



## RESEARCH & GRADUATE PROGRAM BULLETIN

Volume 11. Aug 2023

### Congratulations to our Successful Graduate Students

We extend our warmest congratulations to the following graduate students who have successfully defended their final projects in 2023:



**Noura Farraj**  
**Hana Saleh**  
**Yasmin Hersi**  
**Mona Saleem**  
**Aisha Mohammed Mahdi**  
**Hajer Mohamed Kamil Ahmed**  
**Mihirani Chandraratne**  
**Abeer Al Battniji**  
**Jamila Al-Kurbi**  
**Sarah Ahmed**  
**Suada Hezam**

### Thank You

To the committee members and neutral chairs attending the defense of these students

**Student: Noura Hammad Jaffal Farraj**

**Supervisor: Dr Amy Toosi**

**Project partner: Aisha Al Qahtani (PHCC)**

**External examiner: Dr Jennifer Jackson**

**Neutral chair: Dr Melody Blanco**

**Project title: Supporting the Resilience of Healthcare Workers in the Gulf Cooperation Council Countries**

**Student:** Hana Saleh  
**Supervisor:** Dr Amy Toosi  
**Project partner:** Dr Areej -Hamad (PHCC)  
**External examiner:** Dr Tracey Clancy  
**Neutral chair:** Dr Behi Nikaiin

**Project title:** Facilitators, Barriers, and Impact of E-learning on Healthcare Professionals in Primary Healthcare Settings: An Integrative Review of Literature

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**Student:** Yasmin Hersi  
**Supervisor:** Dr Fadi Khraim  
**Project partner:** Asma Mohammad Younus (HMC)  
**External examiner:** Dr Angela Ferguson  
**Neutral chair:** Dr Behi Nikaiin

**Project Title:** Barriers and Facilitators of Palliative Care for Adult Heart Failure Patients: An Integrative Review

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**Student:** Mona Saleem  
**Supervisor:** Dr Fadi Khraim  
**Project partner:** Deborah Nelson (HMC)  
**External examiner:** Dr Jennifer Jackson  
**Neutral chair:** Dr Melody Blanco

**Project Title:** Supportive Interventions for Family Caregivers of Adults with Mental Illness: An Integrative Review

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**Student:** Aisha Mahdi  
**Supervisor:** Dr Jessie Johnson  
**Project partner:** Ebtesam Jassim (PHCC)  
**External examiner:** Dr Jennifer Jackson  
**Neutral chair:** Dr Tawny Lowe

**Project Title:** The Influence of Social Media on the Perception and Uptake of COVID-19 Vaccine in The Gulf Cooperation Council

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**Student:** Hajer Ahmed  
**Supervisor:** Dr Deborah White  
**Project partner:** Ebtesam Jassim (PHCC)  
**External examiner:** Dr Janet Rankin  
**Neutral chair:** Dr Meagan LaRiviere

**Project Title:** Clinical Nurse Specialist Competencies in Primary Health Care Centers in Qatar: A Competency Framework

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**Student:** Mihirani Chandraratne  
**Supervisor:** Dr Jessie Johnson/ Co-supervisor: Dr Yasin Yasin  
**Project partner:** Dr Hisham Morsi (HMC)  
**External examiner:** Dr Catherine Fox  
**Neutral chair:** Dr Meagan LaRiviere

**Project Title:** Mitigation of burnout for oncology nurses: An integrative review

**Student: Abeer Al Battnji**  
**Supervisor: Dr Melody Blanco**  
**Project partner: Eman Mistarihe (PHCC)**  
**External examiner: Dr Andrew Estefan**  
**Neutral chair: Dr Jessie Johnson**

**Project Title: Exploring the Factors Affecting the Competencies of Mental Health Triage Nurses Within Primary Health Care Setting: An Integrative Review**

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**Student: Jamila Al-Kurbi**  
**Supervisor: Dr Deborah White**  
**Project partner: Mona Mansoori (PHCC)**  
**External examiner: Dr Candace Lind**  
**Neutral chair: Dr Tawny Lowe**

**Project Title: The Factors That Impact Family Planning: An Integrative Literature Review**

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**Student: Sarah Ahmed**  
**Supervisor: Dr Deborah White**  
**Project partner: Mariama Mansaray (PHCC)**  
**External examiner: Dr Carla Ginn**  
**Neutral chair: Dr Behi Nikaiin**

**Project Title: Nursing Roles Within the Family Medicine Model of Care in Primary Health Care Centers in Qatar: An Integrative Review**

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**Student: Sarah Ahmed**  
**Supervisor: Dr. Deborah White**  
**Project partner: Mariama Mansaray (PHCC)**  
**External examiner: Dr. Carla Ginn**  
**Neutral chair: Dr Behi Nikaiin**

**Project Title: Nursing Roles Within the Family Medicine Model of Care in Primary Health Care Centers in Qatar: An Integrative Review**

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**Student: Suada Hezam**  
**Supervisor: Dr Amy Toosi**  
**Project partner: Mona Mansoori (PHCC)**  
**External examiner: Dr Graham McCaffrey**  
**Neutral chair: Dr Melody Blanco**

**Project Title: Nursing Roles Within the Family Medicine Model of Care in Primary Health Care Centers in Qatar: An Integrative Review**

**Update on the Graduate Program**

**Good Luck to**

**Ms. Lina Nasser Saleh Al-Yazidi on completing her thesis and Ms. Nisreen Mohanna (Course-based) as she prepares to defend her final project.**

## Research Highlight

**We are honored to announce the award achievements of our faculty and students. Congratulations to all!**

**Program:** Program for Undergraduate Research Experience (PURE)

For the first time, our undergraduate students were able to participate in The Program for Undergraduate Research Experience (PURE). The below students got awarded. **Well Done!**

Student Name	Project Title	Supervisor
Mohammad Salehi	Enhancing Nursing Students' Competency Regarding Autism in Qatar	Dr. Behi Nikaiin
Anas Awadallah	How do chronic diseases impact family dynamics in Qatar?	Dr. Gregory Tweedie

**Program:** Transdisciplinary Connector Grant

**Transdisciplinary Partner Organization:** College of Registered Nurses of Alberta

Project Team:	Project Title
<b>Principal Investigator:</b> M. Gregory Tweedie (UCQ) <b>Co-investigators:</b> Meagan LaRiviere (UCQ), Crystal Lawrence <b>Graduate Research Assistants:</b> Farid Talebloo, Shahneela Tasmin	Machine learning for rapid workforce deployment: A validation study of AI technology to streamline Substantially Equivalent Competency (SEC) assessment of internationally educated nurses for Alberta's healthcare system

## When is Ethics Approval Required for a Research Project?

Ethics approval for research is required when the study involves human subjects, animals, or the use of personal data. The primary purpose of ethics approval is to ensure that the research is conducted in an ethical and responsible manner, with the safety, rights, and well-being of the participants and the public in mind.

As per [Tri-Council Policy Statement \(TCPS\), Belmont Report, US NIH](#), research involving living human participants or human biological materials, embryos, fetuses, fetal tissue, reproductive materials, and stem cells requires ethics review and approval by an Institutional Review Board before the research commences.

The requirements for obtaining ethics approval may vary depending on the country, institution, and type of research. In Qatar, differentiating between research and innovation grants and teaching and learning can be complex or confusing for researchers. If in doubt, please contact the Research Office at [roshi.taleghani@ucalgary.ca](mailto:roshi.taleghani@ucalgary.ca).

The University of Calgary in Qatar (UCQ) has an Assurance agreement with the Ministry of Public Health (MOPH) in Qatar. UCQ ensures that all of its human subjects research activities, regardless of the source of support, will be guided by the ethical principles in the following documents:

[Tri-Council Policy Statement \(TCPS\)](#),

[Belmont Report](#),

[US NIH](#)

To ensure compliance with MOPH regulations, any research or data collection involving human subjects, whether carried out in classrooms or other contexts, necessitates obtaining an Ethics certificate.

Additionally, it is imperative to inform the UCQ Research Office of such activities.

## Research Networks & Collaboration

- ❖ Register at [O'Brien Institute for Public Health](#) and take advantage of their services such as peer review opportunities, research collaboration, etc.
- ❖ The Faculty of Nursing in Calgary kindly agreed to review proposals from our campus. Please examine the [Peer Reviewer List](#)

## Add Your Scholarly Activities

Please add any scholarly activities you completed during the past year, such as a book, book chapter, conference and journal paper, creative works, online paper, patent, or public speaking, into the SharePoint: [Scholarly Activities Form](#)

## Funding Programs

Please click on each topic to find more information about each program

### [High School Research Experience Program \(HSREP\)](#)

**Sponsor: Qatar Research Development and Innovation (QRDI)/QNRF**

The High School Research Experience Program (HSREP) aims to foster a research culture and develop research capacity in Qatar by promoting "Learning by Doing" and "Hands-On" research activities as effective methods for high school education. Students will gain experience in research with academic mentors throughout their one-year involvement in the HSREP grant. HSREP grant will also indirectly support, promote, and foster STEM education in schools. HSREP is designed specifically for high school students in line with QNRF's mission of supporting original research across all levels. This program aims to build a solid research foundation in students before they pursue their undergraduate studies by introducing them to research design and methodologies in various disciplines. HSREP aims to play an important role in QNRF's aim of building the local human capacity in Qatar and providing local organizations and institutions with a steady supply of skilled graduates.

**Budget:** Funds will be managed by the awarded institution. HSREP award is for one calendar year and QAR 18,000.

**Application Deadline: Oct 30, 2023**

## Transdisciplinary Research and Scholarship

**Sponsor: University of Calgary**

UCalgary is committing resources, developing capacity, and enabling transdisciplinary collaboration across our campuses and communities, continuing our tradition of interdisciplinary, multidisciplinary, and transdisciplinary paradigms, all built on a foundation of disciplinary excellence. Led by the Office of the Vice-President (Research), the Transdisciplinary Scholarship initiative is deploying a series of opportunities and programs.

Initiating stream: up to \$10,000

Consolidating stream: up to \$20,000

Initiating stream: 6 months

Consolidating stream: 12 months

see terms of reference for more information

**August 15, 2023 intake extended to September 1, 2023.**

**Upcoming Transdisciplinary Connector Grants deadlines:**

**November 15**

**February 15**

**May 15**

**August 15**

## VPR Catalyst Grant

**Sponsor: University of Calgary**

VPR Catalyst Grants are designed to catalyze research initiatives that will lead to substantial external funding and are intended to support well-defined early-stage research activities. The VPR Catalyst Grants ask researchers to think boldly and strategically about how to maximize the impact of downstream funding. The stimulus grant program will prioritize those who present a winning research context, including, for example, mentorship, strong collaborators, and knowledge engagement partnerships.

**Amount/Duration:** Maximum 12 months, after which unused funds must be returned

**Value:** CAD \$1,000 - \$15,000

For more information, visit [VPR Catalyst Grant](#)

### Resource Documents

- [Information session slides](#)
- [Evaluation Criteria](#)

**Upcoming Grant deadlines:**

**November 15**

**February 15**

**May 15**

**August 15**

## Program for Undergraduate Research Experience (PURE)

**Sponsor: University of Calgary**

The Program for Undergraduate Research Experience (PURE) provides up to \$7,500 of financial support to undergraduates to conduct research for 8, 12 or 16 weeks between May and August. Since UCQ summer schedule is different with main campus. Qatar Students are only allowed to apply to conduct research for 8 weeks.

The PURE program makes it possible for students to learn from on-campus experts about how research projects are developed, and how their results can contribute to new knowledge while solving problems in society. Each PURE learning experience is a unique opportunity to develop research skills and explore research interests. These experiences help students develop the abilities to collaborate, communicate, and think critically and creatively. PURE enriches and extends undergraduate learning outside the classroom. You can find more information in [TAYLOR INSTITUTE FOR TEACHING AND LEARNING](#)

**The application will open Dec 2023**

## Taylor Institute for Teaching and Learning (SoTL grant)

**Sponsor: University of Calgary**

Funded by the Provost's Office, the University of Calgary Teaching and Learning Grants are designed to enhance student's learning experiences through the integration of teaching, learning, and research. Specifically, they support the development, implementation, critical examination, and dissemination of innovative, evidence-based approaches to student learning in order to achieve the following goals:

- Integration of research evidence into teaching practice
- Generation of new knowledge about teaching and learning at the University of Calgary
- Dissemination of the results of that work to benefit others

**Amount/Duration:** Based on type and duration of research (CAD\$ 10,000 - 40,000)/ Up to 3 years

**Application deadline:** Monday, January 15, 2024

## Undergraduate Research Experience Program (UREP)

**Sponsor: Qatar Research Development and Innovation (QRDI)/QNRf**

UREP offers students and mentors opportunities to build their research experience and portfolios, especially in the QRDI national areas at link. After participating in a UREP project, students can become potentially strong candidates for other QRDI funding programs in the future, and mentors can build their research programs while simultaneously supporting student development and personal growth.

**Duration:** One-year award for a total of QAR 18,000 per student (maximum 6 students) as follows:

**Eligibility of applicant (PRM):**

- Must be affiliated with a submitting institution in Qatar
- Must hold a research-oriented doctorate or any of the approved terminal degrees as defined by the list of terminal degrees.
- If the PRM does not hold a terminal degree, they must collaborate with an RM or industry mentor who do.
- PRMs and RMs may participate in up to two UREP projects per cycle and three overall.

#### **Eligibility of Students:**

- Must be enrolled as full-time students in an undergraduate degree program in an educational institution or university in Qatar.
- Must remain residents in Qatar throughout the project.
- Student-to Mentor ratio not to exceed 3:1

**Proposal Submission: TBD**

## **Graduate Sponsorship Research Award (GSRA)**

**Sponsor: Qatar Research Development and Innovation (QRDI)/QNRF**

GSRA enables local eligible institutions to support prospective faculty and researchers through a competitive sponsorship program. Graduate candidates will gain the knowledge, skills, and experience necessary to become future research and development leaders in Qatar. The program provides sponsorships to undertake research-based graduate studies towards masters or doctoral degrees through two tracks: GSRA local and GSRA international.

#### **Eligibility of Candidates**

- Candidates must not exceed 40 years of age at the time of submission.
- GSRA candidate should be an employee. An employment letter (commitment confirmation from the employer) to that effect should be included in the submission.
- GSRA candidates must be accepted to full-time programs of study. Online and/or part-time programs are disallowed. A full or provisional acceptance letter should be included in the submission.
- GSRA will not support an application for an equivalent or lower degree than the one currently held by the candidate.
- GSRA will not support candidates who have already started their study programs prior to the submission deadline.
- GSRA will only accept applications for programs that start in the following academic year.
- Local track candidates are only allowed to study at universities in Qatar.
- GSRA International track supports Qatari nationals and those of Qatari mothers.
- GSRA international track supports study programs at approved universities outside Qatar. A list of approved universities is provided in Appendix 1 in the request for application document.
- Academic Research Grant (ARG)

**Application Submission Deadline:** Anticipated to be in Jun 2024



## FOOD Security Call- Sponsor by QATAR National Research Fund

Qatar National Research Fund (QNRF), in partnership with the Ministry of Municipality and Environment (MME), has launched the third cycle of the joint call on Food Security Call.

The key objective of this call is focused on high Technology Readiness Level (TRL) applied research aiming at; Enhance Food Security measures in Qatar through investing in applied research in the main pillars of the State of Qatar's National Food Security Strategy.

Harness local and external expertise and knowledge in Food Security related science and technology to develop solutions for the local Qatari conditions. For more information, visit [QNRF-MME Joint Funding](#)

**Proposal submission: TBD**

### Recent Publications

#### Conference papers:

Alhassan, M. (2023). Discovering The Lived Experience of Simulated Patients With Nursing Students At The University Of Calgary In Qatar: An Exploratory Descriptive Study. In: *Utilitarian Conferences Gathering*. • 12th International Nursing, Healthcare, and Patient Safety Conference . Dubai, UAE.

Alhassan, M. (2023). Game On! Revolutionizing Pediatric Nursing Education: Harnessing the Power of Virtual Games. In: *The Hospital for Sick Children (SickKids)*. SimKids Virtual Simulation Symposium. ON Canada.

Ansar, S. (2023, March 13-16). *Revamping an Academic Library with Users' Voice: A Pandemic Response* [Poster Session]. 43rd International Association of University Libraries (IATUL) Annual Conference 2023. UAE. <https://iatul.org/about/news/43rd-iatul-conference-uae-2023>

Mahsud, K., Ansar, S. (2023, April, 26-28). *Academic Libraries and the Pandemic: Lessons Learned and Future Plans* [Poster session]. 2023 Conference on Postsecondary Learning and Teaching. Calgary, Alberta, Canada. <http://hdl.handle.net/1880/116525>

Pegg, J., Kandar, H., Almufargi, H., & Al Abdali, A. (Year). Developing a 'Glocal' Framework for Curriculum Development in Mathematics & Science Teacher Education. 2023 online conference presentation for the United Arab Emirates University College of Education.

Toosi, A. & MacDonald, D. (2023, June). Centering relationships and respect in maternal-newborn nursing education in Qatar. 33rd International Confederation of Midwives (ICM) Triennial Congress, Bali (Accepted for Oral presentation)

#### Journal Paper:

Blanco, M., Lowe, T., Mohamed, S., Ansar, S., & Johson, J. (2023). Innovation and restructuring of lab and clinical simulation in undergraduate nursing programs as a response to the COVID-19 pandemic: Protocol for an integrative review. *Middle East Journal of Nursing*, (17)1: 24-30.  
doi:10.5742/MEJN2023.9378031

Lowe, T., Johnson, J., Blanco, M., Yassine, K., Ansar, S., Schnurman, D., Al-Naemi, H., & Sutherland, H. (2023). What are the barriers to sustaining a safe sleep program for infants within hospital settings: An integrative review of the literature. *Journal of Pediatric Nursing, 71*, 23–31.  
<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.pedn.2023.03.003>