

# Belmont Forum and JPI-Climate Climate Services Collaborative Research Actions on Climate Predictability And Inter-Regional Linkages

## National Annex: [Qatar](#)

**Partners:** This call is supported by [Qatar National Research Fund \(QNRF\)](#)

**Notice:** Depending on all conditions of eligibility and peer review being met, the budget earmarked [[collectively](#)] by QNRF for this call will be up to US\$[2,100,000](#) (according to exchange rates at time of funding).

The official national call announcement for [Qatar](#) has been published on the [QNRF](#) website. Details of the call and the application process are provided via the QNRF website (Joint funding research programs section). Applicants are advised to contact their National Contact Point before beginning to prepare proposals for application. For [Qatar](#) enquiries please see below.

**Eligibility and national funding modalities:** For Qatar-based researchers follow the QNRF funding requirements/eligibility for research and development projects<sup>1</sup> as provided in Appendices I and II of this document. Key components of eligibility and national funding modalities may be summarized as follows:

- Only Institutions inside Qatar with an approved Research Office are eligible to submit proposals.
- Applicants must be residents of Qatar.
- Proposals aligned with topics 1, 2 and 3 as described in the call are eligible for QNRF funding.
- Maximum project duration is up to three years, with the possibility of up to one year no-cost extension, if justified
- QNRF will fund up to US\$700 000 per proposal (up to US\$233,333 per year)
- Applicants can increase the amount of investments in projects. Program will require proposers to find matching funds through co-funding and cost-share from the participating institutions and industry collaborators. Matching funds must be a minimum of 100% of total allowable costs required from QNRF.
- QNRF fund recipients will follow the Qatar Foundation (QF) IP policy.
- QNRF retains the exclusive right to make final award decision for QNRF funds.
- If none of the proposals are found suitable for award, QNRF will have the discretion not to make any award.

It is expected that applications to this call will be Collaborative Research Grants with the consortium composition as defined in the call document, and [QNRF](#) will fund the [Qatar-based](#) partners of any successful trans-national collaboration.

### National Contact Points:

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Qatar National Research Fund (QNRF)

Qatar Foundation, Doha, Qatar

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<sup>1</sup> General term used to describe individual grant awards made to the principal investigators by QNRF.

## Appendix I: QNRF Funding Requirements

### Eligible Countries and Institutions

1. For Qatar-based institutions, only institutions with QNRF approved **Research Offices** (ROs<sup>2</sup>) are eligible to submit proposals.
2. Only ROs located inside Qatar are eligible to register at any time with QNRF at <https://oss.qnrfsubmission.org/>.
3. Submissions should be within the research area(s) of the submitting institutions as declared by the approved ROs.
4. The institution of the Lead Principal Investigator (LPI<sup>3</sup>) from Qatar will be considered the **submitting Institution**<sup>4</sup>.
5. Institutions other than the submitting institutions will be considered as **collaborating institutions**<sup>5</sup>.

### Eligibility of Participants

1. The Applicant must be affiliated with an approved institution inside Qatar.
2. The Applicant must be resident of Qatar<sup>6</sup>.
3. Part of collaboration team must be led by a Qatar-based LPI who submits the research proposal on behalf of the collaborating team in Qatar.
4. A LPI must hold a PhD or any of the approved terminal degrees listed in Appendix II, and have at least five peer-reviewed scientific publications in research areas relevant to this call for application.
5. An LPI may collaborate with multiple investigators and they will be designated as Principal Investigators (PIs<sup>7</sup>) coming from either the submitting institution or other collaborating institutions in Qatar. A PI should hold a PhD or any of the approved terminal degrees as listed in Appendix II.
6. LPIs from Qatar must be employed by a QNRF approved Qatar-based institution and residing in Qatar for the duration of the project award period.
7. Each LPI and PI is eligible to submit and participate in only one research proposal in this call for application.
8. Post-doctoral scholars<sup>8</sup>, graduate students, research associates, research assistants and undergraduate students, from submitting and/or collaborating institutions, are

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<sup>2</sup> The department within the submitting institution responsible for vetting submitted research proposals and administering awarded research projects. Vetting is an administrative procedure required from the Awardee's RO prior to submitting any proposal, reports and requests to QNRF, through which the RO confirms the accuracy of submitted information and confirms its compliance with the Awardee's policies and procedures and those of the call.

<sup>3</sup> Lead Principal Investigator (LPI): An LPI is the Principal Investigator (PI) who is identified in the research proposal as the leader and manager of the research team in Qatar and who has the ultimate responsibility for all administrative and programmatic aspects of Qatar's portion of the proposed project, in addition to his/her research role. For proposals with a single PI, he/she is, by default, considered to be the LPI.

<sup>4</sup> Submitting institution is a research institution registered inside the State of Qatar that has appropriate research resources specialized in area(s) within the Qatar National Research Strategy and is responsible for submitting research proposals to QNRF. Once awarded, such an entity will be termed as the Awardee.

<sup>5</sup> Collaborating institutions are research institution inside the State of Qatar collaborating with the submitting institution in conducting the research proposal. Once awarded, it will be termed as a sub-awardee

<sup>6</sup> Resident of Qatar refers to the status of an individual who has a contract with an institution and, in addition for expatriates, a work visa in the state of Qatar valid for the entire period of the proposal.

<sup>7</sup> The person designated on the research proposal as a principal individual involved in the scientific development and in the execution of a project.

<sup>8</sup> Post-doctoral scholar: An individual who has received a doctoral degree (or equivalent) and is engaged in a temporary and defined period of mentored advanced training to enhance the professional skills and research independence needed to pursue his or her chosen career path.

considered Research Team members and are eligible to participate in only one research proposal in this call. (For any other unlisted role, the nearest applicable role should be chosen).

9. A Graduate Student (GS<sup>9</sup>) is eligible to participate in this call provided that he/she is enrolled in a higher education degree program at the submitting or collaborating institution in Qatar and that the research activities are related to the GS's degree program.
10. If necessary, the LPI may include undergraduate students as Research Team members under the "Undergraduate Student" roles on the online submission website, provided that their participation would comply with their institution's policies. Each undergraduate student shall not participate for more than 16 hours per week in the awarded project activities.
11. Authorized Research Office Representatives (ARORs) and other members of the Research Offices are NOT eligible to participate as team members in the proposed project.

#### **Applicants Participation in other QNRF Programs**

1. Each LPI is eligible to participate as an LPI in up to three QNRF projects (including NPRP) in all on-going cycles, excluding projects to be completed before the announcement of results of this call.
2. PI is eligible to participate in up to three QNRF projects, excluding projects to be completed before the announcement of results of this call.
3. The count of individual's participation in any QNRF projects as LPI, PI, or consultants in all on-going cycles of QNRF programs, should not exceed six roles, excluding projects to be completed before the announcement of results of this call.
4. LPIs are expected to optimize the services of their own institution to the maximum extent possible in managing and performing the project's effort. If the need for consultant<sup>10</sup> services is anticipated, the nature of the proposed consultant services must be justified and included in the proposal.
5. QNRF reserves the right to reduce the number of roles based on previous research performance.

#### **Budget Categories**

1. Budget categories constitute the overall budget of an awarded project. The budget categories include "personnel category", "capital equipment, materials, consumables and supplies category", "travel category", "miscellaneous category" and the "indirect cost category<sup>11</sup>."
2. Expenses related directly to the performance of the project research activities are called direct costs. Direct cost includes the "Personnel" cost, the "Equipment" cost, the "Travel" cost and the "Miscellaneous" cost.

#### **Budget Allocation**

3. 100% of the proposed QNRF funded portion of research budget must be expended inside Qatar.

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<sup>9</sup> A graduate student (GS) is a student enrolled for a graduate degree in a university and engaged in research that is in direct fulfillment of a requirement for that degree

<sup>10</sup> Consultant's Compensation: A consultant's daily compensation rate should not exceed the daily rates of the PI's involved in the project and of similar experience, and the LPI is required to provide justification regarding the cost allocated to the consultant. Consultant is an experienced individual that is trained to advise the research team in order to help making the best possible choices during execution of the research project. Consultants generally only offer advice or propose solutions to problems, but they do not act as a key investigator such as designing, conducting, or reporting on research. A consultant cannot have any claim on intellectual property related to the project. A consultant requires little or no guidance in providing input.

<sup>11</sup> Indirect cost is institutional expenses that are not readily identified with a research project implementation, yet necessary for the general support of this project by the institution where it is being performed.

4. Compensation of the Research Team can be charged towards the project pro-rata to their effort in person-days and rates as officially recorded.
5. Research Team members may use grant funds to buy out their time from other duties, such as teaching or service requirements, as per the policies of their institutions.
6. A GS is eligible to receive no more than US\$40,000 for salary and tuition per year, which should be pro rata to the percentage of the effort.
7. The budget request should include the anticipated number of GSs at the time of application.
8. For a GS of a Qatar Institution who is conducting his/her research outside Qatar on this call at foreign research partner's institution, his/her compensation regarding tuition and salaries may be allocated from the budget of the submitting or collaborating institution inside Qatar.
9. A GS from foreign research partners, who travels to Qatar to conduct his/her research is eligible for compensation for travel, accommodation, and other related expenses from the budget of the submitting institution only if he/she spends a minimum period of three consecutive months in Qatar.
10. Graduate students and post-doctoral scholars who are awarded tuition from any other QNRF funding programs are not eligible to receive fund from this program.
11. Compensation for an undergraduate student's effort may not exceed US\$15 per hour (i.e. US\$120 per day).
12. The LPI's organization must perform a greater percentage of the planned R&D than any individual team member or sub-awardee<sup>12/13</sup>.

#### **Equipment/Consumables and Supplies**

1. Capital Equipment: defined as items having a useful life of more than one year and a unit acquisition cost of greater than US\$ 5,000 and which is part of the approved budget.
2. Materials, Consumables, and Supplies: defined as items that are necessary to carry out the project with unit acquisition cost of less than US\$ 5,000. This includes associated materials for running the equipment as well as the purchase of data sets which include data compiled by a third party or acquired through services or surveys.
3. QNRF requires the LPI to provide information about the specifications, estimated price and purpose of equipment to be purchased in the project's budget justification.
4. Procurement of equipment must be in accordance with the submitting institution's procurement procedures.

#### **Travel Cost**

1. Travel cost shall not exceed 10% of the Qatar partner institution total budget.
2. All travel costs charged to the grant must comply with QNRF travel policy, which is available at [www.qnrf.org/en-us/Funding/Policies-Rules-and-Regulations/Travel-Policy](http://www.qnrf.org/en-us/Funding/Policies-Rules-and-Regulations/Travel-Policy)
3. All travel costs for consultants must be paid by the awardee institution and are not reimbursable from the QNRF grant.
4. The travel cost is restricted to only the following items:
  - *Ticket Cost*
  - *Accommodation Cost*
  - *Per Diem*

#### **Miscellaneous Costs**

1. Includes publication, communication, translation, repair and maintenance of equipment and other costs. Miscellaneous costs are not to exceed 5% of the Qatar partner institution total budget.

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<sup>12</sup> A research institution inside the State of Qatar that is collaborating with the Awardee under its responsibility to conduct the research project as identified in the original research proposal.

<sup>13</sup> Awardee is a "Submitting Institution" awarded grant(s) from QNRF and is a party to the Master Research Funding Agreement.

2. A list of non-allowable costs is available at: see [www.qnrf.org/funding\\_programs/download\\_center](http://www.qnrf.org/funding_programs/download_center)

### **Indirect Costs**

1. Indirect costs are determined based upon an approved percentage against the direct costs.
2. Indirect costs shall not exceed a total of 20% of the Qatar partner institution annual direct costs.

### **Co-funding and Cost-Share**

1. Co-funding is funding in whole or in part, from a third party, other than QNRF or Qatar Foundation, for the same research project. Co-funding may come from institutions or industry other than a submitting or collaborating institution.
2. Cost-share is funding in whole or in part from submitting institution and collaborating institutions, other than QNRF or Qatar Foundation for the same research project.
3. Co-funding and cost-share can be in the form of equipment, facility, training, in-kind, or cash support.
4. The total amount of cost-share, including the expected structure of contributions, should be clearly described in the application.
5. Co-funding and cost-share from the participating institutions are required and must be a minimum of 100% of total allowable costs required from QNRF.
6. QNRF funding, co-funding, and cost-share funds by Qatar Applicants must be separately tracked and utilized.

### **Intellectual Property Policy**

1. Intellectual Property (IP) is defined as all intellectual property rights, of any kind or nature throughout the world, whether existing now or in the future, including without limitation rights with respect to (i) inventions (whether or not patentable and whether or not reduced to practice), designs, patents and patent applications; (ii) trademarks and service marks together with all goodwill associated therewith and worldwide registrations, applications and renewals related thereto; (iii) copyrights, copyrightable works (in whatever form or medium), and all registrations, applications and renewals for any of the foregoing; (iv) trade secrets, data, database rights, and confidential information; and (v) all claims, causes of action and remedies of any kind related to the foregoing.
2. QNRF will follow the Qatar Foundation (QF) IP policy. Information provided at QNRF website may be reviewed for details on the applicable intellectual property policy [http://qnrf.org/about\\_qnrf/intellectual\\_property\\_policy/](http://qnrf.org/about_qnrf/intellectual_property_policy/).

### **Research Ethics and Compliance**

1. Qatar based Applicants must commit to follow QNRF's Research Ethic's Guide

### **Proposal Evaluation and Funding Decision.**

1. Prior to comprehensive review of the full proposal, QNRF will perform an initial screening and review to ensure (i) applicant is eligible for award; (iii) all mandatory requirements are satisfied;
2. QNRF may test submitted full proposals involving Qatar partners for plagiarism and misrepresentation; and may refer the matter to the RO of the submitting institution for further investigation and actions. If any proposal or report is found to be plagiarized or misrepresented, it will be disqualified for a QNRF grant.
3. QNRF retains the exclusive right to make final award decision for QNRF funds.
4. If none of the proposals are found suitable for award, QNRF have the discretion not to make any award.

### **Pre-Funding<sup>14</sup>**

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<sup>14</sup> Is the period that comes after the announcement of awards where all the awarded proposals will be in pending status, until they provide all the required documents and budget reductions within 8 weeks before they proceed to the signing of the Master Research Funding Agreement

1. Awarded proposals will go through a pre-funding stage, which starts after the award announcement. For awarded proposals, QNRF reserves the right to reduce the total budget requested by the LPI, based on the recommendations of the reviewers and QNRF staff. In this case, the timeline and the budget submitted will be made available for the LPI to modify them accordingly. Therefore, QNRF requires the LPI to provide justification for each budget item.

#### **Fund Management**

1. For funded proposals, grants will be managed as per the terms and conditions set forth in the Master Research Funding Agreement (MRFA), as well as the Award Management Guide (AMG) - a consolidated document that contains all the necessary information on the post-award (reporting, change request, payment schedules, etc.) valid on the call for full proposals is announced. The MRFA and AMG will be made available during the call for full proposals.

#### **Compliance with applicable law and policies**

1. The Awardee shall comply with all applicable laws of Qatar and other countries in which a project is conducted including, but not limited to, policies governing research involving human subjects set by Qatar's SCH, the relevant national and international export controls and regulations governing the transfer of technology and technical data and with its own policies and procedures.

#### **Reporting**

1. Reporting procedures will include scientific, administrative and financial aspects. The scientific reporting procedures will require participation of the LPI to kick-off and review meetings upon request of QNRF.
2. Deliverables will include: Annual progress, final reports<sup>15</sup>, public reports, research data, and research outcome.

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<sup>15</sup> Refers to the last report to be submitted by the Awardee ninety (90) days following the Project End Date.

## **Appendix II: Approved list of terminal degrees**

Terminal Academic Research Degree: in academic fields the typical terminal degree is the PhD (or doctorate).

### **Typical list of terminal academic research degrees include:**

Doctor of Arts (DA)  
Doctor of Business Administration (DBA)  
Doctor of Canon Law (JCD)  
Doctor of Design (DDes)  
Doctor of Education (Edd)  
Doctor of Engineering (DEng/Dr. Eng./Engd)  
Doctor of Information Technology (DIT)  
Doctor of Laws (LLD) (In the USA, the LLD is only awarded as an honorary degree)  
Doctor of Juridical Science (JSD/SJD) (In the USA)  
Doctor of Management (DM)  
Doctor of Medicine (MD, in the USA)  
Doctor of Music (DMus)  
Doctor of Musical Arts (DMA)  
Doctor of Philosophy (PhD or DPhil)  
Doctor of Professional Studies (DPS)  
Doctor of Science (DSc)  
Doctor of Social Science (DSocSci)  
Doctor of Public Health (DrPH, DPH)  
Doctor of Theology (Thd or DTh)

### **Other Approved Terminal Degrees:**

Master of Fine Arts (MFA)  
Master of Library and Information Science (MLIS)  
Master of Library Science (MLS)  
Master of Architecture (MArch)  
Master of Design (MDes)  
Master of Landscape Architecture (MLA)  
Master of Urban Design (MUD)  
Master of Product Design (MPD)