

QATAR FOUNDATION PREPARING LEADERS OF THE FUTURE WITH ITS HIGHER EDUCATION PROGRAMMES

Postgraduate Degrees For High-Powered Executives Reflect The Concept Of 'Continuous Learning'

Doha, 5 May 2015: Believing in the concept of continuous life-long learning, Qatar Foundation for Education, Science and Community Development (QF) provides academic programmes aimed at high-powered executives working in some of the country's leading organisations. QF's master and doctorate degrees are designed to enable these executives to perform at optimum levels and contribute to the transformation of Qatar into a knowledge-based economy.

The convocation ceremony of QF's graduates in 2015 was attended by a number of top employees and executives from some of the country's leading companies and establishments, and who have been awarded postgraduate degrees in various majors that have been carefully designed to help tackle the most pressing challenges facing the State of Qatar.

One of the executives graduating this year is Shaher Al Shamari, Production Assistant Director at Qatar Petroleum. Al Shamari is one of the first graduates of the Executive MBA from HEC Paris in Qatar, one of QF's partner universities. The programme was launched for the first time in 2014 for high-powered executives.

Al Shamari explained why he chose the degree, saying: "HEC Paris is considered one of the world's best universities in the field of high administration studies and was ranked first among other MBAs in the years 2013 and 2014 by the British newspaper, the Financial Times."

"I particularly benefitted from the combination of theory and practice through the creation of student teams during the course, helping to understand the different administrative challenges and how to deal with difficulties facing managers in their private lives as well as commercial activities," he added. "The programme was very clear."

Over 18 months in duration, the programme is designed for business people and executives who want to study part-time alongside their work commitments. They are required to attend the last week of every month to undergo intensive training for 12 hours each day. At the end of each month, participants need to complete 55 hours of study to qualify for the Executive MBA.

“The programme provides an understanding of marketing, leadership, commerce, banking, industry, the private sector, and even how to organise family and home commitments, as well as time and crisis management,” said Al Shamari, describing what the course covers.

“It opens up promising future horizons for everyone who successfully completes the course. It helped me with employee relations, how to interact with them, promote them and motivate them by focusing on their strengths and dealing with their development areas, as well as improving their performance and promoting sustainable business practices. I now also have a greater understanding of financial and project management.”

Sultan Bakhit Al-Enazi was one of the first graduates of the Executive Masters in Energy and Resources course at HBKU, which was only launched last year, and is part of its first graduating class. The interdisciplinary programme, which is hosted in partnership with Georgetown University in Qatar, Texas A&M University at Qatar, and HEC Paris in Qatar, integrates geopolitics, public policy, technology, finance, management, and strategy.

Sultan is currently Acting Chief Strategy and Business Development at Qatar Fuel Additives Company Limited (QAFAC). He is working on a project entitled ‘Carbon Dioxide Recover’ (CDR). Officially launched two months ago, it aims to recover 500 tonnes of CO₂ per day, which is equivalent to the CO₂ emitted by 32 million cars per year.

“The programme is very strong, especially as it has been created by well-known and reputable universities. It is unique,” Sultan said, explaining how the degree helped with the CDR project. “One of the issues we discussed in-depth was climate change and the environment. Qatar’s residents deserve the best possible life, and it is our goal to reduce these harmful emissions and their effects.”

Sultan also discussed his future plans. Explaining how, by attempting to reduce the negative impacts to the environment, the project is in-line with the Qatar’s National Vision 2030, he said: “We are now looking to obtain a license in order to build and operate a methanol plant without natural gas, directly from CO₂.”

Walaa Yusuf is an acquisition librarian at Qatar Faculty of Islamic Studies (QFIS), a college of HBKU. She has just completed her master’s degree in Islamic Studies in Comparative Religions. She graduated from Qatar University with an undergraduate degree in Library and Information Studies in 2009 to start her career as an acquisition librarian at QFIS in 2011, before embarking on her master’s degree in 2013.

“As an acquisition librarian at QFIS, I have been supplying the library with books for the Comparative Religions major. That is what sparked my interest in the subject. I had this curiosity to find out more about Eastern and Western religions and faiths like Christianity, Judaism, Buddhism, and Hinduism,” she said. “I started asking questions about the followers of these religions. Before my studies, I didn’t know much about other religions. Today, I know a lot more about their beliefs, thanks to the course.”

She added, “The course helped me understand and respect other religions and sects, as well as promoting a culture of cooperation and respect between us as Muslims and the followers of these religions. We may disagree on beliefs but we can strike accords and agreements with them, especially in the current political climate.”

“It is important to learn how to coexist with others and respect their beliefs. That’s why I started attending seminars and conferences that addressed the subject of religion that help Muslims understand what followers of other religions want and help us communicate what we want from them too. I also started travelling to Europe to attend religious services in churches and other temples to see how people worship. This has made me really proud to be a Muslim, embodying the true spirit of Islam.”

Academically, Walaa was able to combine her librarian studies with comparative religions by researching writers, authors and researchers in this field until she was able to distinguish between scholars and others. This has helped her build a selection of specialised books in the subject for the QFIS library.

Walaa concluded by saying, “Getting my master’s degree from HBKU, under the umbrella of QF, is a great responsibility, and one that I am proud to bear because I now understand my duty towards the State of Qatar and how to help realise its national vision. I will play my role in the development and prosperity of this country by leading and training the coming generations.”

Higher Education Programmes Offered At Education City

Qatar Foundation for Education, Science and Community Development’s global reputation for providing first-class education opportunities has been further underlined with the recent launch of several distinguished degree programmes at Hamad bin Khalifa University and its partner universities at Education City.

Available in a variety of disciplines, the new programmes are aimed at providing the rigorous training that will allow graduates to support Qatar’s march towards a sustainable, knowledge-based economy.

Hamad bin Khalifa University (HBKU):

(1) Faculty of Islamic Studies in Qatar (QFIS)

The Faculty of Islamic Studies in Qatar, part of HBKU, ensures that all local scholars with an interest in exploring Islam academically have a choice of several higher study programmes.

- Individuals with a passion for science, ethics and religion can opt for a Master of Arts in Islamic Studies in Contemporary Fiqh. This unique programme challenges students to link national heritage with religion, whilst considering the challenges and issues of modern times.

- Those looking to pursue a career in public office have the option of a Master of Arts in Public Policy in Islam, which has been designed to enable scholars to consider the latest in western public policy and its compatibility with Islamic principles. In addition, the degree also seeks to nurture greater understanding of the effects of values, culture, institutions and leadership in performing public functions.
- The Master of Science in Islamic Finance is another option for students who are interested in applying the rules of Sharia to international monetary activities.
- Meanwhile, a Master of Arts in the Study of Contemporary Muslim Thought and Societies looks to provide its scholars with an enhanced understanding of the political and social realities of the Muslim world. Through an all-encompassing approach, the degree examines the economic, social and political aspects of life in contemporary Muslim societies, whilst developing an appreciation for the richness of intellectual Muslim heritage and accomplishments.
- Students interested in Islam's influence on design and development have the choice of a Master of Science in Urban design and Architecture in Islamic Societies. This unique programme aims to develop a comprehensive understanding of the heritage and evolution of architecture and urbanism throughout the Islamic world. In addition, it also aims to educate urban planners, architects and urban designers about the unifying features of Islamic architecture and also develop methods for preserving Islamic heritage within urban environments.
- Furthermore, a Master of Arts in Islamic Studies in Comparative Religions has also been developed in order to prepare graduates in the Islamic world to act as cultural influencers and to foster a culture of modernity and progress in their societies through cultural interaction and scientific openness.

(2) Translation and Interpretation Institute (TII)

- In recognition of the increased local demand for translation services, HBKU's Translation and Interpretation Institute is now providing a two-year Masters in Translation Studies. The degree is specifically designed to train translators in the fields of business, sciences, technology, literature and media studies.
- Furthermore, the Institute is also offering a unique, two-year Masters in Audiovisual Translation. Accredited by the University of Geneva, this programme aims to equip its students with primary skills in translation, advanced translation for films and dubbing, plus media and audio translation.

(3) College of Science and Engineering

- In March 2015, HBKU announced three new higher education programmes that look to coach and develop professional expertise that will be crucial over the next few years as Qatar works towards its National Vision 2030.

All located within HBKU's Faculty of Science and Engineering, the new degrees include Masters and PhD programmes in Biological and Biomedical Sciences (BBS), and Sustainable Energy and Sustainable Environment. It is anticipated that the new masters degrees will take two years to complete, whilst the more far-reaching PhD programmes are expected to take between three to four years.

During the course of these degrees, students will conduct research in biological and medical fields and will cooperate with other universities and research centres both in Qatar and around the world.

- As a further choice for students, in 2014 HBKU launched its Executive Masters programme in Energy and Resources in tandem with Georgetown University in Qatar, Texas A&M University at Qatar, and HEC Paris in Qatar. Designed specifically for individuals looking for a career in policy-making or management, this unique degree gives its candidates a thorough grounding in political geography, public policy, technology, finance, administration and strategy.

Successful graduates from this programme gain an Executive Master's Degree from Hamad bin Khalifa University, plus a degree from one of the relevant HBKU partner universities.

(4) Law School

- In February 2015, HBKU announced the launch of its Juris Doctor (J.D.) – a full-time, three-year programme that delivers comprehensive legal education to its students. The degree is designed for individuals looking to enhance their existing legal knowledge and to develop expertise in a particular legal field.

The programme also seeks to develop its candidate's analytical and critical skills, thus making it an appealing option for individuals looking to become policymakers or opinion leaders in Qatar.

The course has been made possible through a strategic partnership with Northwestern University School of Law. As a result of the collaboration, there is a strong focus on international comparative law.

Qatar Foundation Partner Universities

- Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU) in Qatar: World-leading design institution VCU offers a Masters of Fine Art in Design Studies. This popular degree, the first of its kind in the Gulf region, aims to develop its students understanding of design in Qatar.
- Texas A&M University in Qatar: Mechanics-orientated students have the opportunity to pursue a Master of Science or a Master of Engineering in Chemical Engineering. This

comprehensive programme provides specialist skills that are fundamental towards confronting the major challenges facing the State of Qatar.

- HEC Paris in Qatar: Business scholars have the option of a highly-specialised Executive Master in Business Administration from HEC Paris that looks to develop leadership and management skills, whilst encouraging entrepreneurial spirit in business.

In addition, the Specialised Master Degree in Strategic Business Unit Management also seeks to develop the administrative skills of its students and to enhance their business performance and overall productivity.

- University College London (UCL) in Qatar: UCL hopes to develop world-class librarians and heritage specialists through its Master's Degrees in Museum and Gallery Practice, Library and Information Studies, Archaeology of the Arab and Islamic World, and Conservation Studies. These programmes align with Qatar's plans to establish a globally reputed national library in Doha.

ENDS

Qatar Foundation – Unlocking Human Potential

Qatar Foundation for Education, Science, and Community Development (QF) is a private, non-profit organisation that is supporting Qatar on its journey from carbon economy to knowledge economy by unlocking human potential, for the benefit of not only Qatar, but the world. QF was co-founded in 1995 by His Highness Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani, the Father Amir, and Her Highness Sheikha Moza bint Nasser, Qatar Foundation's Chairperson. QF's work encompasses education, research and community development. World-class universities are brought to Qatar to help create an education sector in which young people can develop the attitudes and skills required for a knowledge economy. At the same time, QF builds Qatar's innovation and technology capacity by developing and commercialising solutions through key sciences. The Foundation also works to foster a progressive society while enhancing cultural life, protecting Qatar's heritage and addressing immediate social needs in the community.

For a complete list of QF's initiatives and projects, visit <http://www.qf.org.qa>