

PRESS RELEASE

HBKU concludes its 2014 Gateway to College program

Hamad bin Khalifa University (HBKU), a member of Qatar Foundation (QF) for Education, Science and Community Development, recently concluded its one-week Gateway to College program, held from August 31st to September 4th at the HBKU Student Center in Education City.

The program, which enables 8th and 9th grade middle school students to develop skills for success in higher education, received close to 100 applications this year. Through rigorous assessment, coupled with individual interviews, 22 girls and 22 boys from Qatar's private and public schools were admitted into HBKU's Gateway program.

Training sessions, which were facilitated by staff from Qatar Foundation and HBKU, featured over 13 themes, including communication, debate, digital media, entrepreneurship, public speaking, and university preparation. Writing, essential in academic and professional settings, received particular emphasis in the form of a creative writing workshop. This workshop was conducted by Mohammed Fakhro, HBKU's Internal Communications Coordinator, who stated: "We are encouraging them to write creatively, and to teach them how to write with different points of view."

Participating students and staff alike positively reflected on their experience with the Gateway to College program. Noora Mohammed, a 9th grade student at Fatima bint Al Walid School, explained: "Someday in the future, I hope to return to Education City as a student." Similarly, Abdulla Abbas, an 8th grade student at Hayat Universal Bilingual School, noted: "It teaches us the various skills we will need when we become university students. It shows us how the classes will be and how our life will be while in university." Another student, Sultan Al-Essa, who studies at Qatar Academy, said that she thanked all of the parties involved in helped bring the program to life.

Mana Mohammed Al Ansari, from HBKU Student Recruitment, was no less enthusiastic about the outcome of the program, and emphasized: "We were very happy with the number of applicants we received and their eagerness to learn." Aisha Al Naama from HBKU

Communications further added to the praise for the program, stating: “This program helped capitalize on creativity, interpersonal skills, and helped the students explore their own individuality.”

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About Hamad bin Khalifa University

Hamad bin Khalifa University (HBKU), a member of Qatar Foundation for Education, Science and Community Development, is an emerging research university building upon unique collaborations with local and international partners. Located in Education City, HBKU seeks to provide unparalleled opportunities for scholarship, teaching, discovery, and learning for all of its students through an array of interdisciplinary programs.

HBKU’s partners are Virginia Commonwealth University in Qatar, Weill Cornell Medical College in Qatar, Texas A&M University at Qatar, Carnegie Mellon University in Qatar, Georgetown University School of Foreign Service in Qatar, Northwestern University in Qatar, HEC Paris in Qatar, and UCL Qatar.