

APPLICATIONS SOAR 61% FOR QATAR NATIONAL RESEARCH FUND GRADUATE STUDENT RESEARCH AWARDS

One Study Seeks To Assess Microbiological Risk For Fresh Produce At The Wholesale Market In Doha

26th August 2014

Doha, Qatar: Qatar National Research Fund (QNRF), a centre of Qatar Foundation Research and Development (QF R&D), saw a 61 % increase in the second cycle of its Graduate Student Research Award applications. The number of proposals rose from 16 to 26, which highlights the growing research sector in Qatar.

The majority of research submissions were from Qatar University in the field of engineering and technology, followed by the natural sciences, agricultural sciences, and social sciences.

Dr Abdul Nasser Al Ansari, Deputy Executive Director of QNRF, expressed his delight at the steady growth of the programme and its popularity among graduate students in Qatar.

He said: “Despite this being GSRA’s second cycle, the results we are witnessing now reflect the continuous growth of research in Qatar. This gives us confidence that the new programme is moving in the right direction, as we establish a national base of talented Qatari and non-Qatari researchers seeking to attain their PhD’s in Qatar.”

Ahmed Baghdady, Program Officer at QNRF, stressed the importance of facilitating capacity-building opportunities in Qatar. “GSRA is one of QNRF’s newest programmes and is aimed at developing the capabilities of graduate students in the country. GSRA will expand the research culture in Qatar, advance the skills of researchers, as well as catalyse the innovative talents of scientists and academics at universities and institutions across Qatar,” he said.

One of the 11 successful proposals, which received funding in this round, will seek to assess the microbiological risk in the fresh produce section of Doha’s wholesale market. The project will study how fresh produce is handled and sold and how different factors could increase the dangers of microbial hazards.

Another study will develop a design for a remote-controlled robot or a smart vehicle equipped with photo processing and video precision guidance systems that utilise sound waves to test and clean water tankers and fuel storage facilities.

PRESS RELEASE
For immediate publication

A third funded proposal will develop a design for a device that will send and receive data simultaneously and on the same frequency, whereby providing solutions for problems linked with interference. This study could lead to many positive results, which includes doubling the effectiveness and simplifying the frequency planning in wireless networks.

In another study, researchers presented their vision of developing a portable medical system in Qatar that monitors the health status of patients and works on minimal energy consumption. Expanding upon the concept of social networks, the researchers will develop a communications and information sharing protocol that will allow for effective communication between patients by storing and sharing their data. The study will also look into effective methods for energy conservation while transmitting data on programmed wireless networks, as well as evaluate the effectiveness of the proposed protocol and its practical applications.

For more information about QNRF's Graduate Student Research Award and QNRF's other funding programmes, visit: www.qnrf.org

Ends

About Qatar Foundation Research and Development (QF R&D)

Leading Qatar's vision to become an international centre for research and development excellence and innovation, QF R&D is home to Qatar Science & Technology Park, a world-class hub for technology innovation and commercialization, as well as the Qatar National Research Fund, a globally renowned scientific research funding organization and prominent research institutes operating at the frontiers of science, including Qatar Biomedical Research Institute, Qatar Computing Research Institute and Qatar Energy and Environment Research Institute.

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



PRESS RELEASE
For immediate publication

actively seeks internationally recognised researchers, it is dedicated to funding research that meets the needs of Qatar. For more information, visit: www.qnrf.org

For more information on this press release, please contact:

Basil Mahfouz
Account Manager
BLJ Worldwide
Tel: +974 7021 8269
Email: basilm@bljworldwide.com

For more information about Qatar Foundation, please contact

QF Press Office
Tel: +974 4454 1729
Email: pressoffice@qf.org.qa