

Horizon Hub Workshop Series

HBKU Research

Office of The Vice President for Research

Call for Applications

1st cycle-2025



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1- Program Description

The Horizon Hub Workshop Series (HHWS), launched by the Office of the Vice President for Research, provides a collaborative platform for researchers, academics, and thought leaders to come together and engage in collaborative dialogue around critical research topics shaping the future. This initiative goes beyond discussion—aiming to generate tangible outcomes and research agendas that contribute to advancing knowledge and societal impact.

The workshop topics must be strategically aligned with HBKU research priorities, with a particular emphasis on considering both local and global contexts. Topics/events that involve strong interdisciplinary engagement and collaboration by at least two HBKU entities are highly preferred. This program aims to foster connections between researchers in Qatar and their regional and international peers, offering exposure to new research directions, methodologies, and discoveries.

A key objective of the series is the engagement with Qatar’s governmental entities and national enterprises to identify new R&D initiatives, support knowledge transfer, policy development and to strengthen national research capacity.

The HHWS supports two event formats:

1. **Workshops:** Interactive, topic-focused sessions that bring together a select group of participants to explore emerging research areas, share methodologies, and develop actionable outcomes in key domains that fit with HBKU’s research strategy (for example: pursue new research partnerships, jointly pursue funding opportunities, define mechanisms to exchange knowledge and expertise after the workshop, etc.)
2. **Conferences:** Larger-scale events that convene national and international researchers, industry players, policy stakeholders, and experts to present research findings, exchange ideas, and foster broader research engagement.

These events must be held within Qatar.

2- Program Objectives

1. Foster strategic research connections between HBKU researchers, international experts, and research institutions in Qatar and beyond, to promote meaningful collaboration and knowledge exchange.



2. Expose HBKU researchers to emerging research topics, and cutting-edge research ideas, findings and techniques, best practices, enabling the development of tangible and concrete agendas that contribute to advancing the field of research.
3. Sponsor research and innovation-driven events that address national priorities, foster engagement with governmental entities and national enterprises, and support HBKU's and QF's strategic research goals.

3- Focus Areas

The Horizon Hub Workshop Series focuses on supporting research events that address important challenges in alignment with HBKU's and QF's research themes, which include:

- Precision Medicine
- Artificial Intelligence
- Progressive Education
- Sustainability
- Social Progress

Priority will be given to events that directly engage with HBKU's five signature research areas, which reflect emerging national and global priorities:

- Generative AI and Applications
- Sustainable and Resilient Arid Cities
- Autism: Causes, Diagnosis, and Intervention
- Islamic Ethics: From Social Cohesion to Global Challenges
- Global Transformation: Future of Governance

Hence, events/workshops should focus on a specific emerging topic aligned with the above research areas and generic events/workshops with a very broad focus should be avoided.

4- Team Member Eligibility

The Applicant (LPI):

- Must be HBKU permanent faculty or researcher (including Scientist, Senior Scientist, Principal Investigators, Assistant Professor, Associate Professor).
- Joint applications with LPIs from more than one HBKU entity are preferred
- Dean and Executive Directors are not eligible to apply.



5- Collaboration

Cross-entity collaboration among HBKU researchers and faculty in the co-organization of events is strongly encouraged. Priority will be given to events/workshops that are jointly organized by more than one HBKU entity.

6- Budget & Duration

- 1- Once approved, the event must be held within a maximum of 6 months from when funds are made available.
- 2- The budget is up to QAR 200k.
- 3- Match funding by external entities is encouraged
- 4- The budget components cover the following costs:
 - I. Economy Class flights for external stakeholders (subject matter experts, etc.)
 - II. Hotel Accommodation
 - III. Catering
 - IV. Publicity Material
 - V. Event Venue rental cost if necessary. The use of HBKU and QF venues is prioritized.

7- Submission Timeline

Description	Date
Application Submission Deadline	August 15 th , 2025, (11:59 PM midnight)

8- Submission

The submission of the proposal is online through the iprocess portal by using the PIA form via the following link <https://iprocess.hbku.edu.qa/workspace.aspx> . The online form will be locked automatically straight after the deadline. Late applications sent through email will not be accepted.

- 1- The Applicant must provide the following documents:
 - HHWS Application Form (template provided)
 - The events agenda (template provided).
 - All the speakers' CVs.
 - Detailed Budget breakdown.



For any questions about this call, please send a ticket via iprocess Portal Ticketing
<https://iprocess.hbku.edu.qa/workspace.aspx>

9- Evaluation

Submitted applications will be reviewed and evaluated by the OVPR based on the following criteria:

- 1- Alignment with HBKU and QF research areas and engagement of multiple HBKU entities
- 2- Research advancement and impact: the extent to which the event will contribute to advancing research dialogue, knowledge exchange and engagement on future research endeavors.
- 3- Clear and well-defined desired outcomes.
- 4- Potential to foster new or strengthen existing collaborations, enhance HBKU's research visibility and expand its global research network.
- 5- The level of engagement with governmental entities and national enterprises and the relevance of the event to national policies and development goals.

10- Award Management

If the application is approved, the event will be organized and managed by the LPI's entity. The OVPR will serve as the funding provider and will not be involved in the logistical or operational aspects of the event, except for budget approvals.

11- Post Event Outcomes Report

All funded HHWS events must be followed by a Post-Event Outcomes Report to be submitted within 1 month of the event's conclusion. The report should address the following elements:

1. Participation Summary (total number of attendees, participating institutions, types of stakeholders, etc.).
2. Key insights or conclusions generated through the sessions.
3. Emerging collaborations resulting from the event and anticipated benefits to HBKU.
4. Contribution to solidifying Qatar's presence on the global stage and helped build a strong reputation internationally.
5. Tangible outcomes (publications, white papers, policy briefs, institutional changes, etc.).
6. Governmental engagement and policy influence.
7. Impact on capacity building.
8. A list of actions and recommendations