



مركز الجسر الأكاديمي  
Member of Qatar Foundation

# Academic Bridge Program برنامج الجسر الأكاديمي

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*(For immediate release)*

## PRESS RELEASE

### *New Students Orientation for fall 2013*

***The Academic Bridge Program (ABP), a center of Qatar Foundation welcomed the class of 2013 as the program embraces its 13th academic year. Orientation was held in the Learning Resources Center (LRC) area of the Liberal Arts and Sciences (LAS) Building, home of the Academic Bridge Program in Qatar Foundation on Wednesday, July 31st and Thursday, August 1st, 2013 from 8:30am to 12:30 noon.***

Around 180 new students were introduced to the program's facilities, policies and activities as well as to the administrators, faculty and staff who will be working with them throughout the upcoming year. ABP recognizes the major transition that new students face from a high school atmosphere to a university style environment and is therefore keen to invite former students to share their experiences at ABP and give advice to the new students.

Dr. Miles, ABP Director explained that, "this is the 13<sup>th</sup> year of the ABP, and so far about 2500 students have completed the program here. Nearly 90 percent of those who graduate from the ABP have gone on to study at a university somewhere –in Qatar, the USA, the UK, or elsewhere." He went on to predict that, "this year we expect around 230 students at the start of the school year, with students coming from more than fifteen countries. Most students will be girls (about 60%). Almost 80% of the students are from Qatar." The ABP has five new international faculty this year coming from the United States and the UK. All of the ABP faculty members have experience ranging from seven years to 25 years, with an average of 15 years of experience. Most have one or more master's degrees and some have doctorate degrees.

Dr. Mark Newmark then presented a short presentation that summed up the most important elements of ABP and university success. These "keys to success" were: hard work; always doing ones homework and assignments; doing ones own homework and assignments; attending all ones classes on time; getting help from ones teachers/advisors, Department Supervisors and the Academic Affairs Office; and finally

Mr. Hassan Zeidan, Admissions & Records Coordinator explained that all the new students took an "Accuplacer" (placement) test. The students were divided into two groups. The first group took the Accuplacer on the 29<sup>th</sup> of July and the second group took the test on the 30<sup>th</sup> July. The ABP Department Supervisors use these test results to place each student in a level that is most suitable to their academic level in English, math, science and computer skills.



عضو مؤسسة قطر  
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Ms. Alia Khairat, ABP Student Services Officer stressed the importance of these orientation days as she explains that they give new students an idea of the challenges to be expected in the year to come.

**It is important to mention that classes for the new academic year are scheduled to begin on Sunday 18th August 2013.**

As one of the centers of the Qatar Foundation, the ABP has served over 2300 young men and women who have attended the English language foundation program over the past 12 years. Nearly 90% of those attending have been Qataris, and over 85% of the ABP graduates have later attended English language universities in Qatar or abroad. Since 2001, the ABP has developed a model curriculum including English, math, science, and computer skills, combined with a wide range of other activities such as debate, MUN, clubs, school newspaper, sports teams, and student government experience.

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.

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