



DISPLACED ARAB RESEARCHERS (DAR) FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM

REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS (RFA)
FIRST CYCLE

SEPTEMBER 2024

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1.	Snapshot	3
2.	Overview and objectives	4
3.	Eligibility	4
4.	Timeline.....	4
5.	Budget.....	5
6.	Application.....	5
7.	Application Vetting and Screening	5
8.	Application Evaluation	5

ACRONYM LIST

GAG	Grant Application Guide
IP	Intellectual Property
PR	Peer Reviewer
PRM	Primary Research Mentor
QRDI	Qatar Research Development and Innovation Council
RFA	Request for Applications
RO	Research Office
DAR	Displaced Arab Researchers

SNAPSHOT

SCOPE	
Objective	The program provides research opportunities for Arab researchers whose careers' have been affected by conflicts.
Application Opens	16 September 2024
Submission Deadline	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Applications' submission deadline by PRM: 12 November 2024 (noon, Doha time). Applications' vetting deadline by research office (RO): 19 November 2024 (noon, Doha time).
Announcement of Awards	March 2025
Eligibility	<p>Fellows must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> hold a Ph.D. or equivalent terminal degree as defined by the list of terminal degrees in the "Document Library" at link. hold a passport or travel document from Palestine, Sudan, Yemen, or Syria. <p>Applicant (Primary Research Mentor, PRM) must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> be a permanent affiliate of an institution with an approved research office in Qatar. hold a Ph.D. or equivalent terminal degree as defined by the list of terminal degrees in the "Document Library" at link.
Award Parameters	<p>The duration of the award is up to three years. Funds cover the fellow's annual stipend and two one-way travel tickets (one joining air ticket and one repatriation ticket upon completion of the project). The budget is distributed as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Annual Personnel Cost: QAR 240,000 Total Travel Cost: QAR 10,000
IP Policy	QRDI follows the QRDI Intellectual Property (IP) Policy. For further details, refer to the QRDI IP policy at the link .
How to Apply	Eligible Primary Research Mentors (PRMs) are invited to create a profile on the QRDI Portal . Once the PRM has identified a suitable fellow candidate and proposal, an application can be submitted online via link . The Application Guide (AG) is available for download at DAR web page .
Policies and Guidelines	The applications must comply with all the policies and guidelines available at the document library and QRDI program policy .
QRDI Contact	All enquiries and requests should be submitted via the QRDI support system, at: link .

OVERVIEW AND OBJECTIVES

Over 30 million people across the Arab world are either internally displaced or refugees. Recognizing the surge in forced displacement across the region, and the responsibility of supporting vulnerable scientific communities, QRDI is launching a fellowship program for Displaced Arab Researchers (DAR). Experts from Palestine, Sudan, Syria, and Yemen, whose careers have been disrupted due to conflict, have an opportunity to continue their research in collaboration with universities in Qatar.

DAR provides security and employment opportunities for displaced scientists, while also contributing to Qatar's growing reputation as a hub for scientific excellence. As a fixed-term fellowship, DAR is designed to prepare experts for their eventual return home to rebuild their countries' academic networks and infrastructure, ensuring a lasting impact for regional development.

The program will cover a monthly stipend and airfare for the awarded fellow. The host institution is expected to cover other expenses (e.g., housing, health insurance, research consumables).

ELIGIBILITY

3.1. The Fellow:

- 3.1.1. Must hold a Ph.D. or equivalent terminal degree as defined by the list of terminal degrees in the "Document Library" at [link](#).
- 3.1.2. Must hold a passport or travel document from Palestine, Sudan, Syria, or Yemen.
- 3.1.3. Can only be nominated once per cycle.

3.2. The Applicant (Primary Research Mentor, PRM):

- 3.1.1 Must be a permanent affiliate of an institution with an approved research office in Qatar.
- 3.1.2 Must hold a Ph.D. or equivalent terminal degree as defined by the list of terminal degrees in the "Document Library" at [link](#).
- 3.2.1. Can only submit one application per cycle.

3.3. Submitting Institutions:

Must have approved Research Offices (ROs).

TIMELINE

The following table shows important dates for the DAR 1st cycle.

Timeline for DAR 1 st Cycle	
Description	Dates
Open application submission	16 September 2024
Deadline for application submission by PRM	12:00PM (Doha Time), 12 November 2024
Deadline for RO vetting	12:00PM (Doha Time), 19 November 2024
Applications' screening notification	December 2024
Awards announcement	March 2025

BUDGET

5.1. Duration and Grant

The duration of the award is up to three years. Funds cover the fellow's annual stipend and two one-way travel tickets (one joining air ticket and one repatriation ticket upon completion of the project). The budget is distributed as follows:

- Annual Personnel Cost: QAR 240,000
- Total Travel Cost: QAR 10,000

APPLICATION

6.1. Application Submission

The PRM is responsible for identifying a suitable fellow candidate and work together to formulate a research proposal that aligns with [Qatar's priority areas](#).

The PRM submits the application through the online [submission system](#). The application should include the following elements:

6.1.1. Research Plan (Template available at [link](#))

6.1.2. Fellow's Records:

- 6.1.2.1. Transcripts
- 6.1.2.2. Identity document: copies of a valid passport or a valid ID
- 6.1.2.3. Two signed Reference Letters (no more than two years old)
- 6.1.2.4. Updated CV
- 6.1.2.5. Statement letter explaining the impact of the conflict on their career and the expected benefits of the award. (Template available at [link](#))
- 6.1.2.6. Supporting documents: e.g., academic achievements, proof of career being affected by conflict, etc.

APPLICATION VETTING AND SCREENING

Applications are required to be vetted by the submitting institutions to ensure compliance with the institutions' and QRDI policies. Applications will also be screened by QRDI to ensure compliance with the program's rules and regulations. The screening criteria are available at "[Screening and Disqualification](#)" document.

APPLICATION EVALUATION

8.1. PEER REVIEW (40% OF THE OVERALL SCORE)

Applications are peer-reviewed by a minimum of three international experts in the field of the application. The reviewers are solicited by QRDI to evaluate each application against the criteria listed below. Any proposal that scored "Poor" in any individual criterion, will not be considered for funding. The evaluation criteria are as follows:

8.1.1. Research Excellence (45%) - (Excellent, Good, Average, Unsatisfactory, Poor)

- The proposal addresses an important problem or a critical barrier to progress in the field.
- The proposal describes novel and original ideas.
- The proposal describes clear, measurable, and achievable objectives within the proposed resources.
- The proposal has the potential to produce good research outcome, e.g., dissemination, transfer of knowledge, IP, etc.

8.1.2. Team Composition (35%) - (Excellent, Good, Average, Unsatisfactory, Poor)

- The PRM demonstrates a high calibre and a substantial depth of knowledge and expertise in the proposed research area.
- The fellow possesses good research experience.
- The fellow possesses strong academic track record.

8.1.3. Resources (20%) - (Excellent, Good, Average, Unsatisfactory, Poor)

- The institution's resources, e.g., infrastructure, equipment, etc., are adequate.
- The budget is appropriate and justified.

8.2. PROGRAMMATIC REVIEW (60% OF THE OVERALL SCORE)

Following the peer-review evaluation, applications will be shortlisted. Subsequently, a panel of experts will perform a programmatic review designed to assess and rank all shortlisted application in terms of potential to generate impact and the effect of the conflict.

The programmatic criteria are listed below:

8.2.1. Impact (60%) - (Excellent, Good, Average, Unsatisfactory, Poor)

- The proposal has potential to contribute to Qatar's economy and society.
- The proposal has potential to significantly enhance the research portfolio and capabilities of the submitting institution.
- The award will significantly enhance the career and professional development of the fellow.

8.2.2. Conflict Effect (40%) - (Excellent, Good, Average, Unsatisfactory, Poor)

Assessment of the fellow's circumstance and the extent to which the conflict has affected their career and professional development.

Ethical compliance is also assessed by experts as part of the programmatic review.

At the end of the review and ranking processes, applications are categorised in terms of their competitiveness. The final funding decision will group applications as shown in the table below:

Group	Description
A	The application was evaluated to be highly competitive.
B	The application was evaluated to be moderately competitive.
C	The application was evaluated to be uncompetitive.
D	The proposal was not shortlisted for panel review.