

ENSURING EQUAL ACCESS TO EDUCATION

Applications for QU financial aid services open for Fall 2023

THE PENINSULA — DOHA

Application for Qatar University (QU) student financial aid services for the upcoming Fall semester of 2023 is officially open. The initiative is aimed at undergraduate students facing financial challenges in covering their educational expenses. The first phase of applications will be open from today to September 7, 2023.

Student financial aid services encompass a range of supports, including monthly stipends, transportation fee waivers, emergency assistance, and financial aid programmes

sponsored by external institutions. QU recognises the importance of ensuring that every student has access to quality education regardless of his or her financial circumstances.

During this initial application period, eligible students can apply for monthly stipends, exemptions from transportation fees, emergency assistance, and financial aid programmes supported by external institutions. Collaborating with external entities, QU has partnered with organisations such as the Jassim and Hamad Bin Jassim Charitable Foundation, Naama Social Development Center, Afif

Charitable Foundation, and Education Above All, each offering unique support tailored to students' needs.

The second application phase, scheduled from September 24 to October 5, provides students with the opportunity to apply for services such as monthly stipends,

transportation fee waivers, emergency assistance, and the settlement of academic and dormitory fees supported by the university.

Additionally, the Jassim and Hamad Bin Jassim Charitable Foundation's rewards programme, an integral part of the financial aid initiative, will be

available during this period.

QU's Financial Services Department is also offering students the option to apply for deferring tuition payments and adjusting their registration from October 15 to 26, 2023, based on specific criteria.

QU has curated diverse financial aid options to cater to various categories of students, aiming to empower and support their academic pursuits within the university. The range of financial aid includes monthly stipends, partial or full exemptions from transportation fees, partial or full settlement of tuition fees, partial or full settlement of

dormitory fees, emergency financial assistance, and funding from external entities for financial aid programmes.

The university ensures multiple application windows for financial aid services during both the Fall and Spring semesters of each academic year. These periods are announced on the official university website, and will be sent to students through their official email channels. Detailed terms and policies for availing financial aid services can be accessed on QU's official website or by reaching out to the Student Contact Center.

Ashghal announces McKinsey & Company Qatar as Knowledge Partner for ConteQ Expo24

THE PENINSULA — DOHA

The Public Works Authority (Ashghal) has announced that McKinsey & Company Qatar will be a formal knowledge partner to the ConteQ Expo24 Advanced Technology for Construction & Services Exhibition.

The ConteQ Expo24 will be a platform to share innovation in the industry through the integration of digitisation and emerging technologies. The event seeks to revolutionise the sector by elevating deliverable quality with precise compliance to requirement specifications and expediting project deliveries.

As a knowledge partner, McKinsey & Company will provide global insights for the Conference, sharing sector trends, and industry best practices. McKinsey research will help inform discussion at the conference, focused around three main pillars. The first is innovative buildtech: focusing on groundbreaking technologies that are driving growth and

transforming the construction industry. Second is service accelerators: exploring key strategies to streamline service processes and optimise operational efficiency within the sector.

Third pillar is policy pathfinders: forward-thinking initiatives that could shape the future of construction and services and foster sustainable development.

The conference will feature an esteemed panel of over 60 industry experts who will share their insight and expertise on the latest technologies that drive growth in the industry.

Deputy chairman of the Organising Committee of ConteQ Expo24, Abdullah Saad Al Saad expressed his delight about McKinsey & Company Inc. Qatar joining as a knowledge partner.

He said: "We are excited to partner with McKinsey & Company. Their expertise and knowledge will undoubtedly contribute to the success of ConteQ Expo24 Conference, helping us host a groundbreaking conference



Deputy Chairman of the Organising Committee of ConteQ Expo24 Abdullah Saad Al Saad (left) and Senior Partner at McKinsey & Company Qatar Samvit Kanoria signing a partnership agreement.

that will host speakers from all around the world to discuss innovation that drives progress and shapes the future of the construction and services industry." Senior Partner at McKinsey & Company Qatar, Samvit Kanoria said on this occasion: "We are pleased to support Ashghal as a Knowledge Partner for ConteQ Expo24, as this partnership reflects our commitment to promoting growth and advancement in Qatar within the construction and services domain.

"We aim to provide research and insights that support discussions at this large-scale conference with a distinguished line-up of industry experts, leading to the sharing of transformative insights and strategic initiatives." ConteQ Expo24 promises to be a transformative event, shaping the future of the construction and services industry in Qatar. It will take place from September 16 to 18, 2024 at Qatar National Convention Centre.

Lekhwiya marks graduation of third batch of Children Summer Program

QNA — DOHA

Internal Security Force (Lekhwiya) celebrated the graduation of the third batch from the summer programme for the children, which was held at Al Duhail Camp, in the presence of Undersecretary of the Ministry of Interior H E Abdullah bin Khalaf bin Hattab Al Kaabi, and a number of officials and officers of Lekhwiya.

During the graduation ceremony, Lekhwiya children presented outstanding skills performances showing the training they received, to enhance their personal and physical abilities, and develop their leadership skills.

Qatar Economic Forum to return in May 2024

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Chief Executive Officer of Bloomberg Media Scott Havens noted: "We are proud the Qatar Economic Forum has become one of the most important and influential business events in the region since its inception. We look forward to continue driving important conversations from this center of increasing economic importance, leveraging our ability to convene decision-makers from around the globe to shape a more sustainable and dynamic economic future." Held in collaboration with Media City Qatar, Qatar Economic Forum has grown to become one of the most influential business forums in the region. Distinguished keynote speakers and newsmakers have participated at recent forums.

Additional speaker and agenda details for the Fourth Qatar Economic Forum, will be announced at a later date.

Qatar to unveil 'holistic support' for cancer patients, survivors

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Establishing a comprehensive, holistic support capacity building and certification programme to empower nurses and frontline health workers by the first half of 2024; Design a national holistic community support programme by the end of 2024.

QU to launch new strategy soon as new academic year begins

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The expansion in academic programmes was followed by a tremendous growth in research facilities. Today, QU embraces 18 research centers and other supporting research facilities which contribute to achieving national priorities in development, modernization, upgrade, and global knowledge which bolster students' capabilities and skills in scientific research, development, and creativity.

QU climbed up the QS world rankings 2024, placing 173. The latest achievement follows the announcement by Times Higher Education (THE) that QU placed 28th in the THE Asia rankings 2023, moving up 18 places from 2022 and proudly entering the top 30 universities in Asia, as well as placing 24th worldwide and first in the MENA region on the Young Universities ranking by the same ranking agency.

In addition, QU has a substantial global credit in terms of research, as its researchers have registered their local, regional, and international presence in services, research consultations and conducting joint research with numerous industrial institutions and companies. The university boasts research partnerships with scientists and researchers from over 350 institutions worldwide.

Thanks to this research excellence, a modern study from Stanford University (USA)



A student sits in a QU facility overlooking the Doha skyline.

classified scientists and researchers from QU as the most outstanding in the world citing their research papers in a variety of disciplines.

According to the study published last year, 80% of researchers in QU were among 2% most prominent scientists worldwide, citing their research production and works which is an indicative of QU's tremendous success in education trailblazing and producing high-quality and impactful research.

Such research successes and milestones are not limited to QU-affiliated researchers, teachers, and scientists, but its students have also contributed to this research and achieved tremendous successes, in addition to reaping gold and silver medals during the recent years in many scientific and international forums through Qatar University Young Scientists Center (QUYSC).

In light of the research successes, QU has established the Qatar University Holding Company to embrace the creative ideas of faculty members, students and researchers, within the framework of supporting Qatar's orientation toward a knowledge-based economy, opening the door for the emergence of startups that adopt these ideas and research to be transformed into marketable products locally and externally.

QU has opened several new academic buildings during the past two years such as college of education, college of law, student affairs office and college of engineering. These buildings contain technological equipment, cutting-edge laboratories and study halls fitted with state-of-the-art technologies to offer a world-class environment that spurs students towards excellence and innovation

Four educational tech ventures selected for WISE Accelerator

FAZEENA SALEEM
THE PENINSULA

The World Innovation Summit for Education (WISE), a global initiative of Qatar Foundation (QF), has announced that four 'Educational Technology' initiatives have been selected to join its 2023-2024 WISE Edtech Accelerator programme.

The tech ventures that have recently joined the 2023-2024 WISE Edtech Accelerator programme are based in Kenya, Bahrain, Egypt, and Nigeria – and have been chosen for their potential to impact the education sector positively, WISE announced on Thursday.

This programme is poised to empower and accelerate the growth of these initiatives, propelling them to the forefront of educational innovation on a global scale.

The four ed-tech ventures will participate in a year-long boot camp to take their experience to the next level. WISE will offer them more than 100 introductions to potential partners, and they will get 108 hours of coaching.

2023-2024 WISE Edtech Accelerator programme ventures are Egypt-based Akhdar, a platform that takes content from various books and presents them through simplified, engaging 15-minute

videos; the Kenya-based M-Shule, the first personalised knowledge-building platform in Africa to connect learners to tailored learning, evaluation, activation, and data tools over SMS and messaging; Bahrain-based playbook is a global career network for women executives to amplify their influence, learn through peer-to-peer experiences and elevate them into leadership roles; and Nigeria based StanLab Ltd is an education technology company with a mission to democratise access to quality, world-class STEM education for students.

The WISE Edtech Accelerator is a vital part of WISE's ed-tech programme that aims to support innovation and build an ed-tech community focused on revolutionising how we teach and learn.

For over six years, the WISE Edtech Accelerator programme has supported tech founders from around the world to scale innovative solutions to critical challenges within the world of education. Each year, it delivers a bespoke programme aimed at supporting startup growth through one-to-one coaching, masterclasses with industry experts, and access to a global network of investors and education specialists. The WISE Edtech Accelerator has supported 42 ventures from 22 countries.

Special camp provides Indian Embassy consular services in Al Khor

THE PENINSULA — DOHA

In a bid to extend essential consular services to Indians living in Al Khor and its vicinity, the Indian Community Benevolent Forum (ICBF), with the support of the Embassy of India, organised a Special Consular Camp on Friday.

The event witnessed an overwhelming response, with more than 100 individuals availing services like passport renewal, attestation, police clearance certificates (PCC), and additional consular assistance. One of the highlights of this

endeavour was the convenience it brought to the local population. Often, residents of Al Khor had to make the trip to Doha on weekdays to access consular services. This camp, held on an off day, proved to be an invaluable support for individuals, particularly those from low-income backgrounds and families, who found it challenging to take time off during regular working days.

The consular camp commenced at 8am, providing attendees with assistance in form filling alongside the primary services. This



Officials provide consular services to Indian expatriates in Al Khor.

supplementary provision further eased the process for around 100 people who benefited from this support.

President of ICBF, Shanavas Bava, expressed his delight at the event's success and emphasised the need for such camps.

"This initiative is a crucial step to bridge the gap and cater to the requirements of our community members residing in and around Al Khor," said Bava.

He further highlighted the efforts of the ICBF team, including other members of the managing committee, embassy officials and ICBF staff in ensuring the smooth and hassle-free conduct of the consular services during the camp.

At the consular camp, ICBF insurance was also promoted, and attendees were provided with the opportunity to enrol in

ICBF insurance plans, further enhancing the range of benefits accessible to the community.

The consular Camp marked the revival of a temporarily paused service, which will soon be extended to other distant areas in coming weeks.

ICBF team led by Shanavas Bava and other Managing Committee Members along with community volunteers at the venue, not only demonstrated their commitment to community, but also played a pivotal role in maintaining order and ensuring the efficient delivery of consular assistance.