

Internal Grants 2026

Pre-Award

Research Support Department (Grants and Contracts)

National Capacity Building Grants

Duration and Budget	Description	Terms or Conditions
First stage: up to 100,000 Qatari riyals for one year Second stage: 150,000 to 300,000 Qatari Maximum of two years	A research initiative targeting Qatari academic who hold the position of assistant professor, associate professor, research associate or lecturer, provided that they hold a PhD ,with the aim of supporting them in their research career and developing their academic competencies.	 The applicant must be a Qatari national. He/She holds the position of assistant or associate professor, or holds the position of research associate or lecturer, provided that he holds a doctorate degree . This grant is awarded to the applicant only once throughout their career. National Capacity Building Grant recipients can apply for the summer program to support their continued research development.



Collaborative Grants

The track	Duration and Budget	Description	Terms or Conditions
Assistant Professors	Up to 300,000 Qatari Riyals over two years Up to 150,000 riyals per year	Encouraging researchers to build collaborative research groups and develop their research capabilities through teamwork.	 For assistant professors In colleges and research centers. Graduate or undergraduate students are required to participate. It is preferable to include teams that include researchers from research centers and academic departments among the researchers.
Associate Professors and Professors	Up to 300,000 Qatari Riyals over two years Up to 150,000 riyals per year	Promote research In areas of research priorities, Promoting innovation and advancing knowledge	 Dedicated to professors and associate professors in colleges and research centers. Involvement of Early career researcherIn the project is required. Graduate or undergraduate students are required to participate. It is preferable to include teams that include researchers from research centers and academic departments among the researchers.





Institutional Collaboration Grants

Duration and budget	Description	Terms or Conditions
Upto 120,000\$ over two years 60,000\$ per year	Supporting and implementing joint research projects between Qatar University and other universities in Gulf countries (currently Sultan Qaboos University)	 It is preferable to include teams that include researchers from research centers and academic departments among the researchers. Graduate or undergraduate students are required to participate.





Governmental and Industrial Collaboration Grants

Duration and budget	Description	Terms or Conditions
Upto 200,000 Qatari Riyals In two years Upto 100,000 riyal per year	Developing applied research projects in partnership with governmental or industrial institutions with the aim of providing practical solutions.	 A partnership and direct financial support from a governmental or industrial entity is required, amounting to at least 30% of the project budget. It is preferable for teams to include researchers from research centers and academic departments among the researchers Graduate or undergraduate students are required to participate as researchers





Innovation and knowledge transfer Grants

The track	Duration and budget	Description	Terms or Conditions
Student track	Up to 20,000 Qatari Riyals For a period of year		 An academic supervisor from Qatar University faculty members is required. A team of two or more students with an innovative idea and a business model is required.
Innovation Teams track	Up to QAR 200,000 over two years Up to 100,000 riyals per year	It aims to support innovative projects and accelerate the transformation of ideas into actual applications or their marketing.	 Letters of interest and participation from industrial and governmental stakeholders are required. The grant includes support for: Technical development (TRL 4-6) Marketing developed products (TRL 7-9) The lead principal investigator must be from Faculty members (research associate/lecturer, assistant professor, associate professor, or professor) from colleges or research centers. Teams including researchers from research centers and academic departments are preferred.





Internal Grants 2026

Grant	Launch of grant	Submission deadline	
 National Capacity Building Grant Collaborative Grant Institutional Collaboration Grant Government and Industrial Collaboration Grant Innovation and Knowledge Transfer Grant 	2 June 2025	15 September 2025	





Outline

- 1. Submission Conditions and Requirements
- 2. Budget
- 3. Submission of Research Proposals
- 4. Guidelines for Writing the Research Proposal
- **5. Internal Grant Application Form**
- 6. Research Pillars and Priorities (2020-2025)





1.1. Team Structure

- Lead Principal Investigator (LPI): Each research team must have one Lead Principal Investigator who is a full-time faculty member or researcher at Qatar University. The LPI holds full responsibility for the technical, administrative, and financial management of the project.
- Principal Investigators (PIs): The team may include additional Principal Investigators from within or outside Qatar University, contributing their expertise to the project's implementation.
- Student Participation: Inclusion of graduate or undergraduate students in the research team is required to build research capacity and provide training opportunities for students.
- Interdisciplinary Teams: Preference is given to forming research teams composed of members from diverse disciplines and various organizational units within the university (such as research centers and academic departments) to promote integration and achieve innovative outcomes.





1.2 Eligibility of the Lead Principal Investigator (LPI)

- The eligibility of the Lead Principal Investigator to apply for internal grants is subject to the following regulations related to previous grants:
- A Lead Principal Investigator currently holding an active grant from the Qatar Research Development and Innovation (QRDI) fund is not eligible to apply for a new internal grant as LPI, according to these conditions:
 - Recipients of medium-sized grants (QAR 300,000 for one year) may apply in the grant cycle following the expiration of their grant.
 - Recipients of large grants (over QAR 500,000 for two years) are subject to a two-year moratorium starting from the date of the announcement of the internal grant results.
 - Student grants and short-term grants (six months, QAR 150,000) are exempt from these restrictions.
- Previous internal grant recipients: A Lead Principal Investigator holding an active internal grant is not eligible to apply as LPI for a new internal grant during a two-year moratorium period starting from the announcement date of the internal grant results.
 - Internal student grants are exempt from this restriction.





1.3 Submission and Participation Limits

To ensure fair distribution of opportunities and allow the largest number of researchers to participate, the following limits are applied to submissions in each grant cycle:

- Lead Principal Investigator (LPI): A researcher is allowed to participate as LPI in only one research proposal per grant cycle.
- **Principal Investigator (PI):** A researcher may participate as PI in up to three research proposals per grant cycle.
- Multiple Roles: A researcher can combine roles within the same cycle, such as serving as LPI on one project and as PI on up to two other projects, provided the maximum participation limits for each role are not exceeded.
- Multiple Applications as LPI: If more than one application is submitted by the same researcher as LPI, only the most recent application will be considered; all previous applications will be automatically excluded, and the applicant will be notified.
- Maximum Across Cycles: There is no maximum limit on participation as PI across different grant cycles. Researchers can participate in each grant cycle within the limits stated above, while observing other eligibility restrictions related to active grants.





1.4 Team Size

To ensure effective management of the research project, the number of researchers in the team is determined according to the following guidelines:

- Lead Principal Investigator (LPI): Only one LPI is required per project, who is responsible for the overall management of the project (except for institutional collaboration projects where there may be an additional lead investigator from the partner institution).
- Principal Investigators (PIs): Up to four PIs are allowed to participate in regular projects.
- Interdisciplinary and Large-Scale Projects: For interdisciplinary or large-scale research projects that require multiple specialties, an increase in the number of PIs may be considered, depending on the scope and objectives of the project, provided that clear justifications are presented explaining the need to expand the research team and the expected contributions of each researcher.





The research proposal budget must be prepared accurately and realistically, adhering to the guidelines and limits outlined below, in addition to the financial regulations applicable at Qatar University.

2.1. Travel Budget

- **Purpose:** The travel budget is primarily allocated to cover expenses for researchers attending scientific conferences to present the results of the funded research project.
- Limits: The travel budget must not exceed 20% of the total annual budget of the project.
- For travel budgets under grants supporting graduate student research projects (Master's/PhD), travel support is limited to students who have received the grant. To qualify for travel support, the student must have an accepted research paper or an accepted poster for presentation at a scientific conference. The submitted paper or poster must clearly acknowledge the grant support in the acknowledgments section.
- **Approval:** All travel expenses under internal grant programs are subject to prior approval from the Research Support Department.





2.2 Miscellaneous Expenses Budget

• Limitations: The budget allocated to miscellaneous expenses must not exceed 5% of the total annual budget of the project.





2.3 Unallowable Expenses

Certain items are not eligible for funding under internal grant budgets. These include, but are not limited to:

- Membership fees for scientific associations.
- Personal computer accessories (e.g., headphones, mouse, additional keyboard, etc.).
- Laptops, tablets, printers, cameras, and projectors.
- Software already available at Qatar University or software not directly related to achieving the research objectives, such as Zoom for virtual meetings.
- Any type of training, workshops, or internships for team members.
- Incentives, gifts, or shopping vouchers.
- Food and hospitality expenses.
- Stationery or books routinely provided by Qatar University.
- Subscription fees to journals or databases (unless essential to the project and not available through the university library).
- Advertising costs.
- ITS Approval Required: For the purchase of any software necessary for the project and not available at the university, prior approval must be obtained from the Information Technology Services (ITS) Department before purchase.





2.4 General Notes

- All budget items and expenditures must comply with Qatar University's financial policies and regulations.
- If there are any inquiries regarding budget items or allowable expenses, it is recommended to contact the Research Support Office directly for clarification before submitting the proposal or initiating any spending.
- Limitations: The budget allocated to miscellaneous expenses must not exceed 5% of the total annual budget of the project.





The submission of research proposals for internal grants follows specific procedures to ensure transparency and standardized practices.

3.1 Submission Mechanism

- Research proposals must be submitted exclusively through the university's official Grants Management System (GMS).
- The Lead Principal Investigator (LPI) is required to complete the "Research Proposal Form" and provide a detailed breakdown of the budget using the "Budget Breakdown Form" via the GMS, in accordance with the specific guidelines of each program.
- If an external partner is contributing to the project, a "Letter of Commitment" signed by the partner institution must be attached, outlining the nature and scope of its contributions and obligations.





The submission of research proposals for internal grants follows specific procedures to ensure transparency and standardized practices.

3.2 Ethical Approval

- Researchers must adhere to the highest ethical standards in conducting their research.
- Researchers may apply for the necessary ethical approvals from the Institutional Review Board (IRB), the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC), or the Institutional Biosafety Committee (IBC) even before securing project funding, provided they attach an official letter of endorsement from their affiliated department, college, or research center confirming their support for conducting the proposed research upon receiving ethical approval.
- Obtaining the appropriate ethical approvals is mandatory before initiating any research activities involving human participants, animals, or hazardous biological materials (further details will be provided in Section 4.5.2).





3.3 Endorsement Letter

The Endorsement Letter from the department, college, or center to which the Lead Principal Investigator (LPI) is affiliated is a mandatory requirement for a research proposal to be accepted for technical review. Only research proposals explicitly included in endorsement letters issued by the Dean, Associate Dean for Research, or an equivalent authority or authorized signatory confirming institutional support for the proposed research project will be reviewed.





3.4 Electronic Platforms

The Research Support Administration at Qatar University relies on an integrated set of specialized electronic portals to manage the submission process and monitor various research grants, aiming to enhance efficiency, transparency, and ease of procedures for researchers. These platforms provide a unified interface for researchers to access grant information, submit applications, track the status of their proposals, and submit required reports.

- iGrants Platform: This is the main platform used for most internal grant programs targeted at faculty members and researchers, including the following grants: Cooperative Grants, International Collaboration Grants, Industrial and Government Collaboration Grants, National Capacity Building Grants, Innovation and Knowledge Transfer Grants, Interdisciplinary Collaborative Research Grants, and Humanities and Social Sciences Grants.
- iGrants Extent Platform: Dedicated to managing application requests for Postdoctoral Researcher Grants.
- iGrants Student Platform: Dedicated to managing grant applications aimed at students, including:
 - Support for graduation projects for undergraduate students and support for graduate student research (Master's/PhD).
 - Graduate Studies Scholarships (Master's/PhD) for Qatari students.
 - Graduate Studies Scholarships (Master's/PhD) for international students.
 - Financial Support Program pathway for local graduate students.





The management of internal grant cycles follows an approximate timeline aimed at ensuring the process runs efficiently and transparently. Below are the main stages and the expected durations for each stage:

3.5 Expected Timeline

- **Submission Period:** The period for receiving research proposals usually extends from two to three months, considering official holidays such as annual leave and public holidays to ensure researchers have sufficient time to prepare and submit their proposals.
- Technical Review: Qualified proposals undergo scientific and technical review by specialized committees and reviewers from
 Qatar University as well as external reviewers within Qatar who meet the eligibility criteria specified in this chapter. This stage
 typically lasts from two to four weeks.
- **Nomination of Winning Proposals:** After the reviewers complete their evaluations and the specialized committees review the proposals, the results are submitted to the Higher Supervisory Committee for Research Grants. This committee nominates the winning proposals and forwards their recommendations to the Vice President for Research and Graduate Studies.
- **Final Approval:** The recommendations of the Higher Supervisory Committee for Research Grants are submitted to the Vice President for Research and Graduate Studies for the final decision and approval of the winning proposals. This stage usually takes one to two weeks.
- **Announcement of Results:** After final approval, the official announcement of grant results is made, and successful researchers are notified.





3.6 Required Documents

(Applicable to all research grants for faculty members and researchers):

- Research Proposal: The official "Research Proposal Template" must be filled out.
- Budget Breakdown: The required "Budget Detail Form" must be submitted via the online platform, outlining expected expenses and justifications.
- Research Team CVs: Updated CVs for all team members (Lead Principal Investigator and Co-Principal Investigators) must be attached.
- Commitment Letter (if applicable): If there is an external partner (outside Qatar University) contributing to the project, a signed "Commitment Letter" from the partner institution must be provided, clarifying the nature and scope of their contributions.
- Researchers may begin the ethical approval application process even before securing funding, provided they obtain prior approval from their department, college, or research center.





The quality of the research proposal is a critical factor in obtaining funding. The following guidelines are intended to help researchers draft strong and compelling proposals that align with Qatar University's research priorities.

4.1 Understanding the Institution's Research Priorities

Grasping Research Priorities: Before starting to write, the researcher must identify which
updated Qatar University research priority the proposal falls under (Health, Society, Digital
Technology, Energy and Material Sustainability). The proposal should clearly highlight how the
research contributes to the objectives of the selected priority, emphasizing potential societal
impact, innovation, or alignment with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).





4.2 Steps for Preparing the Proposal

- Review Official Documents: Researchers must review the official guidelines for the grant cycle and the official research proposal template and adhere to the specified structure and requirements.
- Use Clear and Technical Language: The proposal should be written in clear and precise scientific language, avoiding ambiguity and unnecessary jargon.
- Focus on the Problem: The proposal must clearly present the research problem the project aims to address and its importance.
- Align the Research Idea: Start by identifying the knowledge gap or existing problem, then
 directly link it to one of the university's research priority areas. Emphasize how the project
 aligns with the funder's interests





4.3 Objectives and Significance

- Clearly Define Objectives: Clearly and precisely state the aims and objectives of the proposed research, whether it involves testing a hypothesis, creating a new or original design, solving a specific problem, addressing a critical barrier to progress in the field, or developing new knowledge or technology.
- Link Objectives to National Strategies: Connect the project's objectives to one or more of the university's research priorities and explain the project's potential impact and how it supports the goals of the Qatar National Research and Innovation Strategy and Qatar National Vision 2030.
- Clarify Significance and Impact: Describe how the expected results will address the research question and the potential impact of the research on the local or regional level.
- Formulate SMART Objectives: Objectives should be Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, and Time-bound.





4.4 Background and Literature Review

- Summarize Prior Research: Summarize previous research and the knowledge or information that led to the development of the proposed project.
- Evaluate Existing Data: Assess the existing data or current qualitative analysis in the relevant field.
- Identify Knowledge Gaps: Discuss how your project's results will address current knowledge gaps in the relevant field.
- Comprehensive Review: Ensure the literature review is comprehensive, includes a critical analysis of existing knowledge, and clearly identifies the gaps to be filled.





4.5 Preliminary Data and Studies

- Document Preliminary Work: Discuss your own preliminary data or studies related to the proposed project.
- Support for the Proposal: Demonstrate how the preliminary results support the proposed project and confirm its feasibility.
- Show Technical Competence: Use the preliminary data to show technical capability and readiness to execute the project.





4.6 Research Design and Methodology

- Describe the Research Design: Explain the research design, including an outline of the
 experimental plan, procedures, and analyses that will be used to achieve the project's defined
 objectives.
- Detail Data Collection and Analysis: Describe how data will be collected, analyzed statistically, and interpreted.
- Explain Methodological Innovation: Clearly describe any new concepts, methods, tools, or techniques in the proposed project.
- Justify Methodological Modifications: Describe any methodological modifications and how they improve upon existing methods.
- Identify Challenges and Alternatives: Outline potential challenges or limitations of the proposed methods and suggest alternative approaches to meet the project's goals.





4.7 Work Plan and Technical Description

- Break Down Work Packages: Describe the work packages that define your project's activities in detail.
- Define Responsibilities: Specify the objectives for each work package, and identify the responsible person, as well as the researchers/students involved.
- Provide a Detailed Timeline: State the timeline (start and end dates) for each work package.
- Detail the Tasks: Provide a detailed description of the work, identifying specific tasks (T1, T2, etc.).
- Define Deliverables: Identify the tangible outputs (deliverables) produced by each task (D1, D2, etc.).
- Explain Team Contributions: Describe how each team member contributes and how the project addresses the research challenge from various perspectives.
- Specify Resources Used: Discuss resources from different universities or institutions used to implement the proposed activities.
- Outline a Data Management Plan: Define how data and information will be managed and shared.
- Identify Risks and Mitigation Plans: Provide a plan to manage potential risks and strategies to mitigate them.





4.8 Summary of Key Research Team Members

- Provide Justification: Justify the qualifications and experience of the key researchers in managing the project and their teams, and in achieving the proposed plan.
- Clarify Roles: Provide a brief profile of the other key researchers and their specific roles in the project.
- Highlight Integration: Show how the expertise of team members complements each other to cover all aspects of the proposed project.
- Demonstrate Leadership: Highlight the lead researcher's ability to effectively lead the project and coordinate work among team members.





4.9 Developing Research Skills

- Develop a Detailed Plan: Include a detailed plan for research skills development showing how the project will contribute to building local competencies.
- Identify Training Opportunities: Describe how graduate students (mandatory) will be trained and how young research personnel will be developed.
- Clarify Knowledge Transfer Mechanisms: Explain how technical knowledge will be transferred to stakeholders in Qatar.
- Link Training to National Goals: Show how building research capacity contributes to achieving national objectives.





4.10 Expected Outcomes and Evaluation Criteria

- Develop an Evaluation Plan: Describe a comprehensive plan to assess how the project will meet its objectives.
- Define Performance Indicators: Identify the project's key performance indicators and explain how impact will be measured.
- Assess Collaboration Effectiveness: Explain how the effectiveness of collaboration and partnerships within the project will be evaluated.
- Detail a Publication Plan: Provide a plan for publishing research results, including the expected quantity of research outputs.
- Clarify Work Continuity: Explain how the project might continue and evolve after the funding period ends.





4.11 Additional Important Points

- Inform the College/Center: The Lead Principal Investigator (LPI) is responsible for notifying their college or research center of their intention to apply for the grant program.
- Adhere to Regulations: Researchers must comply with all officially approved institutional documents at Qatar University, including regulations, policies, guidelines, procedures, and codes of professional conduct related to scientific research. These can be accessed via the official Qatar University Policies and Regulations homepage.







INTERNAL RESEARCH GRANT APPLICATION FORM

Application Details

Lead PI	Job number	email	College or Research Center	Contact Number

Project Details

Project Number	
Project Title	
Project Type	☐ Collaborative Grants
	☐ Institutional Collaboration Grants
	☐ Governmental and Industrial Collaboration Grants
	☐ Innovation and Knowledge Transfer Grants
	☐ National Capacity Building Grant
	☐ Humanities and Social Sciences Grants
	☐ Interdisciplinary Research Grant
Proposal Type	☐ New Proposal
	☐ Resubmission

List of Team Members (Provide here the information as reported in the "Application Details" on the iGrants submission system)

Name	Role in Project	College	Job ID	Email	Contact Number



QATAR UNIVERSITY

Alignment with research priorities

Choose an item.

Second choice for aligning the research proposal with research priorities

(Choose an item.)

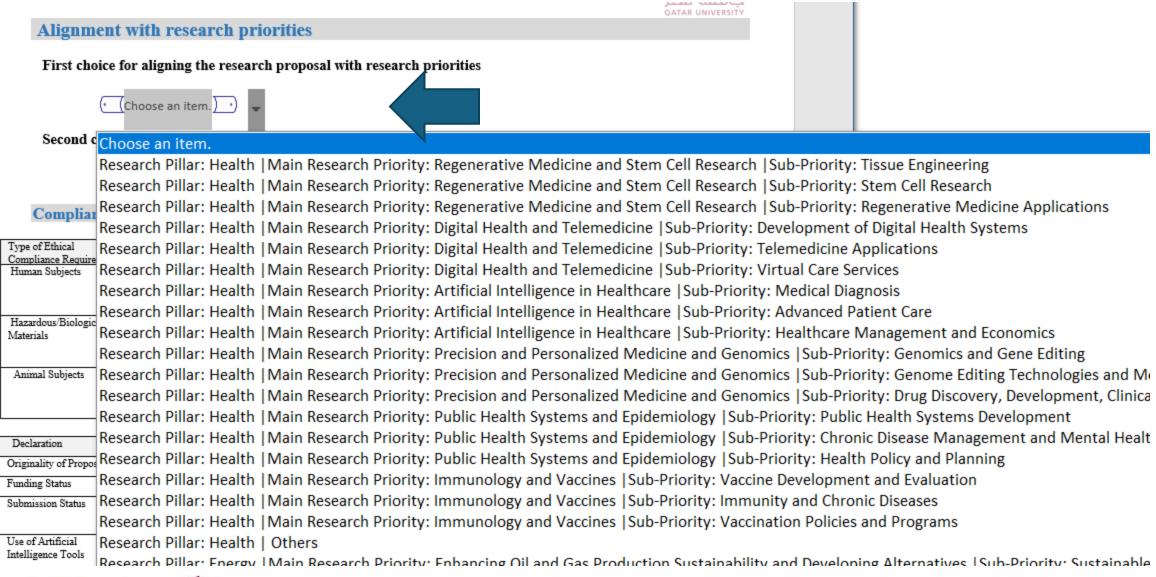
Compliance and Ethical Considerations

Type of Ethical Compliance Required	Description	Status	Related Committee	Approval Date (if Any)	Approval Number (if Any)
Human Subjects	Research involving human participants to ensure ethical and legal compliance.	□ Yes / □ No	Institutional Review Board (IRB) <u>QU-IRB@qu.edu.qa</u>	Click or tap to enter a	
				date.	
Hazardous/Biological Materials	Research involving biological materials or biohazard risks to ensure safety.	□ Yes / □ No	Institutional Biosafety Committee (IBC)	Click or tap	
	or ordinate trains graphing survey.		QU.IACUC@qu.edu.qa	to enter a date.	
Animal Subjects	Research involving the use and care of	□ Yes / □ No	Institutional Animal Care and Use	Click or tap	
	animals in scientific studies.		Committee (IACUC) QU.IACUC@qu.edu.qa	to enter a	
				date.	

Declaration	Declaration Form	Status
Originality of Proposal	I confirm that the idea presented in my proposal is original and does not duplicate any previous work.	☐ Yes
Funding Status	I declare that my proposal has not been previously funded, either partially or fully, by any other source.	☐ Yes
Submission Status	I confirm that the research proposal has not been submitted more than once within the current cycle and will not be submitted to any other funding body at the time of submission until the results are announced. In the event that the proposal wins funding from Qatar University, it will not be submitted to obtain funding from any other body.	☐ Yes
Use of Artificial Intelligence Tools	During the preparation of this work, the authors used	☐ Yes

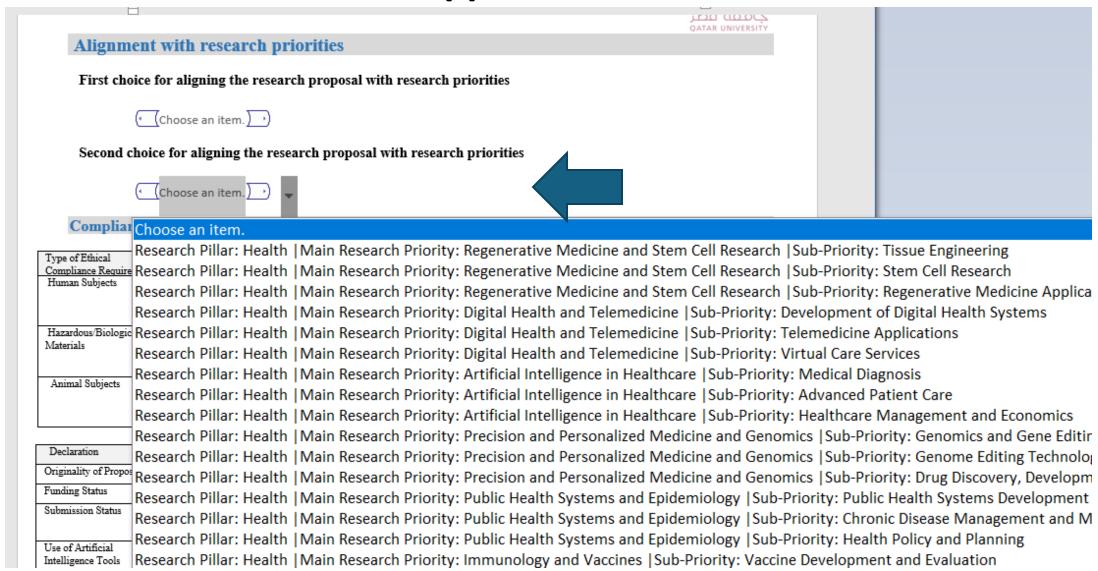
















6. Research Pillars and Priorities (2020-2025)

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