



HBKU Financial Aid Frequently Asked Questions



HBKU Financial Aid FAQs

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1. How much is the tuition?

Tuition varies based on the university of admission, the program, and the courses offered. Please confirm with your university as to the final cost of attendance.

2. I am unable to pay the full tuition cost for my university. What scholarship or financial aid options are available?

Universities offer a number of scholarships awarded to students on an academic achievement basis. Students granted scholarships will be notified by the university upon acceptance of admission.

Hamad bin Khalifa University Financial Aid offers need-based loans that are paid back after graduation, on a schedule agreed upon by the student and HBKU. Interested students must submit an online application to HBKU Financial Aid.

This application can be found at:
<https://fas.qf.org.qa/psp/FASPROD/?cmd=login&languageCd=ENG>

3. What is financial aid?

Financial aid is a loan given to undergraduate students in Education City for an equal opportunity to receive a quality university education. Financial aid is distributed to students via an interest free loan, which is then paid back after graduation through a repayment program or paid service plans.

4. Who is eligible for financial aid?

- Full-time students
- International (GCC or other) undergraduate students
- Accepted students to undergraduate programs at: Virginia Commonwealth University in Qatar, Weill Cornell Medical College in Qatar, Texas A&M University at Qatar, Carnegie Mellon University in Qatar, Georgetown University School of Foreign Service in Qatar, or Northwestern University in Qatar
- Students demonstrating financial need
- Those holding a good standard of conduct within the Education City community
- Students with a responsible financial guarantor

5. What is the deadline for my financial aid application?

New students can submit their application from April 1st until May 31st of every year. Returning students must submit their applications between February 1st and March 2nd of every year if they would like to be considered for financial aid.

6. When is the best time to apply for financial aid?

Prospective students should apply for financial aid as soon as possible (the cycle for new students is April 1st to May 31st of every year). Your financial aid application will be processed after you have received a university letter of



admission and have submitted all the required documents. To receive funding you must be actively enrolled in an undergraduate program in Education City. Returning students must also reapply each year if they would like to be considered for financial aid (from February 1st until March 2nd of every year).

7. How do you access the financial aid system?

To access the financial aid system and apply online, visit:

<https://fas.qf.org.qa/psp/FASPROD/?cmd=login&languageCd=ENG&>

8. How do I apply for HBKU financial aid?

Apply for HBKU Financial Aid online at

<https://fas.qf.org.qa/psp/FASPROD/?cmd=login&languageCd=ENG&>

by completing the following steps:

- Register an account on the financial aid website.
- You will receive an automated email with your username and password of your financial aid account.
- The University will “activate” your account upon acceptance. You may then upload your documents and submit your financial aid application. Notification of your account activation will be sent via email.
- Login using the username and password from the activation email.
- Collect and scan soft copies of all required documents for the application.

f. Translate the documents (if applicable) to have all documents in either Arabic or English.

g. Finally, you may upload your documents and submit your application.

9. Do I have to reapply for financial aid every year?

Yes. Financial aid requires you to apply for financial aid every year. If your financial circumstances change, your eligibility or award amount may also change. Renewal of your financial aid package also depends on making satisfactory academic progress towards a degree, and achieving a minimum GPA of 2.00.

10. Can I apply with online bank statements/ documents?

No, all financial documents uploaded (such as bank letter/yearly bank statements) should be originals with an official stamp.

11. Which languages are acceptable while submitting scanned documents on the online application?

Only Arabic and English documents are acceptable for the application. If your official documents are provided in a different language, please ensure that all documents are translated by an official notary.

12. Which documents need an official stamp to be accepted for my application?

All official documents required by the

application must be stamped by the issuing office, such as the bank letter and income certificate.

13. How is financial need determined?

HBKU Financial Aid's mission is to finance students' education by filling the gap between what a student has and what they need. The HBKU Financial Aid Committee reviews all financial aid recommendations and appeals.

14. What does financial aid cover?

Financial aid covers:

- For resident students: tuition / a percentage of tuition
- For resident students who live outside Doha: tuition / a percentage of tuition and housing fees
- For non-resident students: tuition / a percentage of tuition, housing and miscellaneous fees. It may also cover other expenses as approved by HBKU such as:
 - Summer courses – students are required to submit a letter of admittance from university to be eligible for funding.
 - Study abroad – students must select the semester they intend to study abroad in the application. A letter from the branch campus stating all costs and tuition must also be submitted to HBKU Financial Aid. Even if the student is made eligible for funding, coverage

for summer courses and study abroad is determined by a student's financial aid percentage. Students are welcome to check with HBKU Financial Aid if they have any questions.

15. How will I know my financial aid status?

As a new student, you have the advantage of receiving notification emails informing you of any required missing documents. You will also be given a deadline to provide these documents for review.

For returning students, incomplete applications for financial aid will be rejected. Returning students must have all documents submitted to avoid rejection.

16. How will I be notified of awards?

Students who qualify for HBKU Financial Aid are notified via the HBKU financial aid portal. Students must sign into their account in order to view the status of their award package.

17. What do I do after I receive my award?

- a. If you are a non-resident student:
 - 1) Print your financial aid contract from your account in the financial aid system
 - 2) Follow the notarization requirements as mentioned on the first page of your contract
 - 3) Upload a scanned copy into the financial aid system via your account



- 4) Accept the award after uploading the copy
- b. If you are a resident student:
 - 1) Print your financial aid contract from your financial aid system account
 - 2) Come in personally with your guarantor to sign the contract in presence of a financial aid officer
 - 3) Upload a scanned copy into the financial aid system via your account
 - 4) Accept the award after uploading the copy
- c. After you have accepted the award by clicking 'Accept' on the online portal, you can print your financial aid offer letter, which you should keep for your reference of the year's award

18. If I am an international student how /where do I get my contract notarized?

- You may approach any lawyer with a license number from your home country or a legal firm or institute that can notarize the signature of a guarantor with an official stamp. Make sure all pages are stamped, as there are signatures required on each page of the application.
- We also accept a letter from the institute authenticating the guarantor's signature, in lieu of stamped documents.

19. May I combine different options?

You may combine various options, with some

exceptions. For example, students receiving a merit scholarship may still be eligible for HBKU Financial Aid.

20. Do I need to inform HBKU Financial Aid if I am receiving any kind of additional aid, such as scholarships, FAFSA, a Pell Grant or other funds?

Yes. You are required to inform HBKU Financial Aid about any additional financial based aid or scholarships in the appropriate field on Page 4 of your application, or send an email to fao@qf.org.qa

21. Do I need to inform the HBKU Financial Aid if my residency or contact details have changed?

Yes. HBKU Financial Aid should always have your most up-to-date email address and passport information on file. This will be necessary for HBKU Financial Aid to inform you about deadlines.

22. Can financial aid decisions be appealed?

Yes. You are allowed to repeal a decision administered by HBKU Financial Aid. You are required to send an official appeal to the HBKU Financial Aid generic email address: fao@qf.org.qa. The subject of your appeal email should read:

"Official appeal – FAS_ID# 000****"

If you want to enquire about the decision, please stop by HBKU Financial Aid and speak

to any of the officers. You may also send an email of inquiry to fao@qf.org.qa

23. How do I repay my financial aid loan?

- Repayment option: Repay the total loan amount received in monthly installments comprised of 15 % of your post-graduation total income.
- Paid Service option: Working for HBKU approved organizations for pre-determined period of time in exchange for repayment. The period shall not be less than one (1) year, but not more than six (6) years, according to the amount of financial aid received by the student. The term of the Obligated Service shall be computed as described in the contract signed every year.

24. When is the repayment of a financial aid loan due?

Repayment of the financial aid loan is due:

- Prior to graduation:
 - If the student withdraws or is dismissed from HBKU or one of its partner universities
- Commencing six-months after your graduation date:
 - A repayment plan will be agreed upon by the student and HBKU Financial Aid
 - A paid service plan will be drafted if the student becomes employed by

one HBKU’s approved employers. For any further enquiry about the repayment options available please direct your questions to fao-repayment@qf.org.qa

25. Can I switch between a paid service option and a repayment option?

Yes. Your mode of repayment is very flexible. To switch to an alternate repayment option, you will need to send an email to fao-repayment@qf.org.qa providing justifying documents, and upon approval, you may alter your repayment option.

26. What if I am employed internationally? How will my repayment options be effected?

Should you decide to accept employment internationally, you automatically default to a repayment option for your financial aid loan. If you have any enquiries, please send an email to fao-repayment@qf.org.qa

27. Can I apply for summer financial aid? If so, how?

Yes you can. You are required to submit a letter of admittance from university to be eligible for funding.

28. If my financial situation changes anytime during the year, can I apply for more aid?

Yes. You have to send an official clarification appeal with all supporting documents to HBKU Financial Aid before the closure of the



financial aid cycle. We will review your case and notify you of the decision via email.

29. I submitted an appeal and my appeal is still in process. Should I submit the financial aid contract with the original amount?

No, you will need to wait until you receive the appeal decision via email before submitting the contract.

30. What are the HBKU Financial Aid working hours?

Sunday - Thursday: 7:30 am till 3:30 pm.

31. Should I make an appointment if I want to speak to someone about my financial aid?

Yes, for an appointment with a financial aid officer, kindly send an email to fao@qf.org.qa

32. What documents do I need to submit as part of my financial aid application?

Please check HBKU Financial Aid guidelines at

<http://www.hbku.edu.qa/en/DynamicPages/index/105/FinancialAid>

33. What if I want to complete postgraduate studies, can I delay the repayment of the financial aid?

You will need to seek the approval of HBKU Financial Aid for the deferral of your repayment.

34. How can I contact HBKU Financial Aid?

You can contact us in the following ways:

- Visit us in our offices in the HBKU Student Center. We are located on the first floor in Room 215. Office hours are Sunday - Thursday: 7:30 am to 3:30 pm
- Contact us via phone at +974 445-40356, 42320, 42314
- You can email us at: fao@qf.org.qa or fao-repayment@qf.org.qa depending on the nature of your enquiry