



Weill Cornell Medical College in Qatar



PRESS RELEASE

WCMC-Q's new *e*-application system eases the way

Doha, October 3, 2007: Weill Cornell Medical College in Qatar (WCMC-Q) is easing the way for prospective students as they go through the process of applying to study at the university with an all-new on-line application system launched today.

By adopting state-of-the-art web-based technology, WCMC-Q is offering applicants to both the Pre-medical Program and the Medical Program a truly user-friendly system. Applicants will now access a web-based portal to fill out their application using the URLs:

<https://premedapplication.qatar-med.cornell.edu> (pre-medical applicants)

<https://medapplication.qatar-med.cornell.edu> (medical applicants)

As they go through the process, they can track the status of their application and relevant documents on-line. This makes for a simple and easy-to-use alternative to the paper process often experienced as time-consuming and difficult to manage.

Seamless integration of the applicant portal with a number of additional portals used by interviewers and administrators allows faculty and staff to view and manage the applicant pool throughout the process. Another portal provides an electronic letter of reference (E-LOR) facility, further streamlining the process of gathering supporting documentation.

Announcing the web-based system, Dr. Maya Hammoud, Associate Dean of Admissions and Student Affairs at WCMC-Q, commented. "There is a buzz of excitement around this system since we already piloted it among our students prior to the launch. It provides a comprehensive and integrated solution to the prospective students' admission experience.

"The on-line application has integrated state-of-the-art features from application services in the U.S. with the particular requirements of WCMC-Q. We are now offering an easy-to-use process for the applicants and letter writers, while providing sophisticated tools to the admissions staff that help us focus on providing personalized service to applicants."

The system breathes new life into the application process, ensuring greater accuracy and time-efficiency. Applicants receive step-by-step guidance through the process and can even be contacted by admissions officers through an innovative messaging center.

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In addition, WCMC-Q's Office of Admissions has two computer booths available on site where applicants may fill out the forms and request guidance from staff members. Also planned are visits by admissions staff to local high schools, where they will provide advice during 'office hours' in computer labs.

The on-line application has been tested by a number of students who have overwhelmingly given it the thumbs up. "It is extremely well organized! The best on-line application I've ever filled," said medical student Karl Migally, Class of 2011, who participated in the pre-launch trial.

Classmate Shidin Balakrishnan identified usability as a key strength of the new system. "I have successfully finished testing and submitting the on-line application forms for the Medical Program, and, I must say, I am impressed. It certainly is user-friendly, and avoids many of the hassles involved with a paper-based application."

Foundation Program students Samira El Agha and Aljazy Al Maraghi both praised the system for its simplicity and ease of use. Describing it as "fantastic," their colleague Amna Al Khuzaei said the on-line application provides welcome relief from the challenges that normally accompany university application procedures.

"This is an important step forward as we open our doors to an increasing number of students. Our 60-strong pre-medical class this year is just the tip of the iceberg where the future of enrolment is concerned. As WCMC-Q is dedicated to educating the doctors of tomorrow, it is important to make this first point of contact with applicants the very best representation of what we have to offer," Dr. Hammoud concluded.

Ends

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NOTES TO EDITORS

Established in partnership with Qatar Foundation, WCMC-Q is part of the Weill Medical College of Cornell University, the first American institution to offer its M.D. degree overseas. WCMC-Q offers a complete and integrated educational program, comprising the two-year Pre-medical Program, followed by the four-year Medical Program, with teaching by Cornell faculty. There are separate admission processes for each Program, guided by the standards of admission in use at Cornell University in Ithaca, and its Medical College in New York City.

Website: www.qatar-med.cornell.edu

About Qatar Foundation for Education, Science and Community Development

Founded in 1995 by His Highness Sheikh Hamad Bin Khalifa Al Thani, Emir of Qatar, and chaired by Her Highness Sheikha Mozah Bint Nasser Al Missned, Qatar Foundation is a private, non-profit organization committed to the principle that a nation's greatest natural resource is its people.

The headquarters of Qatar Foundation are located within its flagship project, Education City, a fourteen million square-meter campus which hosts numerous progressive learning institutions and centers of research, including branch campuses of five of the world's leading universities, plus a cutting-edge research and development center. Qatar Foundation also works to enhance the quality of life in Qatar by investing in community health and development.

For more information please visit: <http://www.qf.org.qa/>

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