

The Alqabas Program: A University Experience

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From April 7th to April 11th, 2019, the Foundation Program welcomed 43 high school female Qatari students from seven Qatari schools to the Alqabas Program. The Alqabas Program is a student outreach initiative which is the first of its kind at Qatar University. It was undertaken in collaboration with the Ministry of Education and Higher Education. The goal of the program was to prepare grades ten and eleven high school students for university life. Around 25 faculty members and staff from FP Student Affairs, the Department of English, and the Department of Math participated in organizing, preparing, and delivering the sessions.

During their visit, the high school students participated in numerous learning experiences. This included activities which were designed to develop their math and English skills, as well as workshops which were designed to improve their study skills and test-taking strategies. The Alqabas also organized visits to the



FP staff and faculty who participated in Alqabas: Photograph courtesy of Hayat El Samad

Colleges of Medicine, Pharmacy, Engineering, and Education; also, the high school students attended math and English classes along with regular university students. The visiting students were also introduced to the different student support services offered at Qatar University, such as the Qatar University Library, the Sports Center, and the Career Development

Center. On the final day of the Alqabas, a showcase of student posters was held. This provided the students with an opportunity to present posters and share their experiences in the Alqabas with faculty and special needs students.

A student survey indicated a high satisfaction rate among the attendees. Students wrote that the Alqabas was

fun, interesting and beneficial. One student commented that she already felt like a Qatar University student. Future plans for the Alqabas include extending the program to more than one week, targeting more Qatari schools, and offering a similar program to male students. By encouraging students to apply to STEM and medicine majors as well as better

preparing them for university life, the Foundation Program will make a positive contribution towards the realization of the Qatar National Vision 2030.

