


# HBKU Special Internal Calls Program:

1<sup>st</sup> Cycle - Quantum Research

April 2026

Office of the Vice President for Research


Application Guidelines

<b>Document Owner:</b>	The Office of the Vice President for Research			 <p>جامعة حمد بن خليفة HAMAD BIN KHALIFA UNIVERSITY عضو في مؤسسة قطر Member of Qatar Foundation</p>
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## 1- Program Description

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The Special Internal Call (SIC) Program grant is designed to build research capabilities in priority emerging domains and strengthen institutional initiatives by mobilizing HBKU researchers around targeted areas of strategic importance.

The program provides focused, competitive funding to researchers and faculty with relevant expertise or interest, aligned with strategic priorities and institutional needs.

The goals of the SIC program include:

- Building research capacity in emerging or underdeveloped domains of strategic importance to HBKU
- Enabling interdisciplinary collaboration across colleges, research institutes, and centers
- Advancing high-impact research aligned with priority domains and institutional initiatives

The first SIC call will focus on Quantum Technologies Research.

## 2- Call Objectives

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The first call of the SIC is launched in collaboration with the Qatar Center for Quantum Computing (QC2) and focuses on advancing research in Quantum Technologies.


Objectives:

- Increase the level of engagement of HBKU's research community with QC2
- Expand HBKU's research portfolio in Quantum Technologies
- Support interdisciplinary and application-oriented collaboration in Quantum Technologies research

## 3- Program Focus Areas & Eligibility

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- The LPI should be a regular (FTE) Faculty member or Research Scientist at HBKU
- Members of QC2 cannot submit proposals or act as Lead PIs. Instead, they can be collaborators (PIs) on proposals submitted by LPIs from other entities.

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- All topics in the area of quantum technologies can be considered. In particular, research proposals in these areas are encouraged:
  - **Quantum Computing:** Quantum AI, Quantum Optimization, Quantum Simulation
  - **Quantum Communication:** Quantum Cryptography, Quantum Networking
  - **Quantum Sensing:** Quantum Metrology, Quantum Imaging, PNT (Positioning, Navigation, Timing)

Proposals may also focus on use cases within key application domains such as healthcare, materials, energy, cybersecurity.

#### 4- Collaboration

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- Proposed projects must be conducted in collaboration with QC2. Collaboration may be demonstrated through one or more of the following:
  - Submission of an endorsement letter from the QC2 Director
  - Inclusion of a QC2 PI as a collaborator
  - Provision of an in-kind contribution from QC2
- No research collaboration with external entities is allowed. However, support letters showing the interest of external stakeholders in proposed projects are encouraged

#### 5- Project Duration


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- The duration of the project can be up to two years. Project activation is marked by the time funds are made available
- No procurement of any kind is allowed during the last 3 months of the project lifecycle

#### 6- Budget

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- 1- The total budget is up to QAR 250,000 per year
- 2- The final awarded amount will depend on the VPR's approval of the proposal, and subject to budget availability
- 3- Budget movement from project YR1 to YR 2 will be restricted based on the carryover and OVPR budget availability

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- 4- The research team must plan budget expenditures carefully and align them with the fiscal year
- 5- All project funds must be spent within Qatar. Exceptions of up to 10% of the total budget may be permitted for expenditures outside Qatar, provided they are fully justified and receive prior approval.
- 6- Budget categories:
  - I. Personnel:
    - Freelancers, including Research Assistants, Research Associates, and Postdocs. Please refer to the daily rates below

Freelancer Position	Daily Rate (working days)
Research Assistant	1,117 QAR
Research Associate	1,270 QAR
Postdoc	1,584 QAR

- Graduate Students – For payment rate, please refer to the Graduate Student Employment Under Sponsored Research Grants (on <https://www.hbku.edu.qa/en/research/sro/post-award> under Award Management Procedures and Guidelines).
- All HBKU applicants need to participate with no personnel cost (daily fee= 0)
- II. Equipment under 12,000 per item is allowed (capital equipment above 12,000 per item is not allowed)
- III. Computers and laptops cannot be covered by this grant
- IV. Materials and Consumables (stationery is not an eligible cost) are allowed
- V. Professional services: a justification and description of the service is required
- VI. Travel should not exceed 5% of the total awarded budget. Ticket and per diem rates should be as per HBKU policy and rates
- VII. Miscellaneous (local HBKU workshops, etc.)


## 7- Submission

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Project teams are required to submit the detailed proposals through the Portal by using the Proposal Internal Approval form via the following link: <https://iprocess.hbku.edu.qa/workspace.aspx>.

**Submission Deadline: 23 May 2026 (11:59 PM)**

- Each application should include short CVs (1-2 pages) of the research team members
- All proposals must be reviewed and endorsed by the respective Deans and/or Executive Directors

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- Submissions will be reviewed by a committee setup the OVPR, and funding decisions will be communicated to the applicants.

Kindly note that:

- The research plan and all supporting documents should be uploaded on the “Supporting Documents” Tab in the Proposal Internal Approval (PIA) form.
- Please start your PIA form before the deadline to allow sufficient time to obtain team and dean/ED approvals.
- The detailed project plan should be prepared according to the template provided, with a maximum of 8 pages (excluding Table of Contents, Reference and Appendix)
- The applicants are required to attach, in the same PDF file of the proposal, letters of support from collaborators and letters of commitment from co-funders, if any.

For any questions about this call, please send an email to: [HBKU-VPR@hbku.edu.qa](mailto:HBKU-VPR@hbku.edu.qa)

## 8- Project Review and Approval

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- Proposals will be reviewed by a Review Committee setup by the OVPR
- The Review Committee may require additional information or amendments to the research proposal and/or budget.
- Funding decisions are expected to be made in early June 2026


Proposals will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

- The level of collaboration with QC2
- Novelty and relevance of research proposal
- Potential impact and outputs
- The expertise of the research team to carry out the proposed research

## 9- Post Award Management

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- 1- The awarded grant will be supported by the OVPR. Below are the major post-award activities:
  - a. Legal agreements as applicable
  - b. Financial account setup and funds activation

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- c. Activation of the project (project start date will depend on the full execution of items a and b)
  - d. Project management and reporting
  - e. Project closure
- 2- The project team is required to submit a report every six months that describes the progress achieved, using the progress report template
  - 3- The project team is required to present its progress every 6 months in bi-annual review meetings coordinated by the OVPR
  - 4- Continuity of funding as per installment plan is contingent on VPR's approval of the progress report