



Innovation and Knowledge Transfer Grant (IKT) 2027



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1. Program Summary

Launch of the Call for Proposal	Please visit our website to check the dates
Deadline for Proposal Submission	
Award Announcement	
Project Duration	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Student Track: One year• Innovation Teams Track: Up to two years
Budget	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Student Track: Up to QAR 20,000 per year• Innovation Teams Track: Up to QAR 100,000 per year, up to 200,000 QAR over two years
Contact	igrants@qu.edu.qa

2. Program Overview and Objectives

The Innovation and Knowledge Transfer Grants are an internal funding initiative aimed at empowering faculty and students to develop innovative solutions that address critical challenges in priority areas: energy, sustainable resources, health, society, and information technology. This initiative aligns with Qatar University's commitment to fostering innovation and knowledge transfer, and to supporting the transition from scientific discovery to the development and commercialization of innovative ideas.

The grant contributes to turning ideas into practical applications, thereby reinforcing Qatar University's position as a regional leader in research and innovation. It also supports interdisciplinary collaboration, encourages creative thinking, and provides the necessary resources to move from concept to implementation.

The Innovation and Knowledge Transfer Grant supports innovative ideas in the following stages:

Development Stage:

The grant supports inventions at Technology Readiness Levels (TRL) 4 to 6. It aims to advance innovation through prototyping, validation, and testing in controlled environments, bridging the gap between scientific research and practical application.

Commercialization Stage:

Funding is allocated to inventions at TRL 7 to 9. This stage focuses on refining, scaling, and preparing technologies for market entry, including activities related to business development, commercialization, and real-world application.

The grant is divided into two tracks:

Track One: Student Track (IKTS)

Aims to support students' innovative projects and accelerate the transformation of ideas into real-world applications or marketable solutions. It targets both undergraduate and graduate students.

Track Two: Innovation Team Track (IKTI)

The Innovation and Knowledge Transfer Grant encourage a collaborative approach to innovation through:

- Enabling faculty members and students to develop innovative solutions and practical applications that address national challenges.
- Bridging the gap between discovery and commercialization of innovative ideas.
- Promoting the commercialization of research outputs to maximize their practical impact.

3. Research Team Structure

Team structure:

- **Lead Principal Investigator (LPI):** Each research team must have one Lead Principal Investigator who is a full-time faculty member or researcher at Qatar University. The LPI holds full responsibility for the technical, administrative, and financial management of the project.
- Enrolled graduate and/or undergraduate students at the time of activation.
- **Principal Investigators (PIs):** The team may include 4 Principal Investigators from within or outside Qatar University, contributing their expertise to the project's implementation.

- **Student Participation:** Including graduate and/or undergraduate students on the research team is required to build research capacity and provide training opportunities.

4. Eligibility Criteria

1.1. Eligibility of the Lead Principal Investigator (LPI)

- The Lead Principal Investigator must be a faculty member at the rank of Research Associate/Lecturer, Assistant Professor, Associate Professor, or Professor from a college or research center.
- A researcher may participate as an LPI in only one research proposal per grant call.
- The LPI who holds an active internal or Qatar Research Development and Innovation (QRDI) grant is **not eligible** for a new internal research grant as an LPI, except for those whose active grants are in their final year.
 - All forms of Student Grants and Direct Support are not counted when this restriction is applied.
- If the LPI is affiliated with a research center, approval from the relevant college is required for supervision, and the Student Research Grant authorization form must be submitted.

1.2. Innovation Team Eligibility:

- A Letter of Interest from governmental institutions or industries.
- It is preferred to have a provisional patent or obtain approval from the Intellectual Property Advisory Committee to proceed with filing a permanent patent through the Innovation Office.

1.3. Student Eligibility for the Student Track:

- The team must consist of at least two Undergraduate and/or graduate students currently enrolled at Qatar University.

1.4. Submission and Participation Limits

- The proposal should be submitted by the Lead Principal Investigator (LPI); otherwise, it will not be acceptable.
- To ensure fair distribution of opportunities and allow the largest number of researchers to participate, the following limits are applied to submissions in each grant cycle:
 - **Principal Investigator (PI):** A researcher may participate as PI in up to 5 research proposals per grant cycle.

- **Multiple Roles:** A researcher can combine roles within the same cycle, such as serving as LPI on one project and as PI on up to four other projects.
- **Multiple Applications as LPI:** The number of LPI roles per cycle is limited to one. If more than one application is submitted in the same cycle by the same researcher as LPI, only the first submission will be processed further. Applications as LPI in Governmental and Industrial Collaboration Grants, and Institutional Collaboration Grants are not counted when this condition is applied.
- **Maximum Across Cycles:** There is no maximum limit on participation as PI across different grant cycles. Researchers may participate in each grant cycle within the limits stated above, subject to other eligibility restrictions related to active grants.

1.5. External PIs

For PIs from Organizations not outside Qatar University:

- A support letter using the approved template must be submitted, duly signed by the institution's authorized signatory, **not by the Principal Investigator (PI).**
- The institution shall waive all rights, including intellectual property rights, arising from or related to this project.
- The Principal Investigator shall personally conduct and remain solely responsible for all project activities. **No delegation, assignment, or subcontracting shall be permitted.**

5. Required documents

Track One: Student Track (IKTS)

- Application form-student (the Budget included in the form)
- Research Team CVs- each CV should not exceed three pages (LPI and PIs only)
- Similarity report not exceeding 15 % (less than 3% single source)- full iThenticate report
- Primary Research Ethics Checklist
- Valid Student QUID
- Student Grant Authorization Form for LPIs from Centers

If awarded Student/s enrollment letter will be required during pre-fund

Track Two: Innovation Team Track (IKTI)

- Application form
- Budget Breakdown
- Research Team CVs- each CV should not exceed three pages (LPI and PIs only)
- Similarity report not exceeding 15 % (less than 3% single source)- full iThenticate report
- Primary Research Ethics Checklist
- A Letter of Interest from governmental institutions or industries.

6. Budget

The budget in the research proposal must be prepared accurately and realistically, adhering to the limits and regulations set out in the grant guidelines and Qatar University's financial policies.

1. Budget Limits

- Student Track:
 - Up to QAR 20,000 for one year
- Innovation Teams Track:
 - Up to QAR 100,000 per year
 - Up to QAR 200,000 over two years

2. Personnel Expenses

- **Undergraduate student:** Daily rate fixed at 436.98 QAR, 2 working days per week, maximum 8 working days per calendar month.
- **Research Assistant or Graduate student:**
 - **Bachelor's degree holder:** Monthly rate: 8,000-10,000 QAR. Daily rate: 266.66-333.33 QAR.
 - **Master's degree:** Monthly rate: 11,000-15,000 QAR. Daily rate: 366.66-500 QAR/day
- **Post Doc or Research Associate:** Monthly rate: 18,000-30,000 QAR. Daily rate: 600-1,000 QAR.

3. Travel Expenses

- **Purpose:** The travel budget is primarily allocated to cover expenses for researchers attending scientific conferences to present the results of the funded research project.

- **Limits:** The travel budget must not exceed 20% of the total annual budget of the project. Only students who have been awarded the grant are eligible to travel.
- **Approval:**
 - All travel expenses under any grant programs are subject to prior approval from the Research Support Department.
 - Members of the research team are required, when traveling under the research grant, to comply with all regulations and decisions issued by the President of the University, as well as the relevant university policies and/or the applicable policies of the funding agencies and the agreements signed with them.
 - All travel expenses must fall within the approved budget and available resources, after fulfilling all travel requirements and obtaining administrative approval. This applies to all members of the research team, including researchers and university students awarded the research grant. Travel expenses shall be reimbursed in accordance with the rules and procedures in force at the University and, where applicable, those of the funding agency.
 - For student travel, travel application forms must be completed and signed by the Dean of the student's college and submitted to the Pre-Award Office for final approval after the grant is awarded.

4. Textbooks Expenses

- **Purpose:** To support the purchase of essential textbooks and reference materials, or the successful execution of the project.
- **Limits:** Not available in QU Library.

5. Publication Expenses

- **Purpose:** To enable researchers to disseminate project outcomes through peer-reviewed publications that enhance research visibility and impact.
- **Limits:** The budget allocated for miscellaneous expenses must not exceed 10% of the project's total annual budget.

6. Miscellaneous Expenses

- **Purpose:** To cover minor, project-related expenses that do not fall under other budget categories.
- **Limitations:** The budget allocated for miscellaneous expenses must not exceed 5% of the project's total annual budget.

7. Non-allowable Expenses

- Please see the Qatar University Non-Allowable Expense document

8. General Notes

- Advance ITS approval is required for all software, hardware, subscriptions, cloud services, licensing renewals, specialized IT equipment, and any systems requiring integration with QU's IT environment.
- All budget items and expenditures must comply with Qatar University's financial policies and regulations.
- If there are any inquiries regarding budget items or allowable expenses, it is recommended to contact the Research Support Department directly for clarification before submitting the proposal or initiating any spending

7. Proposal Submission

The application link will be shared during the grant launch announcement.

8. Acknowledgement

The Lead Principal Investigator must ensure that Qatar University is acknowledged for their support when publishing the research results, using the following statement:

This [publication, report, etc.] was made possible by a research grant funded by [Institution Name] under research grant No. XXXXXXXX. The findings herein reflect the work and are solely the responsibility of the author[s].”

9. Contact Information

Please contact us at the following email address: igrants@qu.edu.qa