

Sector briefing

Education & Training Opportunities in Qatar

Why Qatar?

Qatar is investing significant amounts into education at all levels. The country's hydrocarbon-fuelled economy has provided the means to rapidly develop an evolving education system with the necessary resources by committing a substantial amount of money and brainpower towards providing free, quality education to citizens for decades. The government continues to invest heavily in its efforts to turn its vision into a reality. Education has been allocated QR19.3bn (£3.3bn) in the 2011/12 national budget.

The State education system in Qatar is free at all levels for Qatari citizens. With the establishment of an Independent Schools System, English has become the medium of education.

In order to fulfil the vision of the education leadership the government created the Supreme Education Council (SEC) as part of the first stage of an ongoing restructuring effort and a nationwide initiative known as 'Education for a New Era.' The SEC is responsible for education policy and setting broad and comprehensive goals for the school system. Under SEC, a new school system known as The Independent School Model was introduced. With the introduction of National



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Curriculum Standards, education has moved away from the traditional methods of rote learning towards a more analytical, problem-solving approach, with English being the medium of instruction.

The mission of the current education system is to make schools and classrooms an exciting place to learn; to encourage all students to make the most of their talents; to hold schools measurably accountable to high performance standards; and to nourish faith, values, and national aspirations.

In November 2007, the SEC launched another ambitious project called The Outstanding Private Schools Project. This was designed to encourage international private schools to open branches in Qatar. Schools who wish to set up under this project would benefit from a number of incentives that have been introduced by a Committee which was formed for this task. So far, two international schools from the UK have joined the programme. The SEC is looking to attract 2-3 international schools to open branch campuses in Qatar over a five-year period. But at the moment only 3 international schools (two from the UK) have joined the programme.

At the present Qatar operates a dual system in terms of primary, preparatory and secondary schools. The SEC is responsible for directing academic reform at all levels as Qatar works towards its desire for the K-12 education system to meet international standards.

The higher education sector in Qatar consists of the University of Qatar which started life in 1977, and Qatar Foundation's Education City which has partnership agreements with a number of world class universities.

Qatar Foundation

In 1995 Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani, the Amir of the State of Qatar, founded Qatar Foundation, a non-profit organisation in charge of the ongoing development of higher education. Qatar Foundation focuses on education, scientific research and community development. Under the Qatar Foundation's umbrella is the Education City which houses branch campuses for six American universities, one French university and one UK university (UCL-Q). Another key organisation under Qatar Foundation is the Qatar Science &

Technology Park, which has more than 21 companies involved in scientific research and development. One of these is the Imperial College Robotics Surgery Centre.

In 2009, Qatar Foundation launched another initiative on innovative education called The World Innovation Summit for Education (WISE). The focus of WISE is to encourage innovative solutions not achieved by traditional education.

Qatar Foundation has also established an organisation called Qatar National Research Fund (QNRF). QNRF encourages and funds research and development in areas of interest to the State of Qatar. Under QNRF, funding is available to individual researchers, schools and universities in partnership with Qatar-based organisations.

Qatar has made it a priority to become a leader in the Gulf in terms of higher education. Education is one of the sectors that are exempt in the Foreign Investment Law from the need to have a local Qatari partner or sponsor in order to set up in Qatar.

Skills

Qatarisation puts huge pressure on citizens to perform, but many simply lack the proper skills set. A significant focus in a wider national strategy, known as Qatar Vision 2030, is being given to up-skilling Qatari males and females to compete for better employment opportunities in energy and industry sectors and the introduction of many initiatives and changes to improve the image of vocational education in the minds of Qatari citizens.

To support the Vision, the Supreme Education Council has introduced vocational education standards. It has also set up, in partnership with Qatar Central Bank, a secondary independent school for commerce and finance. Industry-focused vocational training has also been given momentum through setting up specialised vocational training centres such as Qatar Independent Technical School, Qatar Petroleum Training Centre, College of North Atlantic, Institute of Administrative Development and The Community College of Qatar (CCQ) which has opened its doors in September 2010 to meet the current and emergent needs of the Qatar educational labour market needs. The creation of

Community College Project under SEC has become as part of 2030 National Vision. The Community College provides students with post-secondary vocational education and job training that could lead to pursuing a university bachelor's degree or a career in the industry upon graduation.

Education has also become an integral part of the activities of some big companies in Qatar as part of their social responsibility. A major developer, Msheireb Properties, have recently launched 'Green Schools Programme' where schools are encouraged to adopt green best practices. The programme aims to reach, inspire and reward students and schools based on their eco-conscious activities. Doha Bank and UNESCO have also launched a similar programme recently, Eco-Schools Programme, aimed at encouraging and supporting implementation of good environmental practices, reduction of the carbon footprint and increased Eco-consciousness.

Find general information on the Qatar market conditions on [UKTI's website](#). The [Doing Business Guide for Qatar](#) gives an overview of Qatar's economy, business culture, potential opportunities and an introduction to other relevant issues.

Opportunities

Qatar is an excellent market for English language courses and demand for English language courses in the UK is high and continues to grow. The further education sector is also growing for Qataris. Opportunities in the education sector include those associated with new privately funded schools; taking part in the Outstanding Private Schools Project; setting up new international schools; teacher professional development training; curriculum design and standards; innovative teaching/learning methodologies, pedagogy and equipment; school furniture; and learning difficulties. The awarding bodies that should be approached for these opportunities are the Supreme Education Council, The Higher Education Institute, the Evaluation Institute and the Outstanding Schools Oversight Committee. There is also an increasing demand by corporate companies for various training modules that would help them perform well in an increasingly competitive market.

If you have any questions on the opportunities above, contact the UKTI contacts named in this report. Business opportunities aimed specifically at UK companies are added daily to UKTI's website. These leads are sourced by our staff overseas in British Embassies, High Commissions and Consulates, across all sectors and in over 100 markets.

You can be alerted to business opportunities on a regular basis by registering on the UKTI website. [Find out more on UKTI's business opportunities service on the UKTI website.](#)

Major events and activities

Events in Qatar

WISE Qatar
1-3 Nov 2011

Corporate Training MV
Dec 2011

Connect the World Arab summit
Dec 2011

UKTI Education Exhibition (tbc)
Feb 2012

Events in the UK

BETT 2012, London
www.bettshow.com
11-14 Jan 2012

Education Show, Birmingham
www.educationshow.com
15-17 March 2012

Events in the Region

Gulf Educational Supplies & Solutions (GESS), Dubai
www.gesseducation.com
28 Feb-1 March 2012

Find full details of all events in this country and sector on the UKTI website. New export events are added daily to the site and [you can register to be alerted to them](#) on a daily, weekly or monthly basis

UKTI's Tradeshow Access Programme (TAP) provides grant support for eligible Small & Medium Sized Enterprises (SMEs) to attend trade shows overseas. Find out more about [UKTI support](#) for attendance at overseas events.

UKTI contacts

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Next steps - How UKTI can help

British companies wishing to develop their business in the Qatari market are advised to undertake as much market research and planning as possible in the UK. UKTI's team in Qatar with its wide local knowledge and experience, can provide a range of services to British-based companies wishing to grow their business in global markets.

This can include:

- Provision of market information
- Validated lists of agents/distributors
- Key market players or potential customers in the Qatari market
- Establishment of interest of such contacts in working with you
- Arranging appointments
- Organise seminars or other events for you to meet contacts and promote your company in the Qatari market

This work is available via our [Overseas Market Introduction Service \(OMIS\)](#) a chargeable service which assists British-based companies wishing to enter or expand their business in overseas markets.

To find out more about commissioning this work, or accessing other UKTI services and specialist advice, please visit the UKTI website to find [contact details for your local UKTI office](#)

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