

جامعة قطر  
QATAR UNIVERSITY

# CAMPUS Life

December 2025



UNESCO Endorses QU's 50th  
Anniversary Celebration

## Editorial Team

**Editor-in-Chief:**

Kholeh Mortaza Mortazawi

**Senior Editor (English):**

Mai Al-Mannai

**Editorial Committee:**

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Walid Abuharb

**Proofreading:**

English: Mai Al-Mannai

Arabic: Reem Al-Amri

**Creative Review:**

Amna AbdulKareem

**Photographers:**

Jaybee Pirillo Yambao

Mohamed Sherif

**Design:**

Noora Almelhim

**Website:**

<https://www.qu.edu.qa/en-us/about/pages/campus-life.aspx>

For any enquiries, contact us by email at:

qumedia@qu.edu.qa

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# Inside This Issue



As Fall 2025 ends, we turn the page on a semester enriched with accomplishments and transformations at Qatar University. In this issue of Campus Life, we capture the pace of university life and celebrate the academic, research, and community milestones that continue to chart a confident path toward the future.

This edition features a remarkable achievement that fills the QU community with pride: UNESCO has officially approved the inclusion of the university's 50th anniversary among the global commemorations it recognizes. This honor reflects QU's pioneering contributions to higher education, scientific research, and community service, and reinforces its standing as an academic beacon dedicated to human development and sustainable progress in Qatar and the region. We also shine a light on the launch of the University Research Priorities for 2030–2025, which charts the course for the next stage of QU's scientific journey, and reaffirms the University's commitment to producing impactful knowledge aligned with Qatar National Vision 2030.

In addition, this issue presents a special feature on the Environmental Science Center, a leading model in environmental preservation and resource sustainability. Through its research efforts and field initiatives, from the deep sea to university laboratories, the Center continues to advance environmental understanding and stewardship. We also spotlight significant achievements across the colleges, including the international accreditation earned by the College of Sharia and Islamic Studies, as well as the MBA program's inclusion among the world's top 100, and a series of conferences and academic events that underscore QU's growing regional and global presence. We further highlight inspiring stories from across the university community: an insightful dialogue with the Inclusion and Special Needs Support Center, which embodies equity and campus-wide inclusion; and a collection of student achievements in art, literature, research, and leadership that reflect the diversity and vitality of the university environment.

In this issue, Campus Life goes beyond reporting news—it captures the spirit of a university driven by innovation, excellence, and generosity, looking ahead to the dawn of its golden jubilee with confidence and anticipation.

Wishing you an enjoyable read, and a semester filled with renewed success and well-being.

# University News and Achievements

## UNESCO endorses the celebration of the 50th Anniversary

Qatar University announced that the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), during its 43rd session held in Samarkand, Republic of Uzbekistan, officially approved the inclusion of the 50th anniversary of the founding of QU in the organization's list of commemorative events for 2026–2027. The decision follows a proposal submitted by the State of Qatar, represented by QU and the Qatar National Commission for Education, Culture and Science, and supported by several national commissions of member states. The approval recognizes QU's pioneering role since its establishment in 1977 in advancing higher education and research, its sustained contributions to community service and national development, and its commitment

to strengthening Qatar's academic and scientific presence regionally and internationally, in alignment with UNESCO's objectives in education, science, and culture.

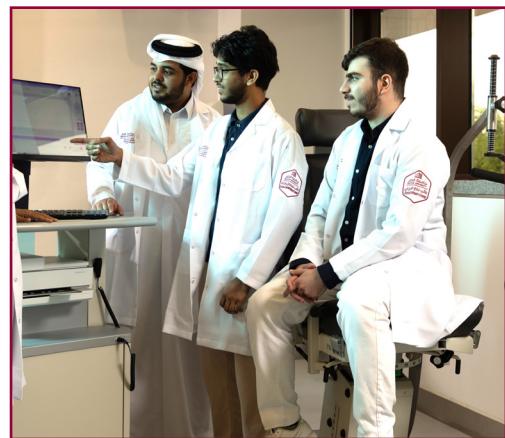
This decision also represents international recognition of QU's standing as the nation's first and leading university—an academic and research hub that has, over five decades, prepared national talents, enhanced the higher education ecosystem in Qatar, and supported quality education, knowledge-based economic growth, research, innovation, and partnerships with distinguished international institutions, in addition to QU's active role in contributing to the Sustainable Development Goals.

The Golden Jubilee program will feature various activities and events in which UNESCO may participate during 2026-2027. These include joint academic and cultural events, research and educational initiatives showcasing QU's achievements, and collaborations with local and international partners to document the university's journey through exhibitions, symposia, and publications that highlight its contributions to Qatar's educational renaissance.



## Launch of Research Priorities for 2030–2025

Qatar University announced the launch of its research priorities for 2025-2030 as part of its ongoing efforts to enhance its position as a leading national institution in academic and research excellence with a prestigious global reputation. Through these priorities, the university aims to elevate the national scientific research system and direct research efforts toward research axes that align with the goals of Qatar National Vision 2030, including human, social, economic, and environmental development. These priorities embody a comprehensive strategy designed to drive research and innovation, promote sustainability, and enhance QU's role in serving society through five main research pillars: Health, Energy, Digital Technology, Resource Sustainability, and Society.



Dr. Omar Al-Ansari, President of QU, said, “We are proud to launch our research priorities for the period 2025-2030, which reflects QU's commitment to producing impactful knowledge that serves society. These priorities also contribute to building an integrated system for scientific research governance by investing research resources and directing them effectively toward achieving impact in various sectors. This approach enhances the university's contribution to achieving Qatar's national goals and establishing its global position in research and innovation.”

## Celebrating the graduation of the third batch of professional diploma students

Qatar University's Community Service and Continuing Education Center in partnership with the Pioneers Training Center, celebrated the graduation of the third batch of professional diploma students, comprising 247 graduates.

The ceremony featured a film showcasing the students' learning journey throughout the professional diploma programs, highlighting their discussions on graduation projects and the essential skills they acquired, enabling them to confidently embark on their professional paths.

In her statement, Ms. Nour Al Mansouri, CEO of the Pioneers Group, said: "Today, we celebrate the graduation of a new cohort of professional diploma students who have completed an intensive learning journey and succeeded in acquiring the skills and knowledge that qualify them to enter the job market with confidence and distinction. These programs were carefully designed to keep pace with the evolving needs of the market and to open broad horizons for graduates in their areas of specialization."

For his part, the graduates' representative, Engineer Mohammed Al-Sharshani, a graduate of the Professional Diploma in Information Technology and Artificial Intelligence, said: "I am certain that our educational and professional journey will continue with strength and determination, for our responsibility toward our community and our country lies in adhering to sound knowledge and diligent work. Knowledge and learning are the path to building a bright future that fulfills our ambitions and strengthens our role in society. Let us all make the most of these opportunities and work earnestly to meet everyone's expectations."

The Community Service and Continuing Education Center aims to cultivate a culture of lifelong learning by providing educational opportunities geared toward the professional and personal development needs of the Qatari community. It seeks to positively impact society through meaningful engagement which promotes service-learning, volunteering, and cooperative education through sustainable partnerships with the University, industry, and the wider community.



## QU strengthens its research presence as part of Qatar's participation in Expo 2025 – Osaka

As part of its ongoing commitment to advancing international research collaboration, Qatar University participated in the Qatar-Japan Research Forum, held over two days at the Qatar Pavilion during Expo 2025 in Osaka, Japan. The university was represented by the KINDI Center for Computing Research and the Qatar Mobility Innovations Center (QMIC).

The forum featured a series of panel discussions and technical sessions, with participation from distinguished QU faculty members, including Dr. Muna Al-Marzouqi, Chief Strategy and Development Officer; Dr. Mohammed Al-Sada, Executive Director of QMIC and Director of the KINDI Center; Dr. Faisal Al-Jaber, Assistant Professor of Mechanical Engineering and Deputy Director of the KINDI Center; Dr. Osama Halabi, Associate Professor, Department of Computer Science and Engineering, College of Engineering Mr. Omar Al-Jaber, Director of Strategic Partnerships and Outreach at QMIC.

QU's participation in this high-profile international event underscores the strategic importance of the Qatar-Japan Research Forum as a platform to strengthen scientific ties between two leaders in research and innovation. The forum provides a unique opportunity for the university to showcase its achievements in AI and robotics and to engage with leading research and industrial institutions in Japan.

This participation is a milestone in the university's efforts to position itself as a hub for knowledge and innovation in the region. It reaffirms its strong commitment to supporting Qatar's national research and development agenda and contributing effectively to global solutions through sustainable strategic partnerships.



# Q&A

## Mrs. Haya Ahmad Al-Kuwari, Manager of the Inclusion and Special Needs Support Center:

**“Inclusion is a shared responsibility and an opportunity to strengthen fairness and belonging across the University”**

Qatar University's Inclusion and Special Needs Support Center is recognized as a leading model in providing academic and technological support that ensures equal opportunities and an inclusive learning environment. In this exclusive interview with Campus Life, we explore the Center's establishment, its key services, awareness initiatives, future challenges, and the role of technology in advancing inclusion—through insights from its Manager, Haya Ahmed Al-Kuwari.

**Can you tell us about the Center's establishment and its main objectives today?**

The Center began as the Special Needs Department in 2007 within the Student Affairs, focusing on offering academic and social support for students with disabilities and facilitating their full integration into university life. In 2014, it was restructured into an independent institutional unit known as the Inclusion and Special Needs Support Center, reflecting QU's commitment to inclusive education and equal academic opportunities for every student, regardless of their disability. Its work is guided by University President Decision No. (24) of 2022, which guarantees students the right to register at any point during their academic journey while ensuring complete confidentiality of their information. The Center aims to foster an inclusive campus environment that values diversity and removes learning barriers by providing academic and technological support, developing collaborative policies, and promoting a culture of inclusion across the university community.

**What are the main services and programs offered? How do you assess each student's needs?**

The Center offers a comprehensive suite of services tailored to the individual needs of each student to ensure equal access to education. These services include classroom accommodation such as assigned seating, access to lecture notes, assistive technologies for notetaking or recording classes, and course materials in accessible formats such as enlarged print or digital versions.

Exam accommodations may include extended time, quiet testing spaces, the use of assistive technologies, and access to reading or writing support, ensuring fairness in assessment.

Needs are evaluated through a detailed process that begins with certified medical documentation, followed by an individual interview to understand the nature of the disability and its academic impact. Based



on this evaluation, an academic support document is issued and reviewed periodically to reflect changes in needs or academic progress, ensuring sustained and adaptable support throughout the student's university experience.

**How does the Center promote inclusion and awareness on campus?**

The Center implements a wide range of initiatives designed to strengthen acceptance, cooperation, and mutual understanding within the university community. These include faculty workshops on best practices for supporting students with disabilities, awareness sessions for colleges and administrative units on inclusive policies, and campaigns across the University's digital platforms to educate students about their rights and available services.

The Center also participates in key national and international events, such as the International Day of Persons with Disabilities and National Sports Day, to highlight student capabilities and encourage positive engagement. Beyond campus, it collaborates with national institutions and participates in disability-related forums and conferences, reinforcing QU's leadership in advancing inclusion at the local and national levels.



### What role does technology play in supporting inclusion?

Assistive technology is essential to achieving academic inclusion. It empowers students to engage independently in their learning—whether in classrooms or through digital platforms. Modern tools have significantly enhanced accessibility, particularly through Blackboard's built-in reader, text customization features, and color/contrast adjustment options.

The University's Microsoft 365 licenses offer additional support tools such as Read-Aloud, voice dictation, contrast adjustment, and text-to-digital conversion, benefiting students with visual impairments or learning difficulties.

The Center's Assistive Technology Unit provides individualized assessments to determine the most appropriate tools for each student, ranging from screen readers and text-to-speech software to tablets and Braille-enabled electronic planners, along with training to ensure independence and effective participation. The Center also collaborates with academic and technical units to enhance digital accessibility and raise awareness of assistive technologies, integrating them into a more inclusive and innovative learning environment.

### What are the main challenges you face?

Social stigma remains one of the most significant challenges, as some students hesitate to register or request support due to concerns about how they may be perceived. Invisible disabilities, such as learning difficulties or attention disorders, present additional challenges, as they may be misunderstood and lead to misinterpretation of a student's academic performance.

Another recurring challenge is addressing misconceptions that academic accommodation provides preferential treatment; in reality, they ensure fairness and equal opportunity. To address these issues, the Center delivers workshops and awareness sessions to promote accurate understanding of disability and encourage students to seek support confidently, contributing to a more inclusive campus culture.

### What is the Center's vision for the future?

The Center aims to further strengthen QU's leadership in inclusive higher education by developing a sustainable ecosystem of academic and technological support that

guarantees equal opportunities for all students. A key focus is the integration of AI to enhance accessibility to academic content and improve learning experiences through flexible teaching methods that reflect individual differences, ultimately contributing to an innovative, inclusive campus that embodies the values of equality and participation.

### How does the Center view the role of the university community in supporting inclusion?

The Center considers the university community an essential partner in achieving full inclusion. Success relies on the awareness and engagement of all stakeholders, from faculty who create flexible learning environments, to students who encourage positive peer interaction, to administrators and college leaders who ensure access to services and implementation of supportive policies. This collective effort embeds inclusion into QU's institutional identity.

### What message would the Center like to convey to students and faculty?

The Center emphasizes that certain modifications in learning are not a privilege but a right that ensures equal opportunity. We encourage students to seek support confidently as a sign of awareness and determination, rather than dependence. It also highlights the importance of faculty adopting flexible, interactive teaching methods and maintaining active collaboration with the Center to support full inclusion. Mutual respect and trust among students, faculty, and the Center form the foundation of an effective and inclusive academic environment.

### Conclusion

The Center continues to serve as a pioneer in creating an inclusive campus through academic services, assistive technologies, awareness initiatives, and community engagement. It stands as a testament to QU's commitment to ensuring equal opportunities and empowering all students to reach their academic and personal potential.

# In Focus

## The Environmental Science Center: A guardian of nature and laboratory of the future

For more than four decades, the Environmental Science Center (ESC) at Qatar University has served as Qatar's leading reference on environmental matters and a key pillar in supporting sustainable policy. Since its establishment in 1980, the Center has been at the heart of environmental research in the country, bridging academic study with practical application and working to maintain balance between rapid development and natural ecosystems in one of the most climate-sensitive regions on Earth.



### From vision to leadership

The idea of creating the Center emerged in the 1980s in response to growing environmental challenges accompanying Qatar's industrial and urban expansion. A national specialized research body was needed to study the country's land and marine environments and to propose science-based, data-driven solutions based on accurate data and in-depth field observations.

Following its restructuring in 2005 and its renaming in 2015, the Center's vision became broader and more closely aligned with the goals of Qatar National Vision 2030—particularly its pillars of environmental protection and sustainable development. Today, the ESC stands as a model of how scientific research can intersect with societal and economic priorities, serving as a key reference for government agencies and companies working in the fields of energy, water, and the environment.

affirming its regional leadership in environmental technology. Its ongoing studies address microplastics, air and water quality, and the effects of climate change on local ecosystems. The ESC has developed a national environmental database containing samples of water, sediments, and air, used in long-term comparative studies that track environmental changes over time, providing the scientific foundation for evidence-based environmental policy in Qatar.



### Janan... a ship of knowledge

The research vessel Janan, generously donated by HH The Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani, is one of ESC's key assets for field research and training. Equipped with desalination and ice-production systems, the vessel can remain at sea for more than 20 days, functioning as a floating laboratory furnished with state-of-the-art oceanographic instruments.

Researchers onboard collect and analyze samples of Gulf water and sediments, conducting studies on ocean acidification, current dynamics, northern wind patterns, and levels of oxygen and salinity. These long-term datasets form a vital knowledge base for monitoring marine environmental change.

As one researcher put it, "Janan is not just a ship—it is a floating university that opens the Arabian Gulf to discovery, linking theory with hands-on science in a living classroom." The vessel also provides QU graduate students with invaluable field experience that unites learning and research in a real-world marine setting.

### Projects that breathe life into the sea

Among the Center's flagship achievements is the Coral Reef Protection and Propagation Project, implemented in collaboration with QatarEnergy. This pioneering effort established the first laboratory of its kind in the region capable of simulating the Gulf's extreme environmental conditions to breed heat-resistant coral species for replanting in natural habitats, helping restore damaged marine ecosystems. The Center also secured a patent for a new design of artificial coral reefs, exporting its models to countries such as Brazil—



### UNESCO Chair... global recognition of excellence

The UNESCO Chair in Marine Sciences, hosted for the first time in the Middle East at the ESC, stands as a testament to QU's recognized scientific leadership. The Chair seeks to elevate the Center into a regional and international hub for marine research, with focus areas that include sea-level rise linked to climate change, balancing industrial and urban development with natural-resource conservation, and the study of coral reefs, mangroves, and seagrass. It fosters collaboration with global partners, enhances QU's international presence, and trains Qatari students in advanced research methodologies endorsed by UNESCO.



### Partnerships for the planet

The ESC collaborates extensively with national and international partners—including the Ministries of Environment, Municipality, and Public Health; QatarEnergy LNG; and TotalEnergies. The center also maintains academic partnerships with international universities and works with leading European research firms.

These collaborations position the ESC at the crossroads of science, policy, and society, helping shape knowledge-based environmental strategies that support Qatar's regional leadership in sustainable resource management and pollution control.



### Sea turtle conservation, a 23-year mission

Since 2002, ESC has led Qatar's Marine Turtle Conservation Program in partnership with the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change and QatarEnergy. Now in its 23rd season, the program focuses on hawksbill and green turtles along the beaches of Fuwayrit, Ras Laffan, and Al-Ghariyah, monitoring nests and tagging turtles to study their migration and feeding patterns.

This long-running initiative exemplifies applied research serving biodiversity conservation. The ESC researchers also participate in beach-cleaning campaigns and coral-reef monitoring, underscoring that protecting nature begins with public awareness as much as with laboratory science.



### Future horizons—toward deeper sustainability

Looking ahead, the Center plans to expand research on coral relocation, investigate legacy oil pollution through asphalt residues along the coast, and pursue a carbon-cycle project in mangrove areas in collaboration with the University of Toronto. Another project, funded by the Qatar National Research Fund, uses pearl oysters as bioindicators of water quality.

Specialized teams in atmospheric and earth sciences, oceanography, and marine ecology work in concert to deliver precise environmental data that support national preparedness for climate change and sea-level rise.

The ESC embodies both scientific rigor and humanitarian purpose, uniting research excellence with a deep commitment to the environment. Through its studies, global partnerships, and community engagement, the Center continues its mission as the guardian of Qatar's natural heritage and a living laboratory for a sustainable future. In an era of accelerating development and complex environmental challenges, the ESC stands as proof that science remains humanity's most reliable path to protecting the planet—and that environmental stewardship is not a luxury, but a national and moral responsibility aligned with Qatar's National Vision 2030.

# Agreements and MoUs

**QU enters into local and international partnerships with the aim of joint cooperation**

Qatar University offers a wide range of opportunities for students to advance their academic and research careers, in their respective fields. This is achieved through a number of academic agreements and partnerships with relevant institutions in fields such as industry, government, academia, business and civil society, that are in line with the university's strategy to improve student output and academic performance, to launch their abilities, talents and creativity. Memorandums of Understanding, agreements, and partnerships are valuable as they enable students to contribute effectively to academic, cultural and research activities. They also prepare students for the labor market through discussion sessions which bridge the relationship between students, experts, specialists and decision makers.



**The following are the main agreements of the year:**

## MoU with AbbVie Biopharmaceuticals

QU signed an MoU with AbbVie Biopharmaceuticals in the fields of academic guidance, internship programs, and professional preparation programs, enabling QU students and graduates to gain direct practical experience in the biopharmaceutical industry. The MoU also supports career preparation initiatives such as job fairs and specialized sessions to help students explore professional opportunities in the pharmaceutical sector, in addition to opening avenues for knowledge exchange through lectures, workshops, and joint activities.

## MoU with Qatar News Agency (QNA)

QU signed an MoU with the Qatar News Agency (QNA) to enhance cooperation across various scientific, technical, research, and administrative fields. The agreement aims to build partnership and exchange expertise and information between the two parties in several fields, including the development of bulletins, periodicals, studies, statistics, and data, as well as jointly organizing studies, research, conferences, meetings, and training programs. Furthermore, the MoU aims to provide job opportunities and cooperation in any other areas of mutual interest.

### MoU with World Summit Al Qatar (InspiredMinds)

QU signed an MoU with the World Summit Al Qatar (InspiredMinds) to advance the knowledge-based economy, promote scientific research, and contribute to building national capacities in the field of artificial intelligence, in alignment with Qatar National Vision 2030 and the country's digital agenda. Under this agreement, QU will serve as the official exclusive education partner of the AI Summit in Qatar from 2025 to 2028, providing unique opportunities for students and faculty to engage with international experts, showcase their research and entrepreneurial projects, and participate in hands-on activities.

### MoU with Family Consulting Center "Wifaq"

QU signed an MoU with the Family Consulting Center "Wifaq" to enhance cooperation in research, training, and the exchange of expertise. This partnership also includes the organization of joint studies, research projects, conferences, training programs, and other activities supporting social development and family services in Qatar.

### Agreement with the Sultan Ahmet Waqf Manuscript House, Istanbul

QU signed an agreement with the Sultan Ahmet Waqf Manuscript House in Istanbul to enhance cooperation in academic and scientific activities. The agreement covers joint projects in manuscript and printed heritage, including preservation, digitization, cataloging, and publishing texts. It also includes exchanging manuscript databases, organizing conferences, workshops, and training, and sharing expertise in heritage and manuscript services.



# Under the Microscope

## Qatar-based study reveals link between red meat consumption, iron status, and metabolic health

**Prof. Reema Tayyem (Principal Investigator), Dr. Hana Mousa, Dr. Nadine Abdel-Razzaq, and Ms. Yasmeen Khial, a master's student from the Department of Human Nutrition, College of Health Sciences**

A new study published in the *Foods* journal in June 2025 has shed light on the relationship between red meat intake, iron status, and metabolic health among adults in Qatar. The research comes at a time when red meat consumption in Qatar is among the highest in the region, emphasizing the need to better understand its health impacts in the local population.

The study was conducted by a team of researchers from Qatar University, including Prof. Reema Tayyem (Principal Investigator), Dr. Hana Mousa, Dr. Nadine Abdel-Razzaq, and Ms. Yasmeen Khial, a master's student from the Department of Human Nutrition, College of Health Sciences. The work was carried out in collaboration with the Qatar Biobank and supported by the Qatar Precision Health Institute (QPHI) and QU.

The study highlights the importance of understanding how dietary habits influence blood health, particularly given that red meat is a major source of heme iron, which is vital for red blood cell production and preventing anemia. However, excessive consumption of red meat may increase saturated fat and iron levels in the blood—factors linked to higher risks of cardiovascular and metabolic diseases.

The researchers analyzed data from over 13,700 Qatari participants (approximately 5,800 men and 8,000 women). Participants were categorized into three groups based on their red meat intake: low consumers ( $\leq 1$  time/month), moderate consumers (2–4 times/month), and high consumers ( $\geq 5$  times/month). Blood analyses were conducted to assess iron biomarkers, cholesterol, glucose, and blood pressure.

The results revealed that high red meat consumption was significantly associated with





On the other hand, there were no significant differences in blood glucose, triglycerides, or vitamin D levels, indicating that red meat's main effects are concentrated on iron and lipid metabolism.

The researchers concluded that moderate red meat intake (2–4 times per month) may help maintain healthy iron levels while avoiding adverse effects on cholesterol. They recommend a balanced dietary approach that includes a variety of protein sources such as fish, poultry, and legumes to promote long-term metabolic health.

Prof. Reema Tayyem emphasized: "Moderation is key. Red meat provides valuable nutrients like iron and protein, but it should be consumed in balance with other food sources. Our findings highlight the need for culturally tailored dietary guidelines that promote both nutritional adequacy and disease prevention."

Building on these findings, the research team plans to expand their study to include longitudinal data that track changes in participants' dietary patterns and health outcomes over time. Future studies will also explore the genetic and lifestyle factors influencing the relationship between red meat consumption and cardiometabolic diseases in Qatar.

# QU Press Publications

## Geopolitics: Theories, Strategies, and Applications

By Dr. Emad Y. Kaddorah

The book “Geopolitics: Theories, Strategies, and Applications” by Dr. Emad Kaddorah, published in May 2025 by QU Press, represents the first comprehensive overview of the subject of geopolitics in Arabic scholarship. It explores the field in its theoretical and intellectual dimensions while also analyzing its practical implications for contemporary state policies.

The work examines in depth the central question that has long preoccupied leaders, states, and scholars alike: how can a state strengthen its external position and enhance its influence and power abroad? The author addresses this through a detailed study of the major geopolitical thinkers who developed concepts grounded in an understanding of political realities, geographical conditions, and natural resources, and who applied these insights to proactive regional and international policies.

Structured across sixteen chapters, the book traces the origins of geopolitics, its defining features, and its distinctions from related fields such as realism, political geography, and geostrategy. It then

analyzes the theories and concepts advanced by the founders of the discipline and the strategies adopted by states on their basis.

Dr. Kaddorah also examines the modern geopolitical perspectives developed in response to the evolving needs of states, including American, Russian, Chinese, German, French, and British geopolitics. In this context, he analyzes current strategies and the contemporary geopolitical landscape, focusing on influential concepts such as Neo-Eurasianism, the Belt and Road Initiative, European strategic autonomy, and new containment strategies.

The book devotes a section to critical geopolitics, which emerged in an age of global networks and interconnections and emphasized economic, cultural, and social dimensions in its critique of classical geopolitics. It discusses new critical strands such as popular geopolitics, progressive geopolitics, anti geopolitics, and postcolonial geopolitics, while also subjecting them to a rigorous critique.

The approach of the book is analytical and comparative rather than merely descriptive. The author does not simply reproduce dominant narratives about geopolitical theories but instead engages closely with the original writings of the foundational thinkers, examining their motivations and contexts, and reinterpreting some of their propositions in relation to present realities. For instance, while classical theories emphasized the primacy of a specific type of power—land or sea—in determining victory, this book offers a different reading: whichever form of power proves stronger at the moment of conflict and within the specific theater of operations—whether land, sea, air, or a combination thereof—will be decisive. Thus, priority lies in the quality of power, the geography of the battlefield, and the possession of the capabilities most suited to the arena of war.

The author also evaluates these theories from the standpoint of their continued relevance rather than as ideas confined to the past. For example, the Heartland theory, first articulated in 1904, finds contemporary expression in the eastward expansion of NATO and the European Union, and in Russian anxieties that contributed to the outbreak of the war in Ukraine in 2022. Similarly, the Rimland theory of 1944 remains foundational to U.S. led alliances aimed at encircling Russia and, more recently, in strategies of containing China, extending into present time in 2025.

# الجيوبولتكس

النظريات والاستراتيجيات والتطبيقات

عماد قدورة



# College News

## Health Sector

### College of Pharmacy Celebrates Its 19th White Coat Ceremony

The College of Pharmacy at Qatar University celebrated its 19th Annual White Coat Ceremony, marking a pivotal milestone that represents the beginning of the academic and professional journey for the Class of 2029. The ceremony was held on campus and attended by faculty members, staff, parents, and a number of guests, reaffirming the commitment of the incoming students to the values and responsibilities of the pharmacy profession.



The ceremony featured welcoming remarks that highlighted the symbolism of the white coat as a representation of trust, integrity, and professional responsibility, in addition to recognizing academically outstanding students in appreciation of their excellence. The event also witnessed the official White Coat Cloaking, signifying the formal start of the students' journey in the field of pharmacy and their readiness to face upcoming academic and professional challenges.

The ceremony concluded with a video presentation documenting the students' experiences, creating a celebratory atmosphere that reflected the college's commitment to preparing qualified pharmaceutical professionals who contribute to supporting the healthcare system in the State of Qatar.

# College of Law

## Student Forum for Legal Clinic Posters

The Law Clinic at the College of Law organized the Student Forum for Legal Clinic Posters with the participation of 135 students enrolled in the three legal clinic sections. During the forum, students presented research posters addressing various issues related to corporate social responsibility (CSR) in line with international standards and comparative models applied in the State of Qatar.

The posters highlighted the CSR practices of several companies and institutions across the country, including: QatarEnergy, QAPCO, Ooredoo, Vodafone, United Development Company (UDC), Baladna, Al Meera, ExxonMobil, Snoonu, Lulu Hypermarket, Qatar National Bank (QNB), Qatar International Islamic Bank (QIIB), Qatar Airways, Doha Bank, Rayyan Water, Aamal Company, and Visit Qatar.



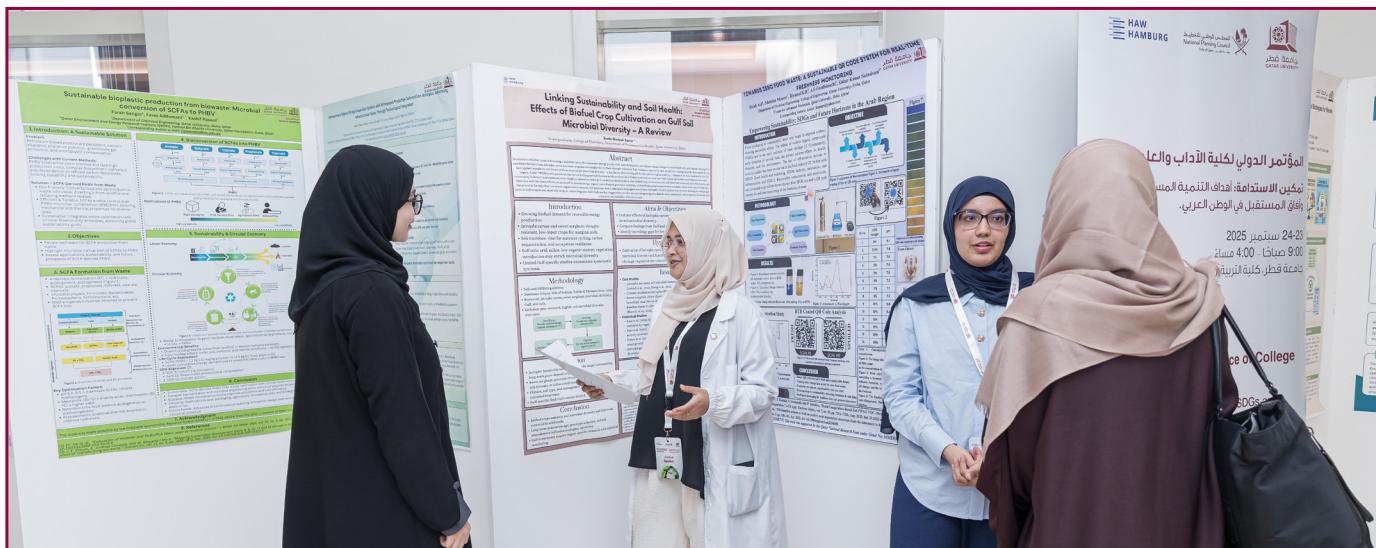
The research posters showcased the efforts of the featured companies and institutions in strengthening corporate social responsibility as a foundational pillar for achieving sustainable development in alignment with Qatar National Vision 2030. They also highlighted a range of CSR initiatives in the fields of health, education, environment, sports, and charitable work. This forum forms part of the Law Clinic's commitment to enhancing the practical dimension of legal education, developing students' research skills, and encouraging engagement with national legislation and international agreements while linking them to real-world professional challenges and emerging issues.

It is noteworthy that the Law Clinic's achievements at QU were further recognized through the participation of its supervisors—Prof. Mohammed Yahya Matar, Mr. Abdelsalam Lachaal, and Mr. Saber Gdiri, in the Qatar CSR Summit and Exhibition.

# College of Arts and Sciences

## International Conference on Sustainability in The Arab World

The College of Arts and Sciences in collaboration with Hamburg University of Applied Sciences (HAW Hamburg) in Germany and the National Planning Council, organized the international conference “Empowering Sustainability: Sustainable Development Goals and Future Prospects in the Arab World.” The conference brought together leading experts, policymakers, and practitioners to exchange knowledge and best practices on advancing sustainability.



Dr. Fatima Ali Al-Kubaisi, Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, emphasized the university's commitment to strengthening cooperation with national institutions to achieve shared objectives. She noted that the conference addressed key themes such as food and water security, renewable energy, climate change, and education for sustainability—topics that reflect national priorities and align with the UN Sustainable Development Goals. Dr. Al-Kubaisi added that the conference embodied QU's vision of engaging in international experiences and building strategic partnerships that advance scientific research and sustainable development, stressing that sustainability is essential for a more balanced and just future.

# College of Engineering

## Specialized training course on Work Zone Safety Management



The Qatar Transportation and Traffic Safety Center (QTTSC) at the College of Engineering organized a specialized training workshop on Work Zone Safety Management. The training course focused on the requirements for planning and managing safe and efficient work zones, introducing a range of policies and strategies to improve safety in accordance with both local and international guidelines. It also addressed the needs of vehicular traffic and vulnerable road users, while highlighting common safety challenges through real-world examples. The event brought together senior engineers from the General Directorate of Traffic, the Ministry of Transport, and the Public Works Authority (Ashghal), alongside professionals from leading engineering consulting firms and contractors. International participation included representatives from road authorities and engineering consultants from Djibouti and Gambia. Participants were introduced to advanced methodologies and tools for effective planning, execution, and evaluation of work zones through interactive sessions and hands-on exercises, while exploring global best practices in the field.

Commenting on the workshop, Prof. Mohammed Hussain, Dean of the College of Engineering, said that effective management of work zones is crucial for ensuring road safety across Qatar. He added that the College of Engineering is committed to supporting national efforts to improve traffic safety in collaboration with local authorities and international partners, and that this workshop is part of a broader mission to promote best engineering practices and raise public awareness about the importance of responsibility in road safety.

## College of Education

### The College of Education celebrates World Teacher's Day



The College of Education celebrated World Teachers' Day under the theme "Recasting Teaching as a Collaborative Profession." The celebration featured a series of short documentary videos, including 'A Day in the Life of a Teacher,' highlighting real stories from educators in the field and showcasing their dedication, challenges, and joy in teaching. Another video titled 'A Student's Journey in the College of Education,' portrayed the perspectives and aspirations of future teachers, while a special feature on QU's Early Childhood Center highlighted the university's initiatives in supporting early childhood education and research. The celebration concluded in an atmosphere of pride and gratitude, reflecting the College's ongoing mission to prepare future educators capable of inspiring change and contributing to the Qatar National Vision 2030.

Prof. Asma Abdullah Al-Attiyah, Dean of the College of Education, emphasized the day as a meaningful opportunity to honor the noble mission of teachers and their vital role in building human capacity and driving national progress. She noted that teaching today is no longer an individual endeavor, but a collaborative process involving teachers, students, families, and the wider community.

She added that this year's theme reflects a global shift toward redefining teaching as a cooperative profession based on teamwork, shared expertise, and partnership, reaffirming the College's commitment to this direction through its academic and field programs.

## College of Business and Economics

### MBA program ranked among Top 100 Worldwide in QS Global MBA Rankings 2026



The College of Business and Economics continues to strengthen its position as a regional hub for advanced business education, with its Master of Business Administration (MBA) program ranked among the Top 100 globally (98) and joint second in the Middle East and Africa in the QS Global MBA Rankings 2026. The recognition marks QU as the only Arab institution featured in this year's global Top 100 list.

Designed to deliver value, relevance, and leadership impact, the QU MBA program integrates academic rigor with practical application to prepare professionals for today's evolving global economy. Students benefit from competitive tuition, efficient time-to-degree, and an education that combines research-based knowledge with applied learning for a strong return on investment.

Graduates of the program have launched ventures, transformed organizations, and assumed influential roles across sectors and regions. The curriculum emphasizes industry-anchored learning through live projects, executive mentorship, and capstone experiences developed with strategic partners, ensuring classroom insights are tested in real-world contexts.

Diversity remains a defining strength of the QU MBA. The program attracts professionals from multiple nationalities and industries, fostering an environment of collaboration, debate, and innovation. The curriculum reflects GCC and MENA economic priorities while maintaining alignment with international best practices. A distinguished faculty body bridges academic research and professional practice, ensuring teaching excellence informed by industry engagement and applied scholarship.

## College of Sharia & Islamic Studies

### The College of Sharia and Islamic Studies earns international academic accreditation from IAA



The College of Sharia and Islamic Studies announced that its undergraduate academic programs have received international academic accreditation from the Islamic Sciences Accreditation Agency (IAA) for a period of three years starting in September 2025. This milestone reflects the college's steadfast commitment to quality standards and academic excellence.

The Islamic Sciences Accreditation Agency (IAA) is an international body specializing in the evaluation and accreditation of academic programs in the field of Islamic sciences. It is recognized by the National Academic Accreditation Agency in Turkey, which gives its accreditation international credibility and enhanced influence.

The college underwent a comprehensive evaluation process conducted by a team of eight academic experts from prestigious universities across the Islamic world. In May 2025, the team conducted a site visit to QU, during which they met with several college affiliates, including faculty members, students, alumni, and external partners. As part of this process, the college submitted a self-assessment document detailing its adherence to quality standards based on a rigorous rubric comprising 58 criteria distributed across five key performance areas: Quality Assurance System, Learning and Teaching System, Research and Development System, Community Engagement System, and Administrative Governance System.

## College of Sport Sciences

### Hosting the International Society of Biomechanics in Sports Conference 2025



Qatar University in collaboration with Hamad Bin Khalifa University (HBKU), hosted the International Society of Biomechanics in Sports Conference 2025 (ISBS 2025) for the first time in the Middle East and North Africa. ISBS 2025 is one of the world's most prominent scientific conferences

specializing in sports biomechanics. Organized annually on a rotating basis across continents, the event provides a platform for global experts to discuss cutting-edge research and technology that integrates sports science, mechanical engineering, and innovation.

Held under the theme “Innovation, Technology, and Tradition,” the conference brought together more than 250 experts and researchers from 40 countries, featuring 132 peer-reviewed papers, keynote lectures, applied laboratory workshops, and an international exhibition showcasing the latest in sports engineering and technology. The conference also highlights QU's newly established College of Sport Sciences, positioning it as a key contributor to the development of sport sciences in the region. The event will also include the ISBS flag handover ceremony to Loughborough University, which will host the 2026 edition—reinforcing Doha's growing role as a strategic hub for major global scientific events.

# Conversation with a Talented Student

## QU Talent, Al-Jazi Al-Maadeed: “Sculpting is the art form that resonates most deeply with my creative passion”

In this issue of the Campus Magazine, we are pleased to spotlight the talented student Al-Jazi Al-Maadeed from the Department of Fine Arts at the College of Arts and Sciences. Al-Jazi possesses a multifaceted artistic talent that spans drawing, sculpture, ceramics, and design, and she has made a noticeable mark on the university's art scene thanks to her deep passion for the arts and her consistent commitment to developing her skills. This interview delves into the story of her artistic journey since childhood and highlights the important role that family support and university education have played in refining her talent and nurturing her creative drive.

### Firstly, can you talk to us about the role your family played in helping you to develop this talent?

My family was the greatest source of support for nurturing my talent from a young age, emotionally as well as financially. They believed in my abilities, encouraged me to keep going, and provided the tools and environment I needed to create. This steady support gave me strong confidence in myself and deepened my commitment to my talent, motivating me to develop it step by step. Their support had a profoundly positive impact on me.

### Has this talent had a positive impact on your life?

In elementary and preparatory school, my teachers played a key role in shaping my artistic skills. In high school, however, the absence of an art course led to a brief break from practicing my talent. Still, I continued to grow by purchasing art books and drawing regularly. Later, I began searching for an artistic medium that suited me best, and I eventually found it in sculpting, a technique that aligned with my artistic passion more than any other.

### When did you discover this talent?

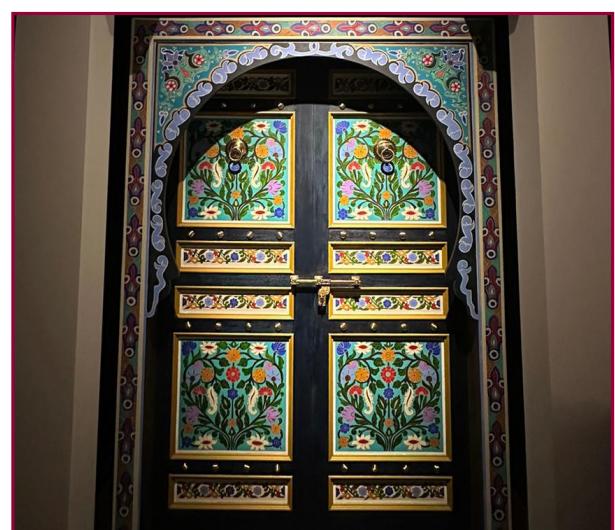
My talent began to take shape during elementary school, starting with drawing. I was especially drawn to sketching people, and I felt greatly encouraged whenever my teacher assigned a topic to interpret in pencil. She often admired my sketches so much that she would keep them at the line-drawing stage without asking me to add color, saving the work and giving me a new subject instead. This routine helped me steadily improve my skills.

### What are your aspirations for the future in this regard?

My aspirations for developing my talent grew significantly after joining QU, particularly the Fine Arts Program at the College of Arts and Sciences. The program's courses offer valuable opportunities to refine my skills, expand my artistic abilities, and gain new experiences that enrich my journey. Through my university studies, I hope to reach a more mature and creative stage in my artistic path, allowing me to make meaningful contributions to my field and represent my country proudly at both local and international art platforms.

### Does having this talent present any challenge for you?

Indeed, my talent remains a continuous challenge—one that pushes me to evolve, learn, explore new creative methods, and embrace fresh artistic pursuits.





# Student Writing

## Student clubs... spaces where creativity thrives and future leaders are shaped

By Tariq Ziad, Law Student

When I first joined Qatar University, I often heard about student clubs, but I never imagined they would become such an essential part of my university experience or that they would leave such a deep impact on my personality and growth. In the beginning, I joined several clubs simply out of curiosity and a desire to explore. I attended workshops, participated in events, and met students from different majors and backgrounds. With every activity, I felt I was learning something new. Over time, I began to feel that I wanted to be more than just a participant. That was the start of my real journey, when I took part in creating the Bssma Club and later assumed the role of Vice President. It wasn't easy, but working with a team that believed in the vision helped us achieve accomplishments we are proud of in our first year—such as earning the title of the Most Member-Attracting Club of 2025 and the Best Club in Media Promotion for 2025, along with other achievements.

Student clubs are truly creativity labs where ideas from students of various fields and backgrounds come together and transform into tangible initiatives and projects. They offer a safe environment to experiment with new ideas, where a student can present a concept, test it, adjust it, and watch it grow. Many awareness campaigns, innovations, and community initiatives began as simple ideas in a club meeting before becoming major events attended by hundreds. This environment taught me to think outside the box and to search for creative solutions to any challenge we faced.

Beyond creativity, the clubs shaped me into a real leader. I am now someone who can work with diverse personalities, balance different viewpoints, and remain calm in the toughest situations. I learned how to guide my team toward a shared goal and adapt my strategies to changing circumstances, which strengthened my ability to make wise decisions. This experience extended beyond the



campus, opening doors for me to participate in events and activities outside the university. I realized that what I had learned through student clubs was the key to my success and distinction. What sets QU apart is that it empowers us, the students, to manage the clubs ourselves, allowing us to experience leadership in a practical, hands-on way while also benefiting from the support and resources the university provides. This support is not just logistical; it includes guidance and mentorship, creating a rich environment for creativity and continuous learning. It instills in us a spirit of initiative and responsibility and prepares us to become influential leaders in the future. For me, student clubs were not just a chapter that ended, they are an ongoing journey I continue to write every day. Through them, I strive to create new initiatives, build a more creative and impactful student environment, and become a leader whose influence leaves an inspiring mark for those who come after.

# Creative Literature

## A Silent Sacrifice

**Karen Dsouza, College of Business and Economics**

Another day, another alarm went off at 5:00 am but this time she couldn't wake herself up. I lay beside her, stiff as a stone, snoring away as the sun arose. Minutes passed by, even hours, until the beaming rays of sunlight uncomfortably forced my eyes open. "Oh, I missed the bus..." I thought to myself. How come? Why didn't mom wake me up? I turned aside only to see her tucked in bed right next to me. I moved closer, shaking her arm as I called out her name repeatedly, but the only response I got was a nod and a faint annoyed whisper.

"Alright." I said to myself. "Maybe she's tired? Unwell?" I thought, as I made my way downstairs. Into the dining room I walked and behold, the dark wooden table that would usually be arrayed with pots holding my favorite breakfast dishes, this time, had nothing but a flower vase sitting on top of it. Then I went into the kitchen, only to find it empty as well! This has never happened before. What shall I do? I didn't know how to make anything, except simple cereal and so I reached for the fridge, pulling out the carton of milk, I began to prepare it myself. Quarter past two, the clock chimed. I would have been back from school by now. Where is she? I wondered. I ran back upstairs and barged into the room in anticipation, my stomach growling in hunger. This time, she stood up and looked around the room in a hurry, as though desperately searching for something. "What is it mom?" I asked her. "Nothing dear," she paused, and continued in a hesitant voice, "Do me favor though, please order some food, I'll be back home soon." And so, I did. Despite her reassurance, there was still a lingering sense of unease inside me. I couldn't rest until I figured out what was wrong. Suddenly, fear stirred within me as I heard a thud not far from where I stood. Turning around, I saw a figure crouched up on the floor with both palms covering her face. I never ran faster than I did that day.

I couldn't pick her up, but I kept pulling until she sat upright. "Please stay here, I'll get you a glass of

water!" I cried, my voice shaking. I didn't know any doctors nearby, or how to get to a hospital, so I grabbed her phone and called the neighbor. It wasn't long until they arrived and took her with them.

I was left alone for a few hours contemplating in the silence of an empty home. Every sound I made echoed back to me. The vibrant walls faded into a pale shade of yellow in my distress. I was pacing anxiously, back and forth, clutching on to my clothes and murmuring a prayer under my breath. The house was a mess. I decided to clean up for the night with whatever brooms and towels I found around the house; she won't have to worry about that.

By the end of it I was exhausted. "How does she do this every single day?" I wondered, "I couldn't even get myself to wake up on time!" I glanced towards the door, hoping the knob would turn and she would walk in with a smile, but the clock struck half past ten. It's way past my bedtime. I couldn't sleep; not till she came back.

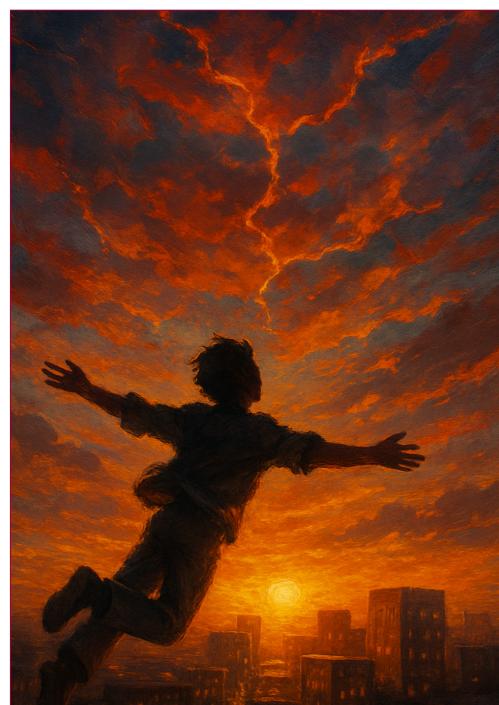
Pacing around again, I began to recall the times she stayed up all night looking after me when I was down with a fever. The times she would be on her feet in and out of the house just to make sure I had food on the table. The times she cried alone, missing the presence of her late husband and all I could do was hold her hand and wipe her tears. The times she would listen and console me as I whined about school. The times — "Hey," a familiar voice rang in my ears. I didn't notice her hand on my shoulder as she stooped down to pick me up. My eyes snapped back into focus and locked into hers. Immediately, tears began to roll down my face. She looked perplexed, about to raise a question before I could speak, but I sprang up and held her tight into an embrace.

Not until then did I realize that a mother's love was just silent sacrifice.

# Witnessing Sunsets

Fathima Nizar, College of Business and Economics

How incredible it is  
to witness a sunset.  
In all of God's glory,  
sunsets are something else.  
To see something go out  
with such fire, such incredulity —  
I soar, I soar among it all.  
When the clouds are parted by neon orange cracks  
to reveal the vastness of the sky beyond and all  
around,  
like a fresh new book,  
its blank pages stacked with the smell of ages  
gone,  
waiting for what you'll write tomorrow.  
When the rays of the sun illuminate buildings and  
windows  
with liquid gold — its last push.  
I waited the whole day around for nothing  
and now you show up to make me a  
kid again and let me fly.  
I learn then what I couldn't until then —  
How to witness a sunset.

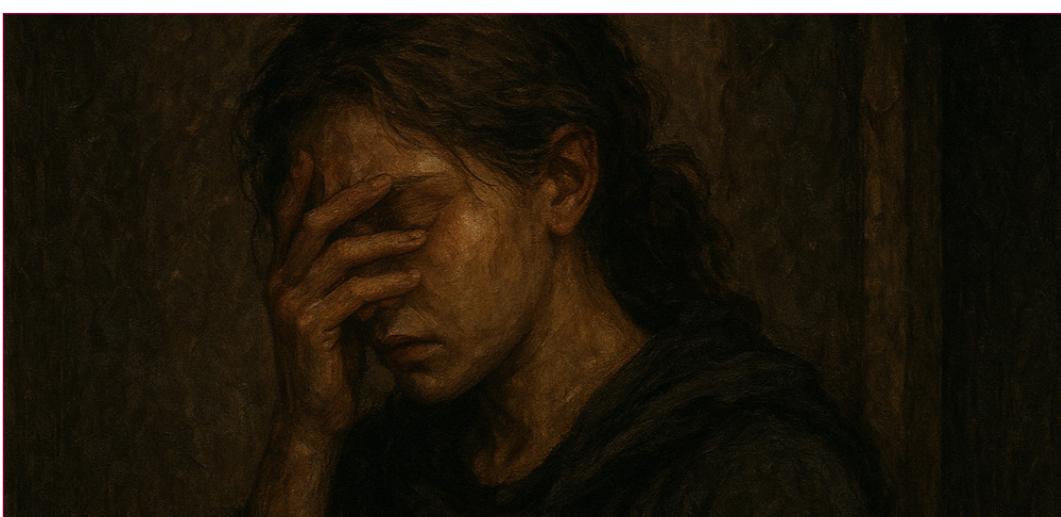


# Regret (with homage to Oscar Wilde)

By Shahd Jadalla, College of Pharmacy

Regret keeps filling my soul so endlessly.  
Regret keeps asking me why I trusted so easily.  
It lives behind my eyes so intently,  
trying to cover its shadows with strength so sternly.  
It tells me:  
“Everyone kills their beloved. Some with a gaze,  
others with wandering words.”  
It screams inside me, Let go -stand tall- be strength,  
fully gowned.  
It whispers, You gave in too easily once, but you  
can’t do so anymore.  
It commands:  
Get up.  
Leave.  
Tear your heart from this place.  
Wake up — realize.  
Let the truth settle into every space.  
It pushes me to pick myself up despite the ending.  
It forces my eyes to meet the truth, unrelenting.  
It breaks the heart that trusted, and the eyes that  
once laughed so purely.  
It shatters the time I gave,  
everything I had, everything I kept hidden,  
so brutally.

It makes me leave without turning back,  
with a heart heavy,  
with feelings I can’t place,  
with trust that can’t be stitched easily.  
It leaves me asking: Why didn’t I see this coming?  
It shocks me,  
the truth that lies beneath people’s souls,  
the cruelty of their thinking.  
And I walk away  
with more guards to build,  
with less hope within me,  
with less soul than before,  
with more hurt than the beginning.  
Less sunshine.  
Less expression.  
Less will to stay.  
More anger.  
More masks.  
More of me letting go to find a way.  
For as Wilde said:  
“Some shed tears while they’re killing; others  
don’t even blink an eye.  
Everyone kills the thing they love, but not  
everyone who kills must die.”



# Art

Student Name: Sharifa Al-Wared  
College & Major: College of Education – Art Education  
Artwork Title: Shuwaima horses  
Artwork Size: 120 × 200 cm  
Medium: Acrylic colors

**Artwork Description:**  
The Al-Shuwaima horses were chosen for their artistic beauty and their deep connection to heritage. Their distinctive colors and geometric backgrounds were used to represent the sky and desert, with golden touches added to enhance the aesthetic dimension and break the cool tones of the composition.



Student Name: Nora Nasser Al-Attiyah  
College & Major: College of Education – Art Education  
Artwork Title: Heritage Night  
Artwork Size: 120 × 200 cm  
Medium: Acrylic colors

**Artwork Description:**  
This artwork blends Van Gogh's iconic style from The Starry Night with a scene of an Arab heritage site—Al Zubarah Fort. It reflects the interplay between history, heritage, and global art in a single composition that brings together authenticity and modernity.



**Student Name:** Wadha Al-Marri  
**College & Major:** College of Education – Art Education  
**Artwork Title:** Fertility  
**Artwork Size:** 66 × 85 cm  
**Medium:** Mixed media

**Artwork Description:**  
A futuristic vision of Qatar depicted in the form of a woman incorporating elements of flowers, growth, and fertility.



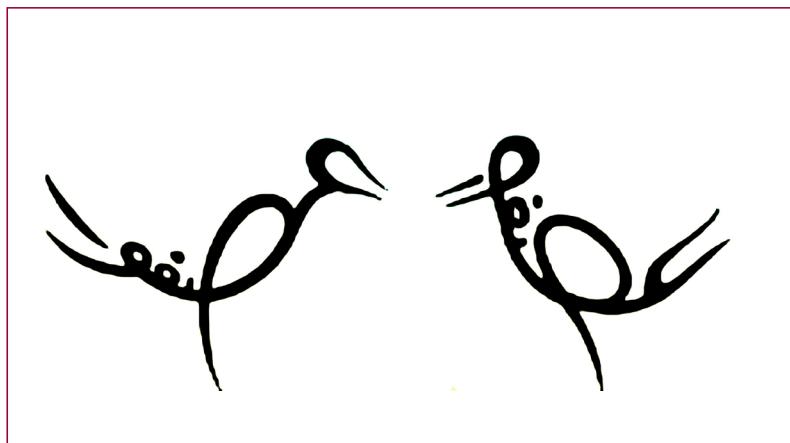
**Student Name:** Rawda Al-Mansouri  
**College & Major:** College of Education – Art Education  
**Artwork Title:** Pride  
**Artwork Size:** 120 × 200 cm  
**Medium:** Acrylic colors

**Artwork Description:**  
The artwork reflects the concept of pride and strength through two significant symbols of Qatari culture, the horse and the falcon, portrayed in a surreal, imaginative style.

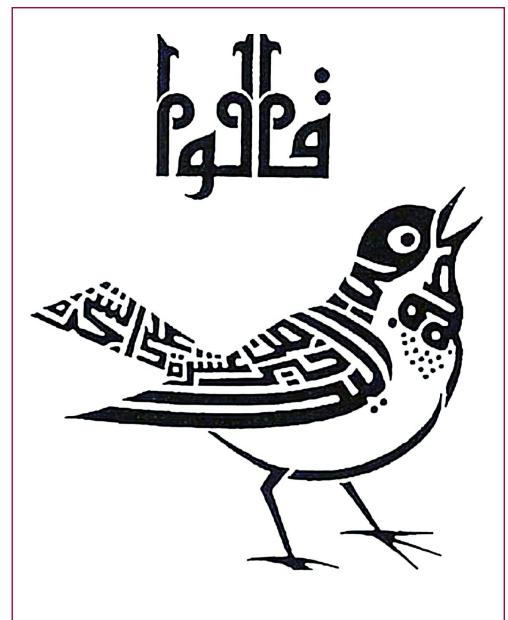


# Arabic Calligraphy

By Fouad Hassan Fakhroo, Student Life Supervisor  
in the Student Activities Department



Font style: Illustration-based lettering



Font style: A blend of Kufic script and  
illustration-based lettering  
Written phrase: "They said: A bird in the  
hand is better than ten on the tree."

# Sports and Recreation

## Supporting a Healthy Gut Microbiome

By Khalifa Naser Al-Hamad, Teaching Assistant of Human Nutrition, College of Health Sciences

Al-Harith ibn Kalada, the famous 7th-century Arab physician, once said, “The stomach is the house of disease, and prevention is the head of medicine.” This quote of wisdom beautifully captures and predicts what modern science confirms today: that human health begins in the digestive system, and at its core lies the gut microbiome.

The microbiome describes the vast community of bacteria, fungi, and viruses that live in our intestines. This invisible world does far more than digest food and absorb nutrients; it influences immunity, body weight, and even mood through what is known as the gut-brain axis. The gut-brain axis is a bidirectional communication system between the central nervous system and the gut microbiota, which is crucial in regulating mood, cognition, and mental health. Recent studies show that when this balance is disrupted, it can contribute to obesity, diabetes, depression, and even certain cancers.

When does the microbiome begin to form? The development of the microbiome starts at birth. Research has shown that mode of delivery plays a

crucial role: infants born vaginally acquire beneficial microbes as they pass through the birth canal, while those delivered by cesarean section may have reduced microbial diversity and face higher risks of allergies and obesity later in life. Breastfeeding further enriches the microbiome by supplying natural prebiotics in human milk (Zhang et al., 2021).

How can we maintain a healthy microbiome? Supporting a balanced microbiome does not require complicated treatments; instead, it can be nurtured through a healthy lifestyle that includes:

- Fiber-rich foods: Consume 25–30 grams of whole grains, vegetables, and legumes daily to feed beneficial bacteria.
- Fermented foods like yogurt, kefir, and traditional pickles help diversify the microbiome.
- Limiting processed foods and added sugars encourages harmful bacteria.
- Antibiotics should be used only when medically necessary, as they can destroy helpful microbes.
- Healthy daily habits: regular exercise, adequate sleep (7–8 hours), and stress management.



As science advances, researchers are beginning to view the microbiome not just as microorganisms living in our gut, but as an independent organ influencing nearly every aspect of health. Promising research directions include:

- Probiotics and prebiotics to strengthen beneficial bacteria and restore balance.
- Fecal Microbiota Transplantation (FMT) is a new therapy successfully treating chronic intestinal diseases.
- Personalized medicine, where microbiome analysis may help design diets and treatments tailored to each individual.

These fields open the way for a new era in medicine and research—one in which the microbiome becomes a pivotal tool for treating illness, enhancing quality of life, and preventing chronic disease.

Caring for the gut microbiome is not a luxury, but a strategic necessity for preventing chronic conditions and promoting overall well-being. As the old saying goes: “Prevention is better than cure.” Understanding the role of the microbiome in our health and integrating its care into public health strategies and medical research is an investment in the future of human health.

# Student Clubs

## Business Consulting Club: A Hub for Student Development and Idea Leadership

The Business Consulting Club at Qatar University is one of the university's distinguished student clubs, dedicated to developing students' skills in entrepreneurship and management consulting. It provides a supportive environment for innovative ideas and strengthens connections with the private sector and organizations that support emerging ventures. The club aims to empower students to enhance their analytical and creative thinking and prepare them to become consulting leaders who contribute to advancing Qatar's knowledge-based economy.

Recently, the club organized an event titled "The Naseh Journey – How an Idea Becomes a Project." The session featured entrepreneur Khalid Qutbah, Co-founder and COO of the Naseh platform, who delivered an insightful presentation on the steps involved in transforming ideas into entrepreneurial projects. The workshop drew more than 90 students, who actively engaged with the discussions and questions.

The event aimed to raise students' awareness of the proper path to entrepreneurship and connect them with key supporting entities in Qatar. It successfully achieved these goals by enriching participants' experience and equipping them with practical, inspiring knowledge. At the conclusion of the workshop, the club's advisor, Dr. Othman Al-Thuwadi, offered valuable guidance that enhanced the session's impact and provided an academically motivating perspective encouraging students

to advance their future projects. The club's vision is to build a generation of creative leaders and consultants equipped with strong skills and strategic thinking to support and guide entrepreneurs. It also seeks to promote knowledge exchange with the business sector and leverage opportunities for collaboration and research with universities and business development institutions, empowering its members and fostering excellence in business development and related fields.

# Feature

## Identity in the age of AI

By Dr. Ahmed Haji Safar, Associate Professor of Linguistics and Arabic Language and Literature, College of Arts and Sciences



Whenever humanity develops a new tool, the age-old tension between good and evil inevitably resurfaces. Social and ethical theories compete to outline the potential benefits and harms. For example, a knife can slice food or take a life. We can also see the pros and cons of other developments, like the television or mobile phone, and now in artificial or synthetic intelligence.

Research centers in universities, as well as defense and intelligence agencies in advanced nations, have devoted tremendous effort to creating programs capable of generating rapid responses to save time, and precise ones to support decision-making. Their goal is to gain an upper hand in the fierce global race to dominate the material and intellectual resources of societies, and to market their products as the most efficient and affordable.

AI was created to meet a pressing need for knowledge production that fulfills two core conditions: reduced time and cost, and increased speed. Yet it quickly found its way into the hands of those who misuse it, especially in scientific research and academic knowledge-making. I dare say that no less than twenty percent of the books, novels, theses, studies, and articles produced in recent months were written with AI assistance. The institutions most affected are universities striving to nurture educated and cultured generations, only to find themselves facing students who rely on AI tools to generate texts merely to

earn grades and academic recognition. But this is no longer the most threatening aspect of AI use today or in the foreseeable future. The imminent and far greater danger is the integration of AI into the human brain. We once knew *Homo erectus*—the human who stands upright—and *Homo sapiens*—the thinking human. Soon we may witness the rise of *Homo electronus*: the digitized human enhanced with an electronic chip. The commercialization of these chips—implanted in the brain's cortex—is approaching rapidly. Once limited to treating Parkinson's symptoms, they are becoming indispensable tools to elevate intellectual and human capabilities. Those who fear these chips resemble the ancestors who, upon hearing of a device capable of transmitting sound and image across great distances, declared it the end of the world or the work of spirits. In time, every family may have to accept the idea of implanting a chip in their child's brain, lest the child fall behind peers and struggle to find employment. Yet the issue carries a profound and dangerous dimension that governments and societies must confront: the erosion of identity. This technology threatens to sweep away local and national characteristics and replace them with a globalized, universal mold. This, in turn, raises fundamental questions about the digitized human: Who will shape their inclinations? Who will form their character? Who will determine their sense of belonging?

If the artificial intelligence embedded in smart chips grants humans elevated intellectual, cognitive, psychological, and analytical abilities, enabling them to solve complex problems and design creative strategies, it will also act as an internal decision-maker. It may influence individuals' gender identities, social tendencies, and ideological beliefs, and may erase moral, social, and religious boundaries, replacing them with alternative systems that make a person compliant, easily adaptable to any societal context, and less inclined to question. Countries, at least those still committed to preserving national identity, raise their daughters and sons to love their homeland and uphold

its fundamental pillars: language, land, faith, morals, and history. Yet they will face an existential struggle as waves of programmed influence encroach upon their citizens. The harmful effects of mobile phones on students in primary, middle, and high schools are already evident, prompting many nations to ban their use during school hours. But no country will be able to withstand the impact of implanted chips. This reality compels us to sound the alarm, preparing wisely and realistically for what lies ahead. Why not begin developing our own chips, ones that safeguard the identity of our people, rather than relying on imported ones?

# Performance Development

## Writer's Block

By Dr. Emad Abdul-Latif, Professor of Rhetoric and Discourse Analysis, College of Arts and Sciences

Many writers encounter writer's block at some point in their lives. Writer's block is when the ability to write simply vanishes, as though a dam has risen to halt the flow of a river of words. The experience is akin to losing the ability to speak while the mouth is still full of unspoken thoughts. Writer's block may strike after completing an exhausting creative project, following a voluntary pause in writing, perhaps when attempting to resume work, or even at the heart of the writing process itself.

The causes behind this state are varied. It may arise from a loss of motivation due to limited expected rewards, or from a temporary decline in self-confidence and doubt in one's capacity to continue writing. Shifts in the familiar conditions under which a writer usually works, or sudden personal or social upheavals, can also trigger it. Personal challenges, such as difficulty concentrating, physical fatigue, or the pressures of everyday life, may further contribute to its onset. Classical Arab writers experienced similar states and coined expressions such as "the dryness of the pen," "the tied tongue," and "the imprisonment of speech" to describe them. Al-Farazdaq, the celebrated Umayyad poet (20–110 AH), famously declared: "There are times when pulling a molar is easier for



me than composing a single line of poetry." Pre-Islamic poets attributed such moments to supernatural causes, speaking of "the interruption of inspiration or revelation" or "the abandonment of the poet by his demon." They viewed poetry as an extraordinary form of creation that exceeded human ability and required assistance from supernatural beings like jinn. Accordingly, each great poet was believed to have a personal demon inspiring his verses, and the dwelling place of these poetic spirits—Wadi 'Abqar—gave rise to the Arabic word for genius: 'abqari.

These mystical explanations of writer's block, linking it to lost inspiration, are double-edged. On one hand, they ease the anxiety, tension, and sadness associated with writer's block by shifting responsibility onto unseen forces. On the other hand, for the very same reason, they may hinder the writer's ability to overcome the problem.

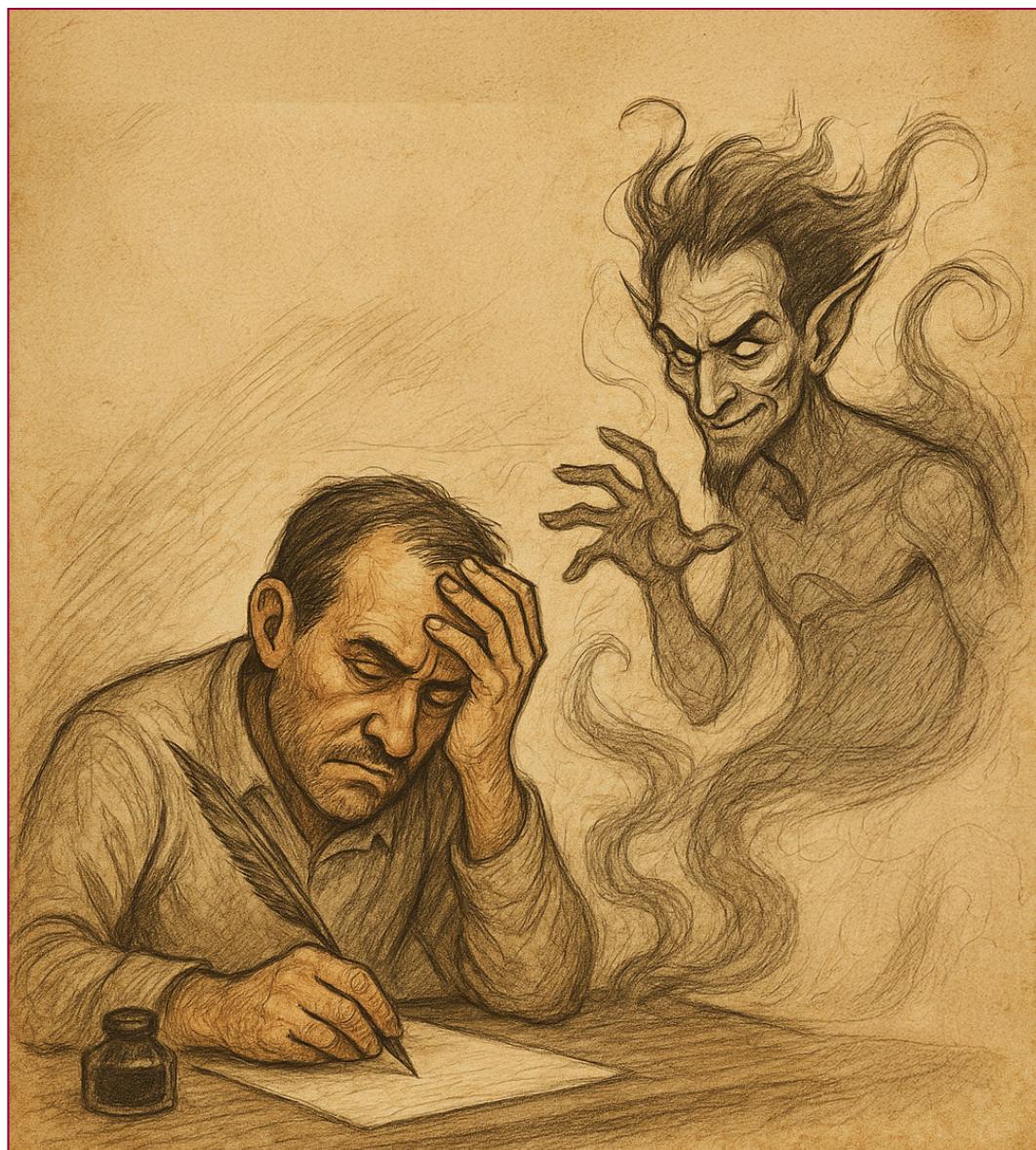
Writer's block produces an unsettling feeling for those who endure it. It prevents them from enjoying their break from writing and keeps them from seeing it as a temporary rest. The less confidence a writer has in their ability to regain their momentum, the more painful the experience becomes.

For this reason, it is essential to adopt practical strategies that can dismantle writer's block and transform it from a hindrance into a source of renewed energy. This begins with identifying the causes behind it and addressing them wherever possible. If the root of the block is diminished self-confidence, a writer can revisit earlier strong pieces or read positive reviews of their work to reinforce a sense of capability.

Writer's block can also become a fruitful pause if the writer uses the downtime to engage in activities that nourish future creativity, such as reading, planning upcoming projects, connecting with readers, promoting past works, or acquiring

new writing skills through workshops or training sessions. Another effective approach is to outmaneuver the block by experimenting with different literary forms. When a poet struggles to produce a poem, they might try writing a poetic short story, a reflection, a verse play, a novel, or a journalistic article. The crucial point is not to stop writing; by writing, even outside one's usual genre, we resist stagnation.

Finally, one can confront writer's block by writing about it. When we put an experience into words, we understand it better and become more capable of overcoming it. Similarly, discussing the block with others, especially with those who have faced and conquered it, can provide valuable insights. By reflecting on their experiences and learning from them, we develop greater awareness of our own condition and gain the strength needed to break the barrier obstructing the river of words.



# My University Album

## Qatar University Between Two Eras: A Journey of Growth



In this section, we step into a visual narrative that captures Qatar University's journey through time—told through two images separated by four decades of progress and renewal. The first image, taken in 1986, reflects the earliest contours of a promising academic and national awakening. It was a moment when ambition laid the foundation, and determination became the instrument of building. The second image, forty years later in 2026, reveals a transformed university—modern in its architecture, advanced in its facilities, and equipped with smart systems—standing as a testament to a distinguished path of achievement and a confident stride toward the future.

This architectural evolution is not simply a matter of expanding spaces or raising new structures; it mirrors a comprehensive journey of academic, research, and community advancement. Since its establishment, the university has steadily shaped this trajectory, solidifying its position today as a beacon of knowledge and innovation in Qatar and across the region. Between the two images lies the story of a university that has never paused in its growth—racing forward with learning, accomplishment, and continuing to nurture generations who will shape the future.

