



**20 Years of Art & Design
1998–2018**

Virginia Commonwealth University
School of the Arts in Qatar

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FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

who reside outside of Qatar

Congratulations on your acceptance as a student to Virginia Commonwealth University School of the Arts in Qatar! We look forward to working with you and helping you achieve your personal, academic and professional goals during your time at VCUarts Qatar. The Student Life and Engagement (SLE) office will be your main contact for your visa process and on campus housing. Feel free to reach out to us should you need additional information or clarifications about the information below, and as you prepare for your enrollment at VCUarts Qatar.

Office of Student Life and Engagement,
Division of Student Affairs
vcuqsle@vcu.edu
Tel: +974 4402 0633

Important Dates – Fall 2023

- August
 - 13-17 New Student Orientation Program, including registration
 - 14 (Monday) Opening of the Academic Year
 - 20 (Sunday) Fall classes begin
 - 20-24 Add/Drop and Late Registration
- September
 - 8 Deadline for students for online graduation application (December graduation)
- October
 - 1-5 Midterms (classes continue throughout midterms)
 - 8-12 Fall break (For students/faculty. Administrative offices open)
 - 15 Midterm grades due in eServices
 - 26 Last day to withdraw from a Fall 2023 course (with W-grade). *(Subject to change)*
 - 26 Deadline to select P/F Grade Option for Fall 2023 courses. *(Subject to change)*
 - 31 Spring semester registration opens

- December
 - 3-7 Final examinations
 - 10 (Sunday) Final grades due in eServices
 - 18 (Monday) Qatar National Day

VCUarts Qatar New Student Orientation Program

- Our New Student Orientation Program is the most anticipated event of the year!
- The objective of the New Student Orientation Program is to help you to settle into your new life in Qatar, and set you up for success at VCUarts Qatar.
- The orientation program also provides you with opportunities to get to know your fellow students, as well as your staff and faculty, and to learn about VCUarts Qatar, about Education City, and about Doha.

Entry Visa to Qatar

- The State of Qatar requires students who come to Qatar for the purpose of academic study to hold a Student Visa.
- You are required to have an entry-visa document in hand upon entry into Qatar.
- VCUarts Qatar will request that the Government of Qatar issues a Student Visa.
- VCUarts Qatar requires the following documents from you, by **May 31, 2023**, to request issuance of the student visa. Please submit the items listed below - **vcuqsle@vcu.edu**
 - A color copy of the identification page(s) your passport in PDF or JPEG format. (Make sure that your passport is valid for at least **six months** beyond the day you plan to travel to Qatar.)
 - A passport-photo, in color, against a white background, in PDF or JPEG format.
 - Official documentation which provides evidence of your blood type. For example, a certified birth certificate or an official physician's statement (with signature/stamp)
 - A copy of your birth certificate
 - A copy of your letter of admission to VCUarts Qatar.
- It generally takes three to five weeks for the Government of Qatar to issue a Student Visa.
- After VCUarts Qatar has received evidence of your health insurance coverage (see Section: Health Insurance below), the Office of Student Affairs will email you a copy of your Qatar Student Visa.
- It is pertinent that you print a copy of your visa, and carry it with you in your carry-on baggage when you travel to Qatar. You will need to present the copy of your visa to the Immigration Officials upon entry into Qatar.

Immigration – Resident Permit

After you arrive in Qatar, the process for obtaining a Resident Permit (RP) will begin. There are various steps to the RP-process.

The Office of Student Affairs will guide you through these various steps, which will take up to five weeks or more to complete. These include:

- A Medical Exam at a central medical facility. Anticipate a 3+ hour process.
- Finger Printing

To study and reside in Qatar, a residency permit is required for all students. The issuance of the residency permit is contingent on passing the medical clearance process. Immigration laws require that individuals seeking residency in Qatar be screened for tuberculosis, HIV, and Hepatitis B and C.

Positive findings will result in **immediate** repatriation from the country.

If you want to make sure that you do not have any of the above-mentioned medical conditions, we recommend having the test done in your home country prior to your arrival in Qatar.

When you arrive in Qatar, you will be required to take the following medical tests:

- Chest-x-ray
- HIV antibodies
- Hepatitis B
- Hepatitis C

Students who fail to keep RP-related appointments or are late in submitting requisite documentation are at risk of having their visa expire and/or not having their RP issued in time. Such students will be held responsible for all costs associated with the visa and/or RP re- application processes. Therefore, should you know in advance that you are unable to stay in Qatar for at least two months after your initial arrival, please notify the SLE Office.

On-Campus Housing

- On campus housing is available for students. Separate housing is available for students which entails modern residential halls purpose-built to cultivate a supportive living environment that is designed to satisfy student needs. International and local students can apply for housing if they are interested. To apply please email - vcuqsle@vcu.edu
- More information about Qatar Foundation Housing is available at: <http://www.hbku.edu.qa/en/life-hbku/hbku-student-housing>
- **August 4, 2023** is the earliest day students may move in to the Qatar Foundation Residence Halls.

Health Insurance

- International students (including exchange students) at VCUarts Qatar are required to hold personal health insurance coverage for the full duration of their enrollment at VCUarts Qatar.
- Students must provide evidence of holding health insurance prior to their arrival at VCUarts Qatar. Students may wish to consider purchasing health insurance coverage through Cultural Insurance Services International (CISI Insurance).
- You will receive an email with details about enrollment to the CISI insurance closer to your arrival dates.