



عضو في مؤسسة قطر
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ABP receives 10 years of Academic Accreditation

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Accreditation is a means of bringing about institutional improvement and externally validating the quality of a program or institution. In August of 2011, the Academic Bridge Program (ABP) received its first 5-year accreditation from the Commission on English Language Program Accreditation (CEA), the main accrediting organization for foundation programs in the United States. In October of 2014, the ABP began the process of Re-Accreditation with CEA. As a part of that process, internal committees were formed to ensure that student achievement, the ABP's mission, curriculum, program of studies, faculty, finances, student services, recruitment practices, professional development, and facilities meet the international standards established by CEA.

The review process was long and intense. In March of 2016, a three-member accreditation team from CEA visited the ABP. While on site, they observed classes, conducted interviews, reviewed policies and procedures, and inspected documents to ascertain the degree to which the ABP meets the international standards established by CEA. After reviewing the visiting team's report, the CEA Commissioners voted to re-accredit the Academic Bridge Program for a period of 10 years. 10-year re-accreditation is the highest form of accreditation granted by CEA and extends through August of 2026.

CEA Accreditation confirms the high quality of education provided by the ABP and recognizes the hard work and dedication of the ABP's faculty and staff, as well as the support provided by the Office of Pre-University Education, Qatar Foundation, and the ABP Board of Governors. Dr. Bryan Lewallen, Director of the ABP, explained that "for students, faculty, and staff members,

this accreditation represents the validation of our Academic Bridge Program as an exemplary model of English language programs throughout the world. It also reflects the ABP's commitment to continuous improvement and desire to offer the highest quality of education to the young women and men of Qatar." Ms. Moza A. Al-Boainain, the ABP's Assistant Director for Student Services, noted that the "reaccreditation for 10 years sends a positive message to parents, teachers, universities, and governments and encourages more students to apply to the ABP."

Mr. Hamza Duhaini, the head of the ABP's Math and Computer Departments,,explained that the accreditation ensures that "all courses at the ABP include appropriate learning objectives and learning outcomes stated as part of the course description in the course syllabi and has been strategically aligned with corresponding student learning outcomes and the appropriate means of assessment." Further, the standards ensure that all courses at the ABP are "monitored carefully by course teachers, advisors and administrators."

The ABP self-study was coordinated by a steering committee chaired by Ms. Asmaa Al-Qaysi, Special Assistant to the Director, and Dr. Mark Newmark, Assistant Director for Academic Affairs. Dr. Newmark established the mechanisms for carrying out the self-study. Ms. Asmaa used the extensive experience she gained in the ABP's previous self-study to organize the volumes of material assembled. Mr. Bob Marcacci, a member of the ABP's English faculty, ably edited the self-study.

Mr. Bob Campbell, the chair of the ABP's EFL Department, explained that the self- study invited "us to look at faculty qualifications, professional development, and how faculty are evaluated. Some positive changes came out of the process. The evaluation forms were revised, and we updated our requirement for professional development." Ms. Marci Brown, the chair of the ABP's Academic English Department, noted that "while we think the ABP curriculum is excellent, the self-assessment process was an opportunity to examine the curriculum in detail to see where we could strengthen our program."

Dr. Avril O'Donoghue, the chair of the ABP's Science Department, noted other benefits of the accreditation process. "Self-evaluation of the length and structure of our program of study for reaccreditation required in-depth reflectivity on practices, identification of weaknesses and some remedial action. This reinforces how our framework of activities and programs and our continual monitoring of students' progress enables them to master the student learning outcomes and achieve the level of proficiency required for university entry and success."

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About The Academic Bridge Program

The mission of the Academic Bridge Program (ABP), a center of Qatar Foundation that operates under pre-university education office, is to provide high school students graduated from Qatar schools and other similar schools with the academic and personal skills for success in reputable English-language universities, with special emphasis on preparing students for the universities in Qatar Foundation's Education City. Since its launch in 2001, the program has adapted model approach in teaching English, math, science, and computer skills, along with holding a broad range of activities including debates, a Model United Nations, school clubs and newspaper, sports teams, and students' union. The ABP accredited 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.

Qatar Foundation – Unlocking Human Potential

Qatar Foundation for Education, Science, and Community Development (QF) is a private, non-profit organisation 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. QF was co-founded in 1995 by His Highness Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani, the Father Amir, and Her Highness Sheikha Moza bint Nasser, Qatar Foundation's Chairperson. QF's work encompasses education, research and community development. World-class universities are brought to Qatar to help create an education sector in which young people can develop the attitudes and skills required for a knowledge economy.

At the same time, QF builds Qatar's innovation and technology capacity by developing and commercialising solutions through key sciences. The Foundation also works to foster a progressive society while enhancing cultural life, protecting Qatar's heritage and addressing immediate social needs in the community.

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