The Qatar-America Institute (QAI) would like to invite you to join the Qatar-America Institute’s Young Professionals Council. QAI’s Young Professionals Council is a nationwide meeting space for youths who are either interested in or part of the U.S.-Qatar relationship, giving members opportunities to network, socialize, and learn.

The Young Professionals Council’s programming includes networking events, movie nights, and career workshops. Members of the council are also welcome to join QAI’s general programming. The council is an interactive group, and members are encouraged to offer suggestions of better programming or other ways to better serve the membership and council as a whole.

We think your unique background makes you a compelling candidate to join the council. We hope that you will be able to contribute your experience to the council, and that the council in turn will be able to enrich your experience with the Qatar-America Institute. To join, please fill out the application on this page: https://qataramerica.org/young-professionals-council/

Sincerely,

Mike Sexton
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QAI Internal YPC Program Mission

Program: QAI Young Professionals Council

Mission: The Qatar-America Institute (QAI) is an independent 501(c)3 nonprofit research institute that hosts an open cultural space to convene, facilitate cross-cultural exchange programs, and develop educational research on the political, economic, social, and cultural ties between the United States and the State of Qatar. QAI’s Young Professional Council (YPC) is a vehicle the Institute hopes will propel that mission forward.

The YPC’s mission is to educate and build a network of next-generation thinkers and professionals who understand the US-Qatar strategic relationship and provide opportunities for that network that are geared towards leaving a lasting impact.

QAI plans to achieve these goals through the following:

(1) The YPC Networking Series: YPC members will be invited to QAI’s general events all over the country, and will also be targeted for tailored events aimed at fostering dialogue on Qatar and America’s political, economic, and cultural exchanges, including

- roundtables
- lecture series (including virtual lectures)
- networking events
- Arabic movie nights and other cultural activities

These programs will take place across the U.S. in hubs that QAI has identified based upon the geographic location of YPC’s members.

(2) The YPC Annual Delegation: An annual delegation for YPC members to Doha (economy class) that focuses on building-out their network and teaching them about the intricacies of Qatar’s social landscape, developing economy and political system. This unique experience for students and young professionals is expected, through word of mouth, to expand the visibility of the YPC and of QAI’s work.

(3) Network Growth and Management: Expanding QAI’s professional network, specifically among millennials, to ensure QAI’s work and events stay dynamic and diverse. QAI will also distribute educational materials to YPC members, including

- A quarterly newsletter tailored to the interests of YPC members
- In-depth factsheets covering subjects like tourism to Qatar; trade and business information; Qatari culture, art, and fashion; Qatari humanitarian outreach; and Qatari initiatives in research and higher education
• Books produced by Qatar Museums
• Textbooks and other materials written by academics in QAI’s network

(4) University Outreach: In coordination with QF, QAI will reach out to Middle East and Political Science departments at colleges and universities to promote the work of QAI and its network. This outreach will

• Help QAI build inroads with institutions across the U.S.
• Grow the audience for QAI events outside Washington
• Expand the visibility of the YPC network
• Offer students special insight into Middle Eastern and Gulf issues

This outreach will include:

• Distributing papers and books of scholars in QAI’s network
• Sharing QAI’s own factsheets
• Coordinating speaking engagements for academics, policymakers, and other VIPs in QAI’s network at universities, whether in person or through Skype

Targets for Membership

• General age requirement: 18-33 years of age

• QAI is broadly targeting students and young professionals across the U.S. with interest in some facet of QAI’s work, including humanitarianism, culture, business and economics, national security, and international relations. This variety of fields will gather young adults who may not traditionally consider themselves interested in Qatar, such as those in finance, fashion, or refugee assistance.

• Priorities for YPC recruitment will include:
  o Recipients of Qatar-sourced scholarships
  o Students at QF-affiliated universities and other universities supported by Qatar
  o Young adults with professional or academic experience in Qatar (e.g., study abroad, work abroad, Model Arab League delegates)
  o Young adult attendees at QAI events, in particular events outside of Washington

QAI’s Action Plan

• Programming: QAI will organize at least one YPC event per month, independent of QAI’s general programming (to which YPC members will also be welcome). The scope of this YPC-specific programming will be broader than QAI’s typical events, including
  o Screening DFI and other Arabic-language films
  o Arabic Scrabble parties
  o Happy hours
- FIFA watch parties
- Roundtables with VIPs
- Talks with academics in QAI’s network
- Annual (economy class) delegations to Qatar.

Some other potential events to be considered include:

- Arabic 101 classes in collaboration with QFI
- Annual Young Professionals Iftar
- Annual community service project
- Meet-and-greet with Embassy staff in DC or Consular staff elsewhere in the U.S.

- **Network Maintenance**: QAI will maintain the network by tailoring a quarterly newsletter for the YPC, promoting factsheets relevant to YPC members’ interests, and distributing works of scholars in QAI’s network to members. All correspondence with YPC members will be signed off by the YPC manager, who will serve as a point of contact for any concerns, suggestions, or inquiries YPC members may have.

- **Geographic Growth**: As QAI reaches out to universities and develops programming across the U.S., QAI will advertise YPC programming to recruit new members. The YPC application form captures applicants’ zip codes, which will allow QAI to identify hubs of membership as they arise. When hubs reach a baseline number of members, QAI will begin developing tailored programs for members in those areas.