



جامعة قطر  
QATAR UNIVERSITY

**Qatar University**

**Office of Research Support**

**International Research Collaboration Co-Fund  
(IRCC)  
Cycle 08 (2025-2026)**

**Guidelines**

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## 1. IRCC Program's Summary

<b>Launch of the Call for Proposal</b>	Please check ORS website for more information
<b>Deadline for Proposal Submission</b>	Please check ORS website for more information
<b>Proposals Pre-Screening (ineligibility)</b>	2 weeks after submission deadline
<b>Award Announcement</b>	Please check ORS website for more information
<b>Project Duration</b>	12 months to 24 Months
<b>Budget</b>	The funding amount is subjective to the partner's tangible contribution (in cash funding or as Phd scholarship provided to the project) Up to 80,000 USD per year /per project (up to \$160,000 USD for 2 years)
<b>Submission</b>	Upload the full applications online through the link provided by the ORS broadcast email
<b>IRCC Program Contact</b>	<a href="mailto:igrants@qu.edu.qa">igrants@qu.edu.qa</a>

## 2. Program Overview

As part of its latest 2018-2022 transformation strategy, Qatar University (QU) strives to become a world recognized research institution that drives multi- and interdisciplinary programs and

maximizes research impact. This can be achieved by having access to state of the art facilities and through engagement with the brightest minds in different national and international research institutions. As institutions play a key role in encouraging and facilitating new collaborations, funding multi-institutional initiatives enables us to bring together the necessary expertise to address challenging research problems and encourages interdisciplinary research.

The objective of IRCC is to bring together QU and international researchers and innovators to collaborate on topics of mutual interest. There is a strong demand from the research and innovation community for a multilateral scheme, which would allow societal challenges to be addressed. The IRCC can be looked at as an instrument to pool resources at a multilateral level to support collaborative research and innovation projects. The IRCC intends to develop a systematic approach to do joint research and innovation activities between Qatar, represented by QU, and the participating international universities.

### 3. Program Objectives

The IRCC will pave the way for sustainable cooperation between research and innovation institutions in Qatar and the globe on the basis of the following activities:

- Implementing joint research and innovation activities
- Building national human capital in Qatar University and the partner institution
- Establishing and enhancing research collaboration networks between Qatar University and partner institution
- Optimally utilizing resources, infrastructure and expertise to the joint advantage of the region and the globe
- Building trust, learning from each other's experiences, and helping scientific advancement in a concerted manner to fulfill the knowledge based economy aspirations.
- Providing a research platform for students and researchers and creating exchange opportunities

### 4. Submission Tracks

**IRCC Track 1:** Will have one submission cycle per year, with a maximum allocated funding per university of US \$80,000 per year – US \$160,000 over 2 years. The funding for the second year will be subjected to satisfactory performance of the first year, assessed through submission of an annual report and a peer-review process. This will be an annual call and does not require any MoU to be in place.

The funding for the second year is also subject to the validation of the progress report, assessed through submission of an annual report and a peer-review process, and confirmation of the **full time enrolment of a dedicated PhD candidate** in the project at the partner's institution.

Opportunities for strategic collaboration can sometimes present themselves outside of our standard application cycle therefore as part of our ongoing developments of the IRCC fund we have opened a second ad hoc application track.

**IRCC Track 2:** This ad hoc application track allows colleges and centers that want to strengthen their collaboration with their identified strategic partners to bid for funding at any time in the year. These collaborations are submitted by LPIs, selected by the college/center with a strong strategic commitment. Collaborations with existing or new signed MoUs are preferred.

## 5. Research Team Structure

The research team will have a Lead Principal Investigator (LPI) from Qatar University and a LPI from the partner institution(s). Collaboration with QU PI (optional) should be justified.

At least one junior researcher (Research Assistant, PhD Student or Graduate Assistant). Research centers, colleges, and central lab units should provide all support needed to research teams.

Research teams in the partner institution(s) should follow their own requirements. The involvement of graduate and undergraduate students is an advantage and proposals including these will be seen in a favorable light.

## 6. Eligibility

The following criteria also apply:

- 1- The proposal must include an international tangible co-funding (in cash funding or as PhD scholarship provided to the project, the PhD candidate should be fully dedicated to the project, priority is given to PhD student co-supervised by QU and partner's LPIs, a third year extension can be considered for joint co-fund PhD degrees
- 2- The proposal is aligned with QU Research Pillars
- 3- The LPI is a full-time QU faculty member (Assistant Professor, Research Associate, Associate Professor, Professor)
- 4- QU project team includes at least
- 5- Project team includes at least one junior researchers from QU (Research Associate or Graduate Associate or PhD Student)
- 6- Project budget does not include major equipment costs for Qatar University as the Research Centers, Colleges and Central labs provide this.
- 7- It is allowed to include one travel in QU budget for partner's LPI to visit QU during the first year of the project.
- 8- A College/Center commitment letter supporting the proposal should be submitted and signed by Associate Dean/ Center's Director
- 9- A letter of commitment should be submitted by the partner(s) institution(s) signed by an appropriate institutional signatory
- 10- The proposed project does not request above the maximum authorized budget per project from IRCC funds
- 11- The proposed project was not fully or partially funded by any other source
- 12- The required documents (Application, Budget sheet, CV's, Similarity Report) should be provided at the time of submission.
- 13- The Research plan and expected outcomes section in the Application Template should not exceed the number of allowed pages.

14- The LPI with active IRCC grant in the previous cycle are not eligible to submit to this grant, however, LPIs with another active internal grants (other than IRCC) can submit in the current cycle

## 7. Budget

The IRCC Track 1 will have one submission cycle per year, with a maximum allocated funding per university of US \$80,000 per year – US \$160,000 over 2 years. Please ensure all IRCC funded budget categories comply with the QU Internal Grants Policy (<http://www.qu.edu.qa/research/offices/research-support/policies> )

Only travel, accommodation, honorariums, and training cost of researchers and exchanged students may be covered by the collaborative institution's budget when necessary and as per the signed contract.

For the QU allocation of funds all equipment costs must be funded by the related College / Center as demonstrated in the budget justification section of the application.

Each Co-funder shall be directly responsible for dispersing and managing their share of funds allocated for the granted proposal as per the signed agreement. All supplies, equipment and consumables purchased related to research tasks and aims conducted at one of the collaborating institutes must be dispersed and covered from the contributing institution's share of co-funding.

The funding for the second year will be subjected to satisfactory performance of the first year, assessed through submission of an annual report and a peer-review process. The funding for the second year is also subject to the validation of the progress report, assessed through submission of an annual report and a peer-review process, and confirmation of **the full time enrolment of a dedicated PhD candidate** in the project at the partner's institution.

Advantage will be given to proposals that include a higher percentage of In-Cash funding.

## 8. Commitment Letters

Each co-funder/ collaborative institution will need to provide a Commitment Letter to support the application. We require the letter to be on headed paper and included in the final submission through iGrant. Commitment letters signed by a member of the proposed project team will not be accepted.

Qatar University College/ Center/ Laboratory commitment letter needs to be signed by Center Director/ Associate Dean for Research and be submitted with the application. The letter needs to specify any equipment commitment undertaken by the College/ Center/ Laboratory

## 9. Proposal Evaluation

Upon submission of a proposal through the iGrants system, ORS will endeavor to proceed with all checks, screenings and reviews. Each proposal will be screened for the IRCC Eligibility Criteria.

Any proposal not meeting the Above Eligibility Criteria will be pre-screened and not sent out for technical review. The proposals Pre-Award lifecycle is provided hereunder:



Any proposals that have met the Eligibility Criteria will then be sent out for Technical review. Proposals will go through a technical review by external peer reviewers using the published evaluation criteria.

### Peer Review (Technical)

The reviewers will evaluate the proposals, make recommendations to the QU Committee Evaluation (for IRCC Track 1) or to the Joint Reviewing Committee (JRC – for Track 2) as to “approve funding” or “reject funding,” and provide narrative feedback to applicants. The evaluation criteria consist of the following:

1. Intellectual Merit (Excellent; Very Good; Good; Fair; Poor) (40%)
2. Expected Impact (Excellent; Very Good; Good; Fair; Poor) (25%)
3. Work Plan (Excellent; Very Good; Good; Fair; Poor) (20%)
4. Qualifications and complementarity of the Research Team (Excellent; Very Good; Good; Fair; Poor) (15%)

### QU and JRC Committees Validation

After the technical feedback, QU (Track 1) and JRC, IRCC-SQU for (Track 2) committees will finalize their ranking mainly based on the technical peer review, while considering other non-technical criteria such as the LPI outcome during the last 2 years, the LPI availability and capacity to manage the proposal and the Partner’s Contribution (Cash/In-kind).

### Global Evaluation

Grade	Categorization	Contextual Guidance
Excellent	A	The proposal is beyond expectations and ALL technical/non-technical criteria have been met.
Very Good	B	The proposal meets expectations in general and have some minor limitations. The selection of awarded projects depend also on the global budget limitation.

Fair	C	The proposal does not meet expectations
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## 10. Rebuttal

Only projects from previous cycles with grade B are allowed to resubmit once for the current or future cycles of the internal grants. Resubmitted proposals are required to provide a rebuttal to comments made by the reviewers in the application template.

Any project graded two times B will be automatically considered as grade C.

All ranked C proposals need further enhancement to be resubmitted. They cannot be considered for this Cycle call, but are welcome for re-submission, with the rebuttal clarifying the updates and enhancements, for Cycle 9 or beyond.

## 11. Appeals

The competition for research awards is intense and many high quality applications may not receive support. All applications receive careful scrutiny by the peer reviewers, in the context of competing claims on available funding. Appeals may therefore not be made against the academic judgment of the peer reviewers or ORS committees. The sole ground on which an appeal may be made is one of improper procedure. Anyone wishing to make an appeal against a decision should fill the related e-form no later than 2 weeks after the award announcement, citing the specific decision and setting out clearly the substantive basis of the appeal. Only LPIs themselves may appeal. The Director will communicate to the LPI the decision of the committee within 30 days.

## 12. Acknowledgement of Support

IRCC LPIs shall ensure that all research publications resulting from this grant includes the following statement:

*"This [publication, poster, report, etc.] was jointly supported by Qatar University and XXX -IRCC [GRANT CODE]. The findings achieved herein are solely the responsibility of the authors."*

## 13. Inquiries

For any inquiry regarding this document and the proposal submission process please send an email to [igrants@qu.edu.qa](mailto:igrants@qu.edu.qa)