Study Abroad in
Doha

Engineering Programs in Doha, Qatar
Welcome to Texas A&M University at Qatar

Texas A&M University at Qatar is a branch campus of Texas A&M University, a research-intensive flagship university in College Station, Texas. As thousands of current and former students will attest, the Aggie experience is one-of-a-kind. Students will have access to award-winning faculty and world-class research programs providing opportunities to learn both in and out of the classroom.

A Branch Campus Located in Qatar

In 2003 as part of His Highness Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al-Thani’s vision for the development of Qatar, Texas A&M University was invited by Qatar Foundation for Education, Science and Community Development to establish a branch campus in Education City, located in Doha, Qatar.

In September 2003, the University began offering classes. Texas A&M University at Qatar curriculum is identical to that offered at the main campus in College Station, Texas. Courses are taught in a coeducational setting in English. Like their counterparts in Texas, faculty are dedicated to preparing students to solve the engineering challenges of tomorrow through discovery.
Mission of Texas A&M University at Qatar

- Develop exemplary engineers and leaders through internationally respected undergraduate and graduate degree programs
- Generate new knowledge by conducting research and disseminating results
- Serve the needs of the State of Qatar and the region through broad expertise

Texas A&M University at Qatar will realize the highest quality undergraduate programs through inseparable connections to its own programs in research and graduate studies. In all its efforts, Texas A&M University at Qatar will ensure that it is contributing significantly to the international knowledge and research needs of Qatar and the region. Moreover, the campus is strongly committed to establishing an interface within the community that will assist in improving the lives of the people of Qatar.

“It is great to see how diverse the University is and to meet a great deal of people from different Middle Eastern nations.”

~ Sophie Wang (spring 2010), Texas A&M University
Qatar, a small peninsula in the Arabian Gulf bordered by Saudi Arabia, is a modern and diverse Arab state that has established itself as an international power despite attaining nationhood just 40 years ago. Qatar has achieved so much in such a short space of time and as the awarding of the hosting rights for the FIFA World Cup in 2022 has shown, the country has taken its place on the world’s stage.

With a population topping 1.8 million in 2011, under the wise leadership of His Highness the Emir, Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al-Thani, the country continues to implement important initiatives that will propel Qatar to fully developed nationhood, and strengthen its role in the international community.

Doha was chosen as the Arab Cultural Capital in 2010 and boasts a range of attractions including the Museum of Islamic Art, has emerged as not just a landmark building, but a home for some of the most stunning pieces from Islamic civilization as well as a host for visiting exhibitions.

The newly opened Mathaf Museum of Modern Arab Art is dedicated to Arab culture and creativity and houses a permanent collection of works as well as hosting visiting exhibitions.

Qatar has become an international sports capital, hosting important global championship events, in addition to our hosting of the World Cup in 2022. Doha hosted the 2006 Asian Games and has developed state-of-the-art sporting facilities including the world’s largest indoor sports dome.

Katara Cultural Village has quickly established itself as the country’s premier cultural venue. With a public beach and a multitude of restaurants catering for all tastes, it has become the place to be seen as well as enjoy what Doha has to offer.

Then there is Souq Waqif, a place where, regardless of the weather and the heat, people from all walks of life seem to flock for food, family and fun. The restaurants all take special measures during summer with extra air conditioning and fans. It’s the perfect place for a fresh cold juice.

Sealine Beach outside of Doha remains a firm favorite with families and others alike. Remember you can only get there using a four wheel drive, but once there you can enjoy one of the most popular beaches in the country. You can also take the time to visit the “Inland Sea.” One of Qatar’s most amazing natural attractions.

The University is committed to educating students with the technical expertise, the leadership skills and the broad world view necessary for them to serve as leaders in industry, government and academia. All the while the University instills students with integrity, high standards and professionalism. The University’s more than 70 faculty are committed to educating engineers equipped to lead the next generation of engineering discovery.

The University offers ABET-accredited programs in chemical, electrical, mechanical and petroleum engineering and provides classes in science, mathematics, liberal arts and the humanities.
Texas A&M Engineering Building

Designed by the Mexican architect Ricardo Legoretta, the 55,000 square meter facility combines modernist elements with traditional Islamic architectural motifs. As one of the most advanced facilities for engineering education in the world, the building is fully wireless and features high-tech classrooms, teaching laboratories and computer laboratories.

The research annex provides additional research laboratories that give future Aggie engineers firsthand experience.

The complex is comprised of two elements: a three-story X-shaped research building and a four story academic quadrangle, connected by a multiple-story atrium space. The building features an underground parking area, lecture halls, classrooms, laboratories, administration, staff and support offices and general use areas.

Texas A&M at Qatar in Education City includes a library with a core professional collection of 8,000 engineering titles, 70 journals and fundamental resources for liberal arts, the humanities and the basic sciences.

Student Life

Campus Life

Texas A&M University has a rich tradition of student involvement, service and leadership. At Texas A&M at Qatar, students, faculty and staff form one community united in pursuit of the same educational goals.

At Texas A&M at Qatar we know students learn by doing. In the classroom that means hands-on training encouraging creative problem solving in real-world situations. Outside the classroom, students involve themselves in a wide range of extracurricular activities challenging them to engage each other and the world at large. Lecture series, volunteer days, athletics, charitable drives, student government and student organizations enrich the student experience.

Your Home Away from Home

Male and female students live in separate on-campus housing, close to the Texas A&M Engineering Building. Accommodations include shared apartments that are fully furnished with living room, dining room and bedroom furniture. Each residence also has a common room equipped with cable TV, computers and a telephone with local service. Security services are provided on campus 24 hours a day, seven days a week.
Located on 25,000 acres on the outskirts of Doha, Education City is Qatar Foundation’s flagship project. With a mission to prepare the people of Qatar and the region to meet challenges of an ever-changing world, Qatar Foundation has created a “multiversity” made up of the world’s leading universities. Texas A&M is joined by Virginia Commonwealth University in Qatar, Weill Cornell Medical College in Qatar, Carnegie Mellon University in Qatar, Georgetown University School of Foreign Service in Qatar, Northwestern University in Qatar, and the Faculty of Islamic Studies. Education City also hosts numerous research institutes.

Each of these institutions offers degrees in areas world-renowned for their academic excellence. Texas A&M University at Qatar, for example offers bachelor of science degrees in chemical, electrical, mechanical and petroleum engineering, as well as a Masters of Science and Masters of Engineering in chemical engineering.

As a student at Texas A&M at Qatar, not only do you have the opportunity to get a world-class engineering education, you can study side-by-side with students specializing in the arts, medicine, business, journalism, communication or foreign service. Through the cross registration program, you can study art at Virginia Commonwealth University in Qatar, journalism at Northwestern University in Qatar, business and communication at Carnegie Mellon University in Qatar or a foreign language at Georgetown University School of Foreign Service in Qatar.

Where else in the world can you find such direct access to the best of multiple top-tier institutions, all in the same location?

The Study Abroad Office: Your Support

Texas A&M’s Study Abroad Office supports students throughout their study abroad experience from pre-departure to returning home. The staff are happy to assist students with:

- Applying for the program
- Cultural questions
- Obtaining class information
- Registering for classes
- Arranging housing
- Visa processing
- Pre-departure and arrival orientations
- Social activities
- Travel information and advice

All airport transportation is arranged in advance. Upon arrival students are greeted at the airport and transported to their accommodations. Visiting students participate in a comprehensive orientation program geared toward Westerners including an introduction to Arabic culture and language. When necessary, transcripts will be sent to students’ home institutions at the end of the semester abroad.
The facilities of Education City include a student center, dormitories, a recreation center and transportation services. Student housing, with separate buildings for males and females, is just a short walk from the Texas A&M Engineering Building.

The student center is the heart of the campus. It offers services and programs that bring together students, graduates, faculty and staff of Education City. The services and operations include food court, health and wellness center, convenience store, bookstore, bowling alley, game room, art gallery, movie theater and much more. The student center is a place for students to study, relax and find excitement and enjoyment.

Education city’s athletic facilities include:
- olympic-sized swimming pool
- fitness rooms
- female-only workout area
- football/soccer field
- gymnasiums
- squash and tennis courts
- indoor and outdoor basketball courts
- paddling pool
- training pool

Study Abroad With Us

When can I go?
- fall semester: late August through mid December
- spring semester: early January through early May
- summer semester: late May through mid July

“What surprised me the most was how nice everything was. Though I knew that Qatar was a fast developing country, I had no idea how nice and fancy it is.”

Isaac Cole (spring 2012), The United States Naval Academy
**What will it cost?**

In 2013-2014 one semester is estimated to cost $9,000. This includes accommodation, visa, tuition and fees but does not include food or airfare.

You can check with your home institution about qualifying for grants and scholarships to assist with your costs abroad.

**What can I study?**

Texas A&M University at Qatar offers a wide range of classes at the undergraduate level and these are available to you as long as you meet the prerequisites.

- Chemical Engineering Program
- Mechanical Engineering Program
- Electrical Engineering Program
- Petroleum Engineering Program
- Science Program
- Liberal Arts Program

In addition, we also offer the opportunity of cross registering at the following universities and in their specialized fields at no additional cost:

- Carnegie Mellon University in Qatar (computer science, biology, information systems)
- Georgetown University School of Foreign Service in Qatar (international affairs)
- Northwestern University in Qatar (journalism, communication)
- Virginia Commonwealth University in Qatar (design)

For a complete list of classes please contact the Study Abroad Office.

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**How can I apply for the study abroad program in Qatar?**

Once you have decided to apply to study at Texas A&M University at Qatar, you need to contact the study abroad coordinator at your home institution. You will then need to provide your study abroad coordinator with the following documentation:

- A scan of your passport (with at least six months validity from your expected return)
- Blood group certificate on official letterhead from your doctor
- Unofficial transcripts in English from your home institution
- Your current address and your parents’ name(s), address and phone number
- Six passport photos
- Confirmation of your English abilities (for students from non-English speaking institutions)
How Do I Get a Visa?
Immediately after arrival, the study abroad office will schedule a medical appointment for x-ray and blood tests. In addition, you will also be required to be fingerprinted.

Can I Work?
Yes. In fact, we give you a paid job upon arrival in our tutoring center, the OASIS. You choose between 10-19 hours of work each week and you choose the timing and days. We will ensure proper training before you start your first day of work.

When do I need to apply?
As soon as you know you want to join us for a semester we need your application materials.

How do I register for classes?
Once you have been accepted to the program, you need to consult with your academic advisor at your home institution to choose the classes which fit into your degree plan. You will then contact the study abroad coordinator at Texas A&M who will secure the classes offered.

How do I apply for housing?
Once you have been accepted to the study abroad program, the study abroad office will email you housing application instructions.

Can my friends and family visit?
Absolutely! In fact, Doha is a wonderful city that offers a variety of sightseeing opportunities and events. Visitor’s visas are easy to obtain upon arrival at the airport for most nationalities.

Since Qatar is a Muslim country – are there special rules I must follow?
Qatar is a Muslim country, however, it is also a very open country that allows the practice of multiple religions.

There are a few rules to follow as a guest in the country:

► Public displays of affection should be avoided
► Alcohol may not be imported and may only be purchased at some hotels by adults of 21 years of age and over
► Females should dress conservatively and remember to cover their shoulders and knees

“Qatar feels like home because I feel welcomed here. There are always people saying, ‘Hi,’ and people care about me. We get to know each other very closely and the fact that almost none of us speaks English as a first language is not a barrier to communicate.”

Edwin Rosales (spring 2010), Texas A&M University
Former Study Abroad Student Testimonies

“Arriving to the Middle East was really surprising at first, but not for the reasons that most westerners would think: Qatar is a very diverse and welcoming country.”
Edwin Rosales (spring 2010), Texas A&M University

“My study abroad experience has been life-changing. Since coming to Doha, I have learned both academic and life lessons. The closeness of the student body at TAMU-Q makes spending time on campus enjoyable and fun.”
Gabriella Schroeder (spring 2010), Texas A&M University

“I have met so many different people and become open to many new experiences and cultures. I have developed my skills in relating to people from vastly different backgrounds than my own, which is something that I will be able to use no matter where I work in the future.”
Nick Metroka (fall 2010), The United States Naval Academy

“Being able to see global issues from so many different perspectives will no doubt be one of my biggest take-aways from this semester.”
Kay Lantz (spring 2011), United States Naval Academy

“After coming here, I realized that the culture was very different from the one we follow in Pakistan, even though the religion is the same. There were small differences that took me by surprise, like Qatari men kissing on the cheek and walking together holding hands. One of my Qatari friends is more American than my friends back in America.”
Humayun Habib (fall 2011), Texas A&M University

“The Muslim culture surprised me mostly and this experience helped me clear a lot of stereotypes. I learned how to respect different people, their cultures, and their traditions.”
Rongqiang Chen (spring 2011), Texas A&M University

“I knew that living in Doha would be different; what I didn’t expect were the unique adventures I would experience, stronger understanding I would gain, and the quality relationships I would build through this semester.”
Brianna Bikker (fall 2010), Texas A&M University

“Classes turned out to be different, more personal, more connected. I found it easier to learn in the small interactive class environment, which led to a relaxed semester with almost zero cramming for exams.”
Brendon Elliott (spring 2011), Texas A&M University

“I really liked the classroom strength and I believe that having a small number of students increases the student-professor interaction and is really beneficial to the students. My professors were amazing—they knew their subject really well—and I can firmly say that apart from all the fun that we had in Doha, I did learn quite a lot from the classes.”
Adhithya Rengarajan (spring 2011), Texas A&M University

“There are not enough words in the English language to describe just how amazing my study abroad experience in Qatar this past semester has been. I had already visited Doha last year with the Student Leadership Exchange Program so I kind of knew what to expect. I thought that I had already seen it all: karak, sand duning, and souq waqif. However, I couldn’t have been more wrong. In the first week during this study abroad I had already done more than I imagined.”
Dmitry Andreev (spring 2011), Texas A&M University

“I can use this experience in the future to help me better understand what occurs throughout the world. The more I know about another culture, the more aware I will be to react in the correct way. As a future military officer, I could potentially work in this region of the world and this experience will give me the ability to interact in a more efficient way with the people of this region.”
Josh Wagner (fall 2010), The United States Naval Academy

“I was so surprised by the hospitality and love given by the local students. They were very supportive initially and helped us get acclimated to the life here. They would arrange trips every week and take us out and show us places to visit in Qatar.”
Fnu Muhammad (fall 2011), Texas A&M University

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