Qatar Research Leadership Program
Graduate Sponsorship Research Award
(QRLP - GSRA)

Request for Applications (RFA)

Seventh Cycle

Revised February 2020
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Section 1: Acronym List

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Acronym</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AMG</td>
<td>Award Management Guide</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AROR</td>
<td>Authorized Research Office Representative</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GAG</td>
<td>Grant Application Guide</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GS</td>
<td>Graduate Student</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GSRA</td>
<td>Graduate Sponsorship Research Award</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IACUC</td>
<td>Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IBC</td>
<td>Institutional Biosafety Committee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IP</td>
<td>Intellectual Property</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IRB</td>
<td>Institutional Review Board</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KI</td>
<td>Key Investigator</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LPI</td>
<td>Lead Principal Investigator</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MOPH</td>
<td>Ministry of Public Health – State of Qatar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NPRP</td>
<td>National Priorities Research Program</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PI</td>
<td>Principal Investigator</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PR</td>
<td>Peer Reviewer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MOEHE</td>
<td>Ministry of Education and Higher Education</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>QNRF</td>
<td>Qatar National Research Fund</td>
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<tr>
<td>RFA</td>
<td>Research Focus Area</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>QRLP</td>
<td>Qatar Research Leadership Program</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>R&amp;D</td>
<td>Research and Development</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RA</td>
<td>Research Assistant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>REG</td>
<td>Research Ethics Guide</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RFA</td>
<td>Request for Application</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RIG</td>
<td>Research Integrity Guide</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RO</td>
<td>Research Office</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ROC</td>
<td>Research Outcome Centre</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SI</td>
<td>Submitting Institution</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TRL</td>
<td>Technology Readiness Levels</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Section 2: GSRA 7 Snapshot

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SCOPE</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Competition opens</strong></td>
<td>10th February, 2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Submission deadline</strong></td>
<td>Proposal submission by candidates: <strong>25 May 2020</strong> (noon, Doha time).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Announcement of results</strong></td>
<td>Mid of August 2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Anticipated Project start date</strong></td>
<td>Project activities cannot begin until a <em>Master Research Funding Agreement</em> (MRFA) has been signed with the <em>Qatar National Research Fund</em> (QNRF). Awarded candidates are expected to start their studies in fall 2020.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Research areas</strong></td>
<td>Research proposals should be in areas representing national priorities for Qatar, as outlined in the Research Focus Areas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Eligible Applicants</strong></td>
<td>QRLP- GSRA supports Qatari nationals, the children of Qatari mothers, Qatari document holders, and individuals married to Qatari nationals, and those born in Qatar and been residents of Qatar for 10 years or more, in addition to residents of Qatar for 12 years or more with valid residency.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| **Awards parameters**                      | Monthly Stipend :-
|                                           | - USD4,000 for local Master candidate.
|                                           | - USD5, 000 for overseas Master candidate.
|                                           | - USD5, 000 for local PhD candidate.
|                                           | - USD6, 250 for overseas PhD candidate.
|                                           | - Standard Health Insurance- Overseas Students
|                                           | - Settlement allowance- Overseas Students
|                                           | **Tuition Fees:** Unlimited
|                                           | **Annual Ticket:** For students at foreign institutions.
|                                           | **Award duration:** Up to two years for Master candidates and up to 4 years for PhD candidates |
| **How to apply**                           | Register and submit the full application through the online submission system website: https://www.qgrants.org. The Grant Application Guide (GAG) is available for download at www.qnrf.org , see the download center for the QRLP- GSRA. The site will be active on **10th February 2020** (noon, Doha time). |
| **QNRF program contact**                   | QNRF support system
|                                           | [http://support.qnrf.org/index.php/?Tickets/Submit](http://support.qnrf.org/index.php/?Tickets/Submit) |
Section 3: Overview
The mission of Qatar National Research Fund (QNRF) is to advance knowledge and education by providing funding opportunities for original, competitively selected projects at all levels and across all disciplines, with an emphasis on the four pillars of the Research Focus Areas (Appendix 5)

- Energy and Environment
- Health
- Computer Science and ICT
- Social Sciences, Arts and Humanities.

It provides opportunities for researchers at all levels, from students to professionals, in the private, public, and academic sectors. QNRF strives to encourage and support high-quality basic, applied, and translational research serving Qatar’s national needs and interests. QNRF also has a core role in building the human capacity required to advance Qatar’s ambitious and dynamic research mission. One of its key capacity-building programs is Qatar Research Leadership Program (QRLP), which is dedicated to producing homegrown scientists who will steer the continuous development and sustainability of Qatar’s human capital and its research agenda. QRLP supports candidates from graduate level through postdoctoral experience to their early careers, enabling them to become independent scientists capable of leading the development of Qatar’s economic and scientific footprint. One of QRLP tracks that underpins this journey is the Graduate Sponsorship Research Award (GSRA), created to enhance research human capital in Qatar. GSRA supports graduate candidates to gain the knowledge, skills and experience necessary to become future research and development leaders in Qatar. It provides sponsorships for graduate study, training and research in local and overseas-approved institutions, leading to research-based doctoral degrees.

GSRA is seeking graduate candidates with exceptional capabilities, and encourages individuals to propose comprehensive plans for graduate education, taking into account the Research Focus Areas, through supporting outstanding graduate candidates by offering them competitive sponsorships to undertake research-based graduate studies towards Masters and Doctoral Degrees at both local and overseas-approved institutions.

Graduate candidates must develop and implement research projects that (a). Address scientific questions relevant to Qatar’s research mission, strategy, and Grand Challenges; and (b). Broaden participation in Qatar’s research ecosystem. Research proposals should be in areas representing national priorities for Qatar, as outlined in the Research Focus Areas.

Section 4: Program Scope
The QRLP-GSRA awards are highly competitive, both financially and in terms of the standards of excellence required. QRLP-GSRA candidates are advised that submission of an application implies a commitment to the pursuit of graduate study in a research-based program in the areas aligned with the Research Focus Areas. Acceptance of a QRLP-GSRA award is an explicit agreement that the candidates will be enrolled in a graduate degree program consistent with the field of study indicated in their application by the beginning of the following academic year.

The candidates are required to provide detailed profiles of their relevant educational and research experiences and plans for graduate education in such a way as to demonstrate potential for significant achievements in the proposed graduate research work.

Up to four years of financial support will be granted for Doctoral study, and up to two years of financial support for Master degree study. Doctoral support can be extended for one
additional year if approved by the Sponsorship committee. The award recipient will be financially supported as described in section 8.

Upon formal acceptance to the graduate programs, the candidates need to submit the QRLP-GSRA application to QNRF, which will include the full submission requirements as detailed in section 9. QNRF will evaluate the submitted proposals and announce the awards on a competitive basis.

Section 5: Benefits of GSRA

5.1. Benefits to Qatar

- Promote research-based graduate programs and studies.
- Attract talented students to pursue research as a career path.
- Expand Qatar’s research culture and increase its research capacity.
- Enhance the creativity and productivity of researchers and academics in universities, research institutes, and teaching hospitals in Qatar.
- Train the next generation of scientists, with a special emphasis on fulfilling the Research Focus Areas.
- Attract outstanding undergraduate and graduate students to contribute to Qatar’s research mission, from within the country.
- Develop elite human capital to achieve Qatar’s research and development mission.

5.2. Benefits to graduate candidates

- Earn financial support for graduate education towards completion of a research-based graduate degree in Qatar or elsewhere.
- Gain recognition of outstanding merit that will help the graduate candidates in their future careers.
- Contribute socially and scientifically to Qatar’s research mission, with the potential for worldwide impact.
- Open up opportunities to take a leading role in a research profession inside Qatar.
- Contribute to the advancement of science as a profession inside Qatar.

Section 6: Eligibility

6.1. Applicant’s Eligibility

6.1.1. QRLP-GSRA supports Qatari nationals, the children of Qatari mothers, Qatari document holders, and individuals married to Qatari nationals, and those born in Qatar and been residents of Qatar for 10 years or more, in addition to residents of Qatar for 12 years or more with valid residency.

6.1.2. Candidates should be committed to pursuing research-based graduate studies towards masters/PhD degrees at approved institutions.

6.1.3. Overseas sponsorships are offered to nationals and children of Qatari mothers ONLY while local sponsorships for both nationals and non-nationals.

6.1.4. A candidate may only submit one application per cycle.

6.1.5. Research topics should be in areas representing national research priorities for Qatar.

6.1.6. Awards are made to candidates that have a full acceptance or provisional admission from graduate programs at the time of application. The program accepts new joiners only at which their studies are expected to start in Fall 2020.

6.1.7. QRLP-GSRA candidates of all ages are welcomed to apply.
6.1.8. QRLP-GSRA candidates should not be financially supported by another institution.
6.1.9. QRLP-GSRA candidates must not already have a similar degree.
6.1.10. QRLP-GSRA employed candidates should submit a commitment letter from current employers confirming their financial support for their study with relation to the employee salary while QNRF will support the tuition fees and other related committed expenses detailed in section 8. Commitment letter template is available in Appendix 4.

6.2. Approved Universities
- Approved universities list inside Qatar with approved research offices and approved graduate programs are listed in Appendix 1
- Universities outside Qatar which are included on the Ministry of Education & Higher Education list of approved universities in Appendix 1

6.3. Field of study
6.3.1. QRLP-GSRA Sponsorships are awarded to graduate study leading to research-based Doctoral or Masteral degrees in the fields aligned with Research Focus Areas;
6.3.2. QRLP-GSRA awarded candidates may not apply for any other QNRF research-funding program until the final year of their sponsorship of the current study.

Section 7: Submission Process
Proposal Submission Flowchart and Timeline

7.1. Flowchart
The following flowchart illustrates the steps necessary for proposal submission by the applicant until the notification of the final award

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Application Submission (20 weeks)</th>
<th>QNRF Application Screening + Appeal</th>
<th>Programmatic Review</th>
<th>Funding Recommendation</th>
<th>Receiving Complementary documents from Beneficiaries</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10 Feb 2020 Open Application Submission</td>
<td>25 May 2020 Close Application Submission</td>
<td>End of July 2020 Ineligible Applicants Notification</td>
<td>Mid of Aug 2020 Award Announcements</td>
<td>Early October 2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15 weeks</td>
<td>8 weeks</td>
<td>1 week</td>
<td>6 weeks</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
7.1. **Timeline**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Noon, Monday, 10(^{th}) February 2020</td>
<td>Start of online application submission</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Noon, Sunday, 25(^{th}) May 2020</td>
<td>Deadline for online proposal submission</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>End of July 2020</td>
<td>Ineligible Applicants Notification</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mid of August 2020</td>
<td>Funding recommendation and announcement</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Section 8: Budget**

**8.1. Budget overview and duration of funding**

Funds will be awarded to selected candidates and monitored by QNRF according to the QRLP-GSRA agreement.

The duration of Award support will be up to for four years (Doctoral degree) and two years (Masters) in the first instance. Sponsored candidate’s (Doctoral candidates only) may request up to one additional year of QRLP-GSRA support. Details of the initial Award parameters are given below.

8.1.1. Awarded candidates must formally accept and agree to the terms and conditions of the award agreement. The stipend and the tuition fee will be paid to the awarded candidates directly.

8.1.2. The duration of Award support will be determined primarily by the program requirements of the graduate school of the candidate institution, for a period of up to four years for a Doctoral degree and for a period of up to two years for a MS degree.

8.1.3. Awards under QRLP-GSRA will include the following:

- No cap on the maximum tuition fees to be paid. The candidate must submit a letter or document from the university mentioning the tuition fee.
- The stipend will be as determined by the President of Qatar Foundation Research and Development, and may vary with time. For the 2020/2021 academic year, the annual award are listed in the following table:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Monthly Award Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Master candidate at local academic institution</td>
<td>USD4,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Master candidate at overseas academic institution</td>
<td>USD5,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PhD candidate at local academic institution</td>
<td>USD5,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PhD candidate at overseas academic institution</td>
<td>USD6,250</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

8.1.3.1. The annual award includes up to USD 5000 to cover conferences & workshops expenses for PhD candidates only. This allowance will be paid on reimbursement basis to cover an economy class ticket from the original country of travel to the
conference hosting country, accommodation and the conference registration fees. The student will have to present a copy of the accepted abstract along with a support letter from his/her supervisor recommending the related conference/workshop.

8.1.3.2. All stipends will be paid on monthly basis in US Dollar.

8.1.3.3. Settlement Allowance will be included for overseas candidates. It is equal to one month stipend issued a month before the academic program starting date. It is issued once only.

8.1.3.4. Candidates at overseas institutions will receive annually an economy class air-ticket from Doha to the city of their host institution and back to Doha. This allowance will be received with the settlement allowance.

8.1.3.5. Employees whom are receiving salaries during their studies will be entitled for tuition fees ONLY.

8.1.3.6. The stipend and benefits are subject to the candidate maintaining enrollment and satisfactory progress in the agreed degree program at the host institution.

8.1.3.7. Overseas Candidates are entitled for a Standard Health Insurance requested by the university.

8.1.4. Payment schedule

8.1.4.1. Stipend will be made to the designated account of the candidate on a monthly basis.

8.1.4.2. Tuition fees will be made against invoices to the student. Students need to confirm the payment of each batch.

8.1.4.3. Settlement Allowance will be included for overseas candidates. It is equal to one month stipend issued a month before the academic program starting date.

8.1.4.4. Candidates at overseas institutions will receive annually an economy class air-ticket from Doha to the city of their host institution and back to Doha. This allowance will be received with the settlement allowance.

8.1.4.5. Overseas Candidates are entitled for a Standard Health Insurance requested by the university.

8.1.4.6. The annual award includes up to USD 5000 to cover conferences & workshops expenses for PhD candidates only. This allowance will be paid on reimbursement basis to cover an economy class ticket from the original country of travel to the conference hosting country, accommodation and the conference registration fees. The student will have to present a copy of the accepted abstract along with a support letter from his/her supervisor recommending the related conference/workshop.

8.1.4.7. QNRF will approve the release of funds annually following submission of satisfactory annual progress reports.

Section 9: Application Preparation

The application preparation begins when the candidate has received an acceptance letter from an approved graduate program. It is advised that the QRLP-GSRA candidate prepare his/her proposal in coordination with his/her supervisor. Unconditional and provisional acceptance is allowed but support letters from PhD supervisors will not be considered as an acceptance letter.

The application will include the following elements:
9.1. Candidate’s profile information

The candidates are requested to register on the QNRF online submission system “https://www.qgrants.org/” as a “New User”, to enter their profile information and CVs. The candidates are required to use their official work email addresses (if available) when registering. Those who have previously registered are not required to re-register, but must update their profile and CVs as applicable.

9.2. Candidate’s academic achievement

Candidates must demonstrate a high standard in academic and research achievement or achievement in the healthcare sector and provide transcripts of all undergraduate or graduate studies. This includes transcripts from the baccalaureate institution and for all completed graduate work wherever applicable. The transcripts should clearly identify courses taken and grades received. For candidates who have received degrees from institutions that do not issue transcripts (e.g. certain institutions in some European countries), they can provide proof of courses taken, any projects completed, and training attended during their studies. All official transcripts, degree certificates and related documents should be translated into English if the original documents are in a different language. For Universities that use percentages or other rankings, the candidate should submit a stamped converted certificate to GPA out of 4.0; either from the university or from MOEHE.

9.3. Statement letter (Up to 4 pages)

The candidates should describe the academic and research experience and relevant personal background, and provide future goals statements. They should demonstrate a previous research background and what was learned from this research experience, indicating their specific role in the research and whether they worked independently or as part of a team. This may include brief abstracts of previous projects or awards, together with references of previous publications (if any). The candidates must also explain their personal interests in pursuing graduate studies and describe the relation between this interest and the approved graduate program of the institution. The statement should also outline the background of the proposed research, knowledge, or information that has led to the current project application. For the career intent, the candidates should describe the long-term plans for both the project and the graduate candidate following graduation.

Candidate should follow the below sections to cover all areas:

1. Candidate’s research experience & academic achievements.
2. Objectives of the proposed research topics or field.
3. Background of the topic.
4. Relation between the candidate’s research interest and the selected field/topic.
5. Anticipated outcomes of the research.

9.4. Reference letters (2 letters, up to 2 pages each)

Two signed reference letters, not to exceed two pages, should be uploaded to the QNRF online submission system. Reference letters should be very recent, not more than 3 – 6 months prior to the deadline of GSRA’s submission. Each nominated reference must use a letterhead where applicable and include the candidate’s name, email, title, and professional affiliation. Each reference letter should provide details of the referee’s relationship to the candidate; comments on the statements about the candidate’s academic and research capacity and potential prior research experiences; statements about the candidate’s proposed research; and any other information that would assist the review panels in evaluating the
application. Unsigned reference letters will not be accepted. The candidate should seek references well in advance of the deadline, and it is recommended that he/she provides copies of relevant materials to the reference writers.

9.5. Miscellaneous Documents

Annual detailed tuition fees plan should be submitted during the application process at which a verified official letter from the university must be provided. Any changes in the total amount after awarding will need QNRF’s approval and should be strongly justified. Acceptance letter for postgraduates studies from an approved academic institution. See Appendix 1. Support letters will not be considered as acceptance letters.

9.5.1. For nationals, a copy of a valid passport and valid Qatari ID are required.
9.5.2. For children of Qatari mothers, a copy of applicant’s birth certificate.
9.5.3. For applicant married to a Qatari national, a copy of the marriage certificate is required.
9.5.4. For travel documents holders, a copy of that document is required
9.5.5. For candidates who were born in Qatar and lived for more than 10 years, proof documents needed are: a copy of their birth certificate along with school certificates, university transcripts, previous and current RP’s are required.
9.5.6. For residents of 12 years or more with valid residency, proof document could be: primary, preparatory and secondary schools’ certificates, or university certificates, or letter from current/previous employer(s), or copy of previous residence permits. The proof document should cover the required residency period.
9.5.7. QRLP-GSRA employed candidates should submit a commitment letter from current employers as described in section 9.1.11. Commitment letter template is available in Appendix 4.
9.5.8. QRLP-GSRA unemployed candidates should submit a support letter from a local organization/institution as described in section 9.1.12. Support letter template is available in Appendix 5.

9.6. Declarations

The Candidate should declare electronically his/her Sponsorship, Employment and Residency status.

Section 10: Registration and application Submission

10.1 Application Submission

10.1.1. The candidates should submit the applications on QNRF’s online submission system as explained in the Grant Application Guide (GAG) posted on GSRA’s download center on QNRF’s website. All uploaded files must be in PDF format.
10.1.2. Once the online application submission is open for this cycle, the candidates should login, choose ‘GSRA’, click on the “Enter QRLP-GSRA application channel” - “Application Registration” tab, and provide the required information.
10.1.3. Having logged in at “https://www.qgrants.org/”, the graduate candidate will then be able to view the registered application assigning him/her as the candidate, and proceed to provide additional personal information and to upload the required transcripts and essay, as described in section 9 above.
10.1.4. Resubmission
Resubmission will be allowed once to shortlisted applicants of previous cycle under the condition of submitting a new application with a new Topic or Supervisor or Degree or University. In addition, the candidate should not have started the program at the time of submission.

Section 11: Application Review

11.1 Application screening
The process of screening occurs after submission of the applications, which will entail screening out application for the following reasons:

11.1.1. Not meeting the eligibility criteria mentioned in section 6.
11.1.2. Not submitting all required documents mentioned in section 9.
11.1.3. Exceeding the requirement regarding the number of words for the statement letter
11.1.4. Exceeding the requirement regarding the number of pages for the reference letters
11.1.5. Uploading incorrect documents.
11.1.6. Not meeting QNRF’s originality requirement, i.e., being plagiarized, copied or duplicated.
11.1.7. Not complying with the conditions stated under “Application Submission” mentioned in section10.
11.1.8. After the screening process, chosen applications will be eligible to a one-week appeal to respond to the screening committee outcome.

11.2 Application Disqualification
QNRF may consider an application as disqualified, at either the pre-award or pre-funding stages, if it falls under one of the following categories:

11.2.1. Application previously submitted to or funded by QNRF or other funding agencies.
11.2.2. Duplication/overlapping of an application with other application(s) that have been funded or submitted for funding.
11.2.3. Failing QNRF screening requirements; see application screening in section 11.
11.2.4. Plagiarism and misrepresentation, as tested by QNRF.
11.2.5. Application that fails to submit the required hardcopies bearing original signatures and stamps of the relevant offices during the pre-funding stage.

11.3 Application Evaluation

11.3.1. Application Review and Ranking
The review and ranking process comprises a number of assessment steps that first include a programmatic review, and a personal interview upon request. The programmatic review will be followed by a panel-based review.

11.3.2. Evaluation criteria
Competing applications will be reviewed and evaluated based on all submitted components of the nomination against the following criteria:

a. Candidates Profile (Excellent; Very Good; Good; Fair; Poor)
   - Academic achievement
Reviewers will review candidate transcripts and may take into consideration various factors while scoring on academic achievements, including the institution where the previous degree was received, relevant courses with current research plan, duration for obtaining the degree, and the candidate’s standing in class.

- **Research experience**

Reviewers will consider the candidate’s demonstrated potential for significant achievements in research, amount of research experience/training, and the institutions where such training has been received. During the evaluation of this criterion, reviewers could look for proof of consistently good research work and training.

- **Student’s reference letters**

Reference letters will be submitted by the candidates thru QNRF system: [https://www.qgrants.org/](https://www.qgrants.org/). They will be reviewed for detailed information about the candidates’ qualifications, abilities, and accomplishments, allowing the reviewers to form a greater understanding of the candidate’s capabilities and personality. Reviewers will take into consideration the following criteria: the identity of the referee, how closely the candidate has worked or trained with him/her, and how long the referee has known the candidate.

b. **Topic Importance to Qatar (Excellent, Very Good, Good, Not Good)**

- **Research Focus Areas Priority Alignment**
  Evaluate the degree of compliance of the study topic with Research Focus Areas.

- **Impact on Capacity Building**
  Evaluate the human capacity addition to the field that the candidate represents.

- **Significance of The Proposed Topic**
  Evaluate the importance of the field with more emphasis on the significance of the proposed research.

c. **Research Eco system ( Excellent, Very Good, Good, Not Good)**

- **Ranking of the institution**
  Evaluate the standing of institution(s) that the Candidate will be attending.

- **Ranking of the graduate program**
  Evaluate the standing of program that the Candidate will be attending.

- **Mentor’s profile**
  Evaluate the mentor’s experience and qualifications.

d. **Research Commitment**

All candidates are requested to submit a proof document from institutions inside Qatar supporting their GSRA application and acknowledging the importance of the selected research area to the institution vision. Templates are available in Appendix 4 & 5. For more details, see section 9.1.11 & 9.1.12.

11.3.3. **Award selection process**
Funding decisions are based on the outcome of the programmatic and the panel reviews, taking into account the number of application, budgetary considerations as well as the criteria listed in section 11.3.

Section 12: Pre-funding
Awarded proposals will go through a pre-funding stage, which starts after the award announcement, and continues for approximately four weeks. During pre-funding the awarded candidate needs to provide any additional information requested by QNRF.

12.1. Awarded Candidates
After the announcement of the awards, awardees should have the following documents ready before signing the contract:

12.1.1 Awardee’s Bank Details:
- Awardee name (In English) as appear at bank system not his/her ID
- Bank name
- Bank branch
- IBAN Number
- Account Number
- SWIFT code
- A bank letter should be submitted to verify the information in the system (the letter should be in English)
- To fill in the supplier form in Appendix 2

12.1.2 Guarantor’s Details ( this section will be requested online )
- Guarantor’s Name as it appear in the passport
- ID Expiration Date
- ID Number
- Nationality
- Relation to awardees with proof document for example if the guarantor is a husband, proof of marriage should be uploaded
- Recent Physical Address & contact details

12.1.3 Submission details confirmation by applicant ( this section will be requested online)
- To verify Sponsorship status
- To verify the residency details entered during submission
- To verify employment status
- To verify the Tuition Fees
- Supporting documents
- Programs start and end dates
- Program Degree and name
- University name
- To fill in the “Particular” form in Appendix 3
12.2. Award withdrawal

Awarded candidates are expected to start their graduate studies no later than six months from the date of announcing the awards. Failure to do so within the allowed period may result in the withdrawal of the award.

Section 13: Post Award

13.1. Deliverables and Research Outcomes

The following deliverables are required by QNRF and are to be submitted to the QNRF online system.

13.1.1. Annual Report

Annual Reports are to be submitted to QNRF by the candidate once a year after they were shared and signed by his/hers supervisor in accordance with the cycle’s timeline (see section 16). The Academic Advisor is expected to report on the academic performance and research activities of the candidate. A template of the report is available via the QNRF online submission system. The report will be subject to review by QNRF, and only satisfactory reports will lead to continue sponsoring the candidate.

13.1.2. Thesis/Dissertation

The completed official electronic copy of the thesis and the thesis defence presentation are to be submitted within 60 days from the date of graduation, after being endorsed by the Academic Advisor. The thesis template format should be as per the requirement by the host institution

13.1.3. Public report

At the time of completion of the degree, the candidate, in coordination with the Academic Advisor, should also submit a Final Public Report containing a description of the research project, results and analysis via the Research Outcomes Center (ROC). Awarded candidate should ensure that the report does not contain any confidential, proprietary information; unpublished data that might compromise publishing results in the research literature; or invention disclosures that might affect Intellectual Property rights. This report will include the following disclaimer:

“This Public Report is published verbatim as submitted by the graduate candidate and the Academic Advisor of this award. The content of this Report is the authors’ responsibility and does not necessarily reflect the views of QNRF.”

13.1.4. Final Report

Upon successfully completing the degree, the graduate candidate is required to upload a report of the final thesis along with the diploma certificate. The graduate candidate may be asked to deliver a final presentation, as deemed fit by QNRF.
13.2. Research outcomes

13.2.1. Publications and Acknowledgment

Theses and all types of publications and other outcomes resulting from QRLP-GSRA Award must include an acknowledgment of QNRF support and a disclaimer stating the following:

“This [publication, report, etc.] was made possible by an Award [QSRANN-NNN-N-NNN] from Qatar National Research Fund (a member of Qatar Foundation). The contents herein are solely the responsibility of the author[s].”

13.2.2. Research data

Data generated by the research of the graduate candidate must be made available upon request by QNRF in an accessible form.

13.3. Change of status request

The following are referred to as Change of Status Request Form (CSRF) that the Awarded candidates must submit online whenever required during the lifetime of the award. He/She is responsible for informing QNRF of any change in his /her status and his/her contact information during the award period.

- Request to withdraw the award, before disbursement of fund.
- Request to change the academic advisor within the host institution.
- Request to extend the duration of the award, limited to two academic semesters for enrolled graduate candidates.
- Request to announce a change in the date, time and location of the thesis/dissertation defence whenever applicable.
- Request to suspend the Award for a period of approved leave. Such suspension may be granted only in full alignment with the policies of the institution and the QRLP-GSRA agreement.
- Request to terminate the award.
- Request to change the aims/tasks of the research plan.
- Request to change the academic institution.
- Request to change the major/field of study.
- Request to change bank details.
- Request for support letter.
- Request to attend a conference.
- Request to amend the tuition fees plan.
- Request to cost time extension.

13.4. Termination of Award

QNRF has the right to terminate an award in any of the following circumstances:

- If the Beneficiary does not maintain the academic requirements of the graduate school for more than one academic semester.
- If the Beneficiary violates the rules of QF or the host institution.
- If the Beneficiary does not submit a satisfactory annual report within the allowed period.
- If the host institution terminates the candidate’s enrollment.
- If termination is recommended and justified by the Academic Advisor or the submitting host institution.
• If the graduate candidate has been found guilty of academic or scientific misconduct following due process as provided by the submitting institution’s policies and rules, e.g., plagiarism, falsification of results, etc.

13.5. Graduate candidates and other grants

Students benefiting from QRLP-GSRA support are encouraged to participate as a research team member in any related QNRF-Funded project, or other projects undertaken by any research group. However, the graduate candidate must not be financially compensated in addition to the award by the respective grant or other sources of funds for such participation. To this end QNRF will make available info pertaining to funded projects, titles, institutions and contact info of the LPI to facilitate this process.

Furthermore, such a grant (other than the award) may not be used towards tuition fees or for any other benefit for the Beneficiary. NOR there should be no duplicate compensation, in part or whole, in any of the awarded budget lines from any other source.

13.6. Graduate candidate full time enrolment

The graduate candidate must be accepted as a full-time student in the selected graduate program for at least two academic semesters per year. If the host academic policies require that graduate candidates in a particular program must participate in the delivery of graduate/undergraduate courses as a teaching assistant or equivalent as part of their graduate education, the candidate will participate as per those policies without additional compensation, as part of the conditions of the award. The candidate is permitted to take a leave of absence as per the host university policy and QRLP-GSRA agreement.

Section 14: End of Award

GSRA Awardees are encouraged to find a job opportunity in Qatar when possible. If not, they are allowed to find elsewhere.

In rare cases, if a job opportunity was offered to a GSRA awardee and declined it; he/she will have to pay back all financial commitments paid during the period of study.

International students are required to report to QNRF two months after the degree completion date.

Section 15: Intellectual Property Policy

QNRF will follow the Qatar Foundation (QF) IP policy. Please consult the QNRF website for details on the applicable intellectual property policy [http://www.qnrf.org/en-us/Funding/IP-Policy](http://www.qnrf.org/en-us/Funding/IP-Policy)
Section 16: Planned Annual Award Timeline

There will be one cycle per academic year. The following are the estimated timelines for the 7th cycle:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Proposal Submission</th>
<th>Award Announcement</th>
<th>Annual Reports Due</th>
<th>Thesis Due</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10 February – 25 May 2020</td>
<td>Mid of August 2020</td>
<td>Annually, beginning one year after the start date of the graduate program</td>
<td>60 days after the official date of graduation</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Section 17: Inquiries

For any inquiry about this RFA and the electronic application submission process that is not already answered in the Q&A section of the QNRF website, please use the QNRF “Support” link on the website support.qnrf.org. Candidates can choose the appropriate department and specify the topic of their query for further information. QNRF’s response may be made publicly available in the Q&A section of the QNRF website.
Section 18: Appendices
Appendix 1: Approved Universities List

Local Universities
1. Qatar University
2. Hamad bin Khalifa university
3. Carnegie Mellon University in Qatar
4. Texas A & M University at Qatar
5. HEC Paris in Qatar
6. University College London - Qatar
7. Doha Institute for Graduate Studies

International Universities
1. Harvard University - USA
2. Stanford University - USA
3. University of California - Berkeley - USA
4. University of Cambridge - UK
5. Massachusetts Institute of Technology - USA
6. California Institute of Tech - USA
7. Columbia University - USA
8. Princeton University - USA
9. University of Chicago - USA
10. University of Oxford - UK
11. Yale University - USA
12. Cornell University - USA
13. University of California - Los Angeles - USA
14. University of California - San Diego - USA
15. University of Pennsylvania - USA
16. University of Washington - Seattle - USA
17. University of Wisconsin - Madison - USA
18. University of California - San Francisco - USA
19. Johns Hopkins University - USA
20. Tokyo University - Japan
21. University of Michigan - Ann Arbor - USA
22. Kyoto University - Japan
23. Imperial College London - UK
24. University of Toronto - Canada
25. University College London - UK
26. University of Illinois - Urbana Champaign - USA
27. Swiss Federal Institute of Technology - Switzerland
28. Washington University - St. Louis - USA
29. Northwestern University - USA
30. New York University – USA

For full list, please visit the website of Ministry of Education & Higher Education at
http://www.edu.gov.qa/En/ServicesCenter/Pages/Supported-Universities.aspx
Appendix 2: Supplier Registration Form

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Supplier &amp; Bank Details</th>
<th>Guidance</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Supplier Name*</td>
<td>(Supplier name as registered with QF)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Supplier Address*</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Supplier Country*</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Supplier Contact details*</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Supplier Number*</td>
<td>As per QF ERP - To be completed by PD/End-user</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Supplier Site*</td>
<td>As per QF ERP - To be completed by PD/End-user</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bank Name*</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bank Branch*</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bank Address*</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bank Country*</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bank Account Name*</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bank Account Number*</td>
<td>Bank Account Name &amp; Supplier Name must be the same</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Currency of A/c*</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SWIFT/BIC Code*</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| IBAN No: (29 digits for Qatar) | It is mandatory for transfers to European countries, Lebanon and to Saudi Arabia, UAE, QATAR |
| SORT Code: (6 digit code)      | It is mandatory for transfers to United Kingdom |
| ABA Routing No (9 digit code)  | It is mandatory for transfers to USA |
| Transit No: (5 or 8 digit code) | It is mandatory for transfers to Canada |
| BSB No. (6 digit code)         | It is mandatory for transfers to Australia |
| RTGS Code/IFSC Code No (11 digit code) | It is mandatory for transfers to India |

If transfers to Vendors is through their Intermediary Bank, below additional details are mandatory:

| Intermediary Bank Name* |          |
| Intermediary Bank Address* |         |
| Intermediary Bank Swift/BIC code* |       |
| Intermediary Bank ABA routing No.* |     |
| Intermediary Bank Account number* |   |

* Indicates all fields are mandatory

For Companies: This Form is to be printed, stamped and signed by the Company Representative/Management

“For Individuals: This Form must be signed by the individual, along with the copy of Qatar ID (Qatar residents) or Passport (International citizens)”

Failure to disclose any information/incomplete forms may result in rejection from QF.

SUPPLIER NAME:

SUPPLIER SIGNATURE:
## Appendix 3: PARTICULARS Form

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PARTICULARS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Full name of Student (As appears in QID)</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Student Identification Details</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Passport no. :</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Passport Expiration Date:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>QID no.:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>QID Expiration Date:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Address in Qatar &amp; Contact Details</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zone no.:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Street no.:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Building no.:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Email:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mobile:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Address outside Qatar (X enter country name)</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Course of Study</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>University</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>[ X ] For avoidance of doubt the GSRA only applies to approved local and international institutions as per the RFP dated Feb 2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Academic Program Duration (counted in months)</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Start Date:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>End Date:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Study Duration: X months</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total GSRA Amount (USD)</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GSRA total amount is USD X, that covers:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Annual Tuition Fees: XUSD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Monthly Stipend: X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Annual Air Ticket: XUSD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Annual Conference (For PhD Student Only): USD5000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Full name of Guarantor (As appears in QID)</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Guarantor Identification Details</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>QID no.:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>QID Expiration Date:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Passport no.:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Passport Expiration Date:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Guarantor Address and contact details</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zone no.:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Street no.:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Building no.:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Email:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mobile:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Address of QNRF</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Qatar National Research Fund</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>QSTP Tech 1 – Room 107</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Doha, State of Qatar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Attention:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Noor Al-Naimi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Program Specialist</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Capacity Building Department</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Appendix 4: Commitment Letter Template

Please use Institution letterhead

Dr. Abdul Sattar Al-Taie,
Executive Director
Qatar National Research Fund
Qatar Foundation
P.O. Box 5825
Doha, Qatar

Date:

Subject: Commitment Letter for the Student: (Name xxxxx), in Reference to Application Number xxxxxx.

Dear Dr. Al-Taie,

I am writing this letter of commitment on behalf of (enter organization’s legal name), for (enter applicant’s name), with application number xxxxxx, to apply for a fellowship through the Graduate Student Research Award - (enter cycle number) to study (enter program name) at (enter the name of the university).

We are confident that (enter applicant's name) has the discipline required to make a significant commitment of his/her time and energy to successfully complete the above study program.

Furthermore, we confirm that the applicant’s proposed research is highly relevant to (enter organization’s legal name)'s research mission, strategy and objectives.

We are committed to continue paying the salary of (enter applicant’s name) during the course of his/her studies and we look forward to engaging him/her back in the research activities at (enter organization’s legal name), subject to availability, upon successful graduation.

Sincerely,

Name:

Title: (The letter should be signed by a designated person in Human Resources)

Organization:
Appendix 5: Research Focus Areas

1. Energy and Environment
   1.1. Oil & Gas in Qatar (exploration, production and Processing)
      1.1.1. Technologies & processes for safe, economical and environmentally responsible exploration & production of the hydrocarbons
      1.1.2. Technologies related to the processing of oil and gas
      1.1.3. GTL, LNG technologies
      1.1.4. Compression, fractionation, separation, transportation
      1.1.5. Environmental aspect of production and processing of hydrocarbons

   1.2. Solar PV

   1.3. Cooling and Energy Efficiency
      1.3.1. Key driver to reduce costs and CO2 emissions (Cooling has the lion’s share of the energy sector in the GCC 67% of electricity generated is consumed by domestic AC)
      1.3.2. Enhancement of cooling efficiency.
      1.3.3. Process optimization and industrial heat recovery.
      1.3.4. Socio-economic studies

   1.4. Environmental Sustainability
      1.4.1. The Natural Environment: Marine, terrestrial biodiversity, air quality
      1.4.2. The Built Environment: Architecture, Civil engineering, urban planning, mobility, transportation

   1.5. Carbon Capture & Utilization
      1.5.1. CO2 conversion into environmentally friendly useful products
      1.5.2. CO2 Capture & Transportation Technologies
      1.5.3. CO2 Utilization: CO2 as feedstock and CO2 chemical and biological conversion.

   1.6. Water production, storage, re-use and management
      1.6.1. Desalination
      1.6.2. Membrane technologies
      1.6.3. Energy efficiency
      1.6.4. Wastewater treatment reuse, unconventional source of water
      1.6.5. Water quality

   1.7. Advanced Materials for High Added Value Products and Process Industries
      1.7.1. Novel catalyst development, additive manufacturing, and high value polymer products.
      1.7.2. Novel technologies solving corrosion
      1.7.3. High performance materials, e.g. self-healing materials; biologically inspired solutions for energy industry and environment applications.

   1.8. Food Security and Local Food Production
      1.8.1. Producing and protecting local agricultural products (plants, animal and fisheries resources).
      1.8.2. Integration of relevant technologies into agricultural production (Artificial Intelligence and Smart Agriculture).
      1.8.3. Integrate efficient water use, energy into agri-technology for efficient local food production.
      1.8.4. Food safety and genetic enhancement techniques
1.8.5. Strengthening resilience among people and Agrifood systems: Supply Chain, Community Initiative, Policy and Legislation

2. Biomedical and Health Pillar

2.1. Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs) including epidemiological studies, treatments, health economics and policies
   2.1.1. Diabetes.
   2.1.2. Cancer
   2.1.3. Cardiovascular diseases, hypertension, Ischemic heart diseases, congenital heart diseases, rheumatic heart disease, and heart failure.
   2.1.4. Renal diseases: Glomerulonephritis, Kidney Stones, Nephrotic Syndrome, Polycystic Kidney Disease (PKD) and Chronic renal failure.

2.2. Reproductive, Maternal and Child Health including epidemiological studies, treatments, health economics and policies
   2.2.1. National Maternity and Perinatal Research, Neonatal and postneonatal care, High risk pregnancy
   2.2.2. Children with cognitive impairment or abnormal neuropsychological development with focus on: Autism, Attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD), Fragile x- syndrome, Rett syndrome.
   2.2.3. Primary and secondary male and female infertility.

2.3. Mental Health Research
   2.3.1. Eating Disorders and Substance Abuse.
   2.3.2. Anxiety Disorders, Attention Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD/ADD), Bipolar Disorder, Depression.
   2.3.3. Neurodegenerative diseases mainly Alzheimer and Dementia.

2.4. Communicable Diseases (infectious diseases)
   2.4.1. Human viral diseases and Multi-drug resistance (MDR) bacterial diseases,
   2.4.2. Hospital acquired Infection and Control;
   2.4.3. Emerging Infectious Diseases and Recent Outbreaks.

2.5. Precision Medicine
   2.5.1. Immunogenomics and personalized immunotherapeutic approaches
   2.5.2. Clinical implementation of pharmacogenomics
   2.5.3. Multi-omics analysis of cardiovascular diseases
   2.5.4. Precision medicine E-solutions and applications

3. Computer Science and ICT

3.1. Cybersecurity
   3.1.1. Security of Industrial Control Systems
   3.1.2. Threat intelligence and proactive security
   3.1.3. Cybersecurity framework with state level auditing and compliance requirements

3.2. Smart Grids
   3.2.1. Automation architectures and advanced metering infrastructure for active distribution systems
   3.2.2. Electrified Transportation Infrastructure in Harsh Environment
   3.2.3. Modeling and real-time simulation of power grids and interfacing with ICT platforms.
3.3. Big Data Analytics & Artificial Intelligence
   3.3.1. To analyze, predict and provide efficient solutions to emerging issues and challenges to enhance efficiency and performance in different sectors, e.g., Energy, Health, Finance, Industry, Logistics, Sports & Agriculture
   3.3.2. Efficient algorithms and systems for decision making and performance optimization

3.4. Healthtech
   3.4.1. Digital Preventive Care
   3.4.2. Telemedicine

3.5. Smart Cities
   3.5.1. Internet of Things
   3.5.2. Intelligent Transportation Systems

3.6. Next Generation Networks
   3.6.1. Spectrum management and resource optimization
   3.6.2. Self-organizing networks

3.7. Blockchain and applications
   3.7.1. Blockchain and secured Distributed Ledger Technology (DLT) applied to industry: Energy, Healthcare, Finance, Manufacturing, etc.
   3.7.2. Blockchain and data privacy

3.8. High Performance Cloud Computing
   3.8.1. Secure and reliable cloud computing that ensures confidentiality and privacy of data and information.
   3.8.2. High performance computing systems, algorithms and optimized software for:
      o Engineering
      o Life Science
      o Weather, Climatology, Earth Science
      o Material Science, Chemistry, Nanoscience
      o Elementary particle physics, Plasma physics

4. Social Sciences, Arts and Humanities

4.1. Lifestyle and Quality of Life
   4.1.1. Cyber crime
   4.1.2. Bullying
   4.1.3. Risk youth behavior
   4.1.4. Health life style.

4.2. Cultural Identity and the Development of Human Potential
   4.2.1. Gender equality
   4.2.2. Contemporary issues in Islam
   4.2.3. Role of media in society
   4.2.4. Population growth
   4.2.5. Labour and regulation
4.3. **Economic Diversification and Sustainability**
   4.3.1. Policy and programmes for the realization of diversification goals.
   4.3.2. Diversification in the economic sectors & ensures sustainability.
   4.3.3. Economy diversification.
   4.3.4. SMEs; Entrepreneurship; Financial Technology and Business regulations

4.4. **Educational Outcomes**
   4.4.1. STEM Education
   4.4.2. Teacher development
   4.4.3. Early childhood education

4.5. **Population growth and sustainability**
   4.5.1. Aging
   4.5.2. Migration
   4.5.3. Population dynamics

4.6. **Family Studies**
   4.6.1. Family cohesion, marriage and divorce:
   4.6.2. Families at risk:
   4.6.3. Parenthood: Social policy research related to families

4.7. **Gulf and Regional Studies**
   4.7.1. Gulf studies
   4.7.2. International relations of the Gulf