

WittKieffer

POSITION SPECIFICATION



عضو في مؤسسة قطر
Member of Qatar Foundation

VICE PRESIDENT FOR RESEARCH

HAMAD BIN KHALIFA UNIVERSITY (HBKU)



THE ORGANISATION

Hamad Bin Khalifa University (HBKU)

Hamad Bin Khalifa University (HBKU) is a research and graduate studies university that acts as a catalyst for positive transformation in Qatar and the region while having a global impact. A member of Qatar Foundation for Education, Science, and Community Development (QF), HBKU was founded in 2010. Established as a home-grown university, HBKU, along with eight international partners, have set a new standard for higher education in Qatar and the region. HBKU is an emerging research university, building its foundation upon innovation and entrepreneurship. HBKU aspires to impact the community in a manner that will support the transformation and development of Qatar.

Under the leadership of QF's founders, board, and senior management, Qatar Foundation has shaped the nation's development through the creation of diverse centers of excellence and by leveraging partnerships with leading international and domestic institutions, such as Weill Cornell Medicine-Qatar, Texas A&M University at Qatar, Georgetown University at Qatar, Carnegie Mellon University at Qatar, and HEC Paris at Qatar as well as recently established national research centers like Qatar Biomedical Research Institute and Qatar Environment and Energy Research Institute. Sidra Medicine works closely with academic partners like Weill-Cornell Medicine in Qatar (WCM-Q) and Qatar University (QU) as well as other health and research institutions like Hamad Medical Corporation (HMC), Primary Health Care Corporation (PHCC) and Qatar Biobank in regard to all three missions – raising the standard of healthcare throughout the country and providing valuable opportunities for research and learning. QF is now home to over 4600 students and 4000 staff, including faculty and researchers. HBKU is located within the thriving and unique innovation hub of Education City, which has shaped QF as a leading innovator on the global stage.

HBKU seeks to provide unparalleled opportunities where inquiry and discovery are integral to teaching and learning at all levels utilizing a multidisciplinary approach across all focus areas. HBKU is committed to building and cultivating human capacity through an enriching academic experience and an innovative research ecosystem. Through applying creativity to knowledge, students will have the opportunity to discover innovative solutions that are locally relevant and have a global impact.

The University is characterized by its first-class integrated academic research programs in areas critical to the future of Qatar and its research productivity. This is achieved through supporting the diversification of the economy, developing indigenous technologies for further development and commercialization by entrepreneurs and graduating students from its academic programs tailored to Qatar's strategic economic and cultural needs.

It has been positioned to establish and develop its capabilities as a future international leader in:

- Innovative academic and research programs.
- Thought-leading approaches to higher education and its delivery.
- Multidisciplinary partnership/affiliation models with renowned international institutions of strategic relevance and impact.

HBKU is comprised of six colleges and three research institutes which comprise the intellectual and scholarly makeup of the University.

The Colleges include:

College of Humanities and Social Sciences (CHSS): Established with a vision to enrich society in Qatar and across the wider world with transformative educational experiences that bridge disciplinary boundaries and offer the academic community opportunities to engage in innovative research and collaboration organized through four research clusters:

Language, Meditation and Inclusion; gender, Knowledge and Power; Digital Humanities and Computational Social Sciences; and Arabic Language and Multilingual Terminology Management.

College of Science and Engineering (CSE): Currently offers the largest selection of programs within the University in the fields of science, engineering and technology with a focus on an integrated multi-disciplinary curriculum and research in science and engineering. It has established three divisions: Division of Information and Computing Technology, Division of Sustainable Development, and Division of Engineering Management and Decisions Sciences.

College of Law (CL): Offers the MENA region's first Juris Doctor program, preparing leaders who can manage multifaceted relationships that span across different legal systems and who have a command of a wide range of skills.

College of Health and Life Sciences (CHLS): A new college founded to educate the future leaders in the field of health and life sciences, the science of preventing disease, prolonging life, and promoting health through concerted efforts by society and individuals.

College of Islamic Studies (CIS): Serves as a hub for contemporary Islamic studies that promotes dialogue on ideas concerning Islam. CIS offers five graduate degree programs and houses several distinguished research centers that bring together scholars and thought leaders from around the world.

College of Public Policy (CPP): The newest college launched by HBKU to reflect the priority the University places on supporting and contributing to effective policy development towards implementation of the Qatar National Vision 2030.

The Research Institutes include:



Qatar Biomedical Research Institute (QBRI): Founded in 2012, the Institute is a global hub for biomedical and translational research. It aims to improve and transform healthcare through innovation in prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of diseases affecting the Qatari population and the region, with the aim of improving personalized medicine and healthcare. The Institute addresses the Qatar National Health priorities outlined in the Qatar National Research Strategy through its dedicated research centers – the Translational Cancer and Immunity Center (TCIC), Diabetes Research Center (DRC) and Neurological Disorders Research Center (NDRC). QBRI boasts seven state-of-the-art core facilities including stem cells, genomics, proteomics, structural biology, flow cytometry, advanced microscopy and imaging, and clinical research core. The Institute works toward the development of novel biomarkers, and diagnostic and therapeutic solutions to facilitate early diagnosis, treatment, and management of select diseases and improve personalized medicine and healthcare.

Qatar Computing Research Institute (QCRI): Established in 2010 and focused on tackling large-scale computing challenges that address national priorities for growth and development. In doing this, QCRI conducts world-class multidisciplinary computing research that is relevant to the needs of Qatar, the wider Arab region and the world. The institution performs cutting-edge research in such areas as Arabic language technologies, social computing, data analytics and cyber security.

Qatar Environment and Energy Research Institute (QEERI): Conducts and coordinates long-term and multidisciplinary research that addresses critical national priorities related to water security, energy, and environment. The research is conducted at QEERI's world class facilities, which include Core Labs, Micro-and Nano-Fabrication Labs, and a 35,000 square meter Outdoor Test Facility.



THE POSITION

Research is integral to Hamad Bin Khalifa University's mission to help build human capacity in Qatar, playing a pivotal role in HBKU's academic programs across all its colleges.

The Vice President for Research will lead the formulation and implementation of a research strategy that establishes HBKU as a leading research center of excellence in line with QF's Strategy refresh and Qatar 2030 vision. The incumbent is responsible for establishing and promoting interdisciplinary and collaborative research initiatives and ensuring proper coordination, infrastructure and support for all research programs and activities carried out under the HBKU portfolio.

The position entails direct supervision over the Qatar Biomedical Research Institute (QBRI), Qatar Computing Research Institute (QCRI), and Qatar Environment and Energy Research Institute (QEERI). The three institutes collectively employ 398 staff members, scientists, and researchers. Direct reports to the VPR include the Executive Directors of the research institutes (QBRI, QCRI and QEERI), Associate Vice President of Research, and functional offices related to Research, Grant Management, Laboratory Facilities and Research Infrastructure. The Vice President of Research reports to the President of HBKU. The Deans of Colleges work closely with the Vice President of Research, however, report directly to the Provost.

Other working relationships include HBKU departments such as Finance, HR, Materials and Contracts, among others, as needed to secure resources and information. External working relationships include partners on matters relating to research partnerships and for networking and information sharing, as well as national and governmental agencies to obtain approvals, establish research compliance protocols, and meet reporting requirements.

Responsibilities:

- Play a visionary role in establishing HBKU as a research-led university.
- Provide strategic vision for HBKU's research enterprise.
- Direct and guide the University's research mission, contributing to the research agenda and policies.
- Set and confirm commitment to research policies and regulations.
- Promote interdisciplinary and cross-disciplinary research, integrating research and academia.
- Establish collaborative research partnerships between the University stakeholders at the local, national, regional, and international levels.
- Design, lead and facilitate a robust and effective structure for promoting, planning, administering, and supporting all modes and methods of research, innovation, scholarship, and creative activities both of individuals, researchers and faculty across the University.
- Support the continuous development of HBKU's research infrastructure.
- Lead the institution's research establishment and foster innovation and excellence in research across all disciplines.
- Develop and maintain a culture of research in HBKU by providing opportunities for researchers, faculty, and students to advance their research careers, through advice on research, offering a forum for professional research practice, publishing research, and sharing knowledge.
- Work closely with Faculty, Deans, Branch Campuses, Program Partners and Senior Leadership to establish collaborative research priorities and themes across disciplines that will positively impact on Qatar's society and regional development.
- Work closely with the research scientists and engineers within the Institutes.
- Develop research programs and research directions to promote and enhance the University's contribution of new knowledge and the national and international standing of HBKU.

- Garner systematic input from the research community to develop and implement strategies to continuously improve research programs and infrastructure.
- Advise the senior management on matters of university research policy, vision, strategic planning and longrange budgeting, and prepare annual operational plans and budgets for all matters pertaining to the University's research support and infrastructure activities.
- Represent and advocate HBKU both nationally and internationally and develop strong working relationships with national and international businesses, industries and granting agencies for the purpose of knowledge transfer.
- Organize and participate in forums, conferences and colloquiums to share knowledge and advance the research agenda and attract world-class researchers to HBKU.
- Identify grant opportunities and support the preparation of major grant applications.
- Promote collaboration between teaching and research and work closely with the Provost and the Deans to ensure that a university-wide perspective is brought to bear on the interaction between research and teaching.
- Provide external agencies, corporations and foundations with information on the research, training, and service capabilities of the University. In particular, work with the Director of Alumni Affairs, the Provost, and the Deans in identifying and establishing liaisons with corporations and foundations that will provide support for basic and applied research at HBKU.
- Support the Executive Director of Innovation and Industrial Relations for the commercialization of basic research ideas and intellectual property into a broad-based economic development approach and optimize the intellectual property opportunities arising from research undertaken in HBKU.
- Perform other tasks and duties that may be required from time to time in order to meet the requirements of the role and the aims of the University .

THE PERSON

Candidate Qualifications

Candidates will have the following experiences and skills:

- Experience at Professor rank, having previously held senior academic administrative position of Dean or Department Head.
- Successful record of scholarship, funded research and publications.
- Ability to lead and work with diverse groups, cultures, and communities.
- Leadership of multi-disciplinary research/development institutions and in national and international research establishments.
- Knowledge of national and international research agendas and enterprises.
- Successful interaction with government agencies and the corporate sector.
- An understanding of contemporary high-quality models of higher education and the development of research infrastructure.
- Leadership and innovation in the development and commercialization of research outcomes and knowledge of technology transfer issues and economic development activities.

- An understanding of budgeting in a complex environment, grants and contracts administration, and strategic planning with accountability measures.
- Familiarity with patenting and licensing.
- Outstanding writing skills with the ability to draft and edit a variety of written reports and communications and to articulate ideas clearly and concisely. Arabic proficiency is an advantage.

Education

- PhD degree from an accredited University with other academic credentials appropriate for the role.
- Minimum 15 years of Post Doctorate experience with 10 years at senior management level with increasing managerial responsibilities for Research affairs.

Personal characteristics

- The successful individual is expected to have excellent leadership skills, with the ability to provide strategic leadership, inspire others, and effectively manage research initiatives and teams within the university.
- Ability to foster collaborations and build trust by creating a supportive research ecosystem. Building and nurturing partnerships with faculty, researchers, industry partners, government agencies, and other stakeholders is vital.
- A commitment to research excellence and a drive to elevate the quality and impact of research initiatives within the university.
- An individual of the highest integrity with high levels of energy, maturity and flexibility and a reputation for inclusiveness.
- Exceptional communication skills to engage internal and external stakeholders for resources and support.
- Creative, agile and tenacious to navigate through changing circumstances and overcome obstacles.
- Proactive seeker of knowledge and pioneer of disruptive innovation.



HOW TO APPLY

Initial contact should be made with WittKieffer, the executive search firm exclusively engaged to assist with the appointment.

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