

# Where the Future Belongs

Welcome to Northwestern University in Qatar

Northwestern | QATAR



# What Does the Future Need?

The future needs research-driven solutions to global problems.

The future needs a new generation of college graduates who know how to find and tell compelling stories, develop and share new ideas, and bring people together to make progress.

The future is shaped by media and communication—by the ways we produce and share information, connect with one another, and build a shared narrative.

Northwestern University in Qatar was founded to make the future smarter, better, brighter. Welcome to the home of what's next.

## Facts

Founding (Evanston): 1851

Founding (Doha): 2008

Students: 480

Number of countries represented in student body: 52

Number of faculty: 45

Student to faculty ratio: 11:1

Majors: BS, Journalism; BS, Communication

Minors: Africana Studies, Film and Design, Media and Politics, Middle East Studies, Strategic Communication

Certificate: Strategic Communication

Dual Degree: BSJ/MSJ, Journalism

“The world needs different solutions.”

## Reflections from Northwestern Qatar Dean and CEO Marwan M. Kraidy

We are Northwestern. A research university, and one of the best in the world.

We are Northwestern Qatar. A community of evidence-based storytellers sitting at the confluence of continents and focused on the Global South—every day, we create knowledge for the world.

Our faculty does research that no one else can do. We have faculty—humanists, social scientists, media-makers—who work in three or four languages, who claim multiple nationalities, and who have lived in several places before coming here. That mix of languages and experiences gives us incredible leverage.

The superb education we provide our students prepares them for a career in a field that may not yet exist. The best way to do that is through immersion in research. Journalism is a research-based field. When you do three months of interviews and study books about a topic before you shoot a documentary—that’s research. Communication research is expanding every day. How do the media shape our identity? Why is your phone listening to you? What are ethical guidelines for digital media? How can we use social media to improve the world? How do algorithms shape our life? We’re asking big questions about the way we think and act and live today.

As an intellectual community, we’re focused on the Global South. Many of our students and faculty come from the Middle East, Southeast Asia, Africa, and Latin America. Those are different centers of gravity and frames of reference for research that give you different results and new insights.

What does it mean to create knowledge that critiques and transforms perspectives from Chicago and London and New York? What does it mean to bring Qatari and Brazilian scholars together, to compare their experiences? Or researchers from Nigeria and Indonesia who draw on scholarship in many languages to address the world’s burning questions?

To harness Northwestern Qatar’s tremendous intellectual and creative energy into rigorous knowledge creation, we launched the distinctive Institute for Advanced Research in the Global South. There, our students and faculty articulate diversity and globalization to change the way you understand a problem—and so they have changed the answer you come up with.

The future of education is global and digital, and we are at the forefront of both. Many challenges face our world. We at Northwestern Qatar are perfectly positioned to address them head on.



**Marwan M. Kraidy**, dean and CEO of Northwestern in Qatar, oversees all academic, administrative, and operational units. These include academic programs in communication, journalism, and the liberal arts, a museum, a library, digital production studios, and an ultra-modern newsroom, in a state of the art 515,000 square-foot campus in Education City, Doha. Dean Kraidy is also a professor of communication and the Anthony Shadid Chair in Global Media, Politics and Culture at Northwestern.

In 2021, Kraidy founded the Institute for Advanced Study in the Global South, which hosts multidisciplinary teams of faculty and students dedicated to evidence-based storytelling on the diverse histories, cultures, societies, and media of the Global South. The Institute will host fellows, mentor emerging scholars, and produce multi-lingual and multi-modal outputs.

# History and Mission

## We represent the high standards and bold vision of Northwestern University

**Founded in 2008 as Northwestern University's** third campus and first international campus.

**One of six U.S. universities in Education City,** the Qatar Foundation's flagship initiative is a unique model of academic and research excellence, pioneering a new approach to multidisciplinary, global education and enabling breakthroughs that benefit Qatar and the rest of the world.

**Designed to fulfill the mission of one of the world's top-ranked universities:** Northwestern is committed to excellent teaching, innovative research, and the personal and intellectual growth of its students in a diverse academic community.

**Embracing the vision of the Qatar Foundation:** Enhance the quality and accessibility of education for the Qatari people, supporting Qatar's path to a knowledge economy and providing students with numerous opportunities to conduct sophisticated research, study with accomplished faculty, and interact with an even bigger and more diverse cohort of peers.

**Committed to being an integral part of the growth of Doha,** a cosmopolitan center for education, culture, and finance. Our students and faculty conduct research that benefits the region, engage in service learning with local organizations, and produce creative work and reporting that shares the experience of the region's residents.





# Academic Program

## A flexible, forward-looking approach to scholarship, research, and experience

**Degree programs in journalism and communication**, fields in which Northwestern has established global preeminence—and fields that shape the modern world.

**For every student, a course of study that is grounded in the liberal arts.** We expose students to a wide range of disciplines, help them make connections, and cultivate essential skills and habits: critical thinking, creative problem-solving, reasoning and logic, and speech and writing.

**Flexible programming that meets the needs of our students and the demands of the wider world:** Minors in Middle East studies, media and politics, and strategic communication. A certificate program in strategic communication. A dual-degree program that leads to a BS and MS in journalism. An MA in sports administration.

**Abundant opportunities to learn through experience, including internships, research projects, and hands-on coursework.** One example: our Journalism and Strategic Communication Residency, a 10-week program in which students join the staff at leading media companies (*The Washington Post*, Portland Communications, *Al Jazeera*) and work under the mentorship of experienced professionals.

**A commitment to the public good.** The majority of our courses send students into the field, as researchers and reporters, scholars and documentarians. We also offer an expanding list of intensive service opportunities in Doha and beyond.

# Faculty and Research

We break new ground, pursue promising ideas, and engage with timeless questions and urgent issues



**Talented international faculty members who make standout contributions to their field.**

Our faculty publishes and edits an array of academic books and novels each year. They also produce scores of refereed articles, book chapters, reports, professional studies, and conference papers.

**A dedication to the pursuit of new knowledge, across disciplines and around the world.**

This starts with Northwestern Qatar's flagship initiative, the Institute for Advanced Study in the Global South, which is designed to amplify the reach and impact of our faculty and student research and mediamaking, and to enhance our reputation as a distinctive contributor to Northwestern University, the Qatar Foundation, and knowledge more broadly. The institute was founded to mitigate the under-representation of researchers and creators from the Global South in global knowledge production. Many stories about Qatar, the Arab world, and the Global South are told by authors, researchers, and journalists in the West. The local creation of globally relevant knowledge, and the establishment of South-to-South intellectual, creative, and educational exchanges, are vital to successful knowledge based-societies and sustainable communities.

**A global forum for leading thinkers and practitioners.** Our faculty organize panels, workshops, and conferences, including the Dean's Global Forum, which is a series of lectures that features eminent leaders from academe, the media, the arts, and public affairs.

**Extraordinary opportunities for students to work with faculty at the cutting edge of the field.** Students are offered opportunities to work on research projects with faculty, to present their research at international conferences and to participate in the Institute for Advanced Study in the Global South's fellowship program, a year-long program designed to encourage students to pursue research projects focused on the Global South.

**Recent Faculty Publications**

*Zionism and Biblical History: Re-assessing the Soft Criticism in Rawhi Khalidi's Le Sionisme*, by Khaled AL-Hroub

*Sports and leisure campaigns for migrant workers in Qatar*, by Susan Dun, Muhammad Humam, Natasha S. Das, Muhammad Muneeb Ur Rehman

*Colonial Genealogies of Immigration Controls, Self-Determination, and the Nation-State*, by Torsten Menge

*In A.I. we trust? The effects of parasocial interaction and Technopian versus Luddite ideological views on chatbot-based customer relationship management in the emerging "feeling economy"*, by Seounmi Youn, S. Venus Jin

*Islam, Blackness, and African Cultural Distinction: the Islamic Negritude of Shaykh Ibrahim Niasse*, by Zachary Wright

*Graphic Novels and Comics as World Literature*, by James Hodapp

*The Dynamics of Advertising in MENA: An Empirical Model*, by Ilhem Allagui

# Campus Community

## We believe that great ideas come from diverse communities

**A campus that represents a rich variety of backgrounds and experiences.** We want our students to be able to work across cultures, in communities around the world. Starting on their first day at Northwestern Qatar, they're gaining that kind of experience.

**A serious commitment to diversity.** Around 60 nationalities are represented in our student body; nearly everyone is bilingual. Our culture welcomes new ideas, new perspectives, and new ways of working together.

**Robust programming in leadership development and global engagement,** including service-learning trips to Brazil, China, India, Italy, Morocco, Tunisia, and Zambia; and the Global Media Experience, an educational tour of some of the world's major media centers, including conversations with leaders in the field.

**Expansive social and intellectual opportunities in Education City,** a global gathering place for artists and scientists, entrepreneurs and educators, researchers and innovators.

**A growing list of student-run clubs and organizations,** some of which are open to all Education City students. Clubs are the heart of campus life—an ongoing source of intellectual, social, and leadership opportunities.

### A Sample of Student Clubs

Dabke Society

The Daily Q

Debate Club

ECO-Q Environmental Society

Law, Politics & Human Rights Association

Music Society

Not Another Film Club

NU-Q Student Government

Studio 20Q





## Campus

We study and research in one of the largest, most innovative campuses for media and communication in the world

**A stunning, soaring, leading-edge facility**, outfitted with the most advanced resources in media and communication, including video production studios and a research library and academic resource center.

**A fully automated Newsroom—the first of its kind in Qatar**—allows students to work in all components of news production and produce a variety of programs using a flexible set. The Newsroom includes its own control room and an edit suite to produce graphics and render audio, as well as the ability to produce live reports across multiple platforms.

**Dedicated spaces for performance and presentation.** A 115-seat auditorium features a large HD projector and can be used to record and stream live events. Our Black Box theater for video and play production includes lighting equipment,

special audio cancellation and flooring, and a separate set design and construction room. The Projection Theater features a 4K cinema and 7.1 Dolby surround sound.

**Our classrooms are designed to facilitate discussion and integrate the most advanced technology.** Our facility also includes generous study spaces for small and large groups of students.

**Just beyond our campus: Education City's five other world-class universities.** They're a source of fruitful faculty collaboration, lively social interaction, and extraordinary academic opportunities since students can cross-register for courses at any of the campuses.



# Partnerships and Connections

We harness the power  
of collaboration—in  
Doha, in the region,  
and around the world

**A proud campus of Northwestern University**—ranked #9 in the United States (U.S. News & World Report) and #24 in the world (Times Higher Education World University Ranking). With a \$16 billion endowment, award-winning faculty, and three resource-rich campuses, Northwestern is a global engine of progress.

**Our connection to Northwestern**—our faculty and students spend time on Northwestern's campus in Evanston, Illinois, a lively, diverse city on the shore of Lake Michigan, just north of Chicago. They deliver lectures, take courses, work with students and faculty in a different setting, and explore the region's outstanding cultural, professional, and social opportunities. And Evanston faculty and students also spend time in Qatar, bringing new ideas and energy to our Doha campus.

**A partnership with the Qatar Foundation**—we are one of six U.S. universities in Education City, the Qatar Foundation's flagship initiative, a unique model of academic and research excellence, pioneering a new approach to multidisciplinary, global education and enabling breakthroughs that benefit Qatar and the rest of the world.

**A longstanding partnership with the Doha Film Institute and Al Jazeera Media Network**, which includes collaborative research, workshops, film screenings, master classes, internships, and panel and conference programs.

# Outcomes and Alumni

Our graduates—  
storytellers, media  
professionals, strategic  
communicators,  
content producers,  
filmmakers—are living  
proof of the value of  
a Northwestern Qatar  
education

**We teach and train students who go on to become leaders in a wide variety of fields:** media and technology, science and engineering, business and finance, healthcare and government service.

**A number of our graduates have started their own businesses or built their own careers as freelance journalists or filmmakers.** Others have won prestigious fellowships—such as the Fulbright—to pursue post-graduate research or field experience.

**Graduates become members of one of Northwestern's most powerful resources:** a global network of tens of thousands of active, accomplished alumni. They're accessible online, through the Our Northwestern digital community; and in person, through on-campus panels and workshops and annual events like the Northwestern Alumni Gulf Summit.

**Roughly 35 percent of our graduates choose to pursue graduate or professional degrees,** often at some of the world's premier institutions. Our staff of career advisers offers support at every stage of the application process.

## **Employers of Northwestern Qatar Alumni**

Al Jazeera Network  
Associated Press  
Deloitte  
Doha Film Institute  
Human Rights Watch  
Qatar Development Bank  
Qatar Foundation  
Qatar Ministry of Foreign Affairs  
RasGas  
Sidra Medical and Research  
Center

## **Recent Graduate School Acceptances**

Columbia University  
Harvard University  
London School of Economics  
McGill University  
New York University  
Northwestern University  
University of Cambridge  
University of Oxford

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