

VCUQatar's Community and Outreach Program Partners with IAID

Doha, Qatar – Virginia Commonwealth University in Qatar's Community and Outreach Program is pleased to announce a partnership with IAID. The newly established alliance allows VCUQatar to offer additional community courses at IAID's D-Ring Road location.

As a result, in addition to a set of portfolio development courses and well over 40 non-credit classes held at VCUQatar, the university is now offering additional community courses at IAID as an extension of its own program and to complement IAID's program. VCUQatar courses on offer at IAID include fashion illustration, advanced watercolor painting, and non-traditional jewelry making.

VCUQatar successfully runs community classes for the general public in Qatar three times a year during fall, early spring and late spring, each time offering a broad variety of art, design and craft-related courses. Classes, so far, have been held at the VCUQatar campus in Education City, Doha.

"Partnering with IAID to bring additional classes to the community in Doha is a major step forward in our quest to offer our programs to a wider audience," says Annette Wendling-Willeke, outreach and community class manager at VCUQatar. "We are very excited to be able to reach out to the communities in Nuaija, Hilal, New Salata, Muntazah, Al Mansoura, Najma and Old Airport and bring a part of our program to a venue right in their neighborhood. We will work towards collaborating with other partners to expand our program beyond the city limits of Doha," she adds.

"IAID takes great pride in being associated with VCUQatar, well acclaimed for its mission of developing individuals to lead innovations on the creative and cultural professions in Qatar, which closely aligns with ours," states IAID Director Rajesh Jadhav. "It will be our privilege to support and promote VCUQatar's efforts in line with Qatar Foundation's vision through such collaborations promoting arts in the country in the coming years."

For more information or to register for VCUQatar's 2014 Fall Community Classes, please visit www.qatar.vcu.edu. For information on the IAID programs and venue, please visit www.iaidonline.org

Note to Editors:

About Virginia Commonwealth University in Qatar:

VCUQatar is the Qatar campus of the prestigious Virginia Commonwealth University School of the Arts in Richmond, Virginia. Established in 1998 through a partnership with Qatar Foundation, VCUQatar offers students the opportunity to earn a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in fashion design, graphic design, interior design and painting & printmaking, a Bachelor of Arts degree in art history and a Master of Fine Arts degree in design.

In addition to a comprehensive annual public events program that includes a wide range of exhibitions, lectures and fashion events, the University hosts the biennial international design conference Tasmeem and the biennial Hamad bin Khalifa Islamic Art Symposium, attracting

globally recognized designers, artists and scholars while fostering sustainable, university-community partnerships that enhance the educational, economic and cultural vitality of Qatar. For more information please visit www.qatar.vcu.edu

About Academy for IAID:

For the last 13 years, IAID (Academy for Performing Arts) has devoted itself to ensuring the residents of Qatar - children and adults - find their inner creativity, express it in their own individualistic style and present it on national and international platforms. It is the first of its kind in Qatar to provide quality training with professional expertise and is affiliated with world-class institutes across the globe. The Academy has to its credit over 1,000 students representing more than 80 nationalities. IAID maintains integrated courses that meet international standards and certifications, as it is affiliated with London College of Music (LCM) – University of West London UK, Nalanda Dance Research Centre (Mumbai, India), Qatar Karate Federation, and more.

Qatar Foundation – Unlocking Human Potential

Qatar Foundation for Education, Science and Community Development is a private, non-profit organization 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.

Founded in 1995 by His Highness Sheikh Hamad Bin Khalifa Al-Thani, Amir of Qatar, QF is chaired by Her Highness Sheikha Moza bint Nasser.

QF carries out its mission through three strategic pillars: education, science and research, and community development. QF's education pillar brings world-class universities to Qatar to help create an education sector in which young people can develop the attitudes and skills required for a knowledge economy. Meanwhile, its science and research pillar builds Qatar's innovation and technology capacity by developing and commercialising solutions through key sciences. Finally, its community development pillar helps foster a progressive society while also enhancing cultural life, protecting Qatar's heritage and addressing immediate social needs in the community.

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