



عضو في مؤسسة قطر
Member of Qatar Foundation

Academic Bridge Program برنامج الجسر الأكاديمي

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ABP New Student Orientation for Spring Semester 2015

Doha, January 7, 2015—Twenty new students were admitted to Qatar Foundation’s Academic Bridge Program (ABP), this spring semester. These new students attended an orientation session on Monday, January 5th in the ABP’s LAS building in Education City to learn about ABP policies and procedures and to meet ABP administrators and faculty members before they started classes the following day (January 6th).

The orientation session started at 9am with a short welcome speech by ABP Director, Dr. Bryan Lewallen. Dr. Lewallen advised the new students to take full advantage of the next 5 months, urging them to always attend all of their classes on time and to keep up with their studies so that they are not overwhelmed at the end of the year. Dr. Lewallen pointed out that ABP’s courses, homework and coeducational setting will at times seem challenging to the new students, but that they should not forget that they have a strong support system— ABP’s qualified faculty and staff—who are geared towards helping them to transition smoothly into ABP’s pre-university system.

Assistant Director of Student Services, Ms. Moza Al Boainain, came next to explain the role of Student Services and to introduce the new students to the Student Services team. She went on to explain ABP’s general rules of conduct and policies (dress code, health and wellness, parking and traffic policy, to name a few). Ms. Al Boainain then introduced ABP’s Student Association and listed the different events and activities Student Services will be sponsoring this semester. She wrapped up with a list of the 11 available clubs students can join explaining that, “many colleges look to see that students are involved outside the classroom, because this shows that the student is well-rounded.” She added that, “it is good to spend time participating in activities that you enjoy,” because “it provides you an opportunity to meet people with similar interests and passions, and expands your leadership skills.”



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This semester, ABP students will be able to join any of the following clubs: Social Service & Volunteering Club, Model United Nation Club, Photography Club, Robotics Club, Newsletter Club, Introduction to Programming Using Python Club, Creative Writing Club, Football Club and/or Basketball Club (for boys), Moviemaking Club, and Book Club.

Assistant Director of Academic Affairs, Dr. Mark Newmark, then gave a presentation that explained how students are placed in the different course-levels and outlined the proper procedure to address an academic question or concern. He went on to explain cross registration, which is “the process of taking a class at one of the 6 HBKU [Hamad bin Khalifa] partner universities in Education City,” adding that only some ABP students are eligible to take these classes. Most importantly, Dr. Newmark summed up the keys to academic and university success in five main points: managing time, organizing materials, getting help, acting honestly, and staying motivated. The ABP currently has 47 students enrolled in 52 cross registration courses.

Brief presentations were also made by Admissions and Records Coordinator, Mr. Hassan Zeidan, who talked about the ABP grading system and absence policy; the ABP College Placement Counselor, Dr. Marcie Linsey, who explained her role and talked briefly about how ABP will help the students with their college applications; ABP Librarian, Mr. S.C. Kumaresan, who introduced the library, its facilities and resources and its activities; and finally, the Learning Resource Center (LRC) Coordinator, Ms. Asmaa Al Qaysi, who highlighted the many resources available to students in the LRC such as standardized test resources (for IELTS, SAT and ACT), English language support and tutoring in all the subjects offered in the ABP (English, math, science and computer skills). Students were also given a tour of the building.

As a center of Qatar Foundation, the Academic Bridge Program enrolls new students twice yearly. The majority of ABP students enroll during the fall semester which starts in August. A limited number of students are accepted in semester two (spring semester). Students enrolling for the spring semester start classes in January. With only two months to go before university deadlines for HBKU partner universities, students are encouraged to focus on their studies and aim to maximize their learning.



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Maryam AlDarwish and Yasmine Ahen are both new ABP students who decided to join the ABP this semester so that they may improve their chances of being accepted in an HBKU partner university.

Maryam explained that she decided to join ABP, this semester, to back up the gap year that she took and that she is planning to continue her studies in Qatar Foundation. Her top three university choices in Qatar are: Georgetown, Northwestern and Carnegie Mellon.

Yasmine, on the other hand, came to the ABP to improve her math skills and standardized test scores. “I don’t really know where I want to study, yet, so I am hoping that ABP will help me,” she added.

ABP currently has around 240 students enrolled, nearly 80% of whom are Qatari nationals. Seventy percent of this year’s class is female. In the past fourteen years, the ABP has graduated over 2,650 students. Last year, Over 42% of ABP students were admitted an HBKU partner university. In total, about 90% of ABP’s graduates have successfully enrolled in an English speaking university, either here in Qatar or abroad, mostly in the UK or the US.

Keywords: ACADEMIC BRIDGE PROGRAM, ABP, QATAR FOUNDATION, EDUCATION CITY, SPRING ORIENTATION, NEW STUDENTS, HBKU, HBKU PARTNER UNIVERSITIES

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About the Academic Bridge Program

The [Academic Bridge Program](#) (ABP) is a center of [Qatar Foundation](#). The mission of the ABP is to provide high school graduates of Qatari high schools (and other similar schools) who meet the admission requirements with the academic and personal skills for success in reputable English language universities around the world, with special emphasis on preparing students for the universities at Qatar Foundation. Since the launch of the ABP in 2001, the program has developed a model curriculum including English, math, science, and computer skills, combined with a wide range of other activities such as debate, Model United Nations, robotics, sports teams, and student government experience. The ABP is fully accredited by the Commission on English Language Accreditation (CEA) in the United States. This makes it easier for ABP graduates to fast track into universities in the United States without a university foundation year.