internship is required following graduation as it is embedded in the undergraduate training

### CONTACT US:

For further clarification and enquiries, please contact us on:  
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Email: dentistry@qu.edu.qa  
Location: College of Medicine H12  
Office 143





For a brighter future  
and a broader smile

# Join College of dental medicine

[www.qu.edu.qa/dentistry#admission](http://www.qu.edu.qa/dentistry#admission)



# Knowledge hub: Recent trends & achievements



### Links to top universities

- Qatar University: [www.qu.edu.qa](http://www.qu.edu.qa)
- Carnegie Mellon University: [www.qatar.cmu.edu](http://www.qatar.cmu.edu)
- Texas A&M Qatar: [www.qatar.tamu.edu](http://www.qatar.tamu.edu)
- Georgetown University: [www.qatar.georgetown.edu](http://www.qatar.georgetown.edu)
- Community College of Qatar: [www.cq.edu.qa](http://www.cq.edu.qa)
- AFG College with the University of Aberdeen: [www.abdn.ac.uk/qatar](http://www.abdn.ac.uk/qatar)
- College of the North Atlantic Qatar: [www.cna-qatar.com](http://www.cna-qatar.com)
- University Of Calgary: [www.ucalgary.edu](http://www.ucalgary.edu)
- Hamad Bin Khalifa University: [www.hbku.edu.qa](http://www.hbku.edu.qa)
- Qatar Foundation: [www.qf.org.qa](http://www.qf.org.qa)
- VCUArts Qatar: [www.qatar.vcu.edu](http://www.qatar.vcu.edu)
- Northwestern University: [www.qatar.northwestern.edu](http://www.qatar.northwestern.edu)

## QF's new school offers unique learning model

Qatar Foundation (QF) has announced the launch of a first-of-its-kind school in Qatar, which will offer a globally unique learning model to young children. 'Academyat' is a progressive school under the umbrella of QF's Pre-University Education (PUE) and admissions are open now for the 2019-20 academic year. It will open in August 2019 for children aged 3 to 6 years. 'Academyat' will be based at QF's Education City and enrol 48 children initially. The school is designed to eventually expand and ultimately accommodate children and young people aged 3-18. Academyat stands for 'Innovation in Learning'. At Academyat children will be grouped into multi-age groups, rather than in a structure defined by grade levels or determined by their age. This will help children to learn at their own pace and from older or younger children, in a fluid, engaging, non-classroom setting. Each child will have a portfolio that fully documents their personal growth, as well as their learning outcomes and products.

## GU-Q 100: A celebration of knowledge

H H Sheikha Moza bint Nasser, Chairperson of Qatar Foundation (QF), attended Georgetown University in Qatar's 'GU-Q 100: A Celebration of Knowledge', a gala to commemorate more than 100 books published by faculty and staff since the university's doors opened in 2005. H E Sheikha Hind bint Hamad Al Thani, Vice-Chairperson and CEO of Qatar Foundation, was the honoured guest speaker at the ceremony, marking a major milestone in the collaboration between QF and Georgetown University that began with the launch of its Doha campus in support of the development goals of Qatar National Vision 2030. H E Sheikha Hind said: "Through its wealth of research in the field of humanities and social sciences, Georgetown University in Qatar has made a significant contribution to the international profile of QF and Qatar as a hub of new knowledge, original thought, and intellectual courage in confronting issues which influence what our world is, and what it can be." The gala, held on GU-Q's Education City campus, was also attended by deans of QF partner universities, members of the diplomatic community, students, faculty, staff, and other special guests.

## QU research output grows six times

Qatar University's research output has grown by about six times during the period from 2010 to last year, and the proportion of publishing in the top ten scientific journals in the world rose from 15.9 percent to 40.8 percent during the same period. These statistics were revealed during the Annual Research Forum & Exhibition 2019, held under the theme "Research Transformation through the Fourth Industrial Revolution: Challenges and Social Innovations". Qatar University President Dr Hassan bin Rashid Al Derham said the number of research publications in the university rose from 235 publications in 2010 to 1,560 publications last year, an increase of more than six times.

Vice-President for Research and Graduate Studies, Prof. Mariam Al Ali Al Maadeed, presented the most important statistics that reflect the university's development at the research and academic levels, including the number of colleges increasing to ten after the announcement of opening the faculty of dentistry next fall, and the number of students increasing to more than 20,000 students with 65 percent being Qataris. This is in addition to opening nearly 18 research centers to date and launching 54 postgraduate programs in multiple disciplines and fields. Al Maadeed said the university has managed to publish more than 6,000 research papers over the last few years. She said the global collaborative partnership of QU has expanded to include many of the world's leading universities, institutes and research centres, where it has signed 68 memorandums of understanding to strengthen these relations and partnerships.

## VCUArts Qatar hosts new students at 'Hayakom'

Virginia Commonwealth University School of the Arts in Qatar (VCUArts Qatar) hosted a special event dedicated to new students and their families to familiarise them with life at VCUArts Qatar. VCUArts Qatar in Education City welcomed 92 new students at an exciting orientation program entitled "Hayakom", which is the Arabic word for "welcome". The event began with an introduction from Katherine Magnum, the university's Director of Recruitment and Admissions, followed by a welcome note from Executive Dean Dr Donald N

Baker. Among the new students from 19 different nationalities, 54 are Qataris and were admitted to various programs. Several chairs of the various departments including Fashion Design, Interior Design, Graphic Design, Painting and Printmaking, Art History, and Art Foundation took turns to explain their programs and how it could be beneficial to the students.

## CMU-Q welcomes Class of 2023

Carnegie Mellon University in Qatar (CMU-Q) welcomed more than 80 new students and their parents at the Marhaba Tartans event recently. The event was an opportunity for incoming students to meet their professors and future classmates, and learn more about studying at CMU-Q. Michael Trick, Dean of CMU-Q, welcomed the Class of 2023 and reminded each of them that they have earned a place at the university. "When we selected you, we looked at your academic accomplishments, your extracurricular interests, and your plans for the future. We chose you because you want to learn, and you are curious and forward-thinking. We have every confidence that you will be excellent Tartans," he said. Carnegie Mellon University in Qatar offers undergraduate programs in biological sciences, business administration, computational biology, computer science and information students. Nearly 400 students from 38 countries call CMU-Q home.

## QLC celebrates graduation of 118 Qataris at NMOQ

Qatar Leadership Centre (QLC), early this month, celebrated its annual graduation ceremony at the National Museum of Qatar, honouring 118 Qataris who have completed one of three courses of study — the Executive, Government, or Rising Leaders programs. The graduates constitute the sixth class of QLC since its establishment by Amir H H Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani as a national platform for leadership development. This year QLC marked the addition of an Executive Master's degree program in leadership offered by Georgetown University, which is built on the foundational courses of the QLC program. There are 28 Qataris currently enrolled in the inaugural program. QLC's key partnerships include leading institutions: the University of Cambridge, University of Chicago Booth School of Business, Duke University, Georgetown University, Harvard University, HEC Paris, Rice University, University of Oxford, and Al Jazeera Media Institute.

## CMU-Q team wins Quick Startup 2019

A team from Carnegie Mellon University in Qatar (CMU-Q) took first place at Quick Startup 2019, with their idea called VisKit. The idea, which the team developed during the three-day competition, is an all-in-one, dashboard mounted, heads-up display and mobile phone carriage to make sure drivers keep their eyes on the road. The system provides access to driving directions and advanced safety features like night vision and collision detection, without having drivers look at their mobile phones. Quick Startup is a competition for university students and new graduates to create a business plan and investor pitch over the course of a weekend. This is the fifth year that CMU-Q has hosted Quick Startup. This year, about 80

university students and new graduates from across Qatar participated in the competition that was sponsored by QNB.

## NU-Q's 10th anniversary celebrations

As part of its year-long celebration of the 10th anniversary of Northwestern University in Qatar's establishment in Doha, it joined with its alumni and hosted a homecoming for the University's faculty, staff, and students. Homecomings are a tradition in the United States for universities to welcome back former students, along with current students, faculty, and staff, to celebrate the institution. The Northwestern Club of Qatar hosted the event, which is being held as part of Northwestern's global alumni event — NU Connects. "Our greatest achievement is our alumni—nearly 300 of them to date—who rightly make us proud by dint of their individual accomplishments and the role they are playing in Qatar's society and elsewhere across the globe," said Everett E. Dennis, Dean and CEO. NU Connects is a program sponsored by the Northwestern Alumni Association that gives alumni the opportunity to expand their Northwestern network locally as well as globally through



a series of specially-coordinated events around the world. NU-Q is celebrating its 10th year anniversary through a series of events over the course of the year, culminating with an Iftar for graduating seniors and family members, along with faculty, staff, students, and alumni on May 6 at the Four Seasons.

## QNRf launches award for early career professionals

Qatar National Research Fund (QNRf), a member of Qatar Foundation (QF), has announced the launch of a new award, the 'Early Career Research Award (ECRA)', an intensive research and research leadership development award for faculty members and researchers at an early stage in their careers. The aim of the award is to support eligible applicants in the development of their skills in order to conduct and lead research independently, with the ultimate aim of contributing to Qatar's overarching research and development goals.

The award will also help recently graduated PhD holders and medical doctors to establish their labs and develop their research. The award is designed to help bridge the gap between QNRf's portfolio of capacity building programs and the National Priorities Research Program (NPRP) — its flagship funding program through which QNRf seeks to support research projects that address the main challenges facing Qatar and contribute towards the country's development. ECRA is open to individuals who are faculty members,

researchers, scientists, and clinicians early in their careers and hold terminal degrees with two-to-seven years of experience and are determined to build their career in research.

## Thales strengthens partnership with QU

Thales, a key player in cybersecurity with a presence in the State of Qatar for over 35 years and a global leader in aerospace, transportation, defence, security and space, has further strengthened its partnership with Qatar University (QU), to reinforce the transfer of knowledge in cybersecurity, by extending its sponsorship of a 'Professional Chair' and by providing a cutting edge Cyber Range software training platform. This builds on the agreement Thales signed with Qatar University to sponsor a 'Professional Chair' in 2014. The renewed partnership on the cyber security demonstrates the trustful cooperation established between Qatar University and Thales over the years, and Thales strong commitment to support Qatar's education sector in the long run. With the contribution of the Cyber Range software training platform to Qatar University, developed in collaboration with Diateam, Thales offers another advanced training tool for students. Cyber Range is designed to help organisations improve their capabilities to ensure that they are adequately prepared for cyberattacks.

## CNA-Q hosts annual co-curricular event

The College of the North Atlantic — Qatar (CNA-Q) hosted its largest co-curricular event of the academic year, the 10th annual CNA-Q Skills Competition. The competition offers 30 different competitions around campus — in engineering technology and industrial trades, information technology, health sciences, business studies and academics — simulating a variety of real-world tasks that students will perform in the workplace once they graduate. The CNA-Q Skills Competition showcases what learning at CNA-Q is all about — building experiential and technological competencies required in the world of work. Over 300 College students competed against their peers to test the technical skills they are learning through their studies. Again this year the College partnered with local schools to include hundreds of secondary students in the Competition, giving more young people the opportunity to be involved in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM).

## ASD wins CMU-Q's 'Pi Day' math contest

A team from the American School of Doha (ASD) won the top prize at Carnegie Mellon University in Qatar's (CMU-Q) fourth annual 'Pi Day' Mathematics Competition. CMU-Q introduced the 'Pi Day' Mathematics Competition in 2016 to encourage high school students to broaden their mathematical horizons in the spirit of friendly competition. This year's competition was sponsored by Fifty One East, who presented the awards to the winners and finalists. 'Pi Day' is embraced by mathematicians and educators worldwide as an opportunity to celebrate and encourage learning in mathematics. Pi is written in symbol form as the Greek letter  $\pi$ , which represents the ratio of the circumference of a circle to its diameter, an infinite number rounded to 3.14. Pi Day falls on March 14 each year.



# ASD Awarded Eco-Schools Green Flag on their 30th Anniversary Year

**MAHA ABDELWAHAB**  
ASD ALUMNUS CLASS OF 2012

The American School of Doha was recently awarded the Eco-Schools Green Flag to recognize its achievements in promoting sustainability on campus. In the past two years, ASD students have introduced and successfully implemented a number of eco-friendly sustainability initiatives including paper recycling, re-use programs, reduction of plastic waste, and food composting to name a few. Many of the programs were student-led by members of the ASD Eco Clubs.

The Green Flag award is just one of the many achievements celebrated by ASD during its 30th anniversary year. Last month at the annual Friendship Festival, ASD revealed the long-awaited Legacy Wall which displays brush-metal plaques with names of students and community members who had previously donated to help offset the cost of building the new school starting in 2006-2007. The wall is only a third-way filled, leaving room for future students and community members to leave their Legacy.

The American School of Doha was first established in 1988 and initially taught grades KG-5. In the early 2000's, the school's enrollment increased significantly which led to one of ASD's largest achievements - the building of the new campus in 2007. ASD as a community ensures that its educational facilities, along with its rigorous curriculum, provides students with the best opportunity for a well-rounded education.

From 2013-2017, ASD underwent a \$35M Campus Improvement Project to increase capacity and improve facilities across the entire school. This



Campus Improvement Project has maximized the school footprint to allow for enrollment of up to 2250 students from pre-kindergarten to grade 12. ASD's academic program has been a forerunner in professional learning and curriculum development, and the school enjoys a worldwide reputation for excellence.

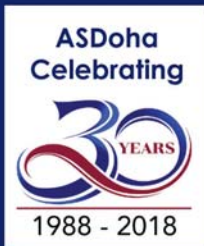
Throughout the years, ASD has maintained and continues to maintain strong ties with the larger community of Qatar. This year as we celebrate 30

years of community, trust, and excellence, we look forward to the future with a special focus on the legacy.

I am incredibly proud to be an alumnus of a school that not only cares a great deal about its students, but also consistently contributes towards building a community within the nation of Qatar. I am excited to see how the school will continue to grow in the future, and I am proud to remain a part of that as an alumnus of ASD.



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# Learning lessons on tablets: A boon or a bane?

**W**ere living in an era when technology has evolved our lives beyond our imagination. So used to technological solutions, even the thought of living without them comes across as a nightmare to us. The education sector is also not spared from the shower of such tech advancements. Today, students are happy learning lessons on their tablets and are enjoying the bliss of VR to go back in time and live in different eras – instead of merely reading their history notes.

With technology additions becoming the norm, one should not contemplate that teachers are going to be replaced. Instead, these technology additions will act as a vehicle to complement them. Human teachers are always going to be an essential part of the education system. With the availability of more data, teachers would be able to leverage technology additions to ensure that every student is making the most of it. Teachers would be able to analyze student progress and provide personalized tests and assessments. This way, educators would also be able to recommend better ways of adding technology in the classrooms.

Technology gives children the ability to learn in ways their parents and grandparents never had. Today's learners have immediate access to answers and research. Yet, that access is changing the way students think. Listed below are a list of some of the advantages and disadvantages that surround the technology in classroom debate.

## THE ADVANTAGES

1. Apps and platforms offer teachers

ways to combine all the information they might need to know about a student – status, attendance history, performance, and English language proficiency, to name a few. With this information, teachers can easily see how their students are performing as a whole class, as a subgroup, and as individuals, and can provide intervention as needed. Most educational technology apps include easy to use features, so that assessment data can also be shared with administrators and parents.

2. Educational technology is allowing teachers to see where students may be missing particular pieces of understanding and to then target lessons just for that knowledge. Instead of sitting through hour-long lectures of material they've mostly mastered, technology is allowing students to learn what they need, and when they need it.

3. Educational apps allow for students to progress at their own pace. Many are adaptive, meaning that questions and problems will get easier or more difficult, depending on student performance. Programs can adjust to meet students at their precise learning levels. In addition, the multitude of apps and software available means that students in the same classroom might be using different systems to learn similar material, depending on their interests and learning.

4. Incorporating technology into the classroom means that students have exposure and access to different ways of learning. Maybe some students do thrive in a lecture environment; others might be great independent learners, who can gather information from educational software. Giving students the choice of different ways to learn means they'll likely explore and try different techniques, and



in the end, learn the best strategies for themselves as individual learners.

5. Educational technology makes it possible for students with special needs to thrive in academic settings. From adaptive word processor apps to programs that speak for children who struggle with

language, technology allows students to communicate and be involved with their teachers and classmates.

## THE DISADVANTAGES

1. Distracting is probably the number one worry of teachers who consider

implementing classroom technology: The concern that students will be too busy tweeting or using Whatsapp and Snapchat to pay attention to the lesson. Students' innate curiosity, coupled with their tech savvy could lead to more online socializing in environments where devices are easily accessible.

2. Plagiarism has been plaguing teachers forever. Students today can easily access essays, reports, class notes, tests, etc. online, making it that much more difficult for teachers to know if the work their students hand in is original. Though there are tech tools to help teachers discover if the work is plagiarized, no system is perfect.

3. Not all of our students have access to technology tools outside of the classroom. Yes, the library is an option, but there is often a wait for computers connected to the Internet, and even then, you can't download apps and software onto public computers. Assigning technology use in the classroom is fine if all students have access to the device. But when educational technology programs are considered for homework, at home intervention, or even flipped learning, student access to the Internet must be considered.

4. Privacy of student information and data is enough of an issue to keep many teachers and schools away from implementing any sort of broad reaching tech initiatives. Apps and platforms have come a long way in improving their privacy measures, especially where students are involved.

There's no right or wrong side of this debate. Educational technology has its pluses and minuses. It's up to teachers and administrators to decide whether the good outweighs the bad.

# 12 online aid tools for digital classrooms

**I**n today's world, you would be hard-pressed to find an area of life that hasn't been affected by the process of digitalization. In other words, modern technology has pretty much permeated every pore of our society, and that includes education, as well. However, there is still lots of potential in that field that hasn't been taken advantage of, and that situation should be remedied in the future, because there are plenty of benefits digital education is here to give.

While the term digital classroom is very loosely defined, it applies to those classrooms which employ modern technology and communications in order to provide students with information. They use that information online, or in a traditional classroom with their teachers and fellow students in order to learn new lessons.

What modern technology enables us to do is to introduce elements of gamification into the education process, which should improve student motivation and information retention, as well as their ability to do their own research and work in teams. It also allows for individualization of learning and encourages students to seek out the content that they like. With that in mind, here is a comprehensive list of 12 digital tools that can help you create your own digital classroom.

## LEARN BOOST

Learn Boost is aimed at both teachers and

parents, because it allows them to track student progress in real-time and over a certain time span. Aside from acting as a digital gradebook, it can also provide teachers with the ability to upload new lesson plans, create schedules, and even track student attendance. This tool can also integrate with Google Apps and store all necessary information safely in the cloud. On top of everything, it is also free.

## MOODLE

Moodle, which is an acronym for Modular Object-Oriented Dynamic Learning Environment, is an expansive tool that is a Learning Management System (LMS) at its core, but which also enables students and teachers to create their own custom learning environments that fit their needs perfectly. Furthermore, it is also an open-source initiative, which makes it free, and its functionality can be expanded through integration of different features, plugins, and modules.

## CLASS DOJO

One of the most popular digital classroom management tools is ClassDojo, which can be used effectively by teachers to better student behavior in class, and to inform parents about their child's performance in the classroom. For instance, using their smartphones or tablets, teachers can add or subtract points to each

student's avatar, which is displayed on the smartboard. The app is also able to generate reports which can be shared easily with parents.

## CACOO

One of the most efficient ways to display complex data to students is to use a flowchart, diagram or graph, and for that, teachers can use Cacoo, which is an online flowchart generator tool that also comes with a built-in real-time collaboration functionality. Best of all, it allows multiple users to access and to change the flowchart, which allows for some outstanding interactivity. There is also the chat feature which makes sure that everything doesn't turn into chaos. The app is also capable of tracking all changes, and keeps tabs on who was involved in the collaborative process.

## PIXTON

One of the most unique digital classroom tools is Pixton, which allows children to create their own cartoon characters and comics. Having them create their own characters, and then present the lessons they have learned with the class through cartoons, can create an unparalleled level of engagement on their behalf, and change the way they view their education and literacy.

## VOICETHREAD

VoiceThread is a teaching app which enables both students and teachers to upload photographs, images, clip art, scans, their own drawings, or even PowerPoint slides. Teachers and students can then add their own audio comments to the uploaded materials, which enables creative idea exchange and boost collaboration. It can also be used by teachers to upload a new lesson and provide audio commentary which further explains the subject matter.

## SOCRATIVE

One of the biggest challenges of education is gauging just how well the students have been able to grasp certain lessons and concepts explained by their teachers. Thanks to Socrative, teachers no longer need to guess which students have understood the lesson. They simply share their inquiry using the app, and the students provide the feedback, thus making the teacher's job much easier.

## ENGRADE

Engrade allows teachers to keep track of all their classes with just one application, and that includes managing grades and exporting them to Microsoft Excel. The same app can be used to track student attendance, as well as performance in class. Another useful feature of Engrade is that teachers can create interactive lessons using the materials they have collected online, and even make online quizzes that will prepare their students for future tests.

## TOP HAT

Top Hat enables teachers to create interesting and interactive presentations with the goal of enhancing student activity in class, and as well as their knowledge retention. Thanks to plenty of multimedia elements, teachers can engage students, and check their knowledge of the subject, which is why this tool is especially useful for revision after each chapter.

## TRELLO

Trello is both a scheduling app and a project management tool rolled into one, which also sports a brilliantly designed user interface. Unlike some of the similar apps, this one will actually engage students, especially those which prefer visuals. The app also facilitates communication between students and teachers, which can help them receive feedback on their learning workflows and assignments.

## KAHOOT!

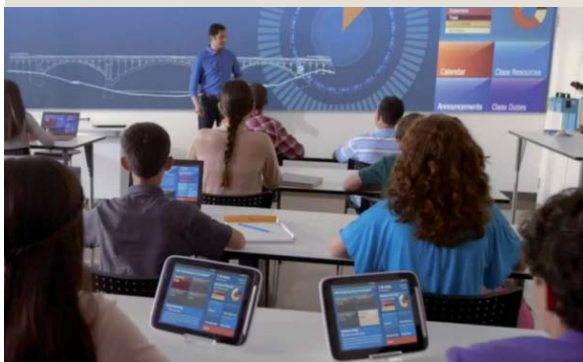
Kahoot! allows teachers to introduce gaming elements in their classroom in order to engage students and grab their attention. The app enables them to create presentation, quizzes, and collaborate on each new lesson. Students can take part by checking out the presentations on a shared screen, or using their own smartphones, tablets, or laptops. Works best for groups.

## READWRITETHINK

ReadWriteThink is an online platform which can help teachers integrate stuff such as new lessons plans, presentations, and even after-school activities, which they can then share with their students. What makes this app stand out is the huge number of resources it relies on, and the way it is organized, so that students and teachers are never more than a few steps away from finding what they need.

The digital era is definitely here to stay, and there is little we can do to stop it. The fact of the matter is, we may not want to, especially when it comes to education, which can be enhanced by all these different tools for digital classrooms: platforms, apps, and devices. What matters is that students learn, and by communicating with them through a medium that they are familiar with, we have better chances of engaging and getting through to them. Let's lead them into the future.

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## SEK Model United Nations Conference 2019

On the 11th of March, 7 SEK students travelled to Madrid, Spain to partake in the 13th annual SEK Model United Nations Conference. They participated in the 3-day conference where they represented the delegations of Mexico and Tunisia in the committees of United Nations Human Rights Council, the United Nations World Tourism Organization, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and the United Nations Economic and Social Committee.

Students collaborated with others to discuss issues such as the promotion of peace and sustainable development in Africa, competitive and responsible global tourism, sustainable and reliable energy use in the modern world and combating the glorification of organizational practices that fuel discrimination and xenophobia.

In addition, they conducted research and engaged in friendly negotiation that resulted in new perspectives regarding global issues. Following the conference, the students toured the city with the company of 7 SEK-El Castillo students to expand their cultural perspective as well.



The firm conviction of the SEK Educational Institution in the value of learning by using reference models is one of the main reasons why the SEKMUN project has been set in motion. SEKMUN represents the United Nations model, where participants come to understand that the best way to resolve problems is by dialogue and negotiation, and never by violence. At a time of widespread globalization, the SEK Educational Institution is committed to this educational-cultural event in which students, besides learning about current issues and international policy, acquire a more global vision of the world.



SEK INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL QATAR

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- International, multilingual and co-educational for students from **Preschool 3 to Grade 12**.
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- We are an **IB World School** authorised to offer the **Primary Years Programme (PYP)**, **Middle Years Programme (MYP)** and **Diploma Programme (DP)**.
- SEK Qatar educates students from a wide range of different cultures represented by over **55 nationalities**.
- We are **NEASC Accredited** and are part of the prestigious **SEK Education Group** encompassing 9 international schools worldwide (Spain, France, Ireland, Qatar) and the **University Camilo José Cela** in Madrid.



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## PHILIPPINE INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL—QATAR

THE TORCHBEARER OF EXPAT EDUCATION

Established in 1999 and started operation in 2000, the Philippine International School-Qatar opened its doors to the Filipino community in Qatar to provide children quality education through its holistic approach to learning. From this vision, PISQ expanded to a new horizon in providing education by embodying its core values: **Wisdom and Goodness**.

PISQ is a home to almost 120 licensed professional educators and about 3000 dynamic and excellent students of different cultures and races joyfully learning in small class size (20-30). The school offers multiple gates, purposely built classrooms, strategic location (near the bus stop, Safari Hypermarket Village Mall), fully functioning science rooms and computer labs, multiple libraries, multi-purpose halls, bus service, CCTV security, and fully functioning first aid units, among others.

It fully offers education programs in the following levels: Preschool, Intermediate, Junior High School, and Senior High School operating both the Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) Strand as well as the Humanities and Social Sciences Strand (HSSM).

PISQ prides itself with a **safe learning environment** where children and teens can learn while having fun with their curious and dedicated educators. Various **clubs and organizations** that train the students in leadership, academics, arts, and media are also enjoyed by the students and their parents to learn.

Various collaborations are also held inside the school which give students platforms to express their abilities and uniqueness.

The school also places a paramount on the **overall development** of the child. It holds various team-building activities and seminars carefully planned and crafted by its very own guidance and counseling team.

Another evidence to the school's holistic approach is its development of **sports and recreational activities** for learners, parents, teachers, and staff to promote fitness and engage the community in healthy lifestyle through sports. The school provides overseas as well for extensive training of its athletes through the formation of varsity teams like basketball and volleyball.

A testimony of true PISQian intellect can be seen through its **excellent wins** in various academic and skills competitions both here in Qatar and abroad. Last 2018, PISQians competed in the International History Quiz Bee and Bowl - Qatar and was awarded as a champion. They qualified in the IBBB Asian championships in Khao Lak, Thailand and competed in the IBBB Global in Berlin, Germany.

PISQ has won two years in a row in the Philippine Institute of Civil Engineers - Qatar Chapter Math Whiz competition for SHS. This is a great testimony of how well the students are trained when it comes to logical thinking and reasoning.

The school also bagged the Overall Champion award in the 10th Order of the Knights of Rizal-Middle East and African Regions Academic, Skills, and Talent Competition held in Manama, Bahrain where all the delegates brought home an award for different categories ranging from painting, character evaluation, and writing just to name a few.

To make sure that the students are connected and well-informed to other nations, the school also sends delegates for the Model United Nations. This is one of the student training programs here that keeps the students well-informed about issues arising globally and coming up together in order to understand each other's goals and differences.

On top of it all, teachers in PISQ are consistently trained to make them **effective educators** and to cater the ever-changing needs and abilities of the **21st century learners**.



Leonora Sophia P. Muñoz receives her Honorable Mention award (IC Judge) | Juan Carlo G. Landayan receives his IBBB Asian Championships medal and plaque



School Principal Mr. Jason A. Iyas poses with the PISQ delegates for the School Principal Mr. Jason A. Iyas poses with the PISQ delegates for the International GIUQ Model United Nations (MIUN) | The PISQ delegates show their medals and the plaque for winning in the International Quiz Bee and Bowl (IBBB)



PISQ pupils perform in Qatar National Library during the celebration of the Buwan ng Wika

check us out at:  
Philippine International School—Qatar  
pis-qatar.com  
pisqregistrar@yahoo.com

PISQ lives by its core values **Wisdom and Goodness (Wisdom and Goodness)**

PISQians pride themselves through winning academic challenges



PISQ proudly received its award for the 2nd Math Whiz contest

PISQians are well adept with their talents and skills



PISQ organized teachers' workshop for the Order of the Knights of Rizal-Middle East and African Regions

PISQians' talents are also honed through workshops and seminars



PISQ pupils perform in Qatar National Library during the celebration of the Buwan ng Wika



## PHILIPPINE INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL QATAR



- Spacious campus with multiple gates
- Purposely-built school buildings
- Small class size (20-30 students per class)
- Strategic location (near the bus stop, five-minute drive to Safari Hyper market, 15-minutes to The Mall)
- Other facilities and services
- Fully-functional science rooms
- Computer labs
- Libraries
- First aid units with registered Nurses
- Multi-purpose halls
- Bus service
- Computer subjects for students from pre-school to high school
- Highly qualified and competent licensed Filipino teachers
- High passing rate for college entrance examinations
- Wide covered areas for outdoor activities

For particulars, please contact the following:  
Admin: +974 33454998, Principal: +974 70269194, Tel/Fax No.: 44513364  
Tel No.: 44513443, Email: pisqregistrar@yahoo.com

## International School of London, Qatar

### Celebrating 10 Years of Excellence

The International School of London (ISL) Qatar celebrates its 10th anniversary this year. Since opening the doors to its first students in August of 2008, ISL Qatar has developed a strong presence both locally and internationally as a pioneering educational institution, that is continually exploring the process of learning and considering what constitutes effective learning. ISL Qatar has an outstanding reputation for high academic standards, prestigious International Baccalaureate (IB) programmes and an impressive record of admissions to the best universities worldwide.

ISL Qatar is part of the International School of London Group, which has a tradition of over 40 years of outstanding educational achievement in the UK. ISL was the first school in the UK to offer the IB Diploma Programme and has a history of placing students in top quality colleges and universities.



The IB accreditation across all three age groups; Primary Years Programme (PYP), Middle Years Programme (MYP) and Diploma Programme (IB DP), earns the prestigious ranking as an 'IB World School'. The IB curriculum fulfils the School's vision of combining intellectual rigour and high academic standards with a strong emphasis on the ideals of international mindedness and responsible global citizenship.

As well as striving to develop the academic potential of each student, the teachers are also committed to the school mission statement which sets out its goal of 'developing a passion for life and learning that leads to the betterment of the world in which we live.'

### ISL Qatar is Renowned for:

Pioneering mother tongue programmes. Mother tongue and language development is vital for educational attainment and the school places great emphasis on its mother tongue and language programme. The language of instruction of the school is English but we currently provide for students whose mother tongue is not English through classes in their mother tongue and - for those students who require this support - through English as an Additional Language (EAL) programme. The school's mother tongue programme is widely recognised as a model for international schools.

Mother tongue languages offered include: Arabic, French, Spanish, Portuguese, Greek, Serbian, German, Italian, Dutch, Japanese, Turkish, Malay and Indonesian. We are constantly adding more languages depending on need and availability.

ISL Qatar has a truly international student body of 1000 students from over 70 countries, and inspiring and passionate teachers from over 40 countries. A spacious, purpose-built campus with small class-sizes allows for personalized care and learning. We offer a stunning array of after-school activities including sports teams, academic clubs, a visual and performing arts programme, Model United Nations, World's Scholar's Cup and community service activities.

### Passport to The World's Best Universities

As well as the IB Diploma, ISL Qatar offers a US High School Diploma (US HSD) to all students. The US HSD is fully accredited by the New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC) and the Council of International Schools (CIS). The academic strength of the IB Diploma is recognised by universities throughout the world.

In May 2018, the sixth cohort of Grade 12 students sat their IB Diploma examinations, and we are proud to report the achievements of the Class of 2018. Once again, the ISL Qatar IB Diploma graduates surpassed international averages in Diploma scores and overall pass rate.

It is worth noting that 39 students successfully passed the IB Diploma. The highest scores were a very impressive 43 points, 42 points and 41 points out of the maximum possible score of 45 points. It is a great achievement to have three students scoring 40 points or more. It is also very pleasing that within the Extended Essay, a 4,000-word research assignment that is an important component of the IB Diploma, majority of the students achieved an A or B. Once again, the language results were outstanding, but there were also very strong results in Business Management, History, Geography, Psychology, Chemistry, Mathematics, Theatre and Visual Arts.

## A Truly International Learning Experience

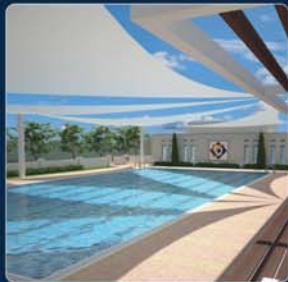


### Leading International Baccalaureate (IB) School in Qatar

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- State-of-the-art facilities

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