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QU launches new programme

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Qatar University has launched its Honours Programme designed to meet the needs of students who have distinguished themselves academically.

It highlights QU's commitment to providing the appropriate environment that optimises the learning experience of distinguished students in a way that meets their abilities, needs and ambitions, an official said.

The programme is designed to encourage students with high academic performance and records to reach their full potential by placing them in a classroom setting that is highly-competitive, fast-paced, and which challenges them to develop in the best way, intellectually and personally, QU President Prof Sheikha Abdulla al-Misnad said.

She said the programme aims to maintain and promote excellence towards optimal output.

"This programme is second to none in the region and aims to encourage students to maintain high academic levels and offers them the opportunity to maximise their drive for excellence and innovation through carefully selected courses taught in a rigorous academic setting," she said.

Honours Programme director Dr Ahmed Ibrahim explained that it was open to students who achieved scores exceeding 90 points in the Secondary Education Certificate.

The programme requires the completion of 24 credits over a period of four years or eight semesters. "Students will study the Honours section courses in more depth and with research and discussion as essential components to optimise the overall level of critical thinking," he said.

The number of students in each class (usually 12-15) will naturally be less than those in ordinary classes in order to provide an ideal learning setting, he said.

"Our goal is to graduate highly competent and distinguished individuals who are capable of serving the community in accordance with the highest standards. A class of such composition will create an environment of healthy, vibrant competition among

the students," Dr Ibrahim said.

To meet the needs of the labour market, the programme is designed to graduate leaders and professionals of an exceptional calibre in various disciplines.

Dr Ibrahim envisions that graduates of the programme will be able to compete at the very highest levels in both their post-graduate studies and/or careers.

He added that the university aims to maintain the academic momentum and enthusiasm of the students in the programme that will facilitate their progress to graduate studies later on. "These days, employers put more emphasis on students' academic records as evidence of their solid commitment, discipline and creativity," he said.

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