

QNRF announces high-level funding for graduate research in Qatar

Doha, 19 September 2013: Qatar National Research Fund (QNRF) has launched a new funding program designed to support research-based PhD studies in Qatar by both supporting outstanding local students and attracting international students to study in the country, with an emphasis on distinguished Qatari students.

The Graduate Student Research Awards (GSRA) is QNRF's latest initiative to develop human capital in research for Qatar, and to push forward the creation of new PhD programs inside Qatar. The award is designed to be highly competitive on an international scale, both in terms of the funding provided and the standards of excellence required to apply.

Dr Abdul Sattar Al-Taie, Executive Director of QNRF, said, "We are hugely excited to be launching the Graduate Student Research Awards, as this will give an opportunity for more doctorate students to participate in hands-on research while enhancing the creativity and productivity of research in Qatar's universities and research institutions. We continually strive to encourage and support high-quality research that serves Qatar's national needs and interests."

The fund covers basic and applied research in all fields of natural sciences, engineering and technology, medical and health sciences, agricultural sciences, creative artworks, social sciences and humanities. Successful students will have their tuition fees paid and will also be awarded a competitive stipend to the equivalent \$42,000 per year for PhD students. In addition, a generous living allowance will include travel, accommodation and insurance for international students and their dependents. Successful Qatari students will also receive a retention allowance of an additional eight percent of the stipend.

"Students selected for the GSRA will be privileged to receive highly competitive funding when compared to other research funding agencies worldwide," commented Ms Sunitha Shyam, Training Programs Manager at QNRF, adding, "Aside from this, students will also gain recognition for their outstanding merit which, in turn, could lead to opportunities to take a leading role in future research opportunities."

Prospective students must show an interest in GSRA support when applying for enrolment in any approved graduate studies at a QNRF-approved institution. QNRF, a member of Qatar Foundation for Education, Science and Community Development, has a number of other funding programs available for research in Qatar, with GSRA being the latest. There will be two award cycles of GSRA per academic year, one beginning in the fall semester and one in the spring semester.

For the first cycle, the application process will start on 23rd September, 2013. The Request for Proposal and timeline updates have been made available on QNRF's website. A public presentation, as well as webinars for the benefit of international applicants, will be held in October. The dates for these will be updated on QNRF website, social media channels and will be communicated to all applicants registered in QNRF's database.

With the launch of this new program, QNRF has also re-vamped its Online Submission System (OSS). As a first step, applicants and reviewers for GSRA will be able to access the new OSS before it is made available for all other programs. The new OSS boasts a better-

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organised menu layout to facilitate improved access to the system functions used on a daily basis. With its enhanced user-interface, the OSS endeavours to simplify processes for both applicants and reviewers alike as it streamlines the channels for accessing relevant data in a single place.

For more information about the Graduate Student Research Awards and QNRF's other funding activities, please visit www.qnrf.org

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About Qatar National Research Fund (QNRF)

Driven by the aim of fostering a culture of research in Qatar, Qatar National Research Fund (QNRF) was established in 2006 to advance knowledge and education by acting as a support system for researchers. It is a centre within the Research & Development establishment at Qatar Foundation for Education, Science and Community Development.

QNRF administers funding for original, competitively selected research and furthers collaborations within academia, the public, private, governmental and non-governmental sectors through effective, mutually beneficial partnerships. While QNRF actively seeks internationally recognised researchers, it is dedicated to funding research that meets the needs of Qatar. For more information, visit: www.qnrf.org

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