

The College of Sharia develops “Research Profile” to build Research

Identity for High-Quality Output

Prof. Nour El-Din Al-Khademi

Department of Al-Fiqh and Usul Al-Fiqh, College of Sharia



The College of Sharia at Qatar University has developed a document titled “Research Profile” to serve as a reference framework for carrying out research, so that research performance can achieve the objectives of the strategic plan and research priorities. This document has yielded several notable outcomes, which we will present after defining the concept.

The Research Profile at the College of Sharia, Qatar University is defined as “the set of distinguishing characteristics of the College in the field of scientific research,” with its three frameworks as follows:

- Reference Framework: represented in the theoretical principles and the governing value system.
- Methodological Framework: represented in methodological foundations and quality standards.
- Organizational Framework: represented in judging criteria and research priorities.

The Research Profile is the result of the College’s strategic initiatives and dedicated efforts in response to significant challenges and the diagnostic assessment of the current situation. This assessment revealed that much of the research is overly specialized, lacks interdisciplinary collaboration, and is often disconnected from real-world needs. It also indicated that several major areas within Sharia sciences remain overlooked and have not received adequate attention, highlighting the necessity for researchers to address them.

Among the key outcomes of this Research Profile were the following:

- A. The Founding Approach to research projects, which is considered a constitution for the College’s research and its major research projects. This approach was adopted during a workshop held from 1–3 February 2022, which brought together experts from across the Islamic world. The workshop was dedicated to discussing the implementation of the College’s Research Unit strategic plan. This workshop resulted in the adoption of the idea of the approach with its axis and its epistemological and methodological guidelines. Discussions then followed (from February 2020 to June 2022) to end up approving the first version of the approach, accompanied by its appendices (including the original scientific papers of the mentioned workshop, research profile document, and an overview of the first research project, “Family between Multiple Islamic, National and International References”).
- B. Twenty-two (22) major research projects. The Research Project represents a broad research track that includes multiple axis and issues. A project is performed by an individual or in partnership, within

the framework of postgraduate research, promotional research, events, journals, etc.

- C. Actual commencement of postgraduate and academic staff research within the first research project, as mentioned above. Some research has already been completed, while others are currently in progress.
- D. Initiating the implementation of the second research project titled “Thematic Interpretation of the Prophetic Sunnah” and the third research project titled “Comprehension of Civilization and Urbanization” by developing the framing papers, defining the list of priority topics, and directing researchers to them.

Among the notable outcomes and tangible fruits of the Research Profile are the following:

- a. Strengthening the University and community environment to support scientific research and researchers, in alignment with the spirit of the Research Profile. This includes fostering partnerships, promoting community engagement, and building bridges with relevant institutions such as educational bodies, the family sector, judiciary, legal institutions, arts, and medicine. This was particularly evident in the operations of the aforementioned family project.
- b. Contributing to the development of academic curricula by leveraging research performance within the College’s research strategy, in light of its research profile, foundational approach, and other projects related to these curricula.
- c. Contributing to the promotion of students’ research performance and the development of their research skills under the policy of research and other kind of support by training in dealing with authentic and ancient scientific texts, and holding specialized and focused scientific courses, some of which are related to one of the research projects, such as the project “New Dimensions in the Objectives of Sharia (Maqasid al-Sharia).” To date, six courses on Maqasid have been introduced, along with additional courses in the sciences of Hadith, Fiqh, Aqeedah, and related fields.

The Research Profile and its branches aim to enhance research, teaching, and administrative performance; strengthen partnerships both within and beyond the University; build bridges to address local, national, and global issues; and position the College as a leading reference among peer institutions. The College’s leading reference position can be taken by achieving academic accreditation and meeting the requirements of quality, legal, and historical responsibility among people and before the Almighty. Allah says: “Then we made you successors in the land after them so that we may observe how you will do” [The Noble Qur’an, Surah Yunus 10:14].