Master of Arts in Women, Society and Development

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The Master of Arts in Women, Society and Development (MAWSD) is a two-year interdisciplinary program focusing on issues related to women in the context of social and economic development in the Middle East, as well as women's various roles in the advancement of their communities and societies in the region.

It draws on a variety of disciplines in social sciences and humanities, ranging from economic and social theory, to development and policy studies, to history and communication studies.

The program fulfills Qatar's aspiration to contribute to global sustainable development goals relating to issues of women and gender and the role of women in social and economic development. It also provides the nation with a think-tank capability on women-related issues that can be used for developing coherent national policies that cross the commercial, health, education, and family sectors.

The program is open to all those interested in developing expertise in a wide variety of issues relating to women, society, and development in the Middle East.

Graduates of this program will be equipped to:
▸ engage in local and regional knowledge production, and enhance their skills in understanding and responding to women's issues that are specific to the Middle Eastern context.
▸ pursue careers in different fields and entities such as research, higher education, consulting, media, diplomacy, and national, regional, and international non-governmental organizations.
▸ pursue advanced research at the PhD level.

Structure
Students are taught by CHSS faculty who are leading scholars and researchers in their fields, and by distinguished visiting professors specialized in Middle Eastern studies.

Students are introduced to professional activity through a local or international internship at a renowned institution.

Curriculum
A two-year full-time program that requires 39 credits with three departmental core courses, three program core courses, three electives, an internship (or an independent research project), and a thesis.

All courses are taught in English.

Total of 39 credit hours
Six core courses (18 credits)
▸ ME 611 History, Politics and Cultures of the Middle East
▸ ME 613 Social, Economic and Development Theory
▸ SS 612 Research Methods
▸ WSD 621 Introduction to Women's and Gender Studies
▸ WSD 622 Women, Work and Economic Development in the Middle East
▸ WSD 623 Research Methods in Women's and Gender Studies

Three elective courses (9 credits)
▸ DHS 623 Methods in Digital Humanities
▸ DHS 660 Digital Disinformation and Propaganda in the Middle East and North Africa
▸ DHS 661 Digital Writing
▸ SS 600 Thinking and Practicing Interdisciplinarity in the Humanities and the Social Sciences
▸ WSD 651 The Anthropology of Gender in the Middle East
▸ WSD 652 Women, Law and Citizenship
▸ WSD 653 Gender and Digital Cultures
▸ WSD 655 Women, State and Modernity in the Arab World
▸ WSD 656 Family and Kinship in the Middle East
▸ WSD 657 Women, Media and Communication
▸ WSD 658 Special Topics in Women Studies
▸ WSD 660 Women in Comparative World Religions
▸ WSD 661 Women in World History
▸ WSD 662 Women and Gender in the Literature and Cinema of the Middle East and North Africa

A choice between Internship or Project (3 credits)
▸ DHS 691 Internship
▸ DHS 669 Independent Research Project

Thesis (6 credits)
▸ WSD 695 Master's Thesis Hours

Non-Course Requirements
▸ 699 Thesis Defense

Admission and Application Requirements

Applicants seeking admission to the MAWSD program should have a bachelor's degree in a relevant field with a strong academic record (minimum 3.0 GPA out of 4) from a recognized university.

Applicants are required to submit an IELTS score of 6.5 or a TOEFL score of 79 in order to demonstrate their proficiency in English. Applicants can be exempt from this requirement if they meet one of the conditions listed below:

▸ The applicant completed their studies at an institution in a country where English is the official language.
▸ The applicant provides an official letter from the university where they completed their studies, confirming that they obtained their degree from an institution where the medium of instruction is English (if not otherwise exempt).
▸ The applicant's first language is English.

Application requirements

A completed online application form:
admissions.hbku.edu.qa

Academic transcripts

Official electronic copies of transcripts should be submitted as part of the online application. Final transcripts and graduation statements are required for all previous university studies. All transcripts submitted should include an explanation of the grading system. For those who have not completed their current studies, transcripts must include results from the last completed semester of coursework. Transcripts in languages other than English or Arabic must be accompanied by an official translation. Applicants who are admitted to the program based on copies of or incomplete transcripts will be required to provide original transcripts upon enrollment in order to register for courses.

Standardized test results

Official copies of standardized test results must be sent directly to HBKU. Please refer to the institutional codes below:

▸ TOEFL: 4981
▸ IELTS: No code required. Students should ask the IELTS center where they tested to send the IELTS TRF to Hamad Bin Khalifa University.

Applicants should also submit copies of their test scores with the online application.

Personal statement of interest

Applicants are required to submit a personal statement. The requirements vary by program. Please visit the website for further information.

Resume/Curriculum vitae

Applicants should submit a copy of their current resume or curriculum vitae as part of the online application.

Identification document

All applicants should submit an electronic copy of their passport as part of the online application. Nationals and residents of Qatar should also submit their valid Qatari ID.

Student funding

The College of Humanities and Social Sciences provides opportunities for funding on a competitive basis. Further information will be provided to applicants who are admitted to the program.

Admission inquiries

admissions.chss@hbku.edu.qa