

PRESS RELEASE

Hamad Bin Khalifa University's Qatar Computing Research Institute to conduct first summer computing camps for kids

Doha, July 12, 2017 – Children and teenagers will be given a rare chance to develop their computing skills with world-class computing scientists at the first summer computing camps to be conducted by the Qatar Computing Research Institute (QCRI), part of Hamad Bin Khalifa University (HBKU), later this month.

QCRI will run two separate programs – two separate week-long Young Makers Camps for children aged from 9 to 12, and a two-week Arduino Teen Camp for teenagers aged from 14 to 18 – from Sunday, July 16 to Thursday, July 27.

Both programs are free and will be conducted at QCRI's Creative Space Lab, at the HBKU Research Complex in Education City.

Dr Eman Fituri, QCRI's Director of Educational Initiatives, said no prior experience was required for the camps, with fun activities coordinated by the research institute's scientists.

"We want kids to become creators of technology, we want them to learn how to invent and innovate and solve problems that can assist their everyday lives," Dr Fituri said.

The Young Makers Camp will provide students with hands-on challenges to encourage creative problem solving, teamwork and innovation. The children will learn design, coding and how to develop engineering solutions over five daily three-hour sessions beginning on Sunday, July 16 and Sunday, July 23. Dr Fituri said the second week's activities would be different from the first for students wanting to register for both weeks of the computing camp.

Participants in the two-week Arduino Teen Camp will learn how to create electronic gadgets that can interact with the real world, in three-hour daily sessions during the fortnight-long course between July 16 and 27.

QCRI successfully launched its Creative Space at an open house event in May. About 100 children from kindergarten age to Grade 12 were registered for the event within a day of it being announced – and they didn't want to leave.

To learn more about HBKU, or register to attend any of the upcoming events, visit hbku.edu.qa.

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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 that is building its foundation upon unique collaborations with local and international partners. Located in Education City, HBKU delivers undergraduate and graduate programs through its College of Science and Engineering, College of Law and Public Policy, College of Health and Life Sciences, College of Islamic Studies, and its College of Humanities and Social Sciences. It also provides unparalleled opportunities for research and scholarship through its research institutes, and its Executive Education Center delivers customized programs for the business community of Qatar and the region, in line with Qatar National Vision 2030.