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CONVOCATION

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**CONVOCATION** Class of 2015 praised by His Highness Sheikh Hamad Bin Khalifa Al Thani, the Father Amir

## A source of pride for Qatar

**YOUNG** people whose education at Qatar Foundation (QF) has empowered them to realize their dreams were given words of inspiration by His Highness Sheikh Hamad Bin Khalifa Al Thani, the Father Amir, the Founder of Qatar Foundation, as he attended QF's Convocation 2015.

The annual ceremony celebrates the achievements of graduates of Hamad bin Khalifa University (HBKU) and QF partner universities as they enter the next stage of their journey.

Held on 5 May 2015 at Qatar National Convention Centre, in the presence of Her Highness Sheikha Moza bint Nasser, Chairperson and Co-Founder of Qatar Foundation; Her Excellency Sheikha Hind bint Hamad Al Thani, Vice Chairperson, Qatar Foundation; and Her Excellency Sheikha Al Mayassa bint Hamad Al Thani, Chairperson, Qatar Museums Authority, Convocation was attended by senior QF figures, along with His Excellency Abdelilah Benkirane, Prime Minister of Morocco, other dignitaries, university deans and faculty, and graduates' families.

His Highness, the Father Amir, was the keynote speaker at Convocation in the year of QF's 20th anniversary, and said: "The credit goes to QF for empowering these young people.

"It has also proved, day after day, the sound vision of our country, that the optimum investment is the investment in human potential, that our young people are our country's greatest asset.

"They are a source of privilege and pride for this country. We believed, and still believe, that education is the real wealth of any nation."

As a token of appreciation for the efforts of Her Highness Sheikha Moza bint Nasser throughout QF's 20-year history, His Highness, the Father Amir, presented her with a symbolic gift, the 'Key to Unlocking Human Potential'.

On the key was written: "In grati-



His Highness Sheikh Hamad Bin Khalifa Al Thani, the Father Amir, presented Her Highness Sheikha Moza bint Nasser with a symbolic gift, the 'Key to Unlocking Human Potential', in recognition of her leadership

tude and appreciation for the inspired vision and wise leadership, rich with promising aspirations, steady direction and unrelenting dedication that instilled in us the will to rise through unlocking human potential and make our beloved Qatar soar to great heights."

Convocation 2015 was held in honor of the 672 graduates from HBKU and the eight international universities that are QF members, the largest

group to graduate from QF since its establishment in 1995.

"The 2015 Convocation is particularly significant because it coincides with the 20th anniversary of QF, an organization that has endeavored to provide Qatari youth with the best educational opportunities, so they can be the leaders of the future," said Engineer Saad Ebrahim Al Muhannadi, President, QF.

"Therefore, we are twice as happy

this year: happy to graduate a new batch of students who will strive to build their country, and happy about the 20th anniversary of this generous Foundation."

In his message to the Class of 2015, Engineer Saad Ebrahim Al Muhannadi said: "I am delighted to see the pride, enthusiasm, and hope in your eyes.

"Pride for what you have achieved so far; enthusiasm for the challenges you are expecting in the coming days;

and the hope of achieving your ambitions. You have been through an important phase of your life, and you are now at the next and equally important chapter, ready to reap the benefits of all your hard work and dedication.

"Education is the way to assume the social position you deserve, to build the career you dreamt about, in addition to paying back this generous country, which has given and continues to give you so much."



DR AHMAD HASNAH, PRESIDENT, HAMAD BIN KHALIFA UNIVERSITY  
 "We are proud to graduate the Class of 2015. Our graduates leave us equipped with the tools and knowledge to face whatever challenges and opportunities may come their way, whether at work or in their daily lives. Moments like these are very sentimental; such moments evoke rich memories in those of us who have graduated previously, prompting us to feel the same strong emotions as the graduate"

**ACHIEVEMENT** Alumni who will help to shape Qatar's future celebrate a landmark in their lives

# Her Highness graduates as HBKU honors its Class of 2015

HER Highness Sheikhha Moza bint Nasser, Chairperson and Co-Founder of Qatar Foundation, was among the graduates celebrated by Hamad bin Khalifa University (HBKU), a member of Qatar Foundation (QF), as it honored its Class of 2015.

A ceremony held on 3 May 2015, at the HBKU Student Center, marked HBKU's second graduating class and introduced 122 new graduates into the community of HBKU alumni, whose members are shaping the future of Qatar and the region.

It was held in the presence of Her Highness Sheikhha Moza bint Nasser, who graduated from Qatar Faculty of Islamic Studies (QFIS), a college of HBKU, with a Master of Arts in Public Policy in Islam; and His Excellency Sheikh Abdullah Bin Nasser Al Thani, Prime Minister and Minister of the Interior. Dignitaries, HBKU staff and faculty, deans of QF's member universities, and graduates' families and friends, were also among the 650 guests in attendance.

Congratulating Her Highness Sheikhha Moza bint Nasser and all the graduates, Engineer Saad Ebrahim Al Muhannadi, President, QF, said: "Today our dynamic cycle of education and research is making a vital contribution to Qatar's national priorities, while also developing a progressive and engaged community appreciative of its heritage.

"It is the first-class education offered by Hamad bin Khalifa University that draws students from around the world to Qatar. This is a testament to the quality of education that we offer here at Education City, and is a clear demonstration of our successful strategy of developing human capital in Qatar, while driving innovation and economic diversification."

Dr Ahmad Hasnah, President, HBKU, described the graduation as "a



"This year I join with you in receiving my own degree from Qatar Faculty of Islamic Studies and I can assure you that I am just as relieved as any other student that we have reached this brief pause in our journey. Though we have reached a milestone, the path to excellence is a lifelong journey"

Her Highness Sheikhha Moza bint Nasser, Chairperson and Co-Founder of Qatar Foundation, in a message to the Class of 2015

momentous occasion in the life of any student", saying: "It is an important part of their educational and professional journey, and by graduating with these degrees, it enables them to take what they have learned in the classroom and integrate it into the workplace.

"We are proud to graduate the Class of 2015. Our graduates leave us equipped with the tools and knowledge to face whatever challenges and oppor-

tunities may come their way, whether at work or in their daily lives. Moments like these are very sentimental; such moments evoke rich memories in those of us who have graduated previously, prompting us to feel the same strong emotions as the graduate."

Speaking to her fellow graduates at the ceremony, Lolwah Al Khater, HBKU Class of 2015 student representative, who graduated from QFIS with a Master of

Arts in Public Policy in Islam, said: "Today we are 122 graduates - 122 dreams achieved, and 122 beliefs that the future of tomorrow will become more beautiful.

"Each of us has our own individual story stored in our hearts. Some of these stories begin on a different continent, or from students who speak a different language, but all of these stories intersect in one place known as Hamad bin Khalifa University."

# Outstanding achievers are recognized

GRADUATES whose educational experience at Qatar Foundation (QF) saw them demonstrate both academic excellence and outstanding service have been recognized by Hamad bin Khalifa University (HBKU).

The five winners of HBKU's 2015 President's Award, who all graduated from QF member universities this year, were presented with certificates of achievement and commemorative medallions by Dr Ahmad Hasnah, President of HBKU, and Dr Khalid Al Khanji, Vice President, Student Affairs, HBKU, at a ceremony held on 30 April 2015 that was attended by university deans, faculty, and staff, as well as students' families and

other community members. Ibrahim AlHashmi and Marium Saeed, both members of Northwestern University in Qatar's Class of 2015; Noha Fahmy, Virginia Commonwealth University in Qatar; Tarek Alhariri,



Carnegie Mellon University in Qatar; and Ayman Al Jurdi, Weill Cornell Medical College in Qatar, received the awards after they were among 19 students to achieve a grade point average of 3.6 or above, and to be nominated by

their university deans.

During the evaluation process, they explained to a selection committee how they created a positive impact on the community away from their classes, and what they gained from these experiences.

"I am extremely honored to have been recognized," said Al Jurdi. "My community service, in addition to my research work, is very important to me."

AlHashmi congratulated all of the President's Award nominees, who he said "all deserve this award", and added: "I would like to dedicate this award to all of the excellent students within Education City."

# The fruits of QF's 20 years of investing in human potential

**VISION** His Highness, the Father Amir, speaks of his pride in Qatar's 'greatest asset'

THE "beacon of education and science" that Qatar represents was celebrated by His Highness Sheikh Hamad Bin Khalifa Al Thani, the Father Amir, the Founder of Qatar Foundation, at Convocation 2015, where the latest fruits of Qatar Foundation's (QF's) commitment to the nation's knowledge-driven future entered the next phase of their journey of ambition and achievement.

As QF marks the milestone of its 20th anniversary, His Highness, the Father Amir - who, with Her Highness Sheikhha Moza bint Nasser, Chairperson and Co-Founder of Qatar Foundation, conceived the vision of an organization dedicated to the realization of human potential in Qatar - spoke of his pride in graduates who have been instilled with, and have embraced, the skills and values that will allow them to make pivotal contributions to the country's economic transformation and future prosperity.

Delivering his keynote speech at Convocation 2015, His Highness, the Father Amir, told those present: "I am pleased to meet with you today to celebrate this year's batch of graduates of the Education City universities, whom we consider the result of a huge national project launched in 2003, when Qatar Foundation for Education, Science, and Community Development entered into a strategic, educational, and scientific research partnership with prestigious universities.

"We are today reaping more fruits of this partnership in the form of young, educated youth who are proud of their identity and cultural heritage, and who will set out from Education City to pass through 'The Door to the Future', and step forward confidently to contribute to the advancement and development of their country.

"The credit goes to QF for empowering these young people. It has also proved, day after day, the sound vision of our country, that the optimum investment is the investment



"As we are proud of your Convocation today, we are also proud of all our graduates, the sons of this homeland, from various universities and educational centers, at home and abroad, for education is an integrated process which is not confined to one side. It is a fusion of all components of our educational structure at various levels, contributing to Qatar's development and achieving its aspirations toward sustainable development"

His Highness Sheikh Hamad Bin Khalifa Al Thani, the Father Amir, the Founder of Qatar Foundation, in his keynote speech at Convocation 2015

in human potential, that our young people are our country's greatest asset and a source of privilege and pride for this country. We believed, and still believe, that education is the real wealth of any nation. It is the basis of all progress, and its absence is the cause of all backwardness.

"As we are proud of your Convocation today, we are also proud of all our graduates, the sons of this homeland, from various universities and educational centers, at home and abroad, for education is an integrated process which is not confined to one side. It is a fusion of all components of our educational structure at various levels, contributing to Qatar's development and achieving its aspirations toward sustainable development."

His Highness, the Father Amir, continued: "Qatar has attached the highest importance to education and allocated a lot of resources to it, even during the times of crisis and difficult economic conditions that

THE NUMBER OF QF GRADUATES IN 2015 WAS



672 STUDENTS GRADUATED IN QF'S CLASS OF 2015

we passed through, because of our firm belief that education is the main tributary to knowledge, that elevates and develops nations, and through which we could overcome all social challenges facing Arab societies."

our common dream come true. "This dream has today become a reality. We can see its results and witness its successes toward achieving a bright future for our country with steady and confident strides."

Having recited the Education City anthem, 'City of Knowledge', the Class of 2015's experiences and achievements were crystallized in a short film shown during the Convocation 2015 ceremony, before graduates participated in a group photo-



ENGINEER SAAD EBRAHIM AL MUHANNADI, PRESIDENT, QF, IN A MESSAGE OF CONGRATULATIONS TO THE CLASS OF 2015

"Class of 2015, it is with enormous pride that we are celebrating your performance, for your individual achievements are essential to our success as a thriving and effectual organization, one which is doing so much to support Qatar as it transforms itself into one of the world's most advanced societies, and as it plays an increasingly important role on the world stage.

Your success is our success, and we share in your accomplishment. And so it is with great pride that QF commemorates your graduation. We hand you the key to your future with confidence, for we know that you will use it wisely to unlock the door to a better future for us all."

graph with His Highness, the Father Amir, and Her Highness Sheikhha Moza bint Nasser. Graduation rings, commemorating the Class of 2015's time at QF, were bestowed on the students, as they were accompanied by the deans of their respective universities, before they passed through the 'Door to the Future', symbolizing their passage from their education toward serving, and positively impacting upon, Qatar and the world alongside their fellow QF alumni.

In QF's 20th anniversary year, 20 stories from its Class of 2015 encapsulate how a QF education has allowed 672 dreams to be realized



### HAMAD BIN KHALIFA UNIVERSITY



**ABEER AL DOSARI**, Executive Master in Energy and Resources, College of Science and Engineering, HBKU

"A QF education has provided me with the opportunity to engage with new knowledge and state-of-the-art technology, and equipped me with the skills to focus my career path in a new direction: energy and the environment, a field in which I hope to serve my nation. I believe I have been given a unique opportunity to shape my future."



**ALI AL ABDULLA**, Executive Master in Energy and Resources, College of Science and Engineering, HBKU

"Through being a QF student, I have broadened my vision, and am now stepping into the future with spirit and enthusiasm, and with my intellectual capacity enhanced. I feel this is just the start of my journey, and that, because of the education we received at QF, it will be a bright journey for all of us."



**ALAA AL NAEMI**, Master of Arts in Translation Studies, Translation and Interpreting Institute, HBKU

"It has been a great adventure; one that has contributed to my personal growth and allowed me to challenge myself. My capabilities have been reinforced, and my confidence has increased. I feel blessed for having the opportunity to study at QF, and I am determined to focus on repaying my nation for everything it has given to me."



**MOHAMMED AL RWAILI**, Master of Arts in Public Policy in Islam, Qatar Faculty of Islamic Studies, HBKU

"Studying at QF has provided me with wisdom, enhanced my capacity for debate, shown me the importance of being open to the viewpoints of others, and allowed me to embrace diversity and shared values. It has also inspired me to ensure I spread the knowledge I have gained throughout my community."

### VIRGINIA COMMONWEALTH UNIVERSITY IN QATAR



**NOOR AL THANI**, Bachelor of Fine Arts in Graphic Design

"I am definitely not the same person today that I was in my freshman year. I have changed a great deal. I became much more serious about my work during my time at VCU-Q, and I'm now extremely professional. They really pushed us to be grown up adults and to communicate our ideas. Now, I feel I can tackle any problem and am confident and comfortable with people from all cultures."



**FILZA KHAN**, Bachelor of Fine Arts in Graphic Design

"At VCU-Q, it's a home where we're all family, regardless of our background or where we're from. It prepares you for everything in your life and your work; it really pushes you to do better. I know the learning doesn't stop at graduation – it's only the beginning. I have big dreams, but I know I will achieve them, thanks to VCU-Q and QF."

### WEILL CORNELL MEDICAL COLLEGE IN QATAR



**MOHAMMED AL HAJRI**, Doctor of Medicine

"I am honored to have had the privilege of studying in Qatar, my home country, at such a prestigious medical college. Education City is a multicultural environment, full of people from different countries, studying such a wide variety of disciplines. This has opened me up to many different attitudes and perspectives, so many different points of view, which has really helped me in my own personal development."



**ABDULHADI AL SAEI and AHMED AL SAEI**, both Doctors of Medicine

**Ahmed:** "WCMC-Q gave us both a lot of support and help throughout our education. It has been a very good experience. I'm now going to do my residency in the USA, but I will return to Qatar, as I want to give something back to such a great country."  
**Abdulhadi:** "WCMC-Q is an amazing place to study. The quality of the education and the facilities are among the finest in the world, and everyone was so supportive."

### TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY AT QATAR



**FAHAD AL JUFAIRI**, Bachelor of Science in Chemical Engineering

"Not only is TAMUQ one of the top engineering universities, it also afforded me the opportunity to stay in my home country. At QF, I have met great people, and the mentoring we received was exceptional. This degree carries with it a great deal of prestige."



**FARRAH MORTADA**, Bachelor of Science in Chemical Engineering

"It is known as one of the top universities in the region, so, coming from Egypt, it made sense to study here. The versatile community of QF has given me greater insight into many different things, and not only in terms of the academic course. As QF houses campuses from different universities, I feel I have been part of something bigger, due to the very interesting social interaction."

### CARNEGIE MELLON UNIVERSITY IN QATAR



**MOHAMMED AL EMADI**, Bachelor of Science in Business Administration

"Education, a process that is never ending, helps us to reach and realize our full potential. QF has played a great role in developing my knowledge and skillset, further helping me to advance my career path in Qatar. Although our course was challenging, it prepared me to face any difficulty in the future, with confidence, and I hope to continue to make my family and country proud."



**ANISH SRIDHAR**, Bachelor of Science in Business Administration

"My experience at Education City has instilled in me a passion for learning and excellence in my core subjects, and a culture of innovation and creativity. It has shaped me to be an all-rounder, giving me a sense of discipline and time-management, and organizational skills. I didn't only get an opportunity to study in a good education system, but also to interact with people from different backgrounds, practices, and cultures."

### GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY IN QATAR



**AL JOHARA AL MANA**, Bachelor of Science in Foreign Service - Culture and Politics

"I was one of those girls at high school who wouldn't speak up in class even if I knew the right answers. Going to GU-Q helped me to develop my self-confidence and public speaking skills, while exposing me to different cultures, values, and political systems. We were encouraged to think outside the box."



**TALAL AL NAAMA**, Bachelor of Science in Foreign Service - International Politics

"I have matured intellectually, physically, morally, and spiritually. I have learned a lot from my experience, and what made it even more enriching was the opportunity to study abroad in the US and France, for which I would like to thank my country for sponsoring me. Studying at QF was a fulfilling and enriching experience, as it houses some of the best universities in the world."

### NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY IN QATAR



**JASER ALAGHA**, Bachelor of Science in Communication

"The main thing I have gained from this experience is the ability to problem-solve and find my own way, whatever challenges arise. Being surrounded by a highly multicultural community really opens your mind – you meet people from different universities who are studying engineering, medicine, design, political science. It really added to my experience as a student at QF."



**NISSRYNE DIB**, Bachelor of Science in Communication

"I'm glad I chose NU-Q, because I had a wide variety of options to choose from, including theatre, film-making and research. I found out what I really wanted to do: research on film-making and film production. I met a lot of people from different nationalities, so everyone has their own story about where they came from and their culture. It was really enriching."

### HEC PARIS IN QATAR



**HANAN AL THANI**, Master in Strategic Business Unit Management

"I have learned so many things that I can apply on a daily basis, supporting my career development. Now, I am constantly looking to be more creative and innovative, to think outside the box, and to develop myself further; I have so many ideas. This is my seventh year of working at QF, and it feels like my home, the place where I belong. I want to contribute to QF and its community, and I believe I can."



**NOOR AL ATHIRAH**, Master in Strategic Business Unit Management

"I decided to study at HEC Paris as it is a very strong international brand name, and was a very good fit with what I needed. The most important thing I learned was how to think out of the box. I also acquired multiple skills that will help me move up to the next level in my business organization."

### UCL QATAR



**JELENA ZIVKOVIC**, Master of Arts, Archaeology of the Arab and Islamic World

"As I am continuing with my Ph.D studies, my education at UCL Qatar has greatly helped prepare me for the future. During my tenure here, I developed many skills useful specifically in the area of research in the field of archaeological science. I managed to go for several training opportunities in the archaeological labs at UCL Qatar, and that was the most valuable experience for me at Education City."

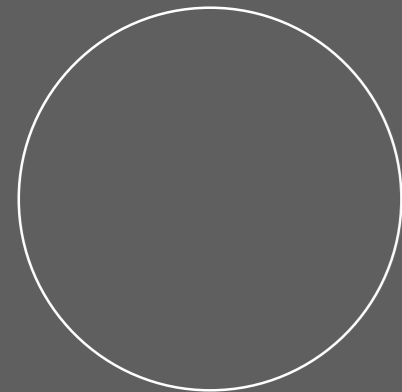


**SOMAYA AL TAMIMI**, Master of Arts, Museum and Gallery Practice

"The journey has been amazing, equipping me with everything I need to advance my career. I can now work in specific areas that I like, and go deeper in those fields, thanks to the education I received at QF. I've learned the valuable life lesson of commitment, of finishing what I begin, irrespective of circumstances and challenges. It was a proud moment and honor for me when my young daughter said she wanted to graduate just like me."

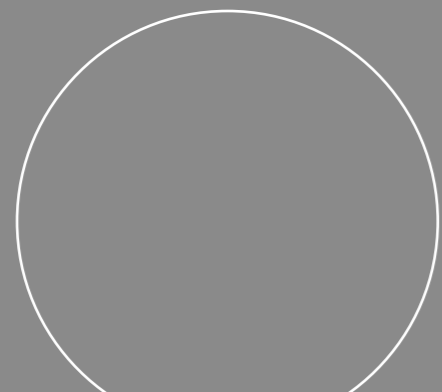


## WHY A QF EDUCATION IS THE RIGHT PATH TO THE FUTURE



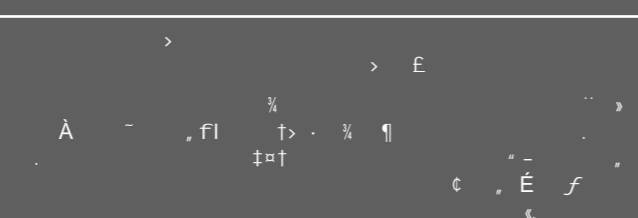
**HEBA HOSNY**, whose daughter, Mennatallah, graduated as a Doctor of Medicine, Weill Cornell Medical College in Qatar

Nobody else in our family is a doctor, but Mennatallah always aspired to become one. Qatar Foundation is a fantastic opportunity for all Arab students as it offers the chance for them to enroll at an Ivy League university and yet to also remain in the Middle East. My daughter lived here on campus for six years, she learned to become an independent young woman, and I'm very proud of her.



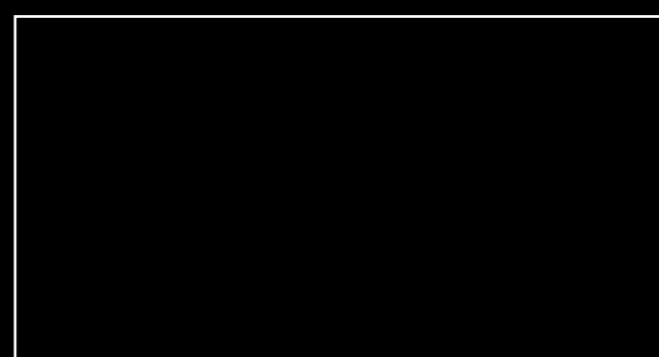
**WAAD AL KHENJI**, whose brother, Abdulla, graduated as a Bachelor of Science in Information Systems, Carnegie Mellon University in Qatar

Studying at QF will prove to be of great benefit to my brother in his career. It provided him with the skills we hoped he would gain from his education here, helping him to develop and mature as a person, to learn about the importance of responsibility, and be even more creative. We are very proud of what he has achieved.



**DR IBRAHIM AL ANSARI**, whose son, Mohammed, graduated as a Bachelor of Science in Computer Science, Carnegie Mellon University in Qatar

My son chose his path in education, and this led him to study at QF. I have always been very happy with his choice, because not only has he graduated, he has developed so much as a person during his time at QF. I even feel I have learned from him, because of his education here, and his experience at QF has certainly been everything we hoped, and expected, it would be.



**NIHAL AHMED**, whose daughter, Basant, graduated as a Bachelor of Science in Chemical Engineering, Texas A&M University at Qatar

We wanted our daughter to come to QF to study because it had attracted such famous universities we had heard so many good things about. Now she has graduated with honors, it makes us so glad that she has been educated at QF, and so proud and excited for her.



**ABDULAZIZ AL MUFTAH**, whose daughter, Mariam, graduated with a Master in Strategic Business Unit Management, HEC Paris

"I feel my daughter's education has exceeded our expectations, allowing her to enrich her experience and widen her horizons. At QF, she has been provided with everything we hoped she would receive, and it has placed her in a very good position for the future; a position from which she can further expand her abilities and serve her country."



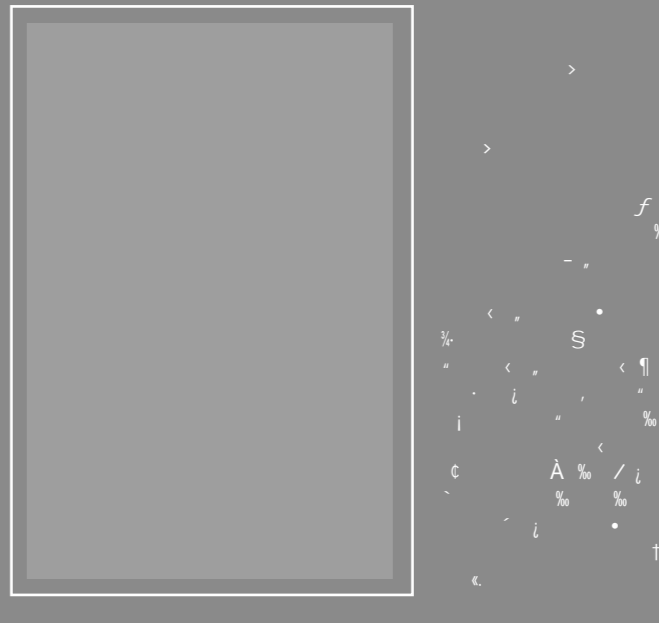
**OSAMA EL NAMLA**, whose brother, Ahmad, graduated with an Executive MBA, HEC Paris

This means so much to Ahmad, but also to all of us, as he is the first person in our family to have a Master's degree. We hope what he has achieved, through his education at QF, will inspire the younger generations of our family. His studies at QF have shown that personality and character are key factors in success, and we know he feels he could never have had the same experience anywhere else.



**SULEMAN KHAN**, whose son, Omar, graduated as a Bachelor of Science in Chemical Engineering, Texas A&M University at Qatar

It was good for us that our son came to Education City because it meant he was closer to our homeland than if he had gone to America, and he was able to visit often. It was a great opportunity for him, and we are very happy. QF is an excellent institution and it has given him an education of the very highest level.



**HIS EXCELLENCY ABDULLAH AL HAJJ**, whose daughter, Asraa, graduated as a Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering, Texas A&M University in Qatar

I have seen that QF provides the ideal educational environment, as it has elite international universities offering programs for our sons here in Qatar. This means our sons will have a world-class education without leaving their families, and so I was keen for my sons to be enrolled in QF member universities. In addition to my daughter Asraa, I have another daughter studying at QF, as she is enrolled at Carnegie Mellon University in Qatar.



**DR HASSAN AL THANI**, whose daughter, Aisha, graduated as a Bachelor of Science in Foreign Service – Culture and Politics, Georgetown University in Qatar

My daughter's education at QF has exceeded all my expectations. GU-Q is a world-renowned college, with a strong international flavor, and I would recommend it to anyone, as it offers huge opportunities for self-development and knowledge enhancement. My elder daughter also graduated from there, and QF has given them both a world-class education, with the chance for further study either at home or abroad.

