

## Horizon Hub Workshop Series

### HBKU Research

Office of The Vice President for Research

Call for Applications

2<sup>nd</sup> cycle-2026



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## 1- Program Description

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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 a minimum of two HBKU entities are required. 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. **Symposia:** Curated, theme-based events that bring together leading researchers, experts, and stakeholders to present and discuss advances in defined research areas aligned with HBKU’s research strategy. These forums emphasize knowledge dissemination, thought leadership, and cross-disciplinary dialogue, with outcomes such as increased visibility of HBKU research, identification of emerging trends and priority areas, and the strengthening of strategic networks and collaborations.

These events must be held within Qatar and **shall not exceed a maximum duration of two days**. This is intended to ensure focused, high-impact engagement and efficient use of resources.



## 2- Program Objectives

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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

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The Horizon Hub Workshop Series focuses on supporting research events that address important challenges in alignment with HBKU's research strategy.

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

- 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

At the same time, emerging topics that are strongly aligned with HBKU's clusters (Computing and Data Science, Health and Well-Being, Engineering and Environmental Sciences, Society and Governance) and demonstrate clear potential for impact, collaboration, or capacity building will also be considered.

Proposals should focus on well-defined, emerging topics. Generic events or workshops with a broad or unfocused scope are discouraged.

**Note:** Applications for established recurring (e.g., annual) events are not eligible under this call.

## 4- Team Member Eligibility

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### The Applicant (LPI):

- Must be HBKU permanent faculty or researcher (including Scientists, Senior Scientists, Principal Investigators, Assistant Professors, Associate Professors and Professors).
- Dean and Executive Directors are not eligible to apply.



## 5- Collaboration

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Events and workshops must be co-organized by HBKU researchers and faculty from multiple HBKU entities. A minimum of two HBKU entities is required.

## 6- Budget & Duration

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- 1- Once approved, the event must be held any time between Sep 2026 and March 2027.
- 2- The budget is up to QAR 150k.
- 3- Match funding by external entities is encouraged
- 4- The budget components cover the following costs:
  - I. Economy Class flights only for external stakeholders (subject matter experts, etc.)
  - II. Hotel Accommodation
  - III. Catering
  - IV. Publicity Material
  - V. Event Venue rental cost if necessary. Only the use of HBKU and QF venues is accepted.
  - VI. Gifts: The maximum amount to be spent on gifts shall not exceed a total of 5,000 QAR and with a limit of QAR 500 per person.
  - VII. Excursions and entertainment activities for invitees or speakers are not eligible costs.

## 7- Submission Timeline

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Description	Date
Application Submission Deadline	September 1 <sup>st</sup> 2026, (11:59 PM midnight)

## 8- Submission

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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)
  - A high-level overview of the agenda to be submitted with the application; a detailed agenda must be provided at least three weeks prior to the event date.



- Number, names and affiliation of target speakers.

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

## 9- Evaluation

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

- 1- Alignment with HBKU research priorities 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

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- If the application is approved, the budget of the event will be managed by the OVPR Focal Point. However, the OVPR will not be involved in the logistical or operational aspects of the event, except for budget management and approvals.
- The communications activities for event planning must be coordinated through your entities' communications focal points. Please ensure they are informed as soon as the award is announced. The OVPR communications focal point must be informed about marketing plans and activities for the event.
- Branding of event materials should use HBKU logo and not entity-specific branding as events will be co-organized by a minimum of 2 HBKU entities.
- The OVPR must be informed of any changes to the planned event date.
- Invitation to the event must be sent to the OVPR at least 2 weeks prior to the event.



## 11- Post Event Outcomes Report

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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 approved template must be used which can be found on the HBKU website. The report should address the following elements:

1. Participation Summary (total number of attendees and a list of attendees including their institution, sector and if they are local or international, 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