Where the Future Belongs

Welcome to Northwestern University in Qatar
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.

What Does the Future Need?

Facts
- Founding (Evanston): 1851
- Founding (Doha): 2008
- Students: 434
- Number of countries represented in student body: 59
- Number of faculty: 36
- Student to faculty ratio: 12:1
- Majors: BS, Journalism; BS, Communication
- Minors: Media and Politics, Middle East Studies, Strategic Communication
- Certificate: Strategic Communication
- Dual Degree: BSJ/MSJ, Journalism
- Master’s Degree: MA, Sports Administration
The world needs different solutions.

Reflections from Northwestern Qatar
Dean and CEO Marwan M. Kraidy

We are Northwestern. And Northwestern is a research university—one of the best in the world. That identity is embodied here. Research lifts everyone up. It brings in a different traffic of ideas. And it gives you the cultural capital to make change.

There is research that our faculty can do that no one else can do. We have faculty who work in three or four languages, who claim multiple nationalities, who have lived in several places before coming here. That mix of languages and experiences gives us incredible leverage.

We should give students an education that prepares them for a career in a field that doesn’t exist yet. The best way to do that is to involve them 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 and why is your phone listening to you? What are ethical guidelines for digital media? 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. That’s a reflection of who our students and faculty are and where they come from: Southeast Asia, Africa, Latin America, the Middle East, and the Gulf. Those are different centers of gravity for conducting research. If you work from those centers of gravity, you get different results.

What does it mean to create knowledge without using the dominant perspectives and methods from London and Paris and New York? What does it mean to bring Nigerian and Brazilian scholars together? Or researchers from Rwanda and Indonesia? It means you’ve changed the way you understand a problem—and so you’ve changed the solutions you develop.

It’s clear that the world needs different solutions. We’re in the perfect position to find them.

Marwan M. Kraidy, a scholar of global communication and an authority on Arab media, culture, and politics, has long been immersed in the study of geopolitics and media in the Middle East, having authored numerous books and articles on the region’s geopolitics and media culture. An award-winning author and Andrew Carnegie Fellow, Kraidy’s research centers around the relationship between culture and geopolitics, theories of identity and modernity, and global media systems and industries. He is fluent in Arabic, English, and French and conversant in Spanish.
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.
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.

Academic Program
A flexible, forward-looking approach to scholarship, research, and experience
Faculty and Research

We break new ground, pursue promising ideas, and engage with timeless questions and urgent issues.
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 Union
Society of Professional Journalists
Studio 20Q
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.

Campus

We study and research in one of the largest, most innovative campuses for media and communication in the world.
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 $12 billion endowment, award-winning faculty, and three resource-rich campuses, Northwestern is a global engine of progress.

Examples of our connection to Northwestern:
Many of 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 students can also spend a semester in Qatar, bringing new ideas and energy to our Doha campus.

A willing partner with organizations and businesses in our home city of Doha, including a partnership with Al Jazeera Media Network. The network sponsors a campus speaker series and is an ongoing source of internship and job opportunities for students and alumni.

A longstanding partnership with the Doha Film Institute, which includes collaborative research, workshops, film screenings, master classes, internships, and panel and conference programs. We’re also regular participants in the institute’s annual film festivals, Ajyal Youth Film Festival and Qumra.

A growing relationship with the Qatar Computing Research Institute. Through research and intellectual exchange, students and faculty work with the institute on the production and dissemination of theoretical and practical knowledge of media, communication, and technology.
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 postgraduate 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

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