



## **QATAR NATIONAL RESEARCH FUND LAUNCHES NEW MODEL FOR NURTURING SCIENCE AND RESEARCH TALENT**

*Revamped Awards Designed to Drive Excellence and Enhance Qatar's Human Capacity*

**Doha, Qatar, April 3, 2017:** Qatar's new generation of scientists and researchers are being supported to embark on their careers and create an impact through two revamped programs launched by Qatar National Research Fund (QNRF).

QNRF's Graduate Sponsorship Research Award (GSRA) and Postdoctoral Research Award (PDRA) – the latest cycles of which are now open for submission of proposals – have been embedded into its unique Qatar Research Leadership Program (QRLP). QRLP aims to identify and nurture Qatar's finest homegrown science and research talent by providing high-quality training, practical experience in collaboration with prestigious universities and research institutions around the world, financial support, and a gateway to opportunity.

Led by the capacity building team of QNRF, part of Qatar Foundation Research and Development (QF R&D), the two tracks - QRLP-GSRA and QRLP-PDRA - are collectively designed to support candidates from graduate level, through postdoctoral studies, to their early careers, enabling them to play leading roles in advancing Qatar's ambitious research agenda. The alignment of these tracks with QRLP – from which 52 young scientists and researchers have graduated in the eight years since its establishment – is designed to produce human capital equipped to underpin and sustain the nation's research and innovation ecosystem.

“Cultivating a constantly-renewing homegrown pool of science and research talent is vital for Qatar's goal of becoming a hub of world-class research and innovation, and integral to QNRF's mission,” said Dr. Abdul Sattar Al-Taie, Executive Director, QNRF. “Through the three previous cycles of GSRA and the two previous cycles of PDRA, young scientists and researchers have been immersed in knowledge and exposed to real-world research environments, providing them with the framework from which to pursue successful and impactful careers that bring tangible benefits to Qatar.

“By aligning these awards with QRLP, we are streamlining and synergizing the process which leads aspiring scientists and researchers to become key players in the advancement of Qatar's research and development sector. The QRLP-GSRA and QRLP-PDRA tracks will nurture talent and enhance competitiveness, consequently driving excellence and equipping candidates with the greatest potential to create impact and ensure Qatar's national priorities are identified and addressed.”



Through the competitive scholarships offered by QRLP-GSRA, outstanding graduate students will be supported to undertake research-based studies towards Master's and Doctoral degrees at approved institutions within and beyond Qatar. By promoting such studies, it aims to encourage talented Qatar-based students to pursue careers in research and provide them with high-quality training that intertwines with, and supports, the work of Qatar's research and academic community.

QRLP-PDRA is designed to attract Qatar's top Ph.D. graduates and encourage independence in the early stage of their research careers. It offers highly-competitive fellowship awards, benefits, and expert mentoring, as it supports postdoctoral scholars to work within research groups focused on Qatar's national priorities while providing Qatar's research institutions with a pipeline of skilled staff and new ideas.

"Every aspect of QRLP-GSRA and QRLP-PDRA is designed to ensure that candidates achieve their full potential, and that their talent is recognized and realized for the benefit of Qatar," said Dr. Aisha Al-Obaidly, Education Director, QNRF.

"These awards provide access to knowledge, experience, and opportunity, and support not only the candidates, but also Qatar's research and academic institutions, through developing a pool of highly-skilled, dedicated, ambitious, and homegrown talent capable of seamlessly transitioning from study to practice," she added. "By combining the expertise, resources, and collaborative scope of QRLP and these awards, through this new approach, we believe QNRF will further elevate its contribution to building the human capacity that is essential to the development of a sustainable and diversified economy."

The online proposal submission process for QRLP-GSRA is now open, with the deadline for submissions being May 6. The awards will be announced in June. The window for QRLP-PDRA proposals, which should also be submitted online, but through Qatar-based institutions with approved research offices, closes at noon on April 10, with the awards also being announced in June.

For more information about QRLP-GSRA and QRLP-PDRA, including Q&As, full eligibility details and criteria, and downloadable information and application forms, please visit [www.qnrf.org](http://www.qnrf.org)

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



Qatar Foundation Research and Development (QF R&D) is charged with the Qatar National Research Strategy, dedicated to making Qatar a leading center for research and development excellence and innovation. QF R&D is home to Qatar National Research Fund, a leading scientific research funding organization, Qatar Science & Technology Park, an international hub for technology innovation and commercialization.

For more information, please visit <http://www.qfrd.org/>

### **About Qatar National Research Fund (QNRF)**

Driven by the aim of fostering a culture of research in Qatar, QNRF was established in 2006 to advance knowledge and education by acting as a support system for researchers.

QNRF, part of Qatar Foundation Research and Development, 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 actively seeks internationally-recognized researchers, it is dedicated to funding research that meets the needs of Qatar. For more information, visit: [www.qnrf.org](http://www.qnrf.org)

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