

PRESS RELEASE

TII's Language Center opens enrollment for summer courses in Arabic, French, Spanish, English and Mandarin Chinese, with colloquial Khaleeji Arabic being offered for the first time.

Doha, 05 April 2015 – The Language Center at the Translation and Interpreting Institute (TII) of Hamad bin Khalifa University (HBKU), a member of Qatar Foundation for Education, Science, and Community Development (QF), is now accepting applications for its summer 2015 programs. Registration for courses in various proficiency levels in Arabic, French, Spanish, English, and Mandarin Chinese will remain open until April 23rd. The Center's summer courses will begin on May 3rd and continue until June 17th. In addition to Modern Standard Arabic, courses focusing on colloquial Khaleeji and Egyptian Arabic, as well as on Arabic for medical professionals, are also being offered.

TII's Language Center follows the immersion approach to foreign language teaching, as it believes that language is acquired most effectively when it is learned in a meaningful social context. In an increasingly globalized world, an understanding of not only a country's language, but also the traditions of its people, its food, music, and art, enables individuals to build strong and fruitful relationships with those of different backgrounds. Previously, students have enjoyed an array of opportunities aimed at helping them further their study. Students have attended events where they've met the Chinese ambassador, learned songs chosen specially to assist in the mastery of new and challenging vocabulary, and have also traveled with their class to Grenada, Spain, and to Tours, France, where they were given the chance to live with local families.

Elizabeth Puranam, a current student of Arabic, commented: "I've really enjoyed learning a new language, in my case Arabic, at TII. I've really enjoyed the classroom dynamic, and it's good to study with a group of people who are diverse but who, having committed to take the course share a common interest in getting the most out of the classes. Importantly, I've found the standard of teaching to be really high and having the option of studying in the evenings fits in well with my schedule."

This summer, TII will also offer Executive English language workshops, specifically targeting working professionals who wish to improve their professional English language skills. Mounir Ouanaimi, Director of TII's Language Center, shared: "The Center seeks to serve the language-training needs of the wider community in Doha and uses proficiency-based, learner-centered curricula. This summer we are focusing on improving the oral / aural and communicative skills of our students in target language

communities. We are especially excited to offer for the first time colloquial Khaleeji Arabic for students interested in learning the Qatari dialect.”

Due to popularity and space restrictions, those interested in taking language classes over the summer are encouraged to register early. Two-week immersion programs in Spain, France, or England are also being offered to students wishing to develop their Spanish, French, and English language skills in a native setting. More information can be found at <http://www.tii.qa/language-center>.

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About The Translation and Interpreting Institute

Hamad bin Khalifa's Translation and Interpreting Institute (TII) was established with a mission to build translation capacity in Qatar and the region. Under the umbrella of HBKU and as an initiative of Qatar Foundation, TII is situated in the prestigious Education City. It is a physical and virtual space that delivers sophisticated post-graduate translator and interpreter education, high-level training in a range of languages (Arabic, English, French, Spanish and Chinese) and quality translation and interpreting services of the highest international standards.

TII will contribute to capacity building in the areas of scholarly research and translator training through its Postgraduate Studies and Research Department, Language Center, and Professional Services Center, delivering a qualified cadre of high-level professionals within the region.

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About Hamad bin Khalifa University

Hamad bin Khalifa University (HBKU), a member of Qatar Foundation for Education, Science and Community Development, is an emerging research university building upon unique collaborations with local and international partners. Located in Education City, HBKU seeks to provide unparalleled opportunities for scholarship, teaching, discovery, and learning for all of its students through an array of interdisciplinary programs.

HBKU's partners are Virginia Commonwealth University in Qatar, Weill Cornell Medical College in Qatar, Texas A&M University at Qatar, Carnegie Mellon University in Qatar, Georgetown University School of Foreign Service in Qatar, Northwestern University in Qatar, HEC Paris in Qatar, and UCL Qatar.