



HIGHER EDUCATION

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QATAR'S INNOVATIVE APPROACH TO EDUCATION

Advanced nation by the year 2030. This transformation involves the development of self-sustaining progress and ensuring a high standard of living for its citizens for generations to come. At the heart of this vision are four pivotal pillars: human development, economic development, social development, and environmental development. These pillars serve as the driving force behind the nation's march toward a brighter future.

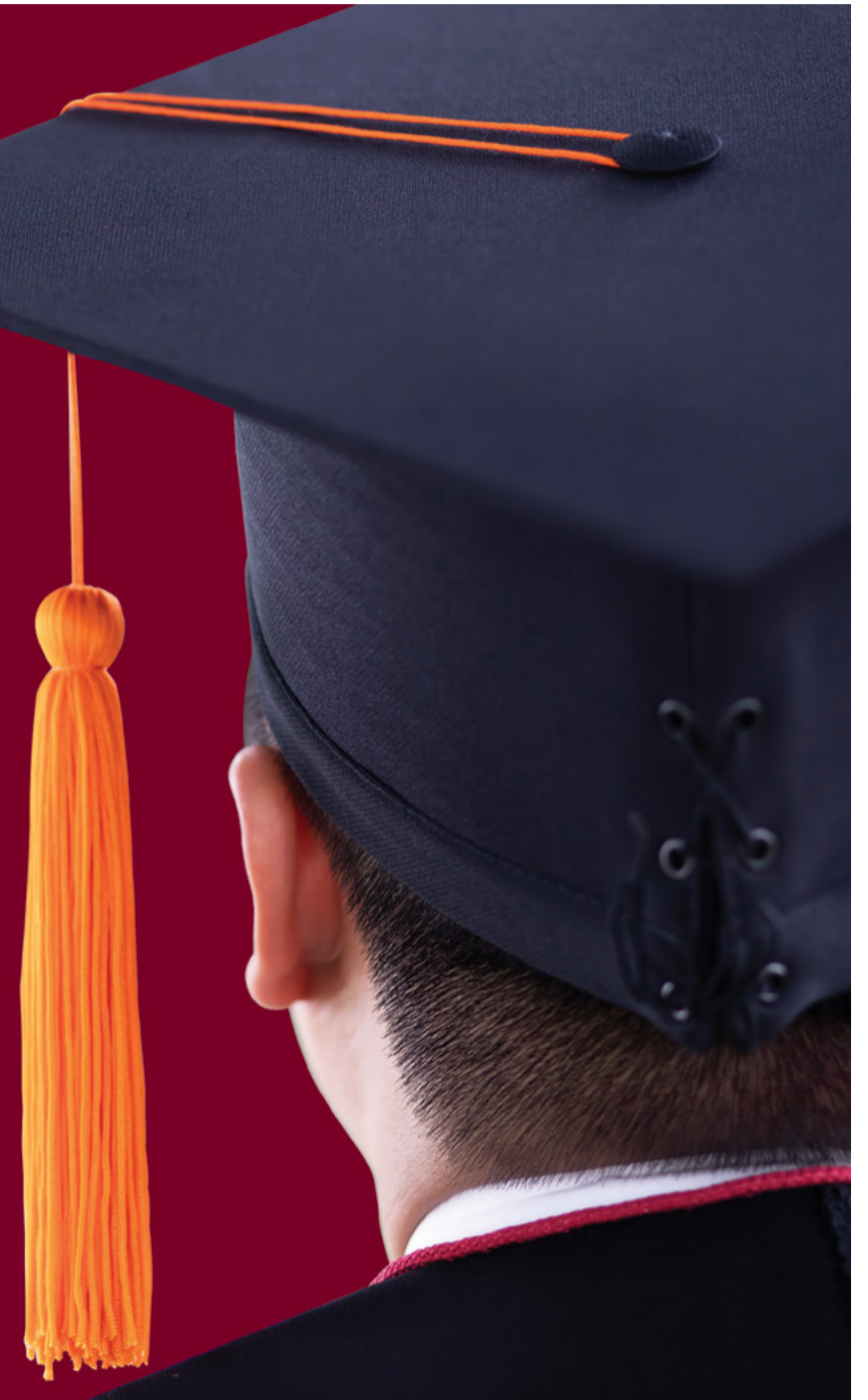
One of the key strategies Qatar is employing to achieve its vision is harnessing the power of education as a catalyst for progress. Education is not merely viewed as a means to an end but as a dynamic tool for fostering growth and innovation. The nation is actively engaged in the design and implementation of new and more accessible avenues for learning, thereby democratizing knowledge and creating opportunities for all its residents.

This concerted effort to use education as a cornerstone of progress signifies Qatar's commitment to empowering its people, fostering economic prosperity, promoting social cohesion, and safeguarding the environment. It is a testament to the nation's unwavering dedication to realizing its vision of becoming an advanced and self-sustaining society that thrives for generations to come.

Education City

Education City, a visionary project founded by Her Highness Sheikha Moza bint Nasser, Chairperson of Qatar Foundation for Education, stands as a testament to her deep commitment to education and her profound impact on Qatar and the world. With a passion for education that has driven her for many years, she has been at the forefront of transformative educational and social reforms, both in Qatar

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VIRGINIA COMMONWEALTH UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF THE ARTS IN QATAR



BACHELOR OF ARTS (BA)
Art History

BACHELOR OF FINE ARTS (BFA)
Graphic Design
Interior Design
Painting & Printmaking
Kinetic Imaging (coming soon)

MASTER OF FINE ARTS (MFA)
Design

vcuarts
QATAR

www.qatar.vcu.edu

VCUarts Qatar - a Center of Creativity and Opportunity

Rising to the challenges of a rapidly changing world, VCUarts Qatar is where new things happen every day, ideas flourish and creativity is in abundance.



Works by students and alumni from VCUarts Qatar have featured in exhibitions everywhere from Doha and Dubai, and from Paris to Moscow to Hong Kong, and at its home campus in Richmond, Virginia.

The students' creativity and inspiration is fueled by participation in world class art and design events, and field trips to study, work and network, as well visits by internationally acclaimed designers and artists such as Hassan Hajjaj, Richard Serra, Shirin Neshat, Jeff Koons, Lawrence Abu Hamdan, Diane von Furstenberg, Reza Abedini, Marina Abramović, Wissam Shawkat, and Hector Ayuso.

Through its innovative programming which utilizes adaptive technologies to facilitate traditional classroom pedagogies and innovative online, remote learning, the Education City-based University opens up the exciting world of art and design to young Qataris, residents and international students. The University makes possible the choice of rewarding careers as artists, teachers, designers, entrepreneurs and creative professionals in the arts and design world and beyond.

VCUarts Qatar is the overseas sister campus of the internationally renowned Virginia Commonwealth University's prestigious School of the Arts in Richmond, Virginia. VCUarts in Virginia has been a top-ranked art and design program in the United States for more than 10 years, according to U.S. News & World Report.

VCUarts Qatar is celebrating a fruitful 25-year alliance between VCU and QF that underscores the commitment of each institution to excellence, enquiry, discovery and innovation in a global setting. It offers students the opportunity to earn a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in graphic design, interior design, painting and printmaking, a Bachelor of Fine Arts in kinetic imaging – coming in Fall/Autumn 2024, a Bachelor of Arts degree in art history, and a Master of Fine Arts degree in

design. In addition, VCUarts Qatar's Libraries have the broadest range of art and design books in Doha, as well as the region's only Materials Library. The current student body consists of nearly 300 students representing 33 nationalities, and over 900 alumni.



Major events by VCUarts Qatar include the upcoming Hamad bin Khalifa Symposium on Islamic Art, the BFA + MFA exhibition by graduating students, the Tasmeem Doha art and design conference, as well as exhibitions and lectures on everything from art and technology, to product development and pop culture.

The Qatar community is welcome to explore their creative side at VCUarts Qatar. Short courses in art and design are offered to all through the university's Community Education Program. No prior experience or education is required and the courses take place throughout the year.

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and on a global scale, pioneering groundbreaking initiatives in the realms of education and youth development.

Education City, her flagship endeavor, is a sprawling educational complex that encompasses 12 square kilometers of purpose-built learning facilities. This remarkable institution is home to eight prestigious international universities, boasts a fully electric tram system, and even features a World Cup Stadium. Catering to a diverse community of 10,600 students, Education City prides itself on offering a wide array of learning opportunities tailored to individuals of all ages and abilities. Moreover, it extends a unique promise to university students by providing them with the opportunity to acquire a Western-style education within the rich cultural context of the Middle East.

Yet, the significance of Education City extends beyond the borders of Qatar. It plays a crucial role in narrowing the global educational attainment gap through its numerous partnerships and awards. In 2009, Her Highness established the World Innovation Summit for Education (WISE) under the auspices of the Qatar Foundation. WISE serves as an international platform that champions creative thinking and purposeful action in education. It has earned global recognition as a reference point for modern education by supporting innovative projects worldwide with cash awards. Remarkably, WISE has touched the lives of over 250 million beneficiaries across 200 countries, underscoring its monumental impact on education on a global scale.

Education City and WISE collectively exemplify Her Highness Sheikha Moza bint Nasser's unwavering commitment to education and her enduring legacy in transforming the educational landscape, not only in Qatar but also around the world. These initiatives stand as beacons of progress and innovation, demonstrating that education can be a powerful catalyst for positive change, accessible to all and capable of bridging educational disparities on a global stage.

The significance of WISE Awards

The World Innovation Summit for Education (WISE) Awards, a pioneering global recognition program, has emerged as a beacon of hope in the realm of education. WISE Awards celebrate and support outstanding projects and initiatives from around the world that address pressing educational issues and contribute to transformative change.

The WISE Awards, established in 2009 under the aegis of the Qatar Foundation, have a clear and noble mission: to identify, showcase, and support impactful, innovative educational projects from across the globe. These projects, driven by a deep commitment to improving educational outcomes, are celebrated for their ability to address real-world challenges and pioneer change in the educational landscape.

One of the core aspects of the WISE Awards is the recognition of excellence in education. Every year, a rigorous selection process identifies a handful of projects that demonstrate innovative solutions to pressing educational problems. These solutions can encompass a wide spectrum of educational issues, from enhancing access to quality education to promoting environmental sustainability in learning environments. The projects selected represent the embodiment of creative thinking and purposeful action in education.



The impact of WISE Awards extends far beyond the accolades themselves. Awarded projects have touched the lives of millions across the globe. According to WISE, these projects have collectively impacted more than 250 million beneficiaries in over 200 countries. This profound reach underscores the Awards' remarkable ability to generate meaningful and positive change in diverse educational contexts.

Fostering collaboration: WISE Awards also play a pivotal role in fostering collaboration among educators, policymakers, and innovators. By showcasing the achievements of these remarkable projects, WISE facilitates the exchange of ideas, best practices, and expertise among stakeholders in education. This collaborative ethos is crucial in addressing global education challenges, as it allows for the dissemination of successful strategies and the scaling up of effective educational initiatives.

Highlighting innovation in education: The projects recognized by WISE Awards are diverse in scope and focus, but they share a common thread of innovation. The Awards highlight unconventional, out-of-the-box thinking, and showcase the power of creativity in addressing educational challenges. This emphasis on innovation encourages the educational community to continually seek new approaches to improving learning outcomes.

Beyond the Awards: WISE's impact extends far beyond the recognition of exceptional projects through the Awards. The organization hosts the World Innovation Summit for Education, a global platform for dialogue and collaboration. The annual summit

brings together leaders and stakeholders in education to engage in meaningful discussions, share insights, and work collectively toward innovative solutions.

In short, by recognizing and supporting outstanding educational initiatives worldwide, WISE shines a spotlight on the potential for positive change in education. With its commitment to fostering collaboration and innovation, WISE not only celebrates excellence but also actively contributes to the global effort to address the most pressing educational challenges. As we navigate the ever-changing landscape of education, the WISE Awards continue to illuminate the path forward, one innovative project at a time.

HIGHER EDUCATION

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MIE SPPU Institute of Higher Education in Qatar

Transforming Qatar's Higher Education Landscape



The MIE-SPPU Institute of Higher Education is headed by Prof Dr Bimalendu B Nath, who serves as the Director of the Institute in Qatar. He holds the distinguished title of Professor Emeritus at Pune University in India. The teaching faculty is carefully chosen through a rigorous selection process, and many of them bring valuable experience from their prior work at the SPPU main campus and its affiliated colleges.



additional master's program, specifically an Executive MBA designed for working professionals. This new program, launched on October 15, 2023, has already garnered significant interest from professionals and the business community in Qatar.



In summary, MIE-SPPU represents another success story of making the best Indian higher education accessible and affordable in Qatar. It fosters a dynamic and vibrant community of students who can now realize their aspirations for higher education after completing their quality schooling.

MIE is the abbreviation for Milestone International Education, an integral part of the DPS Group of Institutions in Qatar. In collaboration with Savitribai Phule Pune University (SPPU), MIE has established the MIE-SPPU Institute of Higher Education, serving as the overseas campus of Pune University in Qatar. SPPU comes with a rich history in higher education and prides itself with a high world ranking of 500 in the QS world



The institute currently serves not only the Indian community but also individuals from 20 different nationalities who have discovered that high-quality higher education in Qatar is not only accessible but also affordable. The BA, BSc, BBA, and BCom degree programs offered by the Institute are meticulously designed to align with the future needs of Qatar's business community and government sector.

School Education under the well-recognized DPS brand, which is already a household name in Qatar but also making Indian higher education accessible and affordable to the citizens and residents of Qatar. The management played a pivotal role in persuading the State Government of Maharashtra in India to grant approval for the establishment of the Savitribai Phule Pune University campus in Qatar.



rankings for universities. The MIE-SPPU Institute of Higher Education Qatar offers a range of academic programs, including five undergraduate programs and one postgraduate program. It commenced its operations in 2021.

The management of MIE-SPPU envisioned not only bringing Indian



Government initiatives such as Jusoor and Sahem, aimed at directing career opportunities in Qatar towards local graduates from universities and colleges within Qatar, will undoubtedly greatly benefit MIE SPPU graduates, providing them with significant opportunities for local employment upon the completion of their undergraduate programs.

In its third year of operation, MIE-SPPU has successfully introduced an



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[Savitribai Phule Pune University, Qatar Campus]



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Breaking Barriers

EAA'S Qatar Scholarship Program Transforms Lives

As graduation season approaches at the American University of Beirut (AUB), eager and talented students are preparing to embark on their professional journeys. Among them are beneficiaries of the life-changing Qatar Scholarship program, an initiative by Education Above All Foundation and the Qatar Fund for Development. One such remarkable student is Mohammed Assad, whose inspiring story showcases the transformative power of education and opens doors to a brighter future.



Mohamad Assaad

Mohammed believes that the Qatar Scholarship and his education at AUB have unlocked new opportunities, paving the way for a stronger financial future. Beyond his personal journey, Mohammed commends the program for its dedication to empowering the Palestinian population in Lebanon. "The Palestinian people have faced multiple setbacks for decades, making it an often-underprivileged nationality. Being provided with scholarships and opportunities allows us to breathe a little bit, escape, pursue learning to pursue something other than staying in the camps and doing nothing, just being desperate."

Mohammed will soon hold a dual degree in finance and computer communication, with a minor in math. "My older sister is a computer engineer. She told me that computer engineering involved math and physics, and there are many work opportunities in that sector, so I enrolled at AUB as a computer engineer. However, while pursuing my degree, I became interested in personal finance, especially when inflation and interest rates were rising. I believe that understanding finance is a must, or at least personal finance. I didn't want to choose between majors, so I thought, why not pursue a dual degree, as well as minor in math, and follow all my passions?"

Even as he was trying to balance studying for two degrees, Mohammed found time to participate in various clubs and community outreach. "I'm a sociable person. I like to talk to people. I'm involved in multiple clubs and societies, and in those clubs we've taken part in lots of volunteering activities, such as visiting an orphanage and elderly homes. However, my most important community service project was



Mohammed Assad, and fellow students receiving certificates.

one at a local school, where my colleague and I taught students public speaking through Model United Nations. Interacting with students at an underprivileged school makes me remember where I come from, and keeps me grounded."

Mohammed's exceptional work ethic and determination caught the attention of prestigious American consulting firm Bain and Company, where he secured an internship opportunity. "Interning there greatly increased my skill set. Bain is an amazing company with a great culture and a steep learning curve; being there, I was able to network with very intellectual and connected people, allowing me to advance my consulting career."

"Receiving the Qatar Scholarship from Education Above All was the beginning of everything. It helped me to enter AUB, which helped me to get into the internship, and now, after I graduate, I have a signed offer with the consulting firm Strategy and Middle East!"

With his educational odyssey ending, Mohammad is preparing for his journey down a new path. He reflects, "I will miss this place; I love AUB. I'm thrilled with what I have accomplished. I'm proud of myself, and my family is proud of me. Everyone is excited to see where the future takes

Through initiatives like the Qatar Scholarship program, Education Above All continues to empower and uplift the next generation of change-makers, nurturing their potential and opening doors to endless possibilities.

WISE to explore role of education in the age of AI

World Innovation Summit for Education (WISE) 2023 will bring together educators from diverse backgrounds, including tech innovators, AI (artificial intelligence) ethicists, policymakers, and students, to create dialogues on how AI will shape the future of education.

Themed "Creative Fluency: Human Flourishing in the Age of AI", the 11th edition of the event held by WISE – Qatar Foundation's (QF) global platform for innovation in education – will take place on November 28–29.

In addition to exploring how education can pave the way for a future where humans can thrive alongside AI, discussions will also revolve around AI being integrated into learning environments in a way that enhances learning experiences, fosters creativity, and prepares the next generation for a future where both educators and learners can use AI tools and systems. WISE 11 will feature live podcasts,



immersive AI experiences, interactive masterclasses, and panel discussions that address a range of topics holding significant implications for the future of education, including AI strategies that bridge educational gaps, creating inclusive learning environments tailored to diverse needs, and AI's role in progressing from traditional classroom learning to AI-influenced teaching.

The event will also raise awareness on how educators can ensure AI in education addresses ethical and socio-economic

concerns and how it aligns with local values while integrating global AI advancements, as well as ensuring learners are equipped with skills for evolving roles in an ever-changing and dynamic job landscape.

Stavros N Yiannouka, CEO of WISE, said: "At a time when AI is at the forefront of the global conversation, it is imperative that we consider its role in the future of education. WISE 11 provides a platform for policymakers, educators and innovators to collaboratively envision how AI can enhance the learning experience and empower individuals. WISE 11 aspires to provide inspiration and thought leadership, providing a roadmap for a future where teachers and learners can leverage AI to create transformative learning experiences."

This year's theme aligns with QF's mission to cultivate a culture of lifelong learning and creativity in the age of AI.

Does academic engagement really matter in higher education?



Higher education serves as a stepping stone towards intellectual growth, personal development, and career advancement. Academic engagement, encompassing active participation, critical thinking, and knowledge acquisition, forms the bedrock of this educational journey. However, the question arises: Does academic engagement really matter in higher education? This article will delve into the importance of academic engagement and shed light on its profound impact on students, institutions, and society as a whole.

Enhanced Learning Outcomes

Academic engagement is a catalyst for enhanced learning outcomes in higher education. When students actively engage with their coursework, they are more likely to grasp complex concepts, demonstrate deeper understanding, and retain information for longer periods. Active learning methodologies, such as discussions, group projects, and hands-on experiments, foster critical thinking and problem-solving skills, enabling students to apply theoretical knowledge to practical situations. Furthermore, academic engagement encourages students to seek additional resources, engage in independent

research, and pursue intellectual curiosity, leading to a more comprehensive and enriching educational experience.



Holistic Development

Beyond academic achievement, higher education aims to nurture students' holistic development, including their personal, social, and emotional growth. Academic engagement plays a pivotal role in this process. Active involvement in academic pursuits cultivates discipline, time management, and perseverance, building essential life skills that extend beyond the classroom. Moreover, engagement in diverse learning activities

fosters creativity, effective communication, and collaboration, equipping students with the skills necessary for success in their future careers and personal lives.



Motivation and Retention

Academic engagement serves as a driving force behind student motivation and retention in higher education. When students find relevance and meaning in their studies, they develop a sense of purpose and intrinsic motivation, fueling their desire to excel. Engaged students are more likely to persist through challenges, seek guidance from professors, and actively participate in class discussions. As a result, academic engagement contributes to higher retention rates, reducing the likelihood of dropout and increasing the chances of graduation. This not only benefits individual students but also strengthens the reputation and credibility of the educational institution.

Intellectual and Social Engagement

In higher education, academic engagement promotes intellectual and social growth. Students who actively engage with their coursework develop critical thinking skills, become more informed citizens, and cultivate a habit of lifelong learning. The intellectual stimulation offered by engagement fosters curiosity, broadens perspectives, and nurtures a culture of intellectual inquiry within the academic community. Furthermore, academic engagement creates opportunities for students to interact with peers, collaborate on projects, and engage in meaningful discussions. Such interactions facilitate the exchange of ideas, promote diversity of thought, and foster a sense of belonging and community among students.

Employability and Societal Impact

Academic engagement in higher education significantly influences students' employability and societal impact. Engaged students acquire a diverse skill set, including analytical thinking, problem-solving, teamwork, and effective communication, which are highly sought after by employers. Active participation in internships, research projects, and community service further enhances students' practical skills and expands their professional network. Moreover, academic engagement equips students with the knowledge and critical perspective necessary to address complex societal issues, shaping them into informed and responsible citizens who can contribute meaningfully to their communities.



In conclusion, academic engagement plays a vital role in higher education, impacting students, institutions, and society at large. It promotes enhanced learning outcomes, facilitates holistic development, fosters motivation and retention, encourages intellectual and social engagement, and enhances students' employability and societal impact. Recognizing the importance of academic engagement, educational institutions should continue to promote active learning environments, offer diverse opportunities for student involvement, and create supportive ecosystems that foster academic curiosity and engagement. By prioritizing academic engagement, higher education can fulfill its mission of preparing well-rounded individuals equipped with the knowledge, skills, and mindset to navigate an ever-changing world.

THE TRANSFORMATIVE POWER OF HIGHER EDUCATION

Higher education is often regarded as a transformative journey, a rite of passage that equips students with knowledge, skills, and perspectives they need to navigate the complexities of life. While the primary purpose of higher education is to impart knowledge and foster critical thinking, it also plays a significant role in shaping individuals into responsible and impactful members of society. In this article, we will explore how higher education empowers students to create a lasting impact on people's lives and the world.

Knowledge acquisition and application

One of the fundamental benefits of higher education is knowledge acquisition. College and university programs expose students to a broad range of subjects, from science and humanities to social sciences and the arts. This knowledge base equips students with the tools they need to address complex issues and make informed decisions in their personal and professional lives.

Moreover, higher education encourages critical thinking, problem-solving, and analytical skills. Students learn to question assumptions, gather evidence, and apply their knowledge to real-world problems. These skills are essential for creating meaningful change in people's lives, as they enable individuals to identify and address issues effectively.

Building empathy and cultural competence

Higher education provides opportunities for students to interact with people from diverse backgrounds. These interactions can foster empathy and cultural competence, making students more attuned to the needs and experiences of others. Learning about different cultures, perspectives, and histories enhances students' ability to create a positive impact on people's lives by understanding their unique challenges and circumstances.

Civic engagement and social responsibility

Colleges and universities often emphasize the importance of civic engagement and social responsibility. Students are encouraged to get involved in community service, volunteer work, and advocacy. These experiences not only contribute to a student's personal growth but also create tangible benefits for the communities they serve. This kind of involvement can have a lasting impact on individuals, families, and entire communities.

Innovation and entrepreneurship

Higher education institutions often serve as hubs of innovation and entrepreneurship. Students are encouraged to develop and pursue innovative ideas that can solve problems or improve existing systems. Whether it's a breakthrough in healthcare, a new technology, or a sustainable business model, higher education provides the resources and mentorship needed to turn these ideas into reality.



Leadership development

Many colleges and universities prioritize leadership development through clubs, organizations, and extracurricular activities. Students can develop leadership skills, such as communication, teamwork, and decision-making, that are essential for creating a positive impact in people's lives. Whether leading a student group, a project team, or a community initiative, these skills are transferable to leadership roles in various sectors.

Research and advancements

Higher education institutions contribute significantly to the advancement of knowledge and technology through research. Students have opportunities to participate in research projects that can lead to discoveries, innovations, and improvements in various fields. These advancements can have a profound and far-reaching impact on society, addressing pressing issues and improving the quality of life for many.

Education as a social equalizer

Higher education also plays a vital role in promoting social equity. It provides a path for individuals from underprivileged backgrounds to access opportunities they might not have had otherwise. This not only transforms individual lives but also has a cascading effect on their communities, breaking the cycle of poverty and opening doors for future generations.

Higher education offers a wealth of opportunities for personal and societal growth. It equips students with knowledge, skills, and values that enable them to create a positive impact on people's lives and the world at large. Whether through knowledge application, empathy development, civic engagement, innovation, leadership, research, or promoting social equity, the transformative power of higher education is undeniable. As students continue their educational journeys, they have the potential to leave a lasting mark on individuals, communities, and society as a whole.

Stars of Science finalist leverages AI technologies to minimise cardiovascular risks

Artificial intelligence is shaping the future of nearly every industry, and in healthcare it has made a significant impact to improve patient care and help save lives. And this was Shada Bennbaia's intention.

Shada Bennbaia, Stars of Science Season 14 finalist, invented a unique wearable tech – a smart wristband – that tracks heart health and offers a convenient and accurate solution for continuous blood pressure monitoring.



Shada Bennbaia

"By integrating AI and advanced technology, my device (PULSTAE) provides real-time insights and beat to beat monitoring, empowering individuals and healthcare providers to proactively manage cardiovascular health and detect risks early," says Bennbaia.

Bennbaia was among the finalists of Season 14 of Qatar Foundation's (QF) edutainment TV show Stars of Science, and is a mechanical engineer by qualification. Going forward, Bennbaia looks to extend AI's role in user interactions, allowing the system to interact with users and gather information from them, and provide a more personalized experience.

"It's the fusion of cutting-edge technology, and AI makes my blood pressure monitoring solution truly innovative," she says.

"As part of my vision for the future, I see immense potential in leveraging AI for continuous health monitoring and obtaining real-time feedback. By integrating AI algorithms into the monitoring process, my platform can provide instant insights into a person's health status, helping them proactively manage their well-being.

"AI can learn from each individual's data, making the system increasingly personalized over time. This personalization will enable more accurate predictions and recommendations tailored to each user's unique health profile."

Bennbaia also explains that the data collected through continuous monitoring of the patient can, through AI technologies, be harnessed to develop diagnostics and predictive algorithms, and in turn can potentially revolutionize how we approach healthcare, shifting from reactive to proactive management.

"AI has the capability to sift through vast amounts of data to identify patterns and correlations that may not be apparent through statistical analysis. By applying machine learning techniques, my device can potentially detect early signs of health risks and diseases, allowing individuals and healthcare providers to take preventive actions," she says.

For Bennbaia, her use of AI in this project marks just the beginning, and she believes that the future holds exciting possibilities, from real-time health feedback to personalized learning and advanced predictive algorithms.

She says: "It's these innovations that drive me to continuously push the boundaries of technology and AI to make a meaningful impact on people's lives."

Speaking about her experience in Stars of Science and the support she received from QF, Bennbaia says that the current scientific landscape in Qatar in relation to AI "shows promising growth and potential" yet there are many opportunities for growth and to further enhance Qatar's position in the field of AI.

"Qatar has been making significant strides towards embracing AI technologies as evident from initiatives like the Qatar National AI Strategy. The focus on fostering AI education, research, and applications is commendable and aligns well with global trends," she says.

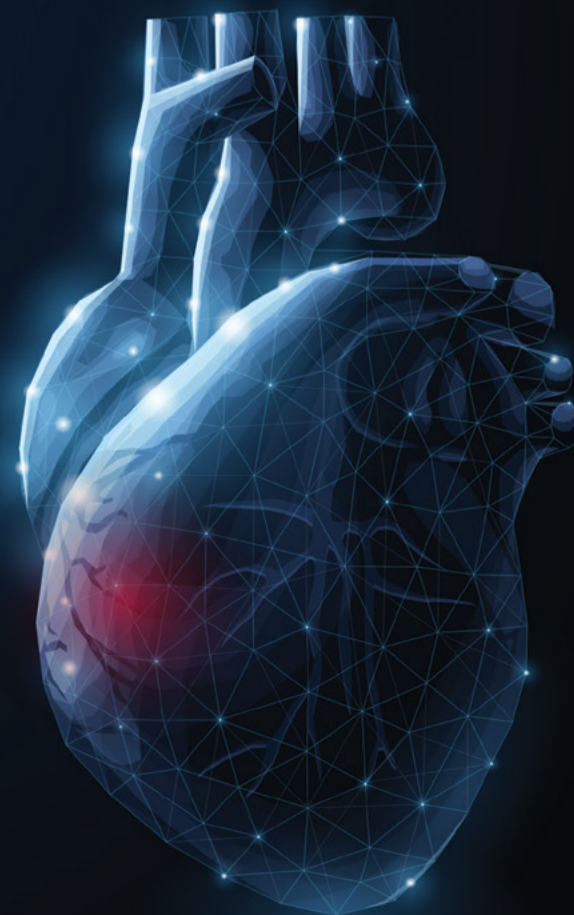
While the current AI landscape in Qatar is promising, the focus should extend towards providing specialized support for deep tech startups. This support, according to Bennbaia, will enable these startups to push the boundaries of AI innovation, ultimately contributing to the advancement of science and technology both locally and globally.

"Deep tech startups often require substantial resources, capital, mentorship, and a supportive ecosystem to thrive. Creating specialized programs or incubators that cater specifically to deep tech startups would go a long way in accelerating innovation and propelling Qatar to the forefront of AI research and development.

"Facilitating partnerships between research institutions, universities, industry experts, and startups can lead to breakthroughs and accelerate the pace of innovation. Cross-disciplinary collaboration can foster new ideas and approaches that can solve complex challenges in various domains."

Encouraging innovation and collaboration in the field of AI is vital to QF. The ecosystem at QF includes institutes, centers and initiatives such as Stars of Science, dedicated to research funding, business incubation and innovation, and many other aspects of research, development, and innovation.

Source: qf.org.qa



A Carnegie Mellon degree in the heart of the Middle East



Carnegie Mellon University attracts a certain type of student: motivated, inventive, and driven to make a difference. Students come to Carnegie Mellon to learn, create and innovate with the very best. They leave with the passion, connections, credentials and lifelong friends who will help them change the world.

Work that matters

For more than a century, Carnegie Mellon University has challenged the curious and passionate to imagine and deliver work that matters. A private, global university, Carnegie Mellon stands among the world's renowned educational institutions, setting its own course with programs that inspire creativity and collaboration. Consistently top-ranked, Carnegie

Information Systems is based on professional core courses that teach students to analyze, design, implement and test information systems using current and emerging practices. The flexible nature of the program encourages students to work outside of traditional disciplinary boundaries.

Learn by doing

Students at Carnegie Mellon Qatar learn beyond the classroom through a slate of unique enrichment opportunities. Many students opt to study abroad as part of their education or embark on global learning experiences that complement their classroom studies. Students also do internships, receiving on-the-job experience and adding an important dimension to their undergraduate education.



Research is part of the fabric of a Carnegie Mellon education. Students engage in a wide variety of research endeavours, such as independent studies, senior honors theses, summer internships and funded projects as junior researchers.

Small campus, big spirit

The CMU-Q student body is exceptionally diverse, representing 61 nations. Students form a busy and active community, participating in clubs, organizing large-scale events, traveling for global learning, and competing in local and international contests. The low student-to-professor ratio means students receive unparalleled individual attention.

Graduates who make a difference

Graduates from CMU-Q are highly sought-after: most choose careers in top organizations, while a significant number pursue graduate studies at international institutions. With 16 graduating classes, the total number of alumni is more than 1200.

The CMU-Q alumni network has a growing influence, with most graduates working in Qatar or the region. You will find our alumni in organizations like Ooredoo, Qatar Airways, Qatar Shell, McKinsey and Company, KPMG, Siemens and ExxonMobil. In Doha's budding entrepreneurial sector, CMU-Q alumni members are a driving force, creating startups, mentoring current students and contributing to an emerging community of young innovators.



Mellon has more than 13,000 students and 120,000 alumni worldwide.

A world class education in Qatar

At the invitation of Qatar Foundation, Carnegie Mellon joined Education City in 2004 to deliver select programs that will contribute to the long-term development of Qatar. Today, Carnegie Mellon Qatar offers undergraduate programs in biological sciences, business administration, computer science, and information systems. More than 470 students from 61 countries call Carnegie Mellon Qatar home.

Programs of study

CMU-Q offers undergraduate programs that are at the forefront of technology, innovation, scientific discovery, and economic growth, consistently staying ahead of the curve. All undergraduate majors require four years of full-time study, after which students earn a bachelor of science degree.

Biological Sciences has a core curriculum of biology, chemistry, computer science, mathematics and physics. In-depth exposure to multiple disciplines prepares students for careers at the forefront of emerging new fields.

Business Administration provides the foundation for motivated students to become leaders in the business arena within Qatar, the region and the world. The program emphasizes an analytical approach to problem-solving, providing the tools to adapt to an evolving business environment.

Computer Science provides students with the core skills of mathematical reasoning, algorithmic thinking, and programming. The program encourages creativity and provides the fundamental skills to develop new technologies.



Your career starts here. ■

Carnegie Mellon University attracts a certain type of student: motivated, inventive and driven to make a difference. Students come to Carnegie Mellon to learn, create and innovate in a nurturing environment. They leave with the passion, connections, credentials and lifelong friends who will help them change the world.



www.qatar.cmu.edu

**Carnegie
Mellon
University
Qatar**

'Teachers play a pivotal role in building nation and generations'

Minister of Education and Higher Education
H E Buthaina bint Ali Al Jabr Al Nuaimi emphasized that the annual celebration of World Teachers' Day is a gesture of appreciation for this noble profession in the generous nation of Qatar. This recognition reflects the belief in the pivotal educational and teaching role that teachers play in building generations and the nation.

In her speech during the celebration, the Minister explained that this year's global theme for World Teachers' Day is "The teachers we need for the education we want: The global imperative to reverse the teacher shortage." She said that this message sheds light on the state of education and teachers worldwide, clearly highlighting the importance of working together at the local, regional, and international levels to understand the true reasons behind the reluctance to pursue this profession and the challenges faced by teachers.

The Minister pointed out that the Ministry has sought to professionalize education through its strategic initiatives. Last year saw the launch of an initiative called the successful start, targeting graduates of Qatar University's "Tumoh" program, aiming to train and prepare them for work in



government schools. This was achieved by providing psychological and professional support and guidance by experienced teachers to ensure their smooth integration into the education field. In this context, she highlighted that the academic year began with the graduation of the first batch of this program.

She said that the Ministry of Education and Higher Education (MoEHE) recognizes the importance of investing in human capital, launching the experiences program to send Qatari teachers to countries with advanced educational systems. The goal is to gain experience and learn best practices through high-quality training programs. The Minister added that the MoEHE understands its duty in terms of creating an appealing teaching profession that attracts citizens who recognize its significance in nation-building and safeguarding its accomplishments.

She emphasized that the quality of education depends on proficient teachers who are enthusiastic about their role, dedicated to their noble mission, and instrumental in fostering a resilient generation grounded in principles, values, and the preservation of their national identity.

The Minister acknowledged the role of teachers in Qatari society, their high status, and their enduring contributions. She expressed the obligation to repay their contributions with gratitude, as each person lives forever indebted to teachers who left a lasting imprint on their education, personal development, and career advancement. She then conveyed her sincere appreciation and gratitude to all teachers.

Finally, she urged today's teachers to always keep in mind that they are the creators of an enduring legacy in the hearts and minds of future generations, who see them as role models and valuable contributors to their success. She expressed profound pride and appreciation for their dedication.

Speaking on behalf of his honored colleagues, Mohammed Abdullah Al Qahtani, a social studies teacher at Ibn Khaldoun Preparatory Independent School For Boys, discussed the teacher's role and unrelenting efforts in raising generations and young people, and their clear impact on shaping their future. He highlighted teachers' many sacrifices and hard work to graduate generations that build nations, addressing in a relevant context the difficulties and challenges of the teaching profession.

Many Ministry of Education and Higher Education officials appreciated the country's marking of World Teachers Day as an appreciation of the growing role of teachers in building generations and raising young people.

The MoEHE understands its duty in terms of creating an appealing teaching profession that attracts citizens who recognize its significance in nation-building and safeguarding its accomplishments

In statements to Qatar News Agency (QNA), they stressed that teaching contribute to the efforts of human development, one of the pillars of Qatar National Vision 2030.

MoEHE's Acting Assistant Undersecretary for Higher Education Affairs Dr. Khalid Al Ali said that Qatar's celebration of World Teachers Day confirms the extent of the attention the state pays to science and scholars and its appreciation for the profession and teachers and the efforts they sincerely make in educating children and the nations renaissance, which can only be achieved through science and knowledge.

MoEHE's Director of the Educational Guidance Department Maryam Al Emadi said the teachers have a high status in the Qatari society, and that they deserve every honor and care, pointing out that the state is aware and appreciates the pioneering role they play in creating and building generations. A good education and capable and qualified teachers, as in the educational system in Qatar, are mandatory for renaissance of nations, she added.

Mohammed Al Khulaifi, a social studies teacher at Khalifa Secondary School said that this honor is an incentive for more giving and making an effort to contribute more to the nations elevation and progress and to achieve the aspirations of the Qatari community, parents, and the educational field.

Haya Mohammed Al Nuaimi, a physical education teacher at Arwa Independent Secondary School, said that the teaching profession is a source of pride for every individual in the Qatari society, and that the teacher has his status and respect, and this honor and celebration confirms the states great interest in teachers and in the teaching profession.

Samira Al Emadi, an Arabic language coordinator at Al Khor Primary School, affirmed her pride in being a teacher, pointing out that teachers are entrusted with children to instill values, national identity, and good morals in them.



The importance of field trips in a well-rounded education process



Field trips, often referred to as educational excursions or site visits, serve as an integral component of a well-rounded education. These off-campus experiences provide students with opportunities to explore the real world, apply theoretical knowledge in practical settings, and develop a deeper understanding of their academic subjects. Field trips contribute significantly to the holistic development of students, bridging the gap between classroom learning and real-life experiences. In this article, we will explore the critical role of field trips in creating a well-rounded education process and the various benefits they offer to both students and educators.

Connecting knowledge to practical application

Field visits provide students with the opportunity to bridge the gap between theory and practice. While classroom learning offers a solid foundation in theoretical concepts, real-world exposure helps students to understand how these concepts are applied. For instance, a biology student studying ecosystems may visit a local forest to witness ecological principles in action. This connection between theory and practical application enhances comprehension and retention of the subject matter.

Enhancing experiential learning

Experiential learning, which involves hands-on experiences, is an integral aspect of higher education. Field visits are instrumental in promoting experiential learning as students actively engage with the environment, conduct experiments, and observe real-world phenomena. Whether it's in the realms of science, history, or business, actively participating in the learning process fosters a deeper understanding of the subject matter.



Encouraging critical thinking

Field visits encourage critical thinking by challenging students to analyze, interpret, and evaluate real-world situations. For example, business students visiting a manufacturing plant may analyze production processes and identify areas for improvement. This not only enriches their knowledge but also sharpens their critical thinking and problem-solving skills.

Cultivating cultural awareness

Field visits also provide opportunities for students to immerse themselves in diverse cultures and communities. This exposure helps in cultivating cultural awareness and sensitivity, which is vital in today's globalized world. Students become more empathetic and open-minded, contributing to a more inclusive and harmonious society.

Connecting with industry professionals

Many field visits include interactions with industry professionals, experts, or practitioners in the field. These interactions allow students to network, gain insights into potential career paths, and even secure internships or job opportunities. The practical exposure and networking opportunities can be a significant advantage in students' future careers.

Motivating and engaging students

Field visits add an element of excitement and adventure to the educational process. They break the monotony of classroom learning, making education more engaging and motivating. Students are more likely to be enthusiastic about learning when they can see how it directly applies to real-life scenarios.

Developing soft skills

In addition to subject-specific knowledge, field visits also help in developing soft skills such as teamwork, communication, adaptability, and problem-solving. Students often need to work together during field trips, which fosters collaboration and teamwork. Moreover, they have to communicate effectively with peers, instructors, and professionals they meet during the visits.

Encouraging lifelong learning

Field visits instill a sense of curiosity and a passion for lifelong learning. They inspire students to explore beyond the classroom,

encouraging them to seek out knowledge independently and apply what they've learned in various contexts.

Challenges and considerations

While field visits offer numerous advantages, they also come with challenges that educators and institutions need to address. These challenges include logistical considerations, safety concerns, and budget constraints. Educators must carefully plan and execute field visits to ensure they are both safe and effective.

Field visits in higher education are an essential component of a holistic learning experience. They bridge the gap between theory and practice, foster experiential learning, and encourage critical thinking. Moreover, they cultivate cultural awareness, offer networking opportunities, motivate students, develop soft skills, and inspire a passion for lifelong learning. While they come with challenges, the benefits of field visits far outweigh the drawbacks. By integrating these experiences into the curriculum, higher education institutions can better prepare students for the challenges of the real world and equip them with a well-rounded education that extends beyond the classroom.

BRIDGING THE GAP BETWEEN THEORY AND PRACTICE

While theoretical knowledge is essential, it often leaves students ill-prepared for the demands of the real world. To address this issue, educators, institutions, and students themselves must strive to bridge the gap between theory and practice. This article delves into the importance of bridging this gap, the challenges involved, and strategies to enhance practical learning in higher education.

The significance of bridging the gap

Preparing students for the workforce: The primary objective of higher education is to equip students with the knowledge, skills, and competencies required to succeed in their chosen careers. Theoretical knowledge provides a foundation, but practical experience is crucial to make graduates job-ready. Bridging the gap helps students transition smoothly from the classroom to the workplace.

Theory offers a framework for understanding concepts, but practical application allows students to engage in critical thinking and problem-solving. They learn to adapt their theoretical knowledge to real-world situations, encouraging creativity and innovation.



Increasing employability: Graduates with hands-on experience are more attractive to employers. Bridging the gap between theory and practice makes students more marketable, enhancing their employability. This benefits both the students and the institutions they graduate from.

Challenges

Limited resources: Many higher education institutions struggle with resource constraints, making it challenging to provide practical experiences such as internships, labs, and hands-on projects. Limited resources may result in overcrowded classrooms and outdated equipment, hindering the integration of practical learning.

Resistance to change: Traditional academic structures often prioritize theoretical teaching methods, and there may be resistance from faculty and administrators to incorporate practical elements. Changing curriculum and teaching methods requires overcoming institutional inertia.

Mismatched expectations: Students, educators, and employers may have different expectations regarding the role of higher education. Bridging the gap requires alignment between these stakeholders to ensure that students receive the practical experiences they need.

Strategies to enhance practical learning

Internships and co-op programs: Integrating internships and cooperative education programs into the curriculum allows students to gain hands-on experience in their field of study. These experiences provide a direct link between theory and practice, helping students develop skills and make industry connections.

Experiential learning: Incorporate experiential learning opportunities, such as fieldwork, case studies, and simulations, into the curriculum. These activities engage students in real-world situations, encouraging them to apply their theoretical knowledge.

Industry partnerships: Collaborate with industries and businesses to provide students with practical exposure. Industry partnerships can offer guest lectures, on-site visits, and real-world projects, giving students insights into industry demands and expectations.

Project-based learning: Encourage project-based learning where students work on real-world projects. This approach fosters collaboration, problem-solving, and critical thinking while allowing students to apply their knowledge to address practical challenges.

Modernizing curriculum: Review and update curricula to ensure that they reflect current industry trends and demands. Incorporate new technologies and methodologies to keep students up to date with the latest advancements in their field.



Faculty development: Provide training and resources to faculty members to help them integrate practical elements into their teaching methods. Faculty should be equipped to facilitate experiential learning effectively.

Assess and evaluate: Implement a robust assessment system to measure the effectiveness of bridging the gap between theory and practice. Regular feedback from students, employers, and faculty can help refine the curriculum and teaching methods.

In summary, bridging the gap between theory and practice in higher education is essential to prepare students for the complex challenges of the real world. It is a collaborative effort involving educators, institutions, students, and industry partners. By implementing strategies like internships, experiential learning, and modernizing curricula, higher education institutions can better equip their graduates for successful careers. In doing so, they not only fulfill their primary mission of education but also contribute to the growth and development of the broader society.



CUC Ulster University Qatar

Setting New Academic Standards for Higher Education



As Qatar approaches a new era, the role of education in achieving the ambitious goals of the 2030 Qatar National Vision (QNV 2030) cannot be overstated. The QNV 2030 is a comprehensive roadmap that outlines the country's development strategy, aiming to transform Qatar into a sustainable, diversified, and knowledge-based economy. At the heart of this transformation is a commitment to investing in Qatar's education programmes and facilities.

The 2030 Qatar National Vision is centred around four pillars: human development, social development, economic development, and environmental development. Each of these pillars is inextricably linked to education, highlighting the importance of nurturing a well-educated and skilled population to drive Qatar's progress.

Human Development

The first pillar of the QNV 2030, human development, is perhaps the most intertwined with education. A key goal of this pillar is to cultivate a generation of Qatari residents who are capable of meeting the demands of the modern world while preserving their cultural heritage.

This necessitates a comprehensive education system that equips students with the requisite skills, knowledge, and values to thrive in an ever-changing global landscape.

Social Development

Education is also integral to achieving the second pillar of social development. An educated population is better positioned to contribute to building a cohesive and inclusive society. By providing equal access to quality education, Qatar ensures that all its residents, regardless of their social or economic background, have the opportunity to succeed and contribute to Qatar's prosperity.

Economic Development

The third pillar of economic development is closely tied to education as well. A vibrant, knowledge-based economy requires a highly skilled and innovative workforce. As Qatar diversifies its economy away from its reliance on the energy sector, investing in education becomes even

more crucial. By nurturing a generation of entrepreneurs, scientists, engineers, and other professionals, Qatar is laying the groundwork for a prosperous future.

Environmental Development

Lastly, the fourth pillar of environmental development highlights the importance of education in promoting sustainable practices. The higher the education level among Qatar's residents, the more likely residents are to make informed choices that contribute to preserving the environment for future generations.

By investing in its education system, Qatar is not only empowering its citizens but also paving the way for a brighter and more prosperous future. The progress made in recent years, including the establishment of world-class educational institutions and initiatives, is a testament to the country's commitment to realising the goals of the QNV 2030. The path ahead is filled with promise, and education will undoubtedly play a crucial role in fulfilling the nation's vision.





Qatar's Impressive Strides in Elevating Higher Education

In recent years, Qatar has taken significant steps towards revolutionising its higher education facilities and curriculum offerings, demonstrating its strong commitment to excellence in academia. The strides made by Qatar have set a commendable precedent in the region.

Among the noteworthy initiatives undertaken is the collaboration with Ulster University, resulting in the establishment of CUC Ulster University in Qatar. This partnership reflects Qatar's proactive approach to integrating global academic excellence into its higher education system. By bringing one of the United Kingdom's top universities to its shores, Qatar has facilitated access to a world-class UK education for its residents and the wider Gulf region.

The CUC Ulster University campus in Qatar offers state-of-the-art facilities, modern classrooms, and cutting-edge technology, aligning with the highest standards of academic infrastructure. Moreover, the curriculum at CUC Ulster University has been meticulously curated to meet the demands of the global job market, with a particular emphasis on innovation, critical thinking, and practical skills.



Dr. Faris Gorashi, Executive Dean at CUC Ulster remarked on CUC Ulster's rising prominence in the Qatar market. "We are proud to be at the forefront of higher education in Qatar and to offer UK degrees and diplomas that align with the country's national vision. Our commitment to excellence in education, coupled with our focus on serving the community through learning symposiums and workshops, is helping to shape the future of Qatar and contribute to its development and prosperity."

In addition to the collaboration with Ulster University, Qatar has invested heavily in other higher education initiatives. Qatar Foundation's Education City is a prime example, hosting branch campuses of several renowned international universities. Qatar's commitment to enhancing its higher education facilities and curriculum offerings has been remarkable, and is showing no signs of slowing down.

CUC Ulster University's Academics Focus on the Needs of QNV2030 through Innovative Programmes

MSc Education in Education Leadership

In a world that is continually evolving, the need for strong leadership in the field of education has never been more critical. Recognising this, CUC Ulster University has introduced the Master's of Education in Education Management, a programme meticulously designed to prepare educators in Qatar and around the globe for leadership roles within the educational space.



Dr. Edmund Adam, head of the Master's of Education Programme at CUC Ulster University, is a staunch advocate for the importance of building leaders within the educational space. "Our aim with the Master's of Education in Education Management is to create a generation of leaders who are not only well-versed in the intricacies of educational management but are also equipped with the practical skills and innovative mindset required to drive positive change," says Dr. Adam.

MBA in Women's Leadership

Another innovative programme offered by CUC Ulster University is the Master's of Business Administration in Women's Leadership. This programme is sending ripples throughout the country, as companies in Qatar hire and promote graduates from this programme. CUC Ulster University is at the forefront of championing women's leadership in the corporate world through its groundbreaking Master's of Business Administration in Women's Leadership programme.

Head of Postgraduate Studies and Programme Director of the MBA in Women's Leadership Programme, Ms. Komal Beg, is proud of the university's collaboration with Babson College in Boston, as a sign of the global reach of its MBA programme. This partnership gives students the chance to build international networks and gain insights into the global business landscape. "Our collaboration with Babson



College is a crucial aspect of our programme, providing students with the opportunity to connect with like-minded individuals and learn from some of the best minds in the business world," says Senior Lecturer Beg.

Master's of Science in Marketing

In today's digital age, AI is transforming the way marketers engage with consumers, and it is essential that marketing professionals become adept at utilising these technologies to their advantage. The Master's of Science in Marketing programme at CUC Ulster University covers a range of topics, from data analytics and machine learning to digital advertising and social media marketing, ensuring that graduates are well-prepared to thrive in this new era.



Michael Stellwag, Head of Marketing at CUC Ulster University, is proud of the university's role in reshaping the knowledge curve of marketing in Qatar. "The field of marketing is changing at an unprecedented pace, and it is vital that marketing professionals are equipped with the latest tools and techniques to succeed. The MSc in Marketing programme is at the forefront of this revolution, and we are committed to providing our students with a comprehensive education that will prepare them for the challenges of the future," says Stellwag.

To learn more about CUC Ulster University, visit: cuc-ulster.edu.qa

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POSTGRADUATE PROGRAMMES

- MBA
- MBA (Women in Leadership)
- MSc Marketing
- MEd Education Management

UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAMMES

- BSc (Hons) Business Studies
- BSc (Hons) Business Analytics
- BSc (Hons) Business with Computing
- BSc (Hons) Computer Science
- BEng (Hons) Artificial Intelligence

BTEC HIGHER NATIONAL DIPLOMAS

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