10 Emerging courses that will define future of higher education

Higher education is changing faster than ever before. Driven by advances in technology, evolving job markets, and pressing global challenges, universities are rethinking what and how they teach.

Traditional degree programmes are now being complemented—or even replaced—by flexible, interdisciplinary courses that combine academic depth with practical, industry-linked learning. From artificial intelligence to climate resilience, a new generation of programmes is shaping the future of higher education.

Here are ten emerging courses that are redefining what it means to prepare for tomorrow's world.

1. Human-Centred Artificial Intelligence

Artificial intelligence is no longer confined to computer science departments—it is becoming a foundational skill across all disciplines. New courses in Human-Centred AI blend technical training with social awareness, exploring issues such as bias, regulation, ethics, and human–machine collaboration. Students learn not only how to build algorithms, but also how to ensure they are fair, transparent, and beneficial to society. Graduates are finding opportunities in roles such as AI policy analysts, responsible AI specialists, and product managers, helping shape how intelligent systems are deployed across industries.

2. Neurotechnology and Brain–Computer Interfaces

Once the stuff of science fiction, neurotechnology is now a fast-growing field at the intersection of neuroscience, engineering, and computing. Courses in Brain–Computer Interfaces (BCI) prepare students to design technologies that connect the human brain directly with machines, with applications in healthcare, rehabilitation, and communication. As the field expands, universities are also incorporating neuroethics and regulation to address privacy and consent, ensuring graduates are ready to work responsibly in this sensitive but transformative area.

3. Climate Tech and Carbon Management

The global race to achieve net zero has created demand for professionals who understand both science and policy. Climate Tech and Carbon Management programmes teach students how to measure, reduce, and offset emissions through innovations such as renewable energy systems, carbon capture, and green design. Beyond engineering, these degrees also explore climate finance and sustainable business practices. Graduates are increasingly sought after as carbon analysts, sustainability officers, and project developers leading corporate and government initiatives to combat climate change.

4. Digital Health and Health Data Science

Healthcare has entered the digital age, with telemedicine, wearable devices, and data analytics reshaping patient care. Universities are responding with courses in Digital Health and Health Data Science that merge biostatistics, informatics, and regulatory training. Students learn to manage and interpret complex health data while navigating ethical and privacy concerns. The result is a new breed of health professionals who bridge the gap between technology and medicine, contributing to smarter, data-driven healthcare systems.

5. Extended Reality (XR) and Immersive Design

Virtual and augmented reality have moved beyond gaming to become essential tools in education, medicine, and architecture. Courses in Extended Reality (XR) Design teach students how to create immersive environments for learning, training, and communication. By combining elements of 3D design, computer programming, and human–computer interaction, these programmes prepare graduates to build experiences that blur the boundary between the digital and the physical worlds.

City University Qatar:
# Shaping Future Leaders in Qatar and Beyond

Located in the heart of Lusail, City University Qatar (CUQ) stands as one of the country's fastest-growing higher-education institutions. In partnership with the United Kingdom's Ulster University, CUQ offers students the opportunity to earn UK-accredited degrees while studying in Qatar. The university delivers a broad range of programmes such as Business Studies, Law, Psychology, Biomedical Engineering, Artificial Intelligence, Game Design, and Architecture, equipping students with the skills needed for success in an increasingly competitive global landscape.

At CUQ, education goes beyond textbooks. "Our goal is not only to deliver knowledge but to inspire transformation," said Professor Dr Faris Gorashi, President of City University Qatar. "CUQ is a place where students are empowered to lead, to question, to innovate and to find their place in an increasingly interconnected world."

A Modern Campus Built for Innovation and Community

CUQ's Lusail campus is not only a centre for academic learning but also a vibrant environment designed to nurture collaboration and wellbeing. The university features an architecture design studio, and a purpose-built Moot Court, allowing law students to gain practical courtroom experience. Beyond the classroom, students enjoy an range of sports and recreational facilities, including a fully equipped gym, a multi-purpose sports hall, padel court and a swimming pool, all supporting a holistic campus life that balances academic excellence with personal growth.
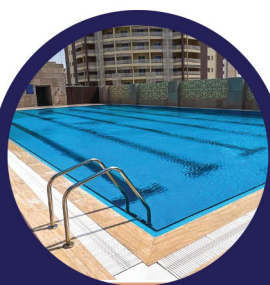
CUQ Talks: Inspiring Conversations in the Heart of Qatar

As part of its growing academic and cultural engagement, CUQ recently launched CUQ Talks, a new conversation series that brings influential voices from around the world to Qatar.

The inaugural session, titled "Business Off the Pitch," featured world-renowned football journalist Fabrizio Romano and was held at CUQ's Lusail campus. The event explored the global business of football, covering topics such as branding, athlete influence and media in modern sport. Moderated by Shaden Wahdan, producer and reporter at AlKass TV Sports' channel, the session attracted students, media professionals and football enthusiasts a like.

"CUQ Talks is not just a dialogue; it's a platform to ignite ideas, challenge perspectives and inspire change. We're honoured to launch this series with Fabrizio Romano, whose credibility and reach have helped redefine football media," said Professor Dr Faris Gorashi, President of City University Qatar.

During his visit, Fabrizio attended the Al Sadd vs Al Rayyan match, where he was warmly welcomed by players and fans, reflecting Qatar's deep cultural and emotional connection with football. With such an inspiring start, CUQ Talks will continue to host global figures from various fields, fostering dialogue that bridges academia and the wider world.

Upcoming Workshops, Open Day and Najah Qatari 2025

1 To support working professionals and students, CUQ is hosting a series of postgraduate workshops designed for those considering advanced study. These sessions showcase the benefits of earning a UK-accredited qualification in Qatar and provide practical guidance on programme selection, admissions and career development pathways. Interested participants can learn more and view the full schedule of workshops on the university's website at www.cuq-ulster.edu.qa.

2 The university opens its doors on the 3rd & 4th of December for Open Day, inviting students and families to explore the Lusail campus, meet faculty members and discover CUQ's full range of Bachelor's, Master's and BTEC programmes. Admissions are currently open for the January 2026 intake and the September 2026 intake across various programmes. Keep an eye on our media channels and website for future events.

3 CUQ is participating in this year's Najah Qatar 2025, taking place **from 17–15 November at QNCC (booth A05)**. Visitors can learn more about CUQ's programmes and study opportunities, and speak directly with counsellors, faculty members and student ambassadors.

Admissions now open for:
- ◆ BTEC & MBA for January 2026
- ◆ All programmes for September 2026

For more information, visit
🌐 cuq-ulster.edu.qa

Or contact
✉ admissions@cuq-ulster.edu.qa

City University Qatar | **Ulster University** Qatar

احصل على شهادة بريطانية في قطر
Earn a UK Degree in Qatar

Get Ready for January & September Intake 2026!

POSTGRADUATE PROGRAMMES

- MBA
- MBA (Women in Leadership)
- MSc Marketing
- MEd Education Management
- MSc Artificial Intelligence
- LLM in International Commercial Law and Alternative Dispute

UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAMMES

- LLB (Hons) Bachelor of Laws
- BSc (Hons) Psychology
- BA (Hons) Architecture

- BSc (Hons) Computer Science
- BEng (Hons) Artificial Intelligence
- BEng (Hons) Biomedical Engineering
- BEng (Hons) Electronic Engineering
- BSc (Hons) Game Design & Development

- BSc (Hons) Business Studies
- BSc (Hons) Global Business with Computing
- BSc (Hons) Global Business with Data Analytics

BTEC HIGHER NATIONAL DIPLOMAS

- BTEC HND in Business (English)
- BTEC HND in Computing with Cybersecurity (English)

وزارة التربيـــة والتعليــم والتعليم العالــي
Ministry of Education and Higher Education
دولــة قطــر • State of Qatar

📞 40 198 198   🌐 cuq-ulster.edu.qa
CUQUlster

Apply Now

6. Quantum Information Science

Quantum computing is often described as the next revolution in technology, with the potential to transform everything from cybersecurity to drug discovery. Courses in Quantum Information Science and Engineering equip students with the theoretical and practical foundations to design quantum algorithms and develop advanced materials. As governments and companies invest heavily in quantum research, universities are offering specialized programmes to train the scientists and engineers who will power this emerging industry..

8. Cybersecurity and Digital Trust

In a hyperconnected world, protecting information has become as crucial as creating it. Cybersecurity courses are evolving from purely technical programmes into comprehensive studies of digital trust—combining software security, ethics, and risk management. Students gain hands-on experience in threat detection, incident response, and secure system design. As cyber threats become more complex, graduates are finding critical roles in governments, corporations, and global institutions safeguarding data and infrastructure.

biology graduates will be at the forefront of innovation, leading research into environmentally friendly solutions and new forms of manufacturing.

10. Applied Data Science and Decision Analytics

Data remains the foundation of the modern economy, but employers increasingly value professionals who can translate data into decisions. New programmes in Applied Data Science and Decision Analytics teach not just coding and modelling, but also communication, visualisation, and responsible use of data. Students learn to turn complex datasets into actionable insights that guide business strategy and public policy. These skills are becoming essential across all sectors—from finance to education to healthcare.

7. Space Systems and Commercial Space Operations

The new space economy is no longer limited to astronauts and rocket scientists. With the rise of private space companies, universities are launching degrees in Space Systems Engineering and Space Policy. These programmes cover everything from satellite design and mission planning to space law and entrepreneurship. As commercial launches and satellite constellations multiply, the demand for engineers, analysts, and policy experts is rising sharply, making this one of the most exciting frontiers for higher education.

9. Synthetic Biology and Biomanufacturing

Synthetic biology is revolutionising industries by designing life at the molecular level. Courses in this field train students to engineer organisms for sustainable materials, food production, and new medical treatments. These programmes blend biology with computer science and engineering, while also addressing questions of regulation and ethics. As the bioeconomy expands, synthetic

CONNECTED

Online communication makes life much more now because distance means so little when connected and able to stay in touch with everywhere

The Age of Constant Connection

A digitally disciplined student recognises the difference between productive use and passive consumption

In the era of constant connectivity, higher education has transformed beyond recognition. Laptops, tablets, and smartphones are now inseparable companions of student life, offering instant access to lectures, research materials, and global collaboration platforms.

For today's learners, the classroom exists everywhere — from coffee shops to living rooms, from midnight study sessions to early-morning webinars.

Yet this digital abundance comes with an invisible challenge: distraction. The same devices that enable productivity also compete for attention with a constant stream of messages, updates, and entertainment.

For many students, the struggle is no longer finding information, but maintaining focus. This is where the concept of digital discipline comes in — the ability to manage technology consciously and use it purposefully without being consumed by it.

The paradox of digital learning

Technology has made higher education more accessible and inclusive than ever before. Students can attend online lectures from any part of the world, collaborate on group projects through cloud platforms, and consult AI-powered study tools that assist with summarising texts or improving writing. In theory, learning has never been easier.

However, the reality is more complex. The same technological ecosystem that empowers students also overwhelms them. Constant notifications, social media updates, and entertainment platforms make it difficult to sustain attention for long periods. Studies show that digital multitasking reduces comprehension and retention, leading to superficial learning. The modern student must therefore learn not just with technology, but also against its distractions.

Redefining discipline for the digital era

In the pre-digital age, discipline meant attending lectures on time, completing readings, and revising before exams. Today, it involves a deeper layer of self-control — the ability to choose when, where, and how to engage with technology. Digital discipline does not mean rejecting devices or avoiding social media; rather, it is about mastering their use. It requires self-awareness, intentionality, and the willingness to set boundaries in a world that never stops sending notifications.

A digitally disciplined student recognises the difference between productive use and passive consumption. Opening a laptop to write a research paper is productive; switching between ten tabs of unrelated content is not. Learning to navigate this fine line is now a vital academic skill.

Learning with intention

Developing digital discipline begins with intention. Before starting an online study session, students should identify their specific goals — whether that is finishing an essay, revising a topic, or attending a virtual lecture. Without a clear objective, it is easy to drift into distraction. Intention creates structure, and structure strengthens focus.

Many universities now include sessions on digital wellbeing and productivity as part of student development programmes. These workshops encourage learners to reflect on their online habits, manage screen time, and understand how constant digital stimulation affects attention and mental health. The central idea is simple: when technology is used deliberately, it becomes an ally; when used aimlessly, it becomes a trap.

Designing a focused digital environment

A major part of digital discipline lies in creating an environment that supports concentration. Just as a tidy desk encourages study, an organised digital workspace reduces cognitive clutter. Minimising open tabs, muting non-essential notifications, and dedicating specific hours for study can make a noticeable difference.

Equally important is the practice of digital rest — moments when students disconnect entirely to recharge their minds. Reading physical books, taking walks, or engaging in creative activities without screens allows the brain to recover from constant stimulation. Students who build such habits often find themselves more focused and less anxious when they return to their devices.

Ethics, AI, and Academic Integrity

As artificial intelligence tools become common in education, digital discipline also involves ethical decision-making. Platforms that generate summaries, suggest writing improvements, or analyse data can enhance learning — but only when used responsibly. Overreliance on these tools can compromise critical thinking and originality, while misuse can raise questions of academic integrity.

The disciplined student learns to use AI as a partner in discovery, not as a shortcut to completion. Understanding where technology assists and where it replaces genuine effort is part of the moral awareness that defines digital maturity.

Protecting mental wellbeing

The impact of digital overload is not limited to academics. Excessive screen time, late-night scrolling, and constant digital engagement are linked to sleep deprivation, anxiety, and burnout. Digital discipline, therefore, is also a matter of self-care. Maintaining balance between online and offline life is essential for mental and emotional health.

Students who set boundaries — such as device-free evenings or regular offline breaks — often report better concentration, improved sleep, and a more positive learning experience. Managing technology wisely is not just about efficiency; it is about sustaining wellbeing in a world that never pauses.

A life skill beyond the campus

Cultivating digital discipline in university is preparation for much more than academic success. The professional world mirrors the same challenges: endless emails, virtual meetings, and constant digital communication. Employers increasingly value individuals who can manage digital workflows effectively, stay focused amid distraction, and use technology ethically.

In this sense, digital discipline is not a passing trend but a lifelong competency. It blends productivity, mindfulness, and integrity — the ability to work intelligently in a world of infinite information. The disciplined student of today becomes the adaptable, thoughtful professional of tomorrow.

The future of higher education will continue to be shaped by technology. But the students who thrive will not be those who are merely tech-savvy; they will be those who are self-disciplined. Digital discipline is about reclaiming control in an age of abundance — learning to connect with technology consciously, rather than being carried away by it.

Ultimately, it is not how many devices or apps a student uses that determines success, but how wisely they use them. In a world that never stops demanding attention, true learning now depends on the quiet art of focus.

Northwestern Qatar's Executive Education Program:
Enabling excellence in communication-related competencies

Through its tailored and open-enrollment offerings, the Program is enhancing communication competencies for enhanced leadership capacity across the public and private sectors, anchored in Northwestern's global reputation for excellence

The Executive Education Program at Northwestern University in Qatar continues to expand its impact as a trusted partner for professional development in communication-related competencies across Qatar and the wider region, empowering professionals and organizations to lead effectively in an ever-changing media landscape.

Guided by Dean and CEO Marwan M. Kraidy's vision, the Program plays a vital role in advancing Northwestern Qatar's mission to elevate the region's media and communication ecosystem. Anchored in Northwestern's global reputation for excellence, it offers a evolved curriculum focused on communication within leadership—spanning strategic communications, digital media, analytics, artificial intelligence, and public communications—to equip professionals with the practical tools and deep insight needed to navigate complexity, lead with confidence, and drive organizational impact.

Reflecting on the program's trajectory and impact, Gregory F. Lowe, professor and director of the Executive Education Program, said: "The Executive Education Program conforms to Northwestern University's celebrated standards in teaching and research." He added, "The school's core values are at the heart of every service we design and produce. We pursue excellence in professional education services, working in collaboration with client organizations and expert instructors, to facilitate strategic development of the professional community in Qatar, with a keen interest in the long-term sustainability of companies, managers, and workers across organizations in both private and public sectors."

Tailored training for organizations

One way the Program has advanced its mission is through tailored training offerings designed to meet the evolving needs of public and private sector

Participants from 21 entities took part in a tailored program on crisis communications strategy and preparation, delivered in partnership with the GCO.

custom training on strategic communications with various stakeholders, and for the Government Communications Office, it designed a specialized course on crisis communication strategy and reputation management, training more than 21 employees to enhance organizational preparedness and response.

Reflecting on her experience, Sara Ali Ashkanani, Quality Officer – Safety, Health, Environment, and Quality at Nakilat, said: "The knowledge and skills I gained from this training will undoubtedly contribute to my future career development, and I am grateful for the opportunity to have participated."

Empowering professionals across career stages

Beyond organizational partnerships, the Program has also expanded its open enrollment courses, offering high-impact masterclasses that extend Northwestern Qatar's expertise to the broader professional community. Designed for working professionals across career stages, these courses provide practical, results-driven learning experiences that foster career advancement and facilitate leadership development.

Each masterclass emphasizes hands-on learning through real-world case studies and interactive

simulations, allowing participants to explore contemporary challenges that require competence in communication skills affecting the quality of leadership. Topics range from media engagement strategy and stakeholder communication to crisis communication and the use of AI-driven analytics in decision-making.

Open enrollment courses delivered since 2023 include "Negotiation Through Effective Communication" by expert negotiator Roberto Ordonez, "Strategic Communication with Stakeholders" by Professor George Anghelcev, and "AI Tools for Digital Content Design and Creation" by Professor Spencer Striker, both faculty at Northwestern Qatar. These courses have attracted professionals from diverse specializations, including marketing, public relations, and digital media management.

Open enrollment offerings also included "Best Practices in Organizational Communication," a course designed to strengthen participants' understanding of internal communication, strategic planning, and team collaboration. Delivered through a highly interactive workshop format, the course provided professionals with practical frameworks to analyze communication challenges and develop effective strategies to enhance organizational cohesion and performance.

Reflecting on the experience, marketing and communications consultant Alia M. Khairat said: "The course provided a valuable opportunity for our team to reflect on internal communication pain points and work collaboratively to address them. The workshop structure gave the team a good opportunity to discuss pain points and work together to overcome them. Overall, the planning, structure, and communication throughout the course were exceptional."

Open-enrollment programs have expanded, offering professionals across career stages hands-on masterclasses to advance their careers.

organizations seeking to enhance communication capacity in leadership. Each course is developed in direct and customized consultation with client organizations to ensure alignment with their strategic goals, operational priorities, and workforce development needs.

In recent years, the Program has delivered a range of customized courses designed to strengthen communication capabilities for impactful leadership across sectors. In collaboration with the Nigerian Supreme Court, it developed an on-campus masterclass on communications in conflict management, equipping senior leaders with strategies to navigate complex dialogue to enhance organizational cohesion and effectiveness.

Similarly, in a series of partnerships with the Qatar gas transport company Nakilat, it has delivered a training series on influential public speaking and presentation skills for groups in middle and upper management, empowering managers with the confidence and practical expertise to engage audiences and communicate with clarity and impact.

Other tailored programs have supported organizations in strengthening their strategic capabilities in crisis communication. For Qatar Development Bank, the Program delivered

Managers from Nakilat gained confidence and practical expertise to communicate with impact through a tailored hands-on training on public speaking and presentation skills.

Leaders from the Supreme Court of Nigeria joined Northwestern Qatar for a custom program on strategic communication and conflict management.

Through its growing portfolio of open-enrollment and customized programs in strategic communication, digital media, data analytics, artificial intelligence, and public communication, the Executive Education Program is advancing Northwestern Qatar's mission of excellence in communication and journalism education, contributing to the institutional AI initiative, and ultimately supporting life-long professional learning in the region. By serving as a trusted partner for organizations and professionals across Qatar and the region, this Program facilitates continuing professional education for the local community.

This commitment to empowering professionals advances Northwestern Qatar's academic mission, helping facilitate internships and employment opportunities for students and network building for faculty and staff. Alongside its three undergraduate programs in Journalism and Strategic Communication, Communication, and the Liberal Arts, the Executive Education Program extends the value added by the University's contributions to the media landscape in Qatar and the wider region while embodying Northwestern's global legacy of academic rigor and innovation.

This story is part of a special series highlighting how Northwestern University in Qatar is advancing its academic mission through its distinctive programs, faculty expertise, and evolving curriculum that prepare students for global impact.

Design a masterclass for your leadership team with Northwestern Qatar's Executive Education Program

ENHANCED LEADERSHIP IN COMMUNICATION INTELLIGENCE

Influential leaders communicate a vision that drives action

The NU-Q Executive Education Program delivers a unique professional training experience that equips leaders at all levels to harness the power of communication to articulate strategy, build influence, and heighten impact.

Our Communication in Leadership curriculum has three integrated categories of masterclasses—each designed to strengthen communication competencies of leaders in today's dynamic operational environments. Programs can be tailored to address a specific organizational challenge or linked in a cohesive sequence to achieve broader development goals.

Masterclass Categories:

- Strategic Communications – Crafting messages that inspire trust, ensure alignment, and improve performance.

- Digital Media, Analytics, and Artificial Intelligence – Leveraging cutting-edge technology to facilitate insight for data-driven decision making.
- Public Communications – Building credibility and connection across stakeholders and platforms.
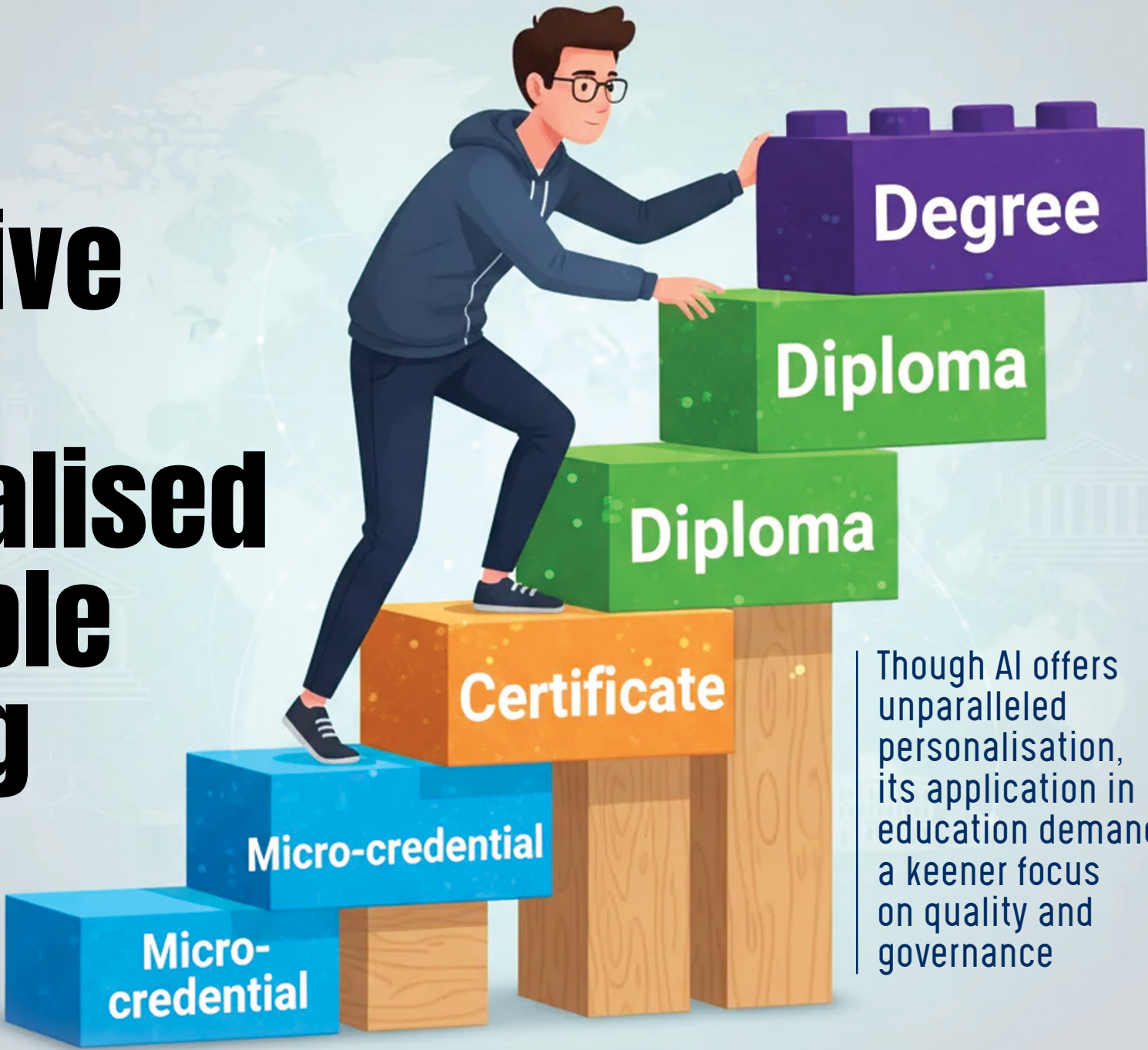
Empower your leadership team to communicate with strategic vision, intelligence, and confidence

Northwestern | QATAR

SCAN FOR
CONTACT DETAILS

The disruptive rise of personalised stackable learning

Degree

Diploma

Diploma

Certificate

Micro-credential

Micro-credential

Though AI offers unparalleled personalisation, its application in education demands a keener focus on quality and governance

As Artificial Intelligence reshapes industries and the nature of work, higher education is undergoing a profound transformation, moving from traditional degrees to personalised, stackable learning pathways designed for a dynamic digital economy

By **Sameera Ahmad**

The challenges facing the global higher education sector are twofold: first, an ever-growing demand for specialist professional expertise; and second, a greater need than ever for flexibility. While Artificial Intelligence holds immense potential to enhance personalisation, its most transformative impact lies in shaping a new credentialing system, the personalised, stackable micro-credential.

We are witnessing a radical shift from the traditional, time-bound degree to a continuous, competency-based framework that aligns closely with the needs of the digital economy. The rapid pace of technological advancement, particularly with the rise of generative AI, is swiftly reshaping industries and redefining job roles across the world.

The Intelligent Bridge to Lifelong Learning

Micro-credentials (MCs) are compact, focused digital badges that play a crucial role in the components of lifelong learning. As the need for a more adaptable workforce grows, these credentials are becoming increasingly valuable, particularly within the realm of Open and Distance Learning (ODL). The academic chapter titled "Lifelong Education and Micro-Credentialing in Artificial Intelligence" (ResearchGate 2025) emphasizes that MCs offer a pathway for individuals to swiftly gain industry-relevant skills. They are instrumental in transforming education to meet the demands of the digital era:

The authentic transformative power of these credentials lies in their integration with AI, which serves as a vital role in creating personalised experiences.

Adaptive Pathing and Diagnosis: AI systems begin by evaluating a learner's existing skills and then align these findings with the current demands of the job market. This allows them to recommend the most beneficial and stackable sequence of micro-credentials. A recent study published in Frontiers in Education 2024 highlights that AI is transforming the landscape of micro-credentialing by creating personalized learning paths that tailor content to fit the specific needs of individual students.

Efficiency and Access: This approach considerably reduces the time and cost barriers. The review titled Unlocking Career Potential: How Micro-Credentials Are Revolutionising Higher Education and Lifelong Learning (MDPI 2025) points out that MCs represent "targeted, flexible, and accessible pathways for skill development" through modular, focused courses and online alternatives. Therefore, MCs are "flexible, inclusive tools that enhance employability, support institutional innovation, and promote lifelong learning."

Quality and Governance are Critical

Though AI offers unparalleled personalisation, its application in education demands a keener focus on quality and governance.

The use of machine learning algorithms in today's computational systems is a significant change in how we approach data processing. The key principles that drive neural network architectures, together with their applications in predictive analytics, are highlighted in this research.

The latest Survey of Adult Skills 2023 by OECD stipulates that education systems have an imperative need to "enhance their initiatives and adjust" to the evolving landscape. Three key areas that this international policy framework tackles are:

1. Fragmentation: Research currently indicates that AI integration into micro-credentials remains fragmented; this is "hindering further growth" (Artificial Intelligence in Micro-Credentials for Open and Distance Learning, ERIC 2025). For this reason, the responsibility for universities now becomes taking the lead to build solid frameworks regarding quality assurance and interoperability.
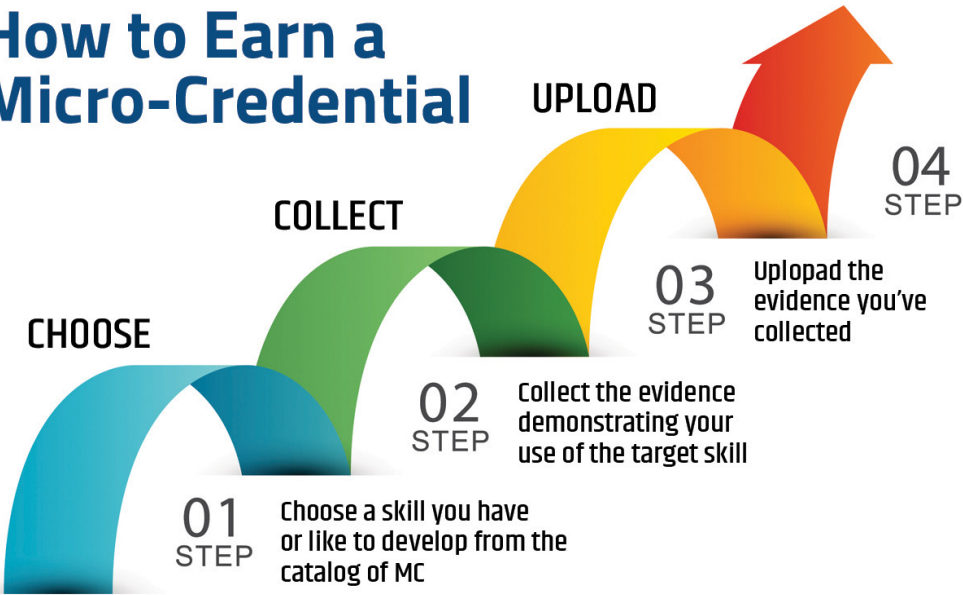

2. The "Gig Qualification" Critique: This development has raised significant debate. The paper Micro-credentials in higher education (Taylor & Francis Online 2025) points out critics who caution against the danger of reducing higher education to mere vocational "Gig qualifications for the gig Economy." Institutions will have to respond to this concern by ensuring that MCs are fully stackable and underpinned by a core framework of ethical AI application and critical thinking.

3. The AI Competency Gap: Perhaps most telling is that . That striking number makes a strong case that the educational value of multiple-choice questions must rest on the development of higher-order human competencies, such as critical judgment, collaboration, and creativity, which complement rather than duplicate the emergent capabilities of AI.
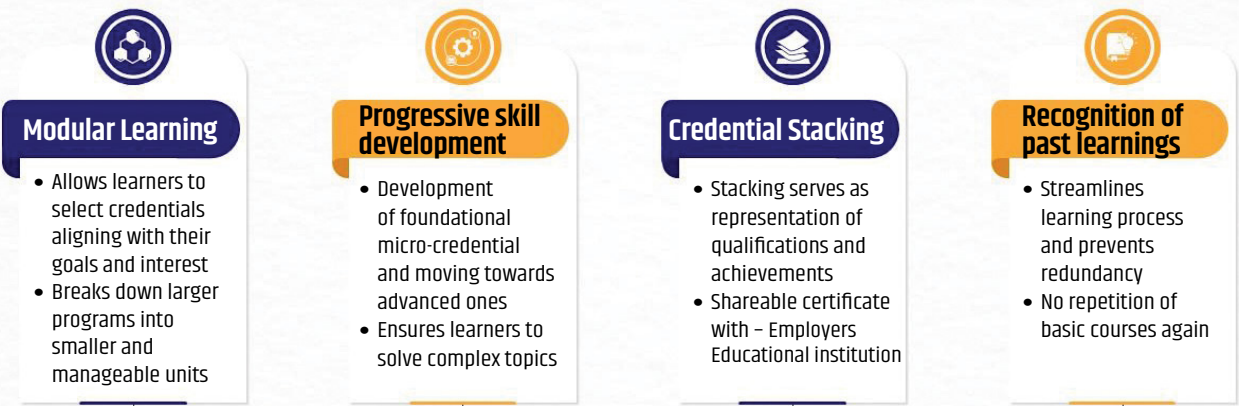
The intersection of AI, adaptability, and competency-based education makes for a powerful approach to developing a truly future-ready workforce. Allowing micro-credentials to build a bridge "between traditional education and the evolving demands of industry" (Unlocking Career Potential, MDPI 2025), higher education can become a proactive architect of ongoing professional development.

In summary, the future of the degree lies not in its completion, but in intelligent personalisation.

How to Earn a Micro-Credential

CHOOSE
01 STEP Choose a skill you have or like to develop from the catalog of MC

COLLECT
02 STEP Collect the evidence demonstrating your use of the target skill

UPLOAD
03 STEP Uplopad the evidence you've collected

SHARE
04 STEP Share your MC on your website, social media, email signature, etc.

Stackable micro credentials for skill acquisition

Modular Learning
- Allows learners to select credentials aligning with their goals and interest
- Breaks down larger programs into smaller and manageable units

Progressive skill development
- Development of foundational micro-credential and moving towards advanced ones
- Ensures learners to solve complex topics

Credential Stacking
- Stacking serves as representation of qualifications and achievements
- Shareable certificate with – Employers Educational institution

Recognition of past learnings
- Streamlines learning process and prevents redundancy
- No repetition of basic courses again

100 New Scholarships for Arkansas State University-Qatar

The Global Studies Institute (GSI) in partnership with Arkansas State University Qatar has announced an ambitious new scholarship program designed to advance Qatar Vision 2030 by developing local talent in critical fields. The initiative will award approximately 100 merit-based scholarships ranging from 20% to 50% tuition coverage, bringing the total scholarship funding to more than QAR 5 million for the 2025-2026 school year—a historic investment specifically targeting both Qatari nationals and expatriates pursuing high-demand undergraduate degrees.

These scholarships are strategically designed to support Qatar's national development goals by investing in students pursuing majors essential to the country's future: Digital Technology and Design with specialized concentrations in Artificial Intelligence and Cybersecurity, Engineering Management Systems, Computer Science, Psychology, and Special Education. These programs align directly with Qatar Vision 2030's objectives of building a knowledge-based economy and developing human capital in technology, education, and social services sectors.

The new scholarship tiers—offering 50%, 40%, 30%, and 20% tuition reductions—are based on academic merit, making American higher education more accessible to talented students regardless of nationality. This inclusive approach recognizes that both Qatari nationals and the expatriate community, which comprises 88% of Qatar's population, are vital contributors to the nation's development.

Dr. Shaker Lashuel, Executive Director of GSI, emphasized that this initiative represents a significant investment in Qatar's future workforce, particularly in technology and education sectors identified as national priorities. The QAR 5 million scholarship commitment demonstrates the partnership's dedication to removing financial barriers for high-achieving students and cultivating the next generation of professionals who will drive Qatar's innovation economy and social development.

Ms. Amal Dib, Student Success Manager, expressed enthusiasm about the expanded opportunities: "These scholarships open doors for talented students who have the potential to excel but may face financial constraints. By supporting both Qatari nationals and expatriates in fields critical to Qatar's future, we're investing in the leaders, innovators, and educators who will shape our nation's tomorrow. We're committed to guiding these scholarship recipients through their academic journey and ensuring they reach their full potential."

Students benefit from live instruction delivered by Arkansas State University faculty through advanced classrooms in Doha, earning fully accredited American degrees equivalent to those awarded on the main Arkansas campus. The programs emphasize practical skills and real-world applications, preparing graduates to immediately contribute to Qatar's strategic objectives.

These merit-based scholarships complement existing financial aid options and demonstrate GSI and Arkansas State University Qatar's commitment to supporting national development priorities while providing world-class education. Students interested in applying can contact Arkansas State University Qatar for eligibility requirements and application details.

Scholarship Recipients for 2022–2025

Sports Scholarship

Louai Mouhoub
Rakan Al Harith
Youssef Yagoub

Qatar Vision Scholarship

Jana Fahad Alajmi
Modawi Alobaidli
Mohamed Almansouri
Shaikha Alhamad
Shyma Ibrahim Albahr
Wajed Al Dehaimi

GSI Opportunity Scholarship

Abdulrahman Elanaby
Adham Mohamed
Alaa Hammad
Ali Elshekh
Aseel Osama
Azima Leyyan
Gabriel Dimaano
Julia Samo
Mohamad Kabatilo
Mustafa Hassan
Noor Zainab
Rashid Osman
Syeda Zahra Raza
Yara Zarandah
Yassin Hassan

Merit Scholarship

Abdullah Soliman
Abena Etwi-Danquah
Ahmed Abdelsattar
Arsalan Khan
Fatina Alhammouri
Faustine De Los Reyes
Mohammed Alhammouri
Mohammed Amaan
Mohammed Salem
Nausheen Panali
Omer Omer
Rex Tyler Tano
Sameer Khan
Sammy Ali
Zain Gohn

GSI/EAA Scholarship

Anees Nizar
Lejain Sulyman
Mohamed Ouda
Peter Rizk
Samuel Soriano
Sara Alam
Shouq Astaneh
Usama Mohammed

Diversity Scholarship

Abdalla Mohamed
Alisar Altawila
Amr Mohamed
Aya Swai
Dina Muthanna
Eissa Al Mohamadi
Faatimah Emeran
Firdous Yassin
Hamad Ramadhan
Israa Emeran
Jansel Owen Cezar
Joude Itani
Lukman Suwi
Marc Beyrouthy
Mariam Khater

THE ART OF NETWORKING
How students can build connections early

In today's fast-evolving world, success in higher education goes beyond grades and degrees. The ability to build and maintain meaningful professional relationships — or networking — has become one of the most valuable skills a student can develop.

Whether it's finding internships, exploring career options, or learning from mentors, networking can open doors that formal qualifications alone cannot.

Building the foundation early

Networking is not something that begins after graduation; it starts the moment students step into university life. Every classroom interaction, project collaboration, or extracurricular activity offers a chance to connect with people who may shape one's future path. Professors, visiting lecturers, alumni, and even classmates can become part of a lifelong professional network.

Students should begin by showing genuine curiosity in others' work and ideas. Asking questions after a lecture, joining academic clubs, or attending university-organised events helps in building initial rapport. These small steps create familiarity and trust — the cornerstones of any strong professional relationship.

Learning the art of conversation

Networking is often misunderstood as self-promotion, but at its core, it's about authentic communication. Successful networkers listen more than they talk. They show interest in others' experiences and perspectives rather than focusing only on what they can gain.

Students can start by developing their conversational confidence. Participating in seminars, volunteering at conferences, or engaging in group discussions allows them to interact with people from different backgrounds. These experiences improve interpersonal skills, which later prove vital in job interviews, internships, and collaborations.

Using digital platforms wisely

The digital world has made networking easier than ever. Platforms like LinkedIn, ResearchGate, and university alumni networks allow students to connect globally with professionals, scholars, and recruiters. However, digital networking requires discipline and professionalism.

Students should maintain a polished online profile that reflects their academic interests and achievements. Sharing articles, commenting thoughtfully on discussions, or congratulating peers on accomplishments are simple ways to stay active and visible. The goal is to cultivate a professional identity online that mirrors one's aspirations and values.

Seeking mentorship

Mentorship is an integral part of networking. Finding mentors — professors, senior students, or industry professionals — can provide guidance, feedback, and insight into career development. Mentors not only share knowledge but also introduce their mentees to valuable contacts and opportunities.

Approaching potential mentors requires respect and clarity. Students should express what they hope to learn and how they intend to apply the advice received. Building these relationships takes time and consistency, but the rewards are long-term and often transformative.

Networking beyond academia

While academic connections are crucial, students should also look beyond campus. Attending workshops, public lectures, or community events helps in meeting people from diverse industries. Many universities collaborate with companies or host career fairs — opportunities that allow students to interact with employers directly.

Internships and volunteer experiences also serve as powerful networking tools. They allow students to demonstrate skills, reliability, and enthusiasm in real-world environments — leaving lasting impressions on potential employers and colleagues.

The power of giving back

True networking thrives on reciprocity. Students should not view connections as one-way benefits but as relationships that grow through mutual support. Sharing useful information, helping peers, or introducing contacts to one another builds goodwill and strengthens networks.

Over time, these gestures cultivate a reputation for generosity and reliability — traits that attract positive professional relationships.

A lifelong investment

Networking is not a one-time task but a continuous process that evolves with one's career. The habits students build during their university years — engaging sincerely, communicating effectively, and staying connected — lay the groundwork for future success.

In an age where knowledge and opportunities move quickly, those who master the art of networking gain not only access to opportunities but also a deeper understanding of the world around them. For students, learning to build connections early is more than a career strategy — it's a lifelong art that enriches both professional and personal growth.

KEY DIGITAL PLATFORMS TO BUILD CONNECTIONS

In the digital age, networking no longer depends solely on face-to-face meetings or business cards. Students today have a wealth of online tools at their fingertips that can help them connect with professionals, mentors, and peers from around the world.

Here are some of the most useful platforms for building and nurturing valuable connections.

LinkedIn

Often called the "professional Facebook," LinkedIn is the go-to platform for career networking. Students can create a polished profile that highlights their academic achievements, skills, and interests. By following companies, joining industry groups, and engaging with posts from professionals, students can stay informed about trends and opportunities in their fields. A well-maintained LinkedIn profile can also attract recruiters and potential employers.

ResearchGate

Ideal for students in scientific or academic fields, ResearchGate allows users to share papers, ask research-related questions, and collaborate with scholars globally. It's a valuable platform for those interested in postgraduate studies or research careers, helping students build visibility in academic communities early on.

X

Though often seen as a social media site, X is also a powerful tool for academic and professional networking. Students can follow thought leaders, universities, and organisations related to their interests. Engaging with professional conversations or sharing insightful content can help students build a credible online presence and attract like-minded individuals.

Handshake

Many universities now partner with Handshake, a platform that connects students with employers, internships, and job opportunities. It's tailored for those still in education, allowing them to explore openings suited to their level and field of study.

Slack and Discord Communities

These platforms are popular among tech-savvy students and those involved in startups, coding, or creative fields. Many online communities host discussions, mentorship programmes, and project collaborations. Joining these groups allows students to learn from experienced professionals and even collaborate on real-world projects.

Alumni Networks and University Platforms

Most universities offer online portals or apps where students can interact with alumni. These networks are invaluable for finding mentors, exploring career paths, and learning from graduates who have already entered the workforce.

Meetup

Meetup is ideal for finding interest-based gatherings — both online and offline. From entrepreneurship to environmental science, the platform hosts groups where students can engage in discussions, attend webinars, or even form study groups.

GitHub (for tech and engineering students)

For students in computer science, software engineering, or related fields, GitHub is more than a code repository — it's a professional networking tool. Sharing projects publicly allows others to see one's technical skills and can attract attention from recruiters or collaborators.

Behance (for creative disciplines)

Design, photography, and media students can use Behance to showcase their portfolios. The platform also allows users to follow creative professionals, receive feedback, and discover job opportunities in design and multimedia industries.

UNIVERSITY OF DOHA FOR SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

QATAR'S HUB FOR APPLIED LEARNING AND INNOVATION

University of Doha for Science and Technology (UDST) stands as Qatar's first national university dedicated to applied, technical, and professional education. Officially established in 2022 under Emiri Decision No. 13, UDST has rapidly positioned itself as a transformative force in higher education, bridging the gap between classroom learning and industry needs.

Today, UDST's vibrant 150,000 square metre campus is home to a diverse community of over 86 nationalities, reflecting both Qatar's cosmopolitan character and the University's international outlook. With more than 70 programs spanning bachelor's and master's degrees, diplomas, and certificates, UDST empowers students with the knowledge, practical skills, and industry exposure they need to thrive in a competitive, fast-changing world.

Five Colleges Driving Excellence

UDST is structured around five colleges, each designed to deliver cutting-edge education tailored to the needs of Qatar's economy and aligned with the Qatar National Vision 2030.

The College of Business equips students with the skills required to succeed in fields such as finance, accounting, management, marketing, and entrepreneurship. By combining academic instruction with business labs, case studies, and problem-solving projects, the college ensures graduates are prepared for careers in banking, corporate leadership, consultancy, and entrepreneurial ventures.

The College of Computing and Information Technology (CCIT) plays a vital role in Qatar's digital transformation, training specialists in areas including cybersecurity, artificial intelligence, cloud technologies, data science, and software engineering. Students gain real-world experience by engaging in projects with industry partners, completing internships, and developing capstone projects that mirror workplace demands.

The College of Engineering and Technology forms the backbone of Qatar's industrial and infrastructural growth, offering hands-on training across disciplines such as mechanical, electrical, civil, chemical, and energy engineering. With access to workshops, labs, and simulation facilities, students graduate ready to contribute to sectors including renewable energy, construction, logistics, and advanced manufacturing.

The College of Health Sciences addresses the growing demand for healthcare professionals, with programs in nursing, pharmacy, paramedicine, and more. Students benefit from advanced simulation labs, clinical placements, and partnerships with institutions such as Hamad Medical Corporation, while the establishment of the Hamad International Training Center (HITC) on campus provides additional world-class training opportunities.

The College of General Education delivers specialized programs in teaching, along with a range of introductory courses common to all undergraduate students. At the graduate level, the College offers two-year programs that prepare both in-service teachers seeking advanced expertise and graduates from other disciplines who aspire to become educators, equipping them with the skills and knowledge needed to deliver innovative STEM and TVET education. The programs include the Bachelor of Science in Teaching STEM, Master of Science in STEM and TVET Education, and Master of Science in Teaching STEM.

Foundation Program Unit

UDST's Foundation Program provides intensive preparatory coursework in English, Mathematics, and where required, Science, to ensure academic readiness for specialized studies. Students who score below required levels on placement tests enroll in the program before transitioning to their chosen degree. Accredited by the Commission on English Language Program Accreditation (CEA), the English Language component reflects international standards of excellence.

Placing STEM and TVET at the Heart of Applied Learning

UDST leads in TVET (Technical and Vocational Education & Training) combined with STEM programming. Hands-on learning, simulations, and industry placements are an integral part of curricula.

All STEM and TVET education programs at UDST fall under the Tomouh Scholarship initiative, offered by the Ministry of Education and Higher Education. Tomouh is embedded in the STEM / TVET framework so that students benefit from both technical content and teaching-oriented skills, ensuring a pipeline of skilled educators to inspire future generations of scientists, engineers, and innovators.

UDST is also the official UNESCO-UNEVOC Centre in Qatar. This gives it a role in leadership, curriculum design, and applied research in vocational education. It helps keep programs aligned with industry needs in sectors ranging from healthcare to digital tech to sustainable development.

Leading Applied Research & Innovation

Applied research is embedded in UDST's DNA, ensuring that knowledge generation is not confined to theory but translated into solutions that address Qatar's national priorities. Faculty and students collaborate on projects tackling pressing issues in sustainability, digital transformation, healthcare, and industry optimization.

UDST's applied research strategy focuses on problem-driven inquiry. Every project is designed in consultation with industry partners to produce practical outputs, prototypes, and policies that can be deployed in real-world settings. Students gain direct exposure to research through capstones, internships, and faculty-led initiatives, ensuring they graduate with both knowledge and innovation skills.

The University's network of Centers of Excellence anchors this mission, ranging from maritime simulation and additive manufacturing to food security and sustainability, each serving as a place where research, training, and industry needs converge.

The Maritime Training Simulation Center (MTSC)

The first of its kind in Qatar, it is designed to empower current and future maritime professionals with internationally accredited skills and hands-on simulation experience, positioning Qatar as a regional leader in maritime training and innovation.

The MTSC provides an interactive learning environment with modern classrooms equipped with state-of-the-art simulation technologies of Classes A and C, featuring navigation and full-mission engine simulation rooms, and maritime safety training facilities including for firefighting and first aid. The MTSC offers specialized training programs recognized by the International Maritime Organization (IMO).

The Center of Excellence for Food Security and Sustainability

It is a leading hub for technological research and innovation in Sustainability. Spanning over 10,000 sqm, the Center features cutting-edge laboratories, research greenhouses, hydroponic systems, and smart irrigation solutions, promoting sustainable agriculture by optimizing vegetable and date palm cultivation, developing water-efficient greenhouse systems, preserving soil health, and safeguarding date farms. The Center also leverages artificial intelligence (AI) and the Internet of Things (IoT) to enhance livestock management for sustainable milk and meat production, while creating adaptive tools to monitor and manage Qatar's groundwater resources under the impacts of climate change.

Central Analysis Laboratory:

At the College of Engineering and Technology, this facility supports industry and research in sectors like energy, environment, construction, agriculture, with capabilities in chromatography, spectroscopy, materials testing, and more.

Professional Skills Center (PSC):

Designed for upskilling, reskilling, and technical career advancement, with certifications and qualifications recognized internationally.

3D Printing & Additive Manufacturing Center:

A hub for innovation in digital manufacturing, driving research and development and collaboration with industry.

UHUB Business Incubator: Turning Ideas into Impact

UHUB Business Incubator stands as one of UDST's flagship initiatives, nurturing entrepreneurial talent among students. More than just a space for startups, UHUB is a comprehensive ecosystem designed to transform ideas into sustainable ventures.

Through mentorship programs, funding opportunities, global competitions, and exposure to investors, UHUB empowers aspiring entrepreneurs to scale their innovations. Regular workshops, hackathons, and bootcamps provide hands-on training in areas such as business modeling, digital marketing, and product development.

UHUB has also forged partnerships with international accelerators and innovation hubs, most notably with DMZ, the world-leading startup incubator at Toronto Metropolitan University. Through this collaboration, students gain access to global networks, mentorship, and best practices. Several successful ventures have already emerged from UHUB, spanning technology solutions, creative industries, and sustainable business models, reflecting UDST's mission to drive applied innovation and entrepreneurship in Qatar.

Beyond Academics: Sport and Wellness at UDST

Student life at the University of Doha for Science and Technology (UDST) is built around strong support services, wellness, and dynamic engagement to help students thrive both academically and personally. Students can join over a variety of clubs and activities, attend campus-wide events, or take leadership roles via the Student Council. Sport & Wellness Facilities include courts for basketball, volleyball, squash, cricket, football; a full football field; wellness centers and fitness rooms; organized sports teams and wellness programs.

Continuing & Professional Education (CPE)

UDST's CPE division offers flexible, industry-driven courses and training for individuals and organizations. Programs cover areas such as leadership, IT, health and safety, and business management, often in partnership with international bodies like Cisco, Microsoft, and NEBOSH. The division also provides consultancy services, smart classrooms, and specialized labs for professional training. Community outreach initiatives, including free webinars on food safety and elderly care, extend UDST's impact beyond campus.

Looking Ahead

As Qatar continues its path toward becoming a knowledge-based economy, UDST remains central to this transformation. The University's commitment to applied learning, research, and innovation, combined with its multicultural community and cutting-edge facilities, positions it as a leading institution in the region.

UDST is not only a place of education but also a place of creativity, discovery, and opportunity. By bridging academia and industry, the University is shaping the future of education in Qatar and empowering generations of graduates to contribute to the nation and the world.

HEALTHY CAMPUS
FISU
PLATINUM CERTIFIED

جــامــعــة الــدوحــة
للــعــلــوم والــتــكــنــولــوجــيــا
UNIVERSITY OF DOHA
FOR SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

EDUCATING FOR A SUSTAINABLE TOMORROW · EDUCATING FOR A SUSTAINABLE TOMORROW

udstofficial

udst.edu.qa