

Strategic Research Grants Advancing Innovation and Institutional Collaboration

Qatar University and Hamad Bin Khalifa University Launch Institutional Collaboration Grant to Advance AI for Energy Research

Qatar University (QU) and Hamad Bin Khalifa University (HBKU) have jointly launched the Institutional Collaboration Grant (ICG) for 2027, a strategic initiative designed to strengthen research partnerships between Qatar's two leading national universities. The program aims to enhance interdisciplinary collaboration, accelerate innovation, and contribute to the development of Qatar's knowledge-based economy. The ICG represents a structured effort to foster long-term academic cooperation by enabling researchers from both institutions to jointly design and implement high-impact research projects. It also promotes the exchange of expertise, supports capacity building, and encourages the development of innovative solutions aligned with Qatar's national research priorities.

The first cycle of the grant focuses on Artificial Intelligence (AI) for Energy, reflecting the growing importance of AI technologies in transforming energy systems globally. This thematic focus aligns with Qatar's strategic vision for sustainability, efficiency, and technological advancement in the energy sector, where AI-driven models are applied to improve logistics efficiency, enhance predictive capabilities, reduce operational costs, and support data-informed decision-making, emphasizing the integration of automation, digitalization, and advanced analytics to optimize industrial performance, improve safety, and reduce environmental impact across the energy value chain.

The program is open to academic researchers from both QU and HBKU. Each project must be co-led by two Lead Principal Investigators (LPIs), one from each institution, ensuring balanced

institutional representation and joint ownership of research outcomes. Teams may also include additional principal investigators and are required to involve at least one student from each university, reinforcing the program's commitment to research training and talent development. Projects under the ICG may receive funding for up to two years. Each institution contributes up to QAR 219,000 per year per project, resulting in a total potential funding envelope of QAR 438,000 per institution over the full project period. Each university independently manages its allocated budget while maintaining coordination within the joint framework.

The application process is competitive and consists of multiple stages. It begins with the submission of a Letter of Intent (LOI), followed by a shortlisting phase. Selected teams are invited to submit full research proposals, which undergo peer evaluation. Final funding decisions are made collaboratively by QU and HBKU based on committee recommendations.

Qatar Anti-Doping Research Grant (QADA): Advancing Integrity and Innovation in Sports

The Qatar Anti-Doping Agency (QADA), in collaboration with Qatar University, has introduced the Qatar Anti-Doping Research Grant 2027 cycle. This initiative is designed to strengthen scientific knowledge, policy development, and ethical practices in sport by supporting high-impact, interdisciplinary research on anti-doping.

The grant focuses on advancing scientific and social understanding of doping in sports. It encourages research across science, medicine, pharmacy, technology, and social sciences, addressing both biological detection methods and the behavioral, cultural, and policy-related factors that influence doping. Key scientific priorities include improved detection technologies, enhancement of the Athlete Biological Passport, and the use of artificial intelligence for biomarker discovery. On the social side, the program supports studies on athlete behavior, policy effectiveness, and cultural attitudes toward doping.

The initiative aims to strengthen research capacity in Qatar while fostering collaboration with Qatar University. It also promotes the integration of students into research teams, supporting the development of future experts in anti-doping and related fields. Projects are funded for one to two years, with up to QAR 300,000 allocated for scientific research and up to QAR 200,000 for social science or educational studies.

The application process starts with a Letter of Intent submission, followed by a full proposal for selected applicants. Required documents include the application form, CVs, budget plans, and a plagiarism report. Through this initiative, QADA aims to advance innovative research, strengthen ethical sport practices, and position Qatar as a leader in global anti-doping efforts.

