

HIJACKING HIGHER EDUCATION QATAR, THE MUSLIM BROTHERHOOD AND TEXAS A&M

BUYING NUCLEAR RESEARCH AND STUDENT INFORMATION

2023

ISGAP

THE INSTITUTE FOR THE STUDY OF
GLOBAL ANTISEMITISM & POLICY

The Institute for the Study of Global Antisemitism and Policy (ISGAP) is committed to fighting antisemitism on the battlefield of ideas.

ISGAP is dedicated to scholarly research into the origins, processes, and manifestations of global antisemitism and of other forms of prejudice, including various forms of racism, as they relate to policy in an age of globalization.

On the basis of this examination of antisemitism and policy, ISGAP disseminates analytical and scholarly materials to help combat hatred and promote understanding.

For further information contact:

The Institute for the Study of Global Antisemitism and Policy Email:
info@isgap.org www.isgap.org

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Background

In July 2019 at the Department of Justice (DOJ), in Washington, D.C., Dr. Charles Asher Small, the ISGAP Director, presented the findings of an ISGAP research project started in 2012, entitled “Follow the Money.” The ongoing research project examines illicit funding of United States universities by foreign governments, foundations and corporations that adhere to and promote anti-democratic and antisemitic ideologies, with connections to terrorism and terror financing.¹

The project revealed, for the first time, the existence of substantial Middle Eastern funding (primarily from Qatar) to US universities that had not been reported to the Department of Education (DoED), as required by law. In fact, ISGAP’s research uncovered billions of dollars of unreported funds, which, in turn, led to the launch of a federal government investigation in 2019.

As part of its continued research, ISGAP has uncovered and established that the foreign donations from Qatar, especially, have had a substantial impact on fomenting growing levels of antisemitic discourse and campus politics at US universities, as well as growing support for anti-democratic values within these institutions of higher education. With the explosion of antisemitism at US universities in recent weeks, there are also security concerns that have potential domestic and global implications.

This report highlights Qatar’s relationship with the Muslim Brotherhood (which spawned Hamas, an organisation committed not only to the destruction of the State of Israel, but also to the murder of Jewish people throughout the world) and uncovers its extensive financial arrangements with Texas A&M University.

Qatar and Texas A&M’s partnership, which includes significant access to and ownership of intellectual property on many research projects, including nuclear energy research, raises safety and security concerns.

This report is the first of multiple reports that will expose Qatar’s strategic, surreptitious educational and political meddling on the world stage.

¹ “VOLUME II Examining Undocumented Foreign Funding of American Universities: Implications for Education and Rising Antisemitism,” ISGAP (2020). <https://isgap.org/post/2020/09/volume-ii-examining-undocumented-foreign-funding-of-american-universities-implications-for-education-and-rising-antisemitism/>

Executive Summary

For decades, Qatar strategically positioned itself as an international funder of education, finance, science, health, sports, arts and culture, communications and development. As part of this positioning, since 9/11, Qatar has become the largest foreign donor to US universities.²

Despite its close ties to the United States and other western countries, Qatar has also built an extensive network of Islamist partners dedicated to expanding its influence.³ It hosts, supports and represents the Muslim Brotherhood (MB), its ideology and global agenda; maintains ties with Iran; hosts the Taliban; supports and maintains an office for Hamas and its exiled leadership; and has backed militias in Syria and Libya.⁴

On October 7, 2023, Hamas, funded extensively by Qatar,⁵ carried out a pogrom, murdering 1,400 Israelis and kidnapping more than 230 people. The pogrom also included the torture and rape of many of its victims. This was the largest massacre of Jewish people since the end of the Holocaust. It is also the latest attack committed by Qatari-funded terrorists. It comes after Qatar funded, protected and disseminated Islamist extremist ideology and organizations around the globe.⁶

Qatar maintains a relationship with the Muslim Brotherhood, which has existed for decades and has become one of the most significant financial and ideological backers of its Islamist ideology. Qatar is also home to Islamist inspired proscribed terrorist entities.

Qatar also hosts other radical spiritual Islamist leaders—including the late Yusuf al-Qaradawi, the spiritual leader of the Muslim Brotherhood.

² Sophie Shulman, “Tuition of terror: Qatari money flowed into U.S. universities - and now it's fueling violence,” *CTECH* (2023). <https://www.calcalistech.com/ctechnews/article/jwhsqhrt>

³ Here we refer to Islamism the Political Ideology and not the religion of Islam as practiced peacefully by Muslims worldwide.

John Jenkins, Dr Martyn Frampton and Tom Wilson, “Understanding Islamism,” *Policy Exchange* (2020). <https://policyexchange.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/Understanding-Islamism.pdf>

⁴ David B. Roberts, “Reflecting on Qatar’s ‘Islamist’ Soft Power,” *Policy Brief* (2019): 1. https://www.brookings.edu/wp-content/uploads/2019/04/FP_20190408_qatar_roberts.pdf

⁵ Doron Peskin, “Cash flow: 16 years of Qatari money to Hamas has created a monster,” *CTECH* (2023). <https://www.calcalistech.com/ctechnews/article/lretnzx9l#:~:text=The%20Qatari%20government%20began%20financing.and%20through%20real%20estate%20companies>

⁶ “Written evidence submitted by Steven Merley” (2018). <https://committees.parliament.uk/writtenevidence/87421/pdf/>

Qaradawi was banned from entry into the United States,⁷ France,⁸ the United Kingdom,⁹ the United Arab Emirates, Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Tunisia (and others), yet gained refuge in Qatar.¹⁰

As part of ISGAP's ongoing research on Qatari funding of US universities, it discovered a disturbing relationship between Qatar and Texas A&M University.

Qatar has spent billions of dollars and a large amount of this has gone unreported to the United States Department of Education.¹¹ Significant Qatari funding has been provided to Texas A&M, Georgetown, Cornell, Carnegie Mellon, Northwestern and Virginia Commonwealth, as well as University College, London and HEC Paris, all of which maintain campuses in Qatar that are subsidized by the royal family-linked Qatar Foundation.

ISGAP has discovered that Qatar provides Texas A&M with more than a billion dollars of funding both in the US and at Education City in Doha, which hosts a vast spectrum of research fields including scientific, nuclear and weapons.

The agreement that Qatar has made with Texas A&M, obtained by ISGAP, created the Texas A&M University in Qatar (TAMUQ). The Texas A&M and Qatar agreement involves more than one billion USD of funding and more than 500 research projects.¹²

SEE REPORT FOR DETAILS, and click [HERE](#) for a list of projects funded by Qatar at TAMUQ.

As part of the contractual agreement:

- Qatar Foundation owns the entire right, title and interest in all technology and intellectual property developed at TAMUQ.

⁷ *Counter Extremism Project*. <https://www.counterextremism.com/extremists/yusuf-al-qaradawi>

⁸ "The 'global mufti' Sarkozy barred from entering France," *France 24* (2012). <https://www.france24.com/en/20120328-sarkozy-bars-global-mufti-entering-france-sheikh-yusuf-qaradawi-toulouse-shooting>

⁹ "Muslim cleric not allowed into UK," *BBC News* (2008). <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/uk/7232398.stm>

¹⁰ *Counter Extremism Project*. <https://www.counterextremism.com/extremists/yusuf-al-qaradawi>

¹¹ "Follow the Money: Examining Undocumented Foreign Funding of American Universities: Implications for Education and Rising Antisemitism," *ISGAP* (2019). <https://isgap.org/book/follow-the-money-examining-undocumented-foreign-funding-of-american-uni> <https://www.qatar.tamu.edu/versities-implications-for-education-and-rising-antisemitism/>

¹² "Qatar National Research Fund." <https://isgap.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/10/Texas-AM-University-GIFTS-NPRP-DK-FORMATTING.xlsx-Texas-AM.pdf>

- Qatar Foundation owns all real and personal property acquired, and all physical facilities constructed for TAMUQ, except property acquired at TAMUQ without funding or reimbursement by the Qatar Foundation.

In addition to this, Qatar has full control over curriculum development as well as hiring and recruiting staff and students.

Of particular concern is the sensitive nuclear research that is being conducted, in addition to weapons development. The implications of Qatar controlling Texas A&M's research raise many national security concerns.

Per the agreement, Qatar gains full ownership of the intellectual property resulting from any Qatari-funded work at TAMUQ. This includes state-of-the-art nuclear research with potential weapons applications, along with advanced projects in other sensitive areas like biotechnology, cybersecurity, robotics and artificial intelligence. Qatar's strategic, political and financial ties to terrorist organizations reveal the magnitude and implications of this access.

Qatar's access to nuclear information and the possible consequences in the region and around the world are alarming. Qatar's neighbour, Iran, with which Qatar maintains overt and covert relations, is on a well-known quest for nuclear weapons. In addition, Qatar's close relationship and funding of terror groups like Hamas is troubling.¹³

Qatar's control over Texas A&M's research poses serious questions.

- What does Qatar do with the resulting sensitive IP and technologies?
- Will Qatar secretly provide or sell them to the Iranian regime or other dangerous regional actors?

At a minimum, the sweeping terms of this agreement make it possible for Qatar to proliferate dual-use sciences and compromise US national security.

This report highlights Qatar's relationship with Islamism, and, in particular, the Muslim Brotherhood (which spawned Hamas), and uncovers its extensive financial arrangements and partnerships with Texas A&M. This includes significant access to intellectual property on nuclear energy research, which threatens the safety of the global community.

This ISGAP Report is the first of multiple forthcoming reports that exposes Qatar's strategic, surreptitious educational and political meddling on the world stage.

¹³ Roberts, "Reflecting on Qatar's 'Islamist' Soft Power," *Policy Brief* (2019): 3. https://www.brookings.edu/wp-content/uploads/2019/04/FP_20190408_qatar_roberts.pdf

This report has important policy recommendations at the end, and it is imperative that that the authorities take note and act promptly.

Qatar and the Muslim Brotherhood (MB)

It is important to note that when Hamas was created, it designated itself as “one of the wings of Moslem Brotherhood in Palestine.”¹⁴ Qatar has provided a safe haven for Hamas’ political leadership since 2012. In January 2015, then-Qatari Foreign Minister referred to then-Hamas politburo chief Khaled Meshaal as the country’s “dear guest.”¹⁵

Qatar is home to a relatively small population (2.6 million), only 11.6 percent of which is Qatari. However, it is a wealthy emirate country, with a GNP of 229.007 USD bn in December 2022, in the Gulf that gained independence from the United Kingdom in 1971.¹⁶ It has two key neighbouring countries, Saudi Arabia and Iran, with which it shares the largest natural gas field in the world.¹⁷

Qatar positions itself as a critical mediator in regional disputes between various Arab and Muslim countries and aligns with the US as a key Gulf partner in several defence pacts and agreements.¹⁸ Perhaps most significantly, Qatar hosts thousands of US forces as well as the regional headquarters for the US Central Command (CENTCOM) in Doha and at various other military facilities.¹⁹

Qatar is ruled by the Al Thani Royal Family, who have embraced and promoted Islamist thinking and activism worldwide for many years.²⁰

¹⁴ Yale Law School, “Hamas Covenant 1988,” *The Avalon Project*.

https://avalon.law.yale.edu/20th_century/hamas.asp

¹⁵ *Counter Extremism Project*. <https://www.counterextremism.com/threat/hamas/report>

¹⁶ *The World Factbook* <https://www.cia.gov/the-world-factbook/countries/qatar/>

“Qatar Gross National Product (GNP),” *CEIC*. <https://www.ceicdata.com/en/indicator/qatar/gross-national-product>

“A Guide to the United States’ History of Recognition, Diplomatic, and Consular Relations, by Country, since 1776: Qatar,” *Office of the Historian*.

<https://history.state.gov/countries/qatar#:~:text=Qatar%20had%20previously%20been%20a,of%20treaties%20with%20Great%20Britain.>

¹⁷ “Factbox: Qatar, Iran share world's biggest gas field,” *Reuters* (2010). <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-northfield-qatar-idUSTRE66P1VV20100726>

¹⁸ Bernd Kaussler, “Tracing Qatar's Foreign Policy Trajectory and its Impact on Regional Security,” *Arab Center for Research & Policy Studies* (2015): 4. [https://www.dohainstitute.org/en/lists/ACRPS-PDFDocumentLibrary/Kaussler on the Development of Qatari Foreign Policy.pdf](https://www.dohainstitute.org/en/lists/ACRPS-PDFDocumentLibrary/Kaussler%20on%20the%20Development%20of%20Qatari%20Foreign%20Policy.pdf)

¹⁹ “CENTCOM Commander Visit to Qatar Highlights Focus on “People, Partners, and Innovation,” *U.S. Central Command* (2023). <https://www.centcom.mil/MEDIA/PRESS-RELEASES/Press-Release-View/Article/3293580/centcom-commander-visit-to-qatar-highlights-focus-on-people-partners-and-innova/>

²⁰ Roberts, “Reflecting on Qatar’s ‘Islamist’ Soft Power,” *Policy Brief* (2019): 3. https://www.brookings.edu/wp-content/uploads/2019/04/FP_20190408_qatar_roberts.pdf

The Qatari establishment's commitment to Islamism runs deep. Their political, cultural, and social establishment has been profoundly influenced by Muslim Brotherhood activists who fled Egypt in the 1950s.²¹ These activists played an essential part in founding Qatar's Ministry of Education and helped establish Islamism in the emirate between the 1960s and 1980s.²²

At this time, Qatar was an emerging state with a population of only approximately 25,000 and little governmental structure. They made use of *Salafi* imams, judges and bureaucrats with Saudi training and began to promote a fusion of *Salafi* and MB thinking in periodicals such as *Majallat al Umma*.²³ Oil and natural gas gradually replaced its traditional industries like pearling and fishing, which increased the profits of the ruling family. The combination of this newfound wealth, along with an influx of educated members of the Muslim Brotherhood, allowed Qatar to develop the Ministry of Education and an education system where Muslim Brotherhood members were essential on all levels.²⁴

Islamism mainly developed in Qatar between the 1960s and 1980s, but it was influenced by the writings of significant Muslim Brotherhood scholars/ideologues such as Sayyid Qutb.²⁵ A group of Muslim Brotherhood members gradually re-developed strategies, learning from the Egyptian experience, and started thinking in terms of 'human rights' and 'civil society' for its proselytizing [*da'wah*] system.²⁶

In 1999, the Qatari branch of the MB was officially disbanded by a vote amongst its members. The primary explanation provided was that the Muslim Brotherhood's formal structure in places like Qatar became "an irrelevant matter," as the group can easily offer the same services without any defined structure.²⁷ Despite this, the

²¹ David Roberts, "Qatar and the Muslim Brotherhood: Pragmatism or Preference?" *Middle East Policy*, 21 (2014): 88. <https://doi.org/10.1111/mepo.12084>

²² Abdullah Al-Nafisi, "The Islamic situation in Qatar," *Islam Today* (2007). www.islamtoday.net/bohooth/artshow-19-8828.htm

²³ Andrew Hammond, "Qatar's leadership transition: like father like son, European Council on Foreign Relations," (2014). [https://ecfr.eu/archive/page/-/ECFR95 QATAR BRIEF AW.pdf](https://ecfr.eu/archive/page/-/ECFR95%20QATAR%20BRIEF%20AW.pdf)

²⁴ Andrew Lipp, "The Muslim Brotherhood: Exploring divergent views in Saudi Arabia and Qatar," *Iowa State University* (2019): 24. <https://dr.lib.iastate.edu/server/api/core/bitstreams/9c2921ba-f681-4be3-a4dc-680a9daf3706/content>

²⁵ David Roberts, "Qatar and the Muslim Brotherhood: Pragmatism or Preference?" *Middle East Policy* 21 no. 3 (2014): 88. <https://doi.org/10.1111/mepo.12084>

²⁶ Al-Nafisi, "The Islamic situation in Qatar," *Islam Today* (2007). www.islamtoday.net/bohooth/artshow-19-8828.htm

²⁷ Courtney Freer, "Rentier Islamism in the absence of elections: the political role of Muslim Brotherhood affiliates in Qatar and the United Arab Emirates," *International Journal of Middle East Studies* 49 (2017): 487-488.

Muslim Brotherhoods' ideology, network and influence remain prominent in Qatar today, having developed a mutually beneficial relationship with the royal family.²⁸

Over the decades, Qatar has become a 'safe haven' for Islamist/antisemitic scholars such as the (late) Yusuf al-Qaradawi.²⁹

Qaradawi was banned from entry into the United States,³⁰ France,³¹ the United Kingdom,³² the United Arab Emirates, Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Tunisia (and others), but gained refuge in Qatar.³³

Some of the views held by Qaradawi's are the following:

- "I will shoot Allah's enemies, the Jews, and they will throw a bomb at me, and thus I will seal my life with martyrdom."³⁴
- Qaradawi lashed out at Jews, even calling on God to "kill them, down to the very last one."³⁵
- Qaradawi declined to participate in the 8th annual conference organized by the Doha International Center for Interfaith Dialogue because of the participation of two Jews. In a statement released by Qaradawi's office, he reportedly said, "How can we conduct a dialogue in a time when they seize lands, shed blood, burn farms and demolish houses? Palestine's conundrum has to be resolved first before we sit together at the same table."³⁶
- In 2013, Qaradawi repeated his call to boycott the 10th annual Doha interfaith conference held in Qatar for including Jews. He addressed the issue in his April 26 Friday sermon at the Omar Bin al-Khattab Mosque in Doha. "No way I will put my hand in their hands," Qaradawi said. He added "Their hands are soiled with

²⁸ David Roberts, "Qatar and the Muslim Brotherhood: Pragmatism or Preference?," *Middle East Policy Council*. <https://mepc.org/journal/qatar-and-muslim-brotherhood-pragmatism-or-preference>

²⁹ "Yusuf al-Qaradawi: A controversial voice for moderation in the Muslim World," *The New Arab* (2022). <https://www.newarab.com/news/yusuf-al-qaradawi-controversial-voice-moderation>

³⁰ *Counter Extremism Project*. <https://www.counterextremism.com/extremists/yusuf-al-qaradawi>

³¹ "The 'global mufti' Sarkozy barred from entering France," *France 24* (2012). <https://www.france24.com/en/20120328-sarkozy-bars-global-mufti-entering-france-sheikh-yusuf-qaradawi-toulouse-shooting>

³² "Muslim cleric not allowed into UK," *BBC News* (2008). <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/uk/7232398.stm>

³³ *Counter Extremism Project*. <https://www.counterextremism.com/extremists/yusuf-al-qaradawi>

³⁴ During a sermon that aired on the Arabic satellite channel Al-Jazeera TV on January 28, 2009.

³⁵ During a sermon that aired on the Arabic satellite channel Al-Jazeera TV on January 9, 2009.

³⁶ "Sheik Yusuf al-Qaradawi: Theologian of Terror," *Anti-Defamation League* (2013). <https://www.adl.org/sites/default/files/documents/assets/pdf/anti-semitism/arab-world/Sheik-Yusuf-al-Qaradawi-2013-5-3-v1.pdf>

blood. Their hands are the hands of killing, the hands of tyranny and the hands of injustice. I cannot contaminate my hands by putting it in their hands.”³⁷

- Qaradawi often repeated his “teaching” that “the last punishment [upon the Jews was] carried out by Hitler . . . the next time will be at the hand of the believers.”³⁸

Global support for groups affiliated with the MB became important as part Qatar’s major foreign policy shift, beginning in 1995 with the coup that brought Sheikh Hamad Bin Khalifa to power. Sheikh Hamad's goal was to overcome Qatar's small size and small population to make the emirate not only a regional player but also a global actor, utilizing its significant resources.³⁹

The emirate developed its ‘soft power capabilities,’ which included the advancement of its Al Jazeera network’s broadcasting reach across the Middle East (in addition to extending this reach to include English-speaking audiences), as well as the IslamOnline portal.⁴⁰ Furthermore, Qatar made broad investments in Western countries and affiliated with civil society bodies through semi-official agencies and foundations controlled by the royal family.⁴¹ Finally, Qatar supported the activist, political and ‘civilian’ structures of Arab and Islamist non-state actors— especially those affiliated with the Muslim Brotherhood,⁴² some of which were designated terrorists by the US for their ties to Hamas and other terror groups around the world.⁴³

Although Qatari support for the MB antagonized its Gulf neighbors through the 1990s and the first decade of the 2000s, Qatar was “able to stay in good graces in the GCC by carefully balancing its foreign policy, all the while remaining a staunch ally of the Muslim Brotherhood.”⁴⁴

³⁷ Ibid.

³⁸ “Sheik Yousuf Al-Qaradhawi: Allah Imposed Hitler upon the Jews to Punish Them - "Allah Willing, the Next Time Will Be at the Hand of the Believers," *Memri TV* (2009). <https://www.memri.org/tv/sheik-yousuf-al-qaradhawi-allah-imposed-hitler-upon-jews-punish-them-allah-willing-next-time-will>

³⁹ David Roberts, “Qatar and the Muslim Brotherhood: Pragmatism or Preference?” *Middle East Policy* 21, no. 3 (2014): 92. <https://doi.org/10.1111/mepo.12084>

⁴⁰ Uriya Shavit, “The Postmodern Reconstitution of an Islamic Memory: Theory and Practice in the Case of Yusuf al-Qaradawi’s Virtual *Umma*,” in *Islamic Myths and Memories: Mediators of Globalization*, ed. Itzchak Weismann, Mark Sedgwick, and Ulrika Martensson (Surrey: Ashgate, 2014), 175. ISBN 9781472411518

⁴¹ “Qatar Investment Authority (QIA),” *SWFI*. <https://www.swfinstitute.org/profile/598cdaa60124e9fd2d05bc5a>

⁴² “How is Qatar supporting the Muslim Brotherhood global network? Follow the money,” *Alarbiya News* (2018). <https://english.alarabiya.net/features/2019/08/07/Qatar-s-history-using-banks-to-aid-Brotherhood-terror-groups-in-other-countries>

⁴³ “Written evidence submitted by Steven Merley,” (2018).

<https://committees.parliament.uk/writtenevidence/87421/pdf/>

⁴⁴ “Follow the Money: Examining Undocumented Foreign Funding of American Universities: Implications for Education and Rising Antisemitism,” *ISGAP* (2019). <https://isgap.org/book/follow-the-money-examining-undocumented-foreign-funding-of-american-uni> <https://www.qatar.tamu.edu/versities-implications-for-education-and-rising-antisemitism/>

Doha, Qatar, Education City

Qatar has spent billions of dollars on American campuses based in Education City, Doha, of which a considerable amount has gone unreported to the United States Department of Education.⁴⁵ Significant Qatari funding has gone to Texas A&M, Georgetown, Cornell, Carnegie Mellon, Northwestern and Virginia Commonwealth, as well as HEC Paris, all of which maintain campuses in Qatar through the Qatar Foundation, which is fully funded by the Government of Qatar.⁴⁶

Texas A&M University's (TAMUQ) Campus in Qatar and the National Priorities Research Program

A Texas A&M University campus was established in Qatar in 2003, named Texas A&M University Qatar (TAMUQ).⁴⁷ The campus was created through an agreement between Texas A&M and the Qatar Foundation for Education, Science and Community Development.⁴⁸

In the confidential agreement between the Qatar Foundation and Texas A&M:

- Qatar Foundation shall own the entire right, title and interest in all Technology and Intellectual Property developed at TAMUQ or under the auspices of its Research Program, other than those developed by non-TAMUQ employees and without financial support from the Qatar Foundation or any of its affiliates ("QF Intellectual Property"), which ownership of QF intellectual Property shall not be affected by the source of research funding resulting in the development of the Technology and Intellectual Property.
- Qatar Foundation shall own all real and personal property acquired, and all physical facilities constructed for TAMUQ, except property acquired at TAMUQ without funding or reimbursement by Qatar Foundation. The ownership of property acquired for TAMUQ by TAMU or TEES at the expense of a sponsor or through a grant for TAMUQ shall be transferred to Qatar Foundation. Property transferred to Qatar Foundation under this article shall become part of the academic infrastructure at TAMUQ to be maintained by Qatar Foundation.

⁴⁵ "Education City in Qatar." <https://www.qf.org.qa/education/education-city>

⁴⁶ Ibid.

⁴⁷ Reeve Hamilton, "After 10 Years in Qatar, A&M is Ready for 10 More," *The Texas Tribune* (2012). <https://www.texastribune.org/2012/05/25/after-10-years-qatar-m-looking-forward-10-more/>

⁴⁸ Nick Anderson, "Texas University gets \$76 million each year to operate in Qatar, contract says," *The Washington Post* (2016). <https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/grade-point/wp/2016/03/08/texas-university-gets-76-million-each-year-to-operate-in-qatar-contract-says/>

- TAMUQ will request a signed consent from all incoming students allowing access to their educational records by Qatar Foundation. Consistent with the Family Educational Right and Privacy Act (FERPA), TAMUQ will provide Qatar Foundation with access to the educational records of those students who have signed a consent form. TAMUQ will provide Qatar Foundation with the necessary student data and educational records. To the extent any such student data and educational records provided for these purposes may be protected under The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA).

Texas A&M and Qatar Agreement

Texas A&M and Qatar have an agreement that involves the funding of more than one billion USD and hundreds of research projects. It is suspected that many of these projects and some of the funding have not been reported to the Federal Government as required by US legal requirements.⁴⁹ [Click here to see the full agreement.](#)

Problematic Clauses:

- Article 1.1.3 states that Qatar Foundation must fund TAMUQ at "levels sufficient to ensure that TAMUQ maintains the quality standards required by this Agreement." *This implies that Qatar can leverage funding to shape academic standards to fit its preferences.*

- Article 2.2.1.2 asserts that changes to curriculum require "advance consultation with Qatar Foundation" if there are "significant budgetary or academic impact[s]." *This consultation clause gives Qatar sway over course offerings.*

- Article 2.3.2 sets targeted percentages for Qatari student enrolment. *This gives Qatar the ability to override normal admissions based on merit alone.*

- Article 2.7 mandates that TAMUQ "shall cooperate" with Qatar Foundation affiliates on matters like joint faculty appointments, programs and degrees. *This subjects academics to Qatar's strategic interests.*

- Article 2.13 prohibits TAMU from establishing any competing engineering program in the Middle East without Qatar's approval during the agreement term. *This restricts TAMU's academic freedom.*

⁴⁹ "VOLUME II Examining Undocumented Foreign Funding of American Universities: Implications for Education and Rising Antisemitism," ISGAP (2020). <https://isgap.org/post/2020/09/volume-ii-examining-undocumented-foreign-funding-of-american-universities-implications-for-education-and-rising-antisemitism/>

- Article 3.3 establishes a Joint Advisory Board, half Qatar-appointed, which reviews budgets, plans and academic assessments. *This inserts Qatar into academic governance.*
- Article 5.2.1 transfers TAMUQ property rights to Qatar Foundation. *This risks appropriation of academic work.*
- Article 6.3 states Qatar Foundation has final authority over annual budgets. *This enables financial pressure regarding unwanted programs or research.*
- Article 11.10 requires TAMU faculty and staff adhere to Qatar's laws. *This includes restrictions on political expression, sexuality and other matters that conflict with norms of academic freedom.*

In summary, the agreement appears to grant Qatar ultimate control over academic standards, faculty, students, curriculum and budgets—subordinating educational priorities to Qatar's national interests and severely compromising institutional autonomy.

Most importantly, Qatar gains ownership of the intellectual property of the outcomes of all projects, including sensitive nuclear and scientific research. Full transparency regarding contract terms is needed to ascertain the full extent of Qatar's influence.

Texas A&M, Qatar and Scientific/Nuclear Research

Texas A&M is at the cutting edge of scientific and nuclear research and development, and it is one of only three university nuclear engineering departments in the United States with access to two nuclear reactors for teaching and research: a 1-megawatt reactor operated by the Texas Engineer.⁵⁰

Additionally, a research team from Texas A&M at Qatar (TAMUQ) is taking part in the next phase of experiments (called Run3) on The European Organization for Nuclear Research's (also known as CERN) Large Hadron Collider (LHC).⁵¹

This analysis of Texas A&M Qatar grants reveals extensive Qatari funding for projects with potential national security implications.

⁵⁰ "Facilities," *Texas A&M University Department of Nuclear Engineering*. <https://engineering.tamu.edu/nuclear/research/facilities/index.html#:~:text=We%20are%20one%20of%20only,201M%20reactor%20operated%20by%20our>

⁵¹ "Research team from Texas A&M at Qatar to continue collaboration with CERN," *Texas A&M University at Qatar* (2022). <https://www.qatar.tamu.edu/news-and-events/news/2022/07/15/research-team-from-texas-a-and-m-at-qatar-to-continue-collaboration-with-cern/>

ISGAP's research identified more than 500 grants from Qatar totaling more than 750 million dollars. The average award size is one million dollars, with maximum grants up to five million dollars going to highly sensitive research areas. Allowing Qatar, with its links to terrorist organizations, to have complete control of this research through IP ownership creates unacceptable risks of technology transfer and appropriation of breakthroughs with military applications.

Click [HERE](#) for a list of projects funded by Qatar at TAMUQ.

Texas A&M University's Cooperation with the Qatari Government on Weapons Development⁵²

Texas A&M University's Qatar campus (TAMUQ) recently announced a collaboration with Rheinmetall Barzan Advanced Technologies.⁵³ This raises concerns about the transfer of sensitive US military research and technology to Qatar.

Rheinmetall Barzan is a joint venture between German defense contractor Rheinmetall and Barzan Holdings, a subsidiary of Qatar's Defense Ministry. It focuses on developing advanced weapons capabilities for Qatar's military.⁵⁴

By partnering with Rheinmetall Barzan, TAMUQ is effectively enhancing the offensive capacities of the Qatari military, a move that may threaten key US interests.

⁵² "QF partner Texas A&M at Qatar and Rheinmetall Barzan advanced technologies to collaborate on joint activities in engineering, science and technology," *Texas A&M University at Qatar* (2022). <https://www.qatar.tamu.edu/news-and-events/news/2022/09/11/qf-partner-texas-a-and-m-at-qatar-and-rheinmetall-barzan-advanced-technologies-to-collaborate-on-joint-activities-in-engineering.-science-and-technology/>

⁵³ "Texas A&M, Qatar and Rheinmetall Barzan Technologies ink pact for joint activities," *The Peninsula* (2022). <https://thepeninsulaqatar.com/article/01/09/2022/texas-am-qatar-and-rheinmetall-barzan-technologies-ink-pact-for-joint-activities>

⁵⁴ Ibid.

Policy Recommendations:

To counter Qatar's detrimental influence on US higher education and national security, the following measures should be implemented:

1. Close American university campuses in Education City, Qatar. This includes Texas A&M University, Carnegie Mellon University, Northwestern University, Virginia Commonwealth University, Cornell University and Georgetown University campuses. Their operations enable Qatari soft power infiltration into US academia, both ideologically and scientifically.
2. Prohibit any further direct Qatari Government funding to American universities operating in Qatar or in the United States. Require full disclosure under the Foreign Agents Registration Act of any Qatar-linked funds already received by US universities.
3. Open a federal government investigation into non-reporting of foreign donations to US universities, and take criminal action against systematic underreporting by US universities and individuals of financial donations received directly or indirectly from Qatar. The investigation should explore the impact of Qatari funding on the increase of antisemitism in higher education.
4. Crack down on indirect funds that circumvent reporting requirements.
5. Add a provision to Section 117 of the Higher Education Act mandating disclosures of grantees who have any connection to Qatar directly or indirectly.
6. Investigate and prosecute any undisclosed Qatari funding of US university programs or personnel as illegal, unregistered foreign lobbying. Shut down programs funded through such illicit means.
7. Prohibit US universities from conducting research projects funded by Qatar government entities, including research with potential military applications.
8. Establish ethics review boards at US universities to monitor foreign funding sources, and block unacceptable donations or partnerships compromising academic integrity and national security.
9. Enact further transparency laws requiring full public disclosure of any foreign contracts, grants or donations received by US universities, including itemized

reporting on collaborative projects, travel sponsorship, endowed faculty chairs and other benefits.

10. Ensure, by legislation, transparency of financial statements and internal audit reports of American universities.
11. TAMU must immediately cease this joint program with Rheinmetall Barzan in compliance with US legal prohibitions on foreign-funded defense research. It must also implement oversight measures to prevent any further inappropriate technology transfers through its Qatar campus.