

## Introduction

Qatar is a leading hub of research and education in the Middle East, with a variety of higher education institutions and programs in nearly every field of academia. The U.S. has been an invaluable partner for the development of Qatar's higher education system today.

In 1995 Her Highness Sheikha Moza Bint Nasser and His Highness Sheikh Hamad Bin Khalifa Al Thani founded **Qatar Foundation** (QF) to expand upon the country's higher education system and train Qatar's youth for a knowledge-based, post-petrochemical economy - a key component of Qatar National Vision 2030.



As its flagship project, QF founded **Education City**, which today hosts **six leading U.S. partner universities**.

Education City distinguishes Qatar as a beacon for education and research in the Arabian Gulf region and the greater Middle East.

Qatar is also home to **Qatar University**, a public university offering a comprehensive array of studies for its students, and QF's Hamad Bin Khalifa University, a homegrown university offering master's and doctoral degrees in Islamic studies, humanities, social sciences, engineering, physical science, law, and public policy. In 2015, the **Doha Institute for Graduate Studies** opened, offering masters- and doctorate-level graduate programs in executive education, public administration, social sciences, and more.

## Key Facts

- Qatar hosts branches for six different US universities – more than any other Arabian Gulf country – to bring the greatest in US academic excellence to Qatari students.
- Education City offers scholarships to students from Arab and Islamic countries.
- Qatar's higher education system is a deliberate investment of Qatar's petrochemical profits to transition Qatar from a fossil fuel to a knowledge-based economy and is a central component of Qatar National Vision 2030.
- Qatar's higher education system offers a special opportunity for women in Muslim countries whose families support their studies but would prefer they study nearby in a familiar culture.
- Women constitute the majority of students in Qatar's higher education system.

### U.S. Universities in Education City

Carnegie Mellon University  
Cornell University  
Georgetown University  
Northwestern University  
Texas A&M University  
Virginia Commonwealth University

## Pioneers in Qatari Higher Education

### Qatar University

Qatar University is the first university established in the country and offers education in a comprehensive variety of academic areas. Qatar University provides free tuition for Qatari students and students from other GCC countries who meet the entrance requirements and maintain a qualifying GPA. The university also offers scholarships to students from Arab and Islamic countries. Students at Qatar University are free to enroll in additional classes in Education City, including its US partner universities.



### Hamad Bin Khalifa University

Hamad Bin Khalifa University (HBKU), named after Qatar's Father Amir, was established in 2010 to offer graduate studies and research opportunities to students in Qatar. HBKU hosts over 600 students, 58 percent of whom are non-Qatari, covering 68 different nationalities. HBKU hosts five colleges in Islamic Studies, Humanities and Social Sciences, Science and Engineering, Law and Public Policy, and Health and Life Sciences, as well as three research institutes –Qatar Biomedical Research Institute, Qatar Computing Research Institute, and Qatar Environment and Energy Research Institute. HBKU has partnerships with every US university in Education City, bringing together the wide and diverse expertise of all six schools.

### Doha Institute

The Doha Institute for Graduate Studies is a new, leading center for graduate studies in Qatar, with centers on social sciences, humanities, public administration, psychology, security studies, conflict studies, and executive education. The institute started its first academic semester in 2015 and offers a variety of areas for masters- and doctoral-level graduate studies.

## A Beacon for Academia

Qatar also invests in education initiatives around the world, including through its **Education Above All Foundation**, to help defeat radical extremism by empowering youth to determine their futures and build stronger communities. The Foundation's programs include:

- **Educate A Child (EAC)**, which has a mandate of enrolling and retaining 10 million children without easy access to primary education. Thus far, EAC has helped enroll over 6.6 million school children.
- **Protecting Education in Insecurity and Conflict (PEIC)**, which advocates for education in war-torn countries and regions. PEIC works with multiple United Nations offices and international initiatives to support the right for education in areas of conflict and instability such as Sudan and Uganda.
- **Al Fakhoura** is an initiative promoting education access for students in Gaza. Al Fakhoura has refurbished or reconstructed 18 university facilities and 71 schools in Gaza and awarded over 5,000 scholarships for students in higher education in Gaza.
- **Reach Out To Asia (ROTA)**, a program supporting education and training in crisis areas in Asia. Thus far ROTA has helped provide primary education to 385,473 children and trained 52,667 youths with skills for gainful employment.

## Education City



Education City is the flagship initiative of Qatar Foundation and is located in Doha. Today, Education City covers 3,300 acres and houses educational facilities from early school age to research level and branch campuses of some of the world's leading universities – six from the U.S.

- **Virginia Commonwealth University School of the Arts in Qatar (VCUarts Qatar)** is a branch of the prestigious VCUarts school, offering programs in art, design, and fashion. VCUarts Qatar routinely hosts art exhibitions and fashion shows and has graduated the bulk of Qatar's leading artists, fashion designers, and sculptors.
- **Weill Cornell Medicine-Qatar (WCM-Q)** brings Cornell University's medical expertise to Qatar with pre-med and medical graduate programs. WCM-Q works with Qatar's 2022 FIFA World Cup committee to evaluate and support workers' health and routinely publishes papers on medical topics from obesity and diabetes to acupuncture and the effects of laughter.
- **Texas A&M University at Qatar (TAMUQ)** focuses on engineering, including chemical, computer, mechanical, and petroleum. In 2018, TAMUQ and the Qatar National Research Fund hosted a two-day workshop where 21 middle schoolers designed a mobile Android app.
- **Carnegie Mellon University in Qatar (CMU-Q)** trains students in biology, business administration, computational biology, and computer science. In 2018, a CMU-Q student team placed second in CMU's Neurohackathon competition, analyzing synaptic data to identify indicators of Alzheimer's disease.
- **Georgetown University in Qatar (GU-Q)** focuses on politics, government, and foreign affairs. GU-Q hosts the Center for International and Regional Studies (CIRS), which regularly publishes papers and reports on major geopolitical trends in the greater Middle East.
- **Northwestern University in Qatar (NU-Q)** offers degrees in journalism and communications. NU-Q publishes 'Media Use in the Middle East,' an annual, one-of-a-kind survey of the use, trends, and perceptions of mass media in the Middle East.

Universities offer degrees in the fields of media, engineering, design, medicine, politics, business, museum curation, and Islamic studies. The presence of U.S. universities in Qatar gives the schools a foothold in a stable part of the Middle East and gives students in Qatar an opportunity to earn degrees from world-renowned academic institutions.

## Wide Range of Benefits

- Through Education City, Qatar is building the societal infrastructure to transition from a resource-based economy to a 21st-century knowledge-based economy.
- Thanks to Education City, students are becoming global citizens, with increased awareness of cutting-edge science, international cultures, and civil society. Qatar achieves these things while maintaining its important cultural values and characteristics.
- These universities furthermore provide an invaluable and unique opportunity to their U.S. students by offering them the chance to spend a semester abroad in Qatar, a hub of culture, media, and international trade in the Middle East.