



Interdisciplinary Humanities and Social Sciences Grants (IHSS) 2027



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1. Program Summary

Launch of the Call for Proposal	Please visit our website to check the dates
Deadline for Proposal Submission	
Award Announcement	
Project Duration	One to two years
Budget	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 250,000 QAR per one year• up to 500,000 QAR over two years
Contact	igrants@qu.edu.qa

2. Program Overview and Objectives

The Interdisciplinary Humanities and Social Sciences Grant is one of Qatar University’s flagship research initiatives, aimed at promoting collaborative interdisciplinary research in the fields of humanities and social sciences. The grant seeks to enrich societal and cultural understanding and to provide in-depth critical insights into contemporary issues relevant to Qatari society. It also supports interdisciplinary research projects that address nationally prioritized human and social issues through collaboration across multiple academic disciplines within the University. While the primary focus is on humanities and social sciences themes and researchers, research teams may also include experts from other fields such as science, engineering, information technology, and health.

3. Research Priority

Society Research Priority for this cycle

First. Identity and Societal Values

This priority focuses on research questions examining how religious and societal values, as well as active citizenship, can be strengthened in Qatari society amid rapid cultural and technological transformations,

such as the impact of social media, artificial intelligence, and cultural globalization. The studies explore the root causes of negative social phenomena, including academic dishonesty and weakened integrity, and examine the roles of values, educational and community institutions, and influential figures in addressing these issues and promoting social cohesion. The research also raises questions about achieving a balance between modernization and the preservation of cultural heritage, women's empowerment, the development of social responsibility among youth, and the impact of social solidarity initiatives and work ethics on quality of life and societal identity.

Second. Education, Digital Education, and Capacity Building

This priority addresses research questions related to transformations in education in the State of Qatar within the context of a digital society, and the impact of digital education, blended learning, and artificial intelligence on learning quality, academic achievement, and capacity building. The studies also examine curriculum development and learning environments, the enhancement of digital skills, the preparation of teachers and educational leaders, and the influence of cultural values, social norms, and school climate on student engagement and discipline. The outcomes of this priority aim to support educational policymaking and to contribute to building a balanced and sustainable digital education system.

4. Research Team Structure

Team Structure

- **Lead Principal Investigator (LPI):** Each research team must have one Lead Principal Investigator who is a full-time faculty member or researcher at Qatar University. The LPI holds full responsibility for the technical, administrative, and financial management of the project.
- **Principal Investigators (PIs):** The team may include 4 Principal Investigators from within or outside Qatar University, contributing their expertise to the project's implementation. In case there is a need to increase the number of Principal Investigators in line with the project scope and objectives, **this is permitted, provided that clear justifications are submitted to the research support- pre-award in advance, prior to 26th of April 2026**, explaining the necessity of expanding the research team and the expected contributions of each investigator.
- **Student Participation:** Including graduate and/or undergraduate students on the research team is required to build research capacity and provide training opportunities.

5. Eligibility Criteria

1.1. Research Team Requirements:

- The research team must be collaborative and include researchers from different disciplines and departments within Qatar University to ensure comprehensive coverage of the topic from multiple scientific perspectives.
- Priority will be given to teams that include a Qatari faculty member and/or collaborate with local institutions (governmental or non-governmental).

1.2. Eligibility of the Lead Principal Investigator (LPI)

- Professors, Associate Professors, and Assistant Professors at Qatar University from colleges and centers related to humanities and social sciences who can develop research partnerships with leading academic institutions locally, regionally, and internationally, in line with Qatar University's research priorities. The LPI must be affiliated with one of the following:
 - College of Arts and Sciences (Departments of Social and Human Sciences, Media, and Arabic Language / Gulf Studies Center)
 - Ibn Khaldun for Humanities and Social Sciences Center
 - Social & Economic Survey Research Institute
 - College of Sharia and Islamic Studies
 - College of Education / Educational Research Center
 - College of Law
 - College of Business and Economics
- A researcher may participate as an LPI in only one research proposal per grant call.
- The LPI who holds an active internal grant or Qatar Research Development and Innovation (QRDI) grant is **not eligible** for a new internal research grant as an LPI, except for those whose active grants are in their final year.
 - All forms of Student Grants and Direct Support are not counted when this restriction is applied.

1.3. Submission and Participation Limits

- The proposal should be submitted by the Lead Principal Investigator (LPI); otherwise, it will not be acceptable.
- To ensure fair distribution of opportunities and allow the largest number of researchers to participate, the following limits are applied to submissions in each grant cycle:
 - **Principal Investigator (PI):** A researcher may participate as PI in up to 5 research proposals per grant cycle.
 - **Multiple Roles:** A researcher can combine roles within the same cycle, such as serving as LPI on one project and as PI on up to four other projects.
 - **Multiple Applications as LPI:** The number of LPI roles per cycle is limited to one. If more than one application is submitted in the same cycle by the same researcher as LPI, only the first submission will be processed further. Applications for LPI in Governmental and Industrial Collaboration Grants and Institutional Collaboration Grants are not counted when this condition is applied.
 - **Maximum Across Cycles:** There is no maximum limit on participation as PI across different grant cycles. Researchers may participate in each grant cycle within the limits stated above, subject to other eligibility restrictions related to active grants.

1.4. External PIs

For PIs from Organizations not outside Qatar University:

- A support letter using the approved template must be submitted, duly signed by the institution's authorized signatory, **not by the Principal Investigator (PI)**.
- The institution shall waive all rights, including intellectual property rights, arising from or related to this project.
- The Principal Investigator shall personally conduct and remain solely responsible for all project activities. **No delegation, assignment, or subcontracting shall be permitted.**

6. Required documents

- Application form
- Budget Breakdown
- Research Team CVs- each CV should not exceed three pages (LPI and PIs only)

- Similarity report not exceeding 15 % (less than 3% single source)- full iThenticate report
- Primary Research Ethics Checklist
- For collaborations with local institutions (governmental or non-governmental), a Letter of Interest or a Letter of Commitment for joint research must be attached.

7. Budget

The budget in the research proposal must be prepared accurately and realistically, adhering to the limits and regulations set out in the grant guidelines and Qatar University's financial policies.

1. Budget Limits

- 250,000 QAR per year, up to 500,000 for two years.

2. Personnel Expenses

- **Undergraduate student:** Daily rate fixed at 436.98 QAR, 2 working days per week, maximum 8 working days per calendar month.
- **Research Assistant or Graduate student:**
 - **Bachelor's degree holder:** Monthly rate: 8,000-10,000 QAR. Daily rate: 266.66-333.33 QAR.
 - **Master's degree:** Monthly rate: 11,000-15,000 QAR. Daily rate: 366.66-500 QAR/day
- **Post Doc or Research Associate:** Monthly rate: 18,000-30,000 QAR. Daily rate: 600-1,000 QAR.

3. Travel Expenses

- **Purpose:** The travel budget is primarily allocated to cover expenses for researchers attending scientific conferences to present the results of the funded research project.
- **Limits:** The travel budget must not exceed 20% of the total annual budget of the project.
- **Approval:**
 - All travel expenses under any grant programs are subject to prior approval from the Research Support Department.
 - Members of the research team are required, when traveling under the research grant, to comply with all regulations and decisions issued by the President of the University, as well

as the relevant university policies and/or the applicable policies of the funding agencies and the agreements signed with them.

- All travel expenses must fall within the approved budget and available resources, after fulfilling all travel requirements and obtaining administrative approval. This applies to all members of the research team, including researchers and university students awarded the research grant. Travel expenses shall be reimbursed in accordance with the rules and procedures in force at the University and, where applicable, those of the funding agency.
- For student travel, travel application forms must be completed and signed by the Dean of the student's college and submitted to the Pre-Award Office for final approval after the grant is awarded.

4. Textbooks Expenses

- **Purpose:** To support the purchase of essential textbooks and reference materials, or the successful execution of the project.
- **Limits:** Not available in QU Library.

5. Publication Expenses

- **Purpose:** To enable researchers to disseminate project outcomes through peer-reviewed publications that enhance research visibility and impact.
- **Limits:** Costs for publishing books, not exceeding **QAR 20,000 per book**, provided that coordination is made with **Qatar University Press** and that the book constitutes a direct output of the funded research.

6. Miscellaneous Expenses

- **Purpose:** To cover minor, project-related expenses that do not fall under other budget categories.
- **Limitations:** The budget allocated for miscellaneous expenses must not exceed 5% of the project's total annual budget.

7. Additional Special Expenses Related to the Nature and Objectives of This Grant, Including the Following:

- Costs for participation in (but not organization of) training courses or workshops aimed at capacity building and skills development, such as workshops on data collection methods,

training on the use of data analysis tools, and other topics that support the progress of the funded project. This item is subject to the financial and administrative regulations in force at the Human Resources Department at Qatar University.

- Costs related to the production of documentary films and visual arts projects, provided that prior coordination is made with the Public Relations Department at Qatar University.

8. Research Visit Expenses for Qatari Team Members (for Assistant or Associate Professor)

These visits aim to enable Qatari team members to continue developing their research skills, strengthen scientific collaboration with internationally recognized universities or research centers relevant to the project topic, exchange expertise, expand academic networks, and gain exposure to diverse methodologies and perspectives. This item is subject to the following conditions:

- The visit is available only to Qatari team members at an early career stage, with an academic rank not exceeding Assistant Professor or Associate Professor.
- The duration of the visit must not exceed **three weeks** maximum.
- A letter of acceptance or invitation from a recognized university or institution must be provided. The applicant must also provide a justification outlining the objectives of the visit, the relevance of the host institution to the research project topic, the expected outputs, and the anticipated impact on the project's progress.
- The visit outcomes must include, at a minimum, a draft scientific publication or research proposal, along with a clear research report detailing the achieved results or deliverables.
- The visit follows the Human Resources package for scientific activities (HR-11).
- The outcomes of the visit must be reported in both the progress and final reports.

9. Non-allowable Expenses

- Please see the Qatar University Non-Allowable Expense document

10. General Notes

- Advance ITS approval is required for all software, hardware, subscriptions, cloud services, licensing renewals, specialized IT equipment, and any systems requiring integration with QU's IT environment.

- All budget items and expenditures must comply with Qatar University’s financial policies and regulations.
- If there are any inquiries regarding budget items or allowable expenses, it is recommended to contact the Research Support Department directly for clarification before submitting the proposal or initiating any spending

8. Proposal Submission

The application link will be shared during the grant launch announcement.

9. Acknowledgement

The Lead Principal Investigator must ensure that Qatar University is acknowledged for their support when publishing the research results, using the following statement:

This [publication, report, etc.] was made possible by a research grant funded by [Institution Name] under research grant No. XXXXXXXX. The findings herein reflect the work and are solely the responsibility of the author[s].”

10. Contact Information

Please contact us at the following email address: igrants@qu.edu.qa