QATAR FOUNDATION INTERNATIONAL, LLC

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2015 Request for Applications
Qatar Foundation International

QFI ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE AWARDS
DEADLINE: APRIL 30, 2015

Summary

Qatar Foundation International (QFI), LLC, is a U.S.-based member of Qatar Foundation. QFI's mission is dedicated to connecting cultures and advancing global citizenship through education. As part of its mission to foster strong and genuine connections between cultures, QFI's Arabic Language and Culture (ALC) Program supports exceptional graduating high school seniors to continue the study of Arabic language at the university level in 2015-2016. Through QFI's Education Awards program, students who demonstrate academic excellence and leadership potential receive financial support to further their studies.

Academic Excellence Award

QFI's *Academic Excellence Awards* will be granted to two exceptional graduating high school seniors in the United States who plan to major in (1) Arabic language studies or (2) Middle East Studies with a concentration or minor in Arabic language at a university/college starting in fall 2015. This award is issued on a merit basis through a national competition. Awardees will receive a one-time grant of up to $20,000 towards tuition for the first year of their university/college education. Applicants will be evaluated based on their academic records, letters of reference, and personal statements. All additional eligibility requirements are listed below:

Eligibility

- U.S. citizen;
- Graduating high school senior with at least a 3.7 GPA on a 4.0 scale;
- Completion of at least two years of Arabic language in high school with grades no lower than;
- Acceptance at a university or college that offers a major in (1) Arabic language studies or (2) Middle East Studies with a concentration or minor in the Arabic language. The university must also offer advanced-level courses in the Arabic language (i.e. 3000-4000 level courses);

- Stated commitment to major in Arabic Studies or Middle East Studies with a concentration or minor in the Arabic language.

Selection Process

A selection panel will review completed applications submitted by the **April 30, 2015** deadline, using an evaluation rubric. Decisions are final after the selection panel has provided their recommendations. Before notifying award recipients, QFI may confirm the accuracy of key information with the applicant's home institution (e.g. class rank, GPA, documentation of other sources of financing, university acceptance/enrollment). Award recipients will be notified via email and required to sign an award agreement to acknowledge acceptance of any terms and conditions related to the educational award.

Award Disbursements

Academic awards will be paid directly to the university or college.

Terms and Conditions for Award Recipients

Award recipients will be required to show compliance with the following terms and conditions throughout the 2015-2016 academic year:
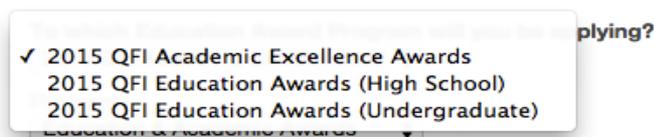
- Award recipients will submit a photo and a short biography to QFI to be included in award announcements and featured on the QFI website.
- Award recipients will enroll in at least one Arabic language course each semester. Awardees must achieve at least an A- in Arabic courses for the 2015-2016 academic year. Award recipients will send an unofficial transcript to QFI at the end of each academic term covered by the award (by December 31, 2015 and June 15, 2016).
- Award recipients will maintain an overall GPA of at least 3.7 on a 4.0 scale throughout the 2015-2016 academic year.
- Award recipients must complete a blog post about their experience studying Arabic or participating in activities related to the Middle East on the college campus (e.g. participation in student clubs, events). Blogs will be featured on QFI's blog site: www.qfiblog.org

Application Instructions
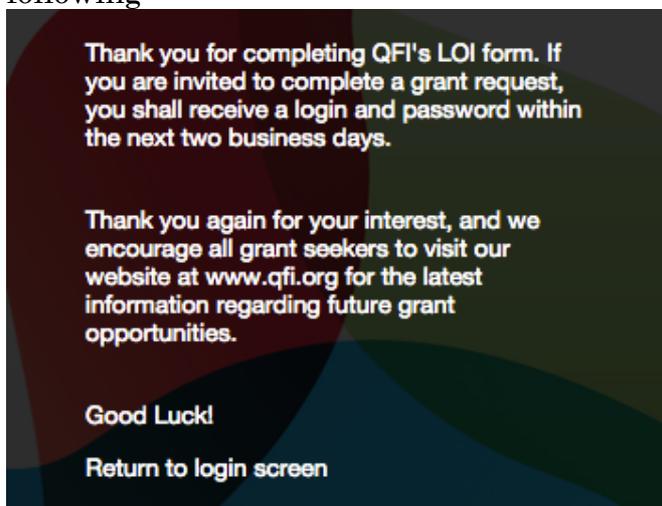
1. The online application form can be accessed here:
    https://qfi.fluxx.io/apply/education
    - ○ You will be asked which Education Award Program that you are applying for. Select "2015 QFI Academic Excellence Awards."
    - ○ For the "program section," mark "Education & Academic Awards"

    - ○ Fill out your personal information (name, gender, date of birth, US citizenship, your home address, phone, and email).
    - ○ Fill out your school and university information by entering the name of **the university that you will be attending starting in fall 2015.**
    - ○ Once you have completed the form, scroll down to the bottom and select "Submit Request."
2. When you select "Submit Request," you will see a screen similar to the following:

    This sends a notification to QFI that you have began the application process for an Education Award. QFI will approve your request and then you will receive an email with your username and password inviting you to begin your application.

3. Once you have received your username and password via email, you can log into your account on Fluxx at https://qfi.fluxx.io/user_sessions/new. Once you have logged in, scroll down to the Requests section and select the blue link with a number series R-XXXX-XXXXX (e.g. R-1503-55593). This will take you into the application. You can edit your application by selecting "Edit Request" at the top right of the screen.

4. **Application form instructions:**
   o Under the "Contact Information" section, enter the relevant information. For "grade level," enter "High School Senior."
   o Under "Education," enter the name of the university that you will be attending in fall 2015.
   o Under "Arabic Studies Background," enter the relevant information.
   o **References:** Because you are applying for the Academic Excellence award, you will be required to submit **three** letters of reference. One letter must be from a teacher or advisor who knows you, the second letter must be from an Arabic instructor, and the third should be from someone else familiar with your high school, volunteer, work, or community activities. *Further information about letters of reference can be found on page 7 of this document.*

   You can request that your references upload a letter of support for your application by selecting the green + sign.

   You will then be prompted to enter the first name, last name, and email for your references.

When you select "Create Recommendation," your reference will receive an automated email inviting them to submit a letter of reference. When the letter has been uploaded, you will receive an email confirmation and will be able to see that it has been submitted.

- o **Additional Narrative Information:** Under "Amount Requested," enter the amount of funding that you are requesting. You may request up to $20,000. Under "Personal Essay," you have the opportunity to share any additional information that you believe might be of interest to the Review Committee (maximum of 300 words allowed).
- o **Application Documents:** You should upload all of the request documents in the "Request Documents" folder by selecting the green + sign. See the "Application Documents for Uploading" section on page 6 of this document for more information about the documents to upload.
- o **Digital Signature**
- o If you want to return and edit your grant request, then select "Save Grant Request."

5. Once you have selected "Save Grant Request," it will redirect you to the main screen. If you are satisfied with your application and have uploaded all required materials, select "Submit."
If you select "Submit" and your application is not finished, then you will not be able to edit your application. Please email Madison Marks at arabic@qfi.org *or call 202-618-3870 to reset your application.*

Application Documents for Uploading

1. Upload the following items as PDF files to the "Application Documents" section on Fluxx when completing your application.

- ❑ An unofficial copy of your high school transcript (all schools attended). *The .PDF file should be labeled Lastname, Firstname – Transcript. (e.g. Doe, Jane – Transcript.PDF)*

- ❑ A copy of either your SAT or ACT scores - the score report does not need to be sent from the testing center. Screen shots are acceptable. All applicants must provide the test scores, whether or not these tests are required for university admission. *The .PDF file should be labeled Lastname, Firstname – Scores. (e.g. Doe, Jane – Scores.PDF)*

- ❑ Your updated resume– your resume should be no more than two pages long. It should include relevant extracurricular activities (e.g. clubs, community service, leadership positions held, part-time jobs, internships). *The .PDF file should be labeled Lastname, Firstname – Resume. (e.g. Doe, Jane – Resume.PDF)*

- ❑ Copy of acceptance letter from university/college – *The .PDF file should be labeled Lastname, Firstname – University Acceptance. (e.g. Doe, Jane – University Acceptance.PDF)*

- ❑ Evidence that your university offers advanced-level coursework in Arabic – this can be a screenshot of course offerings, a letter/email from an Arabic professor at the university certifying that the college offers advanced coursework – *The .PDF file should be labeled Lastname, Firstname – University Arabic classes. (e.g. Doe, Jane – University Arabic courses.PDF)*

- ❑ Evidence of estimated cost of tuition at your university for 2015-2016 – you can often find this by looking on the Financial Aid section of your university website or by calling the Admissions Department. *The .PDF file should be labeled Lastname, Firstname – Cost of Attendance. (e.g. Doe, Jane – Cost of Attendance.PDF)*

- ❑ Your personal statements: (Please combine all three essays in one PDF). *The .PDF file should be labeled Lastname, Firstname – Personal Statements. (e.g. Doe, Jane – Personal Statements)*
  1. Write an essay, in English, discussing your reasons for wanting to study Arabic and/or Middle East Studies and how you will pursue further studies of the language and region during college (300-500 words).
  2. Write an essay, in English, describing a time, either abroad or in the US when you interacted with a person/people from a different culture other than your own. What was this experience like for

you? What challenges did you face? How did you resolve them? (300 words)

3. Write an essay, in Arabic, introducing yourself, including a discussion of your personal and professional interests and goals for pursuing studies of Arabic and the Middle East (150 words). *This may be either typed or handwritten. If handwritten, please upload a scanned copy of your essay in Arabic.*

2. Complete the Arabic Proficiency Self-Assessment.

As part of the application, QFI requires that students complete an Arabic proficiency self-assessment. You can access Arabic Proficiency Self-Assessment Form here.

Letters of Reference Instructions

Three letters of references are required. Please select references that can explain why you are uniquely qualified for the award:

1. One letter must be from a teacher or advisor who knows you;
2. One letter must be from an Arabic instructor. In addition to submitting a letter of reference, the Arabic instructor must also submit the QFI Education Awards: Arabic Teacher/Professor Language Evaluation form.
3. One letter may be from someone else familiar with your high school, volunteer, work, or community activities.

Letters should be submitted directly from the reference and not from the applicant. All applications must be received by 11:59 p.m. on April 30, 2015.

Award Notification

Applicants will be notified of QFI's decision by **early June 2015.**

Any Questions?

To inquire further about the QFI Education Awards grants, please contact:

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