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About HBKU
Hamad Bin Khalifa University (HBKU), a member of Qatar Foundation for Education, Science, and Community Development (QF), was founded in 2010 to continue fulfilling QF’s vision of unlocking human potential.

HBKU is a homegrown research and graduate studies university that acts as a catalyst for positive transformation in Qatar and the region while having a global impact.

Located within Education City, HBKU seeks to provide unparalleled opportunities where inquiry and discovery are integral to teaching and learning at all levels, utilizing a multidisciplinary approach across its focus areas.

The university provides an array of graduate programs through its College of Islamic Studies, College of Humanities and Social Sciences, College of Science and Engineering, College of Law, College of Health and Life Sciences, and College of Public Policy.

HBKU is also home to three research institutes – Qatar Biomedical Research Institute (QBRI), Qatar Computing Research Institute (QCRI), and Qatar Environment and Energy Research Institute (QEERI) – which together with the colleges are at the forefront of efforts to seek novel solutions to grand challenges facing Qatar and the region.

Additionally, HBKU’s Executive Education Center delivers customized programs for the business community of Qatar and the region.
At Hamad Bin Khalifa University, our people are our greatest strength, and when students enroll in one of our academic programs, they become part of a thriving community that is committed to the pursuit of excellence and innovation. HBKU has a mandate to build and cultivate human capacity by offering students an enriching academic experience that extends beyond the classroom. By utilizing unique collaborations with local and international partners, we aim to tackle the challenges of the region and the world through interdisciplinary education and innovative research.

HBKU is proud to offer students the opportunity to learn from world-renowned faculty and industry leaders through our colleges and our three national research institutes, providing the knowledge, skills and experience necessary to become experts in their chosen fields, and take their careers to the next level. HBKU is situated in a regional economic and cultural hub, and our students benefit greatly from exposure to diverse perspectives as they determine how to use their degrees to positively contribute to their own development and that of their communities, whether in Qatar or across the world.

Additionally, HBKU benefits from an exceptional student-to-faculty ratio and from being based in Education City – a unique hub of learning that offers students a wealth of opportunities to play an active role in a vibrant multicultural environment.

As a student at HBKU, you have the opportunity to play a key role at an institution which, at its heart, is committed to innovating today and shaping tomorrow.

Why Study at HBKU?

“As a student at HBKU, you have the opportunity to play a key role at an institution which, at its heart, is committed to innovating today and shaping tomorrow.”
Research

Research is the cornerstone of Hamad Bin Khalifa University’s commitment to building human capacity through interdisciplinary education and innovation that supports Qatar’s journey towards sustainable growth. HBKU’s interdisciplinary research and education environment is distinguished by a unique synergy among the colleges and research institutes.

The university’s students, faculty, and researchers work within an ecosystem that addresses challenges of national priority and contributes to outcomes with a tangible impact on society. Collectively, they are achieving breakthroughs in the fields of biomedicine, genomics and precision medicine, information and communications technology and sustainability, while advancing knowledge across the humanities, Islamic studies, law, and public policy.

At each of the six colleges, students work under the guidance of faculty to conduct research that results in tangible solutions and innovative outcomes.
About CHLS
The College of Health and Life Sciences (CHLS) provides essential educational and research training to future leaders in the fields of biomedical sciences, genomics, precision medicine, and exercise science.

The College embodies a multidisciplinary learning approach to research and discovery and aims to become a dedicated hub of knowledge sharing in the area of health and life sciences. Its programs integrate scientific expertise by combining a seasoned collective of research partners within the university with esteemed external clinical and health science partners.
CHLS graduates leave HBKU enriched in knowledge of, and experience in, state-of-the-art basic, clinical, and translational research approaches, which are foundational to advances in biomedical and health sciences. Our alumni are equipped to address the pressing needs of the healthcare sector and contribute to fulfilling the Qatar National Vision 2030.

CHLS attracts and trains outstanding students from Qatar and many other countries, all of whom possess the intellect and motivation to pursue scientific discovery within the research laboratories of the college or its research partners.

Graduates typically choose to pursue careers in the following areas:

- Academia and education
- Biomedical Research
- Healthcare
- Pharmaceutical and biomedical companies
- Governmental ministries and agencies
- Exercise physiology targeting precision fitness training
- Other related areas
CHLS comprises internationally recognized faculty members pursuing high-impact research in important, health-related fields. Research programs often include disease models, with an emphasis on the translation of research outcomes to address clinical challenges. The creation of multidisciplinary teams is a major focus, allowing the college to attract the necessary resources to maintain and build the technologies required to support its research goals.

Transdisciplinary collaborations drive innovation and spur achievement of successful outcomes, aligning the expertise of the wider community of HBKU colleges and partner institutions.

Faculty are involved in the following areas of research:
- Neuroscience
- Cardiovascular
- Rare diseases
- Cancer biology
- OMICS (genomics, metabolomics, proteomics)
- Bioinformatics
- Molecular and cellular biology
- Mechanobiology
- Exercise physiology
- Epidemiology

Faculty and Research Areas
Research is enhanced within HBKU by a highly collaborative environment both at CHLS and with HBKU research institutes, partner universities within Qatar Foundation (Weill Cornell Medicine-Qatar and Carnegie Mellon University in Qatar), and Sidra Medicine.

Our Research Partners
At a Glance

5 Programs
- PhD in Biological and Biomedical Sciences
- PhD in Genomics and Precision Medicine
- Master of Science in Biological and Biomedical Sciences
- Master of Science in Exercise Science
- Master of Science in Genomics and Precision Medicine

134 Students
across the College

60+ Nationalities
across HBKU

Qatari Students (12%)

49 CHLS Alumni
College Programs
CHLS delivers innovative MS and PhD programs in Biological and Biomedical Sciences and in Genomics and Precision Medicine, along with an MS in Exercise Science program.

Genomics focuses on personalized medical treatment, while biological and biomedical sciences are foundational to establishing a mechanistic understanding of disease to promote good health. The programs equip students with the knowledge to lead scientific discovery and to advance personalized healthcare, shaping future leaders who are able to address modern health threats and identify potential future challenges. Faculty members of the colleges are energetic and innovative, collaboratively crossing disciplines to provide novel insights on the needs of the health care sector. A vibrant and interactive collection of joint and adjunct faculty enriches the training platform.

Exercise science is directed at developing knowledge on the relationships between participating in exercise and physical activity and human health, toward achieving health benefits that enable individuals to sustain physical and mental health.

The objective of the colleges’ training programs is to attract outstanding students from Qatar, the region, and around the world.

Students have the unique opportunity to pursue an extensive array of research-intensive Master’s and PhD programs:

- PhD and MS in Genomics and Precision Medicine
- PhD and MS in Biological and Biomedical Sciences
- MS in Exercise Science (joint degree with the University of South Carolina)

CHLS is well-positioned to undergo substantial growth, and the university and the college offer unprecedented opportunities for professional enrichment and personal fulfillment.
Master of Science in Exercise Science

The Master of Science (MS) in Exercise Science is offered by CHLS, working toward a joint degree with the number 1 ranked graduate Exercise Science program in the United States of America, offered by the Arnold School of Public Health at the University of South Carolina (USC).

Capitalizing on the recognized strengths of the USC program, the MS in Exercise Science will establish within Qatar and the MENA region a top-ranked educational and research degree program in exercise science. The program aligns with the objectives of the Qatar National Vision 2030 and the National Health Strategy 2018-2022, aiming to promote healthy lifestyles and enhance the health and welfare of the people of Qatar.

The MS in Exercise Science program is the only graduate program in exercise science in Qatar and prepares students for a spectrum of health-related specialties and professions within the field of Exercise Science.

Program Focus
The MS in Exercise Science program addresses the complex relationships between exercise participation, physical activity, and human health. The program is designed to cultivate human capacity in exercise science through innovative educational and research training and opportunities. Students within the program will receive knowledge and be provided with thesis research opportunities in:

a) applied physiology,
b) rehabilitation sciences, and
c) health aspects of physical activity

Curriculum
A 33-credit program, taught in English, over two years including:

- Five foundational core courses
- A minimum of four electives
- Thesis Research

Courses include:

- Public Health
- Applied Biostatistics
- Research Methods in Exercise Science
- Physiology of Exercise
- Clinical Exercise Testing
- Epidemiology of Physical Activity and Health
- Exercise Endocrinology
- Mechanisms of Motor Skill Performance
- Behavioral Aspects of Physical Activity
College Programs

Master of Science and PhD Programs in Biological and Biomedical Sciences

The Master of Science and PhD programs in Biological and Biomedical Sciences (BBS) are multidisciplinary graduate programs that aim to train the next generation of leaders in biomedical sciences. The Master’s and PhD degree paths offer students an education that provides them with an advanced level of knowledge – particularly in applied areas of biological and biomedical sciences – and helps them develop critical and independent reasoning skills.

Program Focus
- The exploration of a rigorous curriculum designed to provide a strong foundation, as well as cutting-edge knowledge in both the theoretical and applied aspects of biomedically relevant areas of biology.
- The development of vital professional skills, such as clear verbal and written communication and critical evaluation of others’ work.
- Students will be exposed to state-of-the-art basic, clinical, computational, and translational life sciences research.

Curriculum
Master of Science in Biological and Biomedical Sciences:
A 33-credit program taught in English over two years that includes:
- Five mandatory foundation courses
- A minimum of three elective courses
- Attendance at departmental seminars
- Thesis work and laboratory training

PhD in Biological and Biomedical Sciences:
A program with a minimum of 54 credits taught in English, typically over four years, which includes:
- One mandatory foundation course
- A minimum of five elective courses
- Participation in departmental seminars
- Participation in the BBS journal club
- Dissertation research and laboratory training (minimum of six semesters)

PhD students are required to pass a qualifying examination after their second semester, and a candidacy examination after their fourth semester.
HBKU’s Genomics and Precision Medicine (GPM) programs are multidisciplinary graduate courses that have been designed to prepare the next generation of professionals and leaders, who will help implement the use of precision and personalized medicine in the healthcare system.

The Master of Science and PhD degree paths in GPM offer students advanced knowledge and training in state-of-the-art information gathering and analysis technologies in order to integrate "omics" – the branch of biology that deals with data on global changes at the molecular level in patients – with clinical data.

Program Focus
- The exploration of a rigorous curriculum and practical training designed to provide a strong foundation, as well as cutting-edge knowledge, in both theoretical and applied aspects of genomics and precision medicine.
- Students will be exposed to the latest advancements in the field of genomics and precision medicine and will explore state-of-the-art basic, clinical, technological, computational, and legal and ethical aspects of a fascinating, fast-expanding sector of the life sciences.
- Throughout their studies, students will examine aspects of the four main pillars of genomics and precision medicine: clinical aspects, technology, "omics", and bioethics.

Curriculum
Master of Science in Genomics and Precision Medicine:
A 33-credits program, taught in English over two years, that includes:
- Five mandatory foundation courses
- A minimum of three elective courses
- Attendance at departmental seminars
- Thesis work and laboratory training

PhD in Genomics and Precision Medicine:
A program with a minimum of 54 credits, taught in English, typically over four years, which includes:
- One mandatory foundation course
- A minimum of five elective courses
- Participation in departmental seminars
- Participation in the GPM journal club
- Dissertation research and laboratory training (minimum of six semesters)

PhD students are required to pass a qualifying examination after their second semester, and a candidacy examination after their fourth semester.
Admissions
Admissions

Admission Requirements

Applicants seeking admission to the CHLS graduate programs at HBKU should have a strong academic record (minimum 3.0 GPA out of 4) from a recognized university. Applicants to the Master of Science programs should have a bachelor’s degree, while applicants to the PhD programs should have a master’s degree.

Applicants to the MS or PhD programs in genomics and precision medicine or biological and biomedical sciences should have a strong background in science and evidence of coursework in biological or medical sciences. Applicants seeking admission to the MS in Exercise Science program should have a bachelor’s degree in exercise science or a related field (e.g. biological/biomedical sciences).

Applicants are required to submit an IELTS score of 6.5 or TOEFL score of 79 to demonstrate their proficiency in English. Further details about the language proficiency requirement and the process to seek exemption (where this is an option) are available on the website: admissions.hbku.edu.qa

Applicants to the PhD programs and the MS in Exercise Science program are required to submit a GRE General Test score at the time of application.

Applicants with prior research experience are preferred, especially for the PhD programs.

Further information about admission requirements is available: admissions.hbku.edu.qa
Application Requirements

Application:
A completed online application form admissions.hbku.edu.qa

Academic transcripts:
Official electronic copies of transcripts should be submitted as part of the online application. Final transcripts and graduation statements are required for all previous university studies. All transcripts submitted should include an explanation of the grading system. For those who have not completed their current studies, transcripts must include results from the last completed semester of coursework. Transcripts in languages other than English or Arabic must be accompanied with an official translation. Applicants who are admitted to the program based on copies of or incomplete transcripts will be required to provide original transcripts upon enrollment in order to register for courses.

Standardized test results:
Official copies (where required) must be sent directly to HBKU. Please refer to the institutional codes below:
- GRE: 7551 (Only required for PhD programs and the MS in Exercise Science program)
- TOEFL: 4981
- IELTS: No code required. Students should ask the IELTS center where they tested to send the IELTS TRF to HBKU

Applicants should also submit copies of their test scores with the online application.

Letters of recommendation:
Applicants should submit letters of recommendation preferably from academic referees:
- At least two letters of recommendation: Biological and Biomedical Sciences programs, Genomics and Precision Medicine programs
- At least three letters of recommendation: MS in Exercise Science program

Please visit admissions.hbku.edu.qa for further information about the submission process.

Personal statement of interest:
Applicants should submit a personal statement as part of the online application. This should explain why the candidate is applying to the program and how their studies will contribute to the achievement of their personal objectives, including information about the applicant’s research interests and achievements (minimum of 300, maximum of 500 words). Personal statements that are incomplete or below the minimum word count will not be accepted.

Resume/curriculum vitae:
Applicants should submit a copy of their current resume or curriculum vitae as part of the online application. This should include the following information:
- Academic qualifications
- Professional experience
- Publications
- Research projects
- Academic awards or honors
- Conference presentations

Identification document:
All applicants should submit an electronic copy of their passport as part of the online application. Nationals and residents of Qatar should also submit their valid Qatari ID.
Student Funding

CHLS provides opportunities for funding on a competitive basis. Further information will be provided to applicants who are admitted to the program.
Contact Information

chls.hbku.edu.qa

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