

Qatar University Launches ARQIF:

A Comprehensive Framework for Assessing Research Quality and Impact

A Strategic Step toward Global Excellence and the Measurement of the True Impact of Scientific Research

Qatar University (QU) has announced the launch of ARQIF (Assessment of Research Quality and Impact Framework), a comprehensive, integrated framework for assessing research quality and impact, as one of the key projects supporting the University's strategic goal of scientific research. This landmark step aims to elevate research performance and strengthen the University's position on the global academic map. The framework serves as a robust strategic tool for measuring scientific productivity and improving the quality of research outputs, while aligning with the QU's Positioning Strategy 2050 -thereby contributing to impactful research excellence at both the local and global levels, in alignment with Qatar National Vision 2030 and the Third National Development Strategy.

A Strategic Vision toward Excellence

The new framework aims to provide accurate and objective analyses that support strategic decision-making and direct resources toward priority research areas. It is grounded in a rigorous scientific methodology that reinforces Qatar University's standing as a beacon of scientific knowledge at both the national and international levels, with a focus on translating scientific research into tangible economic and societal benefits.

A Precise Methodology and Reliable Sources

The framework is built on reliable data drawn from prestigious global databases, such as Scopus and SciVal, as well as internal institutional data, ensuring the accuracy and objectivity of results. In addition, a digital platform has been launched to facilitate data entry and enhance its precision, while a specialized team continuously reviews, analyzes, and audits the data.

Dimensions and Indicators for Measuring True Impact

The framework consists of ten main domains and 41 indicators that assess various aspects of research activity, as follows:

1. **Research Output Indicators** track the volume of scientific production through globally indexed publications and reputable Arabic-language publications, while calculating average faculty productivity across colleges.
2. **Publication Quality Indicators** focus on average citations, Field-Weighted Citation Impact (FWCI), and the proportion of publications in top-ranked journals (Q1), while also tracking citations in global patents.
3. **Research Collaboration Indicators** measure the level of international and local collaboration through rates of joint research and active agreements both within and with external partners.
4. **Innovation Indicators** assess the University's capacity to convert knowledge into commercial products by tracking the number of patents registered and commercialized over the past three years.
5. **Research Funding Indicators** analyze the internal and external funding ecosystem and spending efficiency by measuring the number of publications and patents per million Qatari riyals of investment.
6. **Student Research Indicators** focus on the quality of postgraduate research outcomes, including the average number of high-quality publications per academic stage, and the number of student research grants awarded.
7. **Societal Impact Indicators** measure the extent to which research is linked to sustainable development and its goals, the alignment of research with the National Development Strategy, and the extent to which government policies are informed by university studies.
8. **Media Impact Indicators** monitor the global reach of research outputs and researchers' media presence, using the PlumX index to track digital engagement with publications.
9. **International Excellence Indicators** track academic awards, research chairs, global highly-cited researcher rankings, and honorary fellowships attained by the University's researchers.
10. **Stakeholder Satisfaction Indicators** rely on annual surveys to assess partner satisfaction with the quality and impact of research, providing continuous feedback for performance improvement.

Toward Impactful and Sustainable Research

This framework marks a significant advancement in research impact at Qatar University by integrating research quantity with quality, bridging theory and practice, and aligning academic output with national priorities. It provides a strong foundation for ensuring the quality, integrity, and credibility of research. Through this framework, the University reaffirms its commitment to supporting rigorous research that delivers meaningful societal impact and contributes to the development of a knowledge-based economy.

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