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(For immediate release)

PRESS RELEASE

Qatar Foundation's Academic Bridge Program signs MOU with UWE Bristol

Qatar Foundation's Academic Bridge Program (ABP) and the University of the West of England (UWE Bristol) entered into a partnership on Monday, October 28th 2013. The ABP and UWE Bristol signed a Memorandum of Understanding, which paves the way for ABP students who meet the required criteria and successfully complete the ABP to progress directly onto the first year of a range of UWE Bristol degree programs.

Students at the ABP study English, math, science, and computer skills and build the skills and content knowledge necessary not only for admission to university, but for success in university. Over 80% of ABP graduates are Qataris. UWE Bristol is the largest Higher Education Provider in the South-West of England, with over 30,000 students, including 3000 international students from 140 countries. Ranked within the top six of UK universities for graduate employability, the campus-based University is situated just 90 minutes from London. ABP students will be able to choose from a wide range of programs, including Engineering, Business, Computing, Building and Architecture.

Professor Paul Olomolaiye, Pro Vice-Chancellor and Executive Dean to the Faculty of Environment and Technology at the UWE said, "The University of West of England, Bristol, is delighted to work in partnership with Qatar Foundation's Academic Bridge Program. We recognised the high calibre of ABP graduates, who have developed the necessary skills to excel at University. UWE Bristol is proud of its high quality, industrially-relevant courses, and our students benefit from many of our strategic partnerships with leading companies, including Hewlett Packard and Rolls Royce."

An increasing number of Qatari students are seeking opportunities to study in the UK. For instance, last year, over one-third of ABP graduates went on to study at universities in the UK.

Dr Mark Newmark, Assistant Director-Academic for Affairs at the ABP, noted that the agreement with UWE Bristol is of particular benefit to ABP graduates because “the program of studies and approach at the UWE Bristol are very much in line with the interests of many of our students.”

This MOU between the ABP and UWE Bristol is the 11th such agreement that the ABP has entered into with foreign universities. UWE Bristol recognizes that the ABP is considered the finest college preparatory academic institution in Qatar and probably in the Gulf. Among the foreign universities with which the ABP has agreed other MOUs are Brunel University, Leeds Metropolitan University, Northumbria University, Swansea University, University of Bradford, East Anglia University, University of Portsmouth, University of South Wales at Newport and the University of York, and Jacobs University, in Bremen, Germany. In Qatar, the ABP also has MOU agreements with Qatar University and the College of the North Atlantic – Qatar

Representatives from ABP and UWE Bristol will be participating in the Qatar International College Fair, which is taking place at the Qatar International Exhibition Center from November 4th to 6th, 2013 from 9:00-13:00 and 17:00-20:00.

As a center of the Qatar Foundation, for the past 13 years ABP has not only developed the academic curriculum, but has also built on its student activities, through the promotion of leadership, social, recreational and sporting events. In that time, ABP developed a learning resource center (LRC) for tutoring students in Math, Science, Computers and English Language. ABP also organizes several training courses in IELTS, SAT and ACT, and created “The English Room” to help students enhance their English language skills. ABP aspires to developing its students into qualified leaders of the future by also providing a concentrated program for academic and guidance counseling directed by Dr. Marcie Lindsey, within the Student Services division.



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In 2011, the ABP was awarded five years accreditation by the Commission on English Language Accreditation (CEA) in the United States. This makes it easier to fast-track ABP graduates into universities in the United States without the need for them to complete a university foundation year.

Note to editor:

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