

SHAHEEN PAKISTAN

Module: Further Study in Qatar



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SECTION 1: INTRODUCTION

GENERAL INFORMATION

Qatar has a number of universities, including international universities (based in Qatar, but giving an international degree to their graduates). Most of these international universities are located in the 'Education City', which is a large campus built as a part of the Higher Supreme Council's education reforms.

The following are useful general links:

- For an overview on Qatar's educational profile, [click here](#).
- [Qatar Guide](#)
- [List of Higher Education Institutions in Qatar](#) -- note that this link includes international universities based in Qatar
- [Study in Qatar](#)

Note: It is very important to be aware of the legal and cultural rules of Qatar before applying or moving there. For example, Qatar has a lack of freedom of speech -- you can be prosecuted if you question the government or religion of the state.

MOTIVATION TO APPLY TO QATAR

One factor that attracts students to Qatar is that the country has many international universities -- mainly British, American, Canadian, European and more. So rather than applying to the UK or US etc., one alternative is to study in Qatar, at possibly cheaper rates and closer to home, but also gain an international degree. Additionally, Qatar also has a very diverse study body, with students coming from Asia, the Phillipines and more.

Job Prospects

Most employment for foreigners in Qatar happens on a temporary basis in Qatar; getting permanent residence is generally difficult. If you get a job, you can stay for as long as the contract lasts after which you will be required to come back to Pakistan. Check out [Employment Prospects](#) for a detailed overview on the Qatar economy and job prospects for foreigners within it.

Working in Qatar after graduation

While we would hope that Pakistanis return to Pakistan to play a part in building the country, we do want to share that -- for those interested in staying and working in Qatar after graduation -- in order to be eligible for a Work Residency Permit, you must first secure a job in Qatar. Your employer will handle the process of first getting you a temporary visa which will allow you to stay in the country for a short period of time, and will get converted into a Work Residency Permit. The process of conversion usually takes 2-4 weeks, during which you are not supposed to leave the country.

TYPES OF DEGREES

Qatar is home to a variety of higher education institutes: it has local universities, and many foreign universities have opened up satellite campuses in Qatar's Education City.

To find out which degrees you can opt for (along with the university that offers it), go through this [resource](#). Note: this resource contains both undergraduate and graduate degrees.

DIFFERENT KINDS OF INSTITUTIONS (TIERS)

Qatar is home to a variety of higher education institutes: it has local universities, and many foreign universities have opened up satellite campuses in Qatar's Education City.

To find out which degrees you can opt for (along with the university that offers it), go through this [resource](#). Note: this resource contains both undergraduate and graduate degrees.

SECTION 2: GENERAL INFORMATION ABOUT STUDYING IN QATAR

APPLYING

OVERVIEW

There are a number of undergraduate programs taught in English so if you do not know Arabic, this should not be a problem in terms of studying in Qatar. [Click here](#) for a list of programs recognized by the Ministry of Education and Higher Education ([MOEHE](#)) in the State of Qatar.

Application Components

- Application Form
- Transcripts
- Letters of Recommendation
- Personal Statement
- Resume/CV
- Proof of Proficiency in English Language
 - TOEFL
 - IELTS
- Interview (sometimes required)

Note that university requirements vary significantly and so it is important to check requirements closely. There are a number of international universities, which will likely have additional requirements. Also note that this is a general list, there may be components not required by some universities.

Application Process and Timeline

When applying to a university in Qatar, you will need to apply directly through the university pages; there is no national admissions portal.

If you are applying to US/UK universities based in Qatar, then it could be useful for you to refer to the field-specific tip sheets we have made for these countries.

FEES, FUNDING AND SCHOLARSHIP

BUDGETING

As an international student, you will have to account for a lot of costs besides just the tuition fees. These include:

1. Travel expenses
2. Health and travel insurance
3. Accommodation and living expenses
4. Travel and sightseeing
5. Textbooks and other course materials
6. Food and drink
7. Miscellaneous

Keeping all these costs in mind, you will need 1500-2000 Qatari Rial per month (excluding tuition fees and accommodation). Do note that this figure has been presented according to 2018 prices and could be subject to change.

SCHOLARSHIPS AND GRANTS

Scholarships are limited and university based. You should contact your prospective universities and find out if you are eligible for any scholarships they offer.

APPLYING FOR A VISA

DO YOU NEED A VISA

All students who do not hold a valid Qatar residency permit are required to apply for the student visa, under the university sponsorship. If you have received (or applied) for scholarship and are not going to be funding your study yourself, you may not need to apply for a visa.

WHEN SHOULD YOU APPLY

Students should apply as early as possible. Institutions will typically intimate students when they need to begin the application process.

HOW LONG CAN YOU STAY IN QATAR

Typically for the duration of study.

APPLYING

This section was last updated in November 2018. It is recommended you visit [this link](#) in case the process has changed.

Students can apply through their university. The application form is typically available on the official university website.

ACCOMMODATION

GENERAL OPTIONS

Education City

Universities in the Education City will typically provide international students on-campus accommodation. Housing is almost always gender-specific, with designated areas that are gender-neutral. To promote diversity, Student Housing floors in the Education City consist of students from a number of universities.

- All housing units are fully furnished, and will typically include a bed, internet access, laundry facility, a television, and access to a campus shuttle.
- Students living on campus can eat at any of the food outlets in the Education City. In addition to that, almost every university building has its own coffee shop and cafeteria. Some students may also get access to a kitchenette.

For more information on accommodation options, visit your prospective university's webpage.

Qatar University

Housing at QU is gender-specific, and includes many facilities: fully-furnished room, often with an air-conditioner, communal television halls and libraries, swimming pool and fitness centre etc. There is a three-meal plan service, laundry service and shuttle service as well. For more information, click [here](#).

Hamad Bin Khalifa University

At HKBU, students can choose to live in Student Housing Villages. These villages include residential halls and apartments. There are different halls in each village -- reserved for different groups of people (i.e. there is a different hall for graduate students, a different hall for married students or students with families, and a different hall for upperclass students). For more information, click [here](#).

SECTION 3: CONTRIBUTORS

This information was compiled with the valuable help of SHAHEEN volunteers.

We thank our volunteers for their contribution, and hope their tips and advice will help you in your application.

The following sources were consulted in developing this country profile:

[Education Statistics](#), [Qatar Guide](#), [Qatar Education System](#), [Qatar Education Profile](#), [Higher Education Institutes Recognized by MOE](#), [Supported Universities](#), [Qatar Jobs](#), [Residence and Work Permits](#), [Higher Education](#), [Student Housing](#), [HBKU Student Housing](#), and [Visa](#).