

Inside Successful Branch Campuses: Perspectives from Texas A&M University at Qatar

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Qatar Foundation and Texas A&M

- Qatar Foundation contacted Texas A&M in fall 2001
- First delegation from Texas A&M visited Doha in summer 2002
- Agreement for Texas A&M University at Qatar signed in May 2003
 - Strength of engineering programs
 - Potential for research opportunities

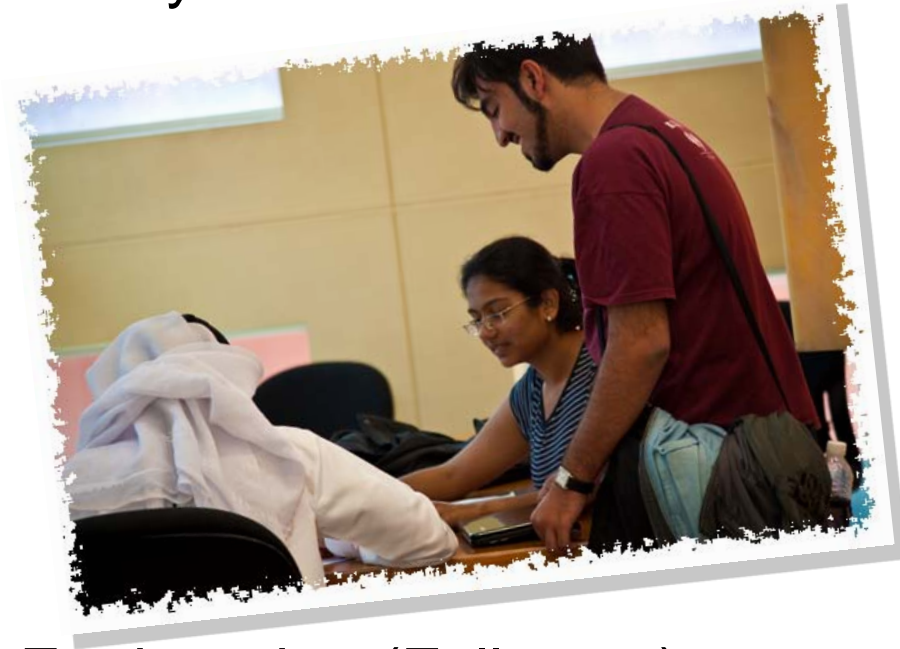
Texas A&M University at Qatar

- Classes began in Doha in September 2003
- First graduates in December 2007
- Texas A&M at Qatar teaches in English in a coeducational setting
- Admissions criteria and curricula are the same as on the main campus
- Aggie Gateway Program



Academics

- Full academic program operational by the fall 2007 semester
- Degree Programs
 - Chemical Engineering
 - Electrical Engineering
 - Mechanical Engineering
 - Petroleum Engineering
- Graduate program in Chemical Engineering (Fall 2011)
- More than 150 courses offered per year
- Cultural and academic exchange provided by study-abroad



ABET Accreditation

- ABET is the premier accreditation authority for institutions offering degree programs in applied science, computing, engineering and technology
- Received accreditation in Aug. 2009
- Accreditation applies to all degrees awarded to Texas A&M at Qatar students after 1 Oct. 2007

Vibrant Student Life

- More than 20 student clubs and organizations
- Sports teams compete with other schools in Education City and in Doha
- Student leadership exchange program



Our graduates

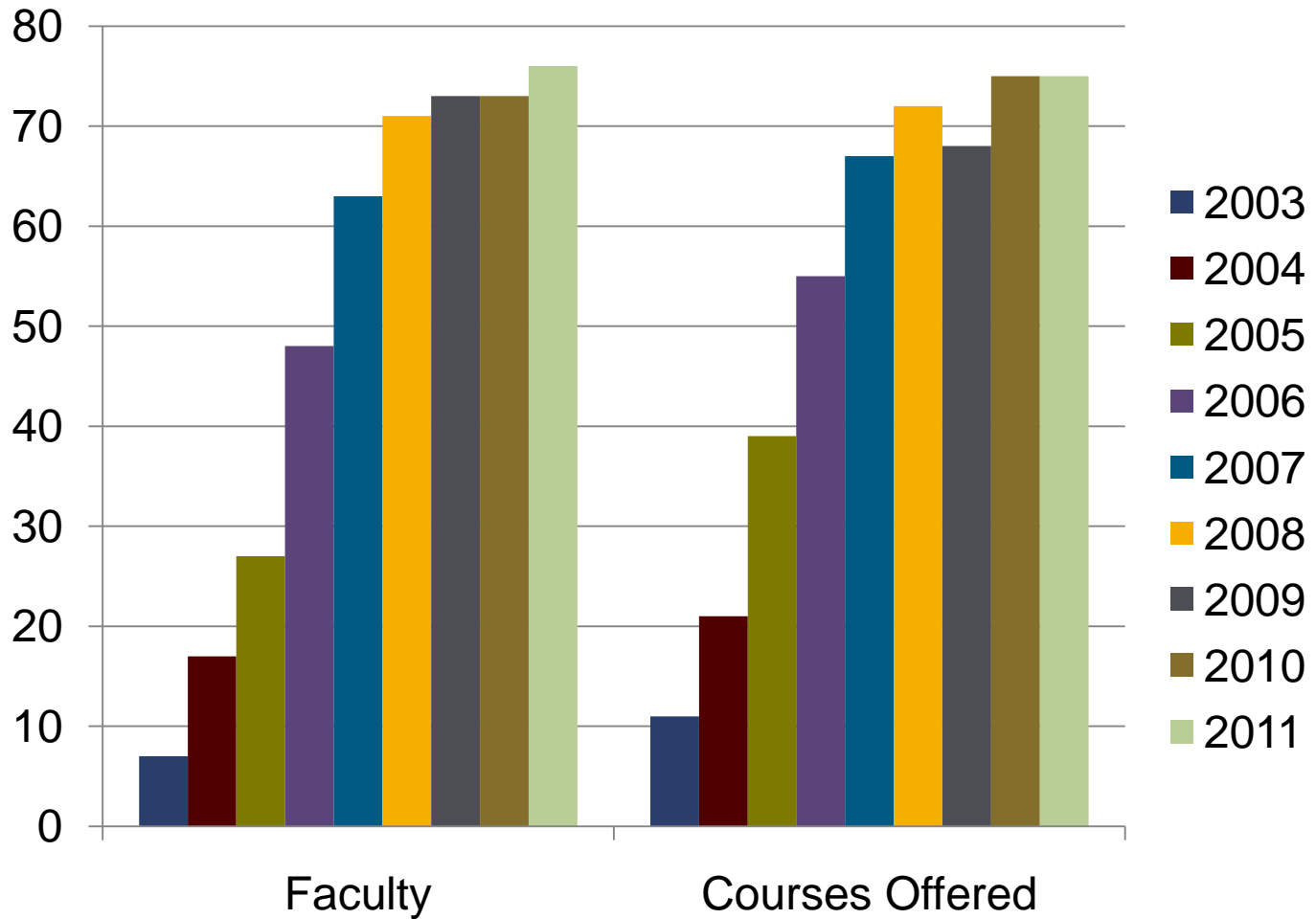
- Total of 207 Engineers as of June 2011
 - 81 Female/126 Male
 - 110 Qatari citizens
- Most working in local industries
- Pursuing graduate studies at
 - Stanford
 - Imperial College
 - Cambridge
 - Texas A&M
 - Caltech



Degrees Awarded- as of June 2011

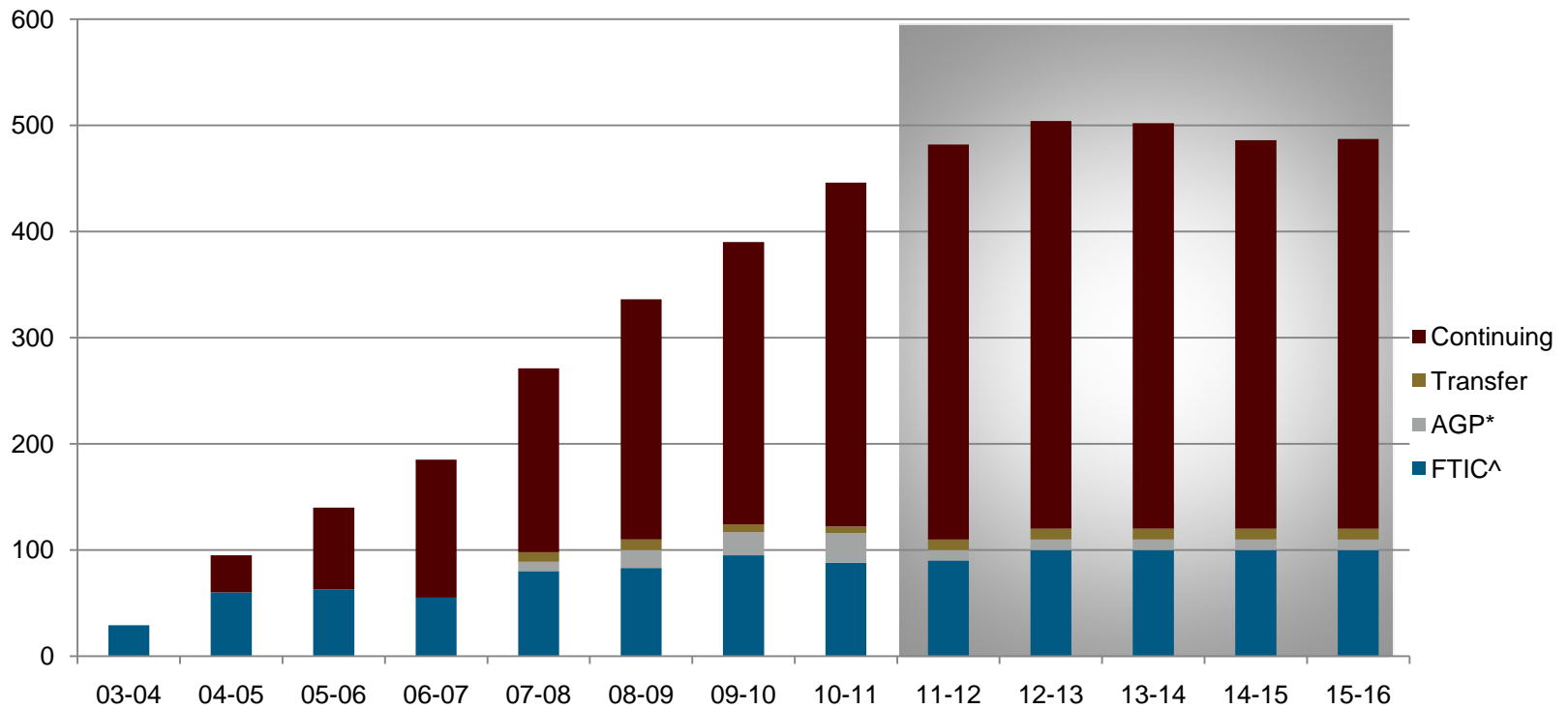
	Female	Male	Total
Chemical	26	22	48
Electrical	22	29	51
Mechanical	3	33	36
Petroleum	30	42	72
TOTAL	81	126	207

Academics



Undergraduate Enrollments

Historical and Projected Totals

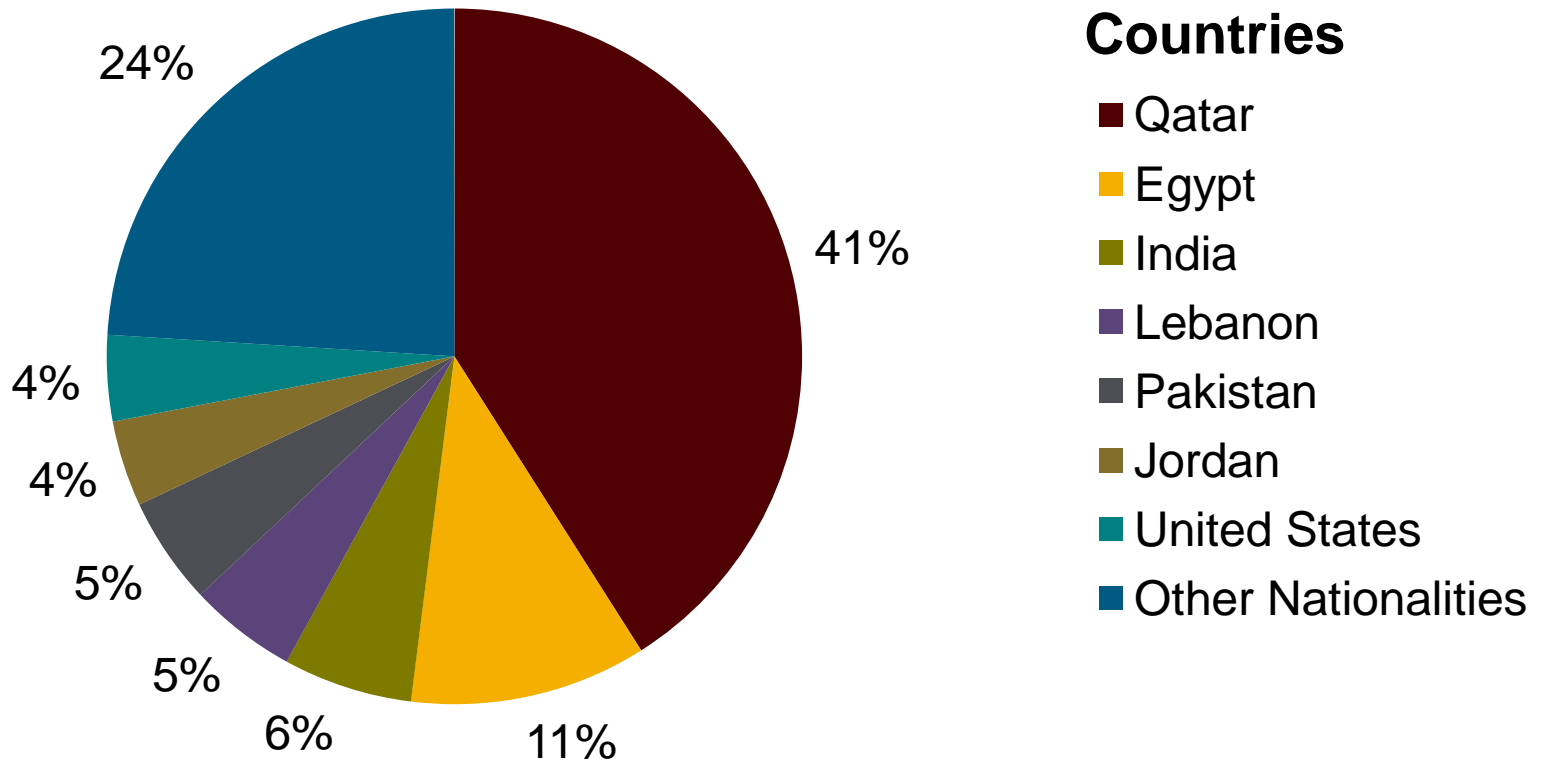


*Aggie Gateway Program
^FTIC-First Time in College

Enrollment by Major, Spring 2011

	Male	Female	Total
Chemical	35	46	81
Electrical	56	49	105
Mechanical	94	10	104
Petroleum	73	52	125
undeclared	10	18	28
TOTAL	268	175	443
non-degree seeking	24	15	39
GRAND TOTAL	292	190	482

Citizenship Statistics



Research

- Over 100 active research projects with total funding commitments of US \$69 million
- Most projects address specific needs of industry in Qatar
- Students are active in research by participating in the Undergraduate Research Experience Program sponsored by Qatar National Research Fund and other sponsored projects

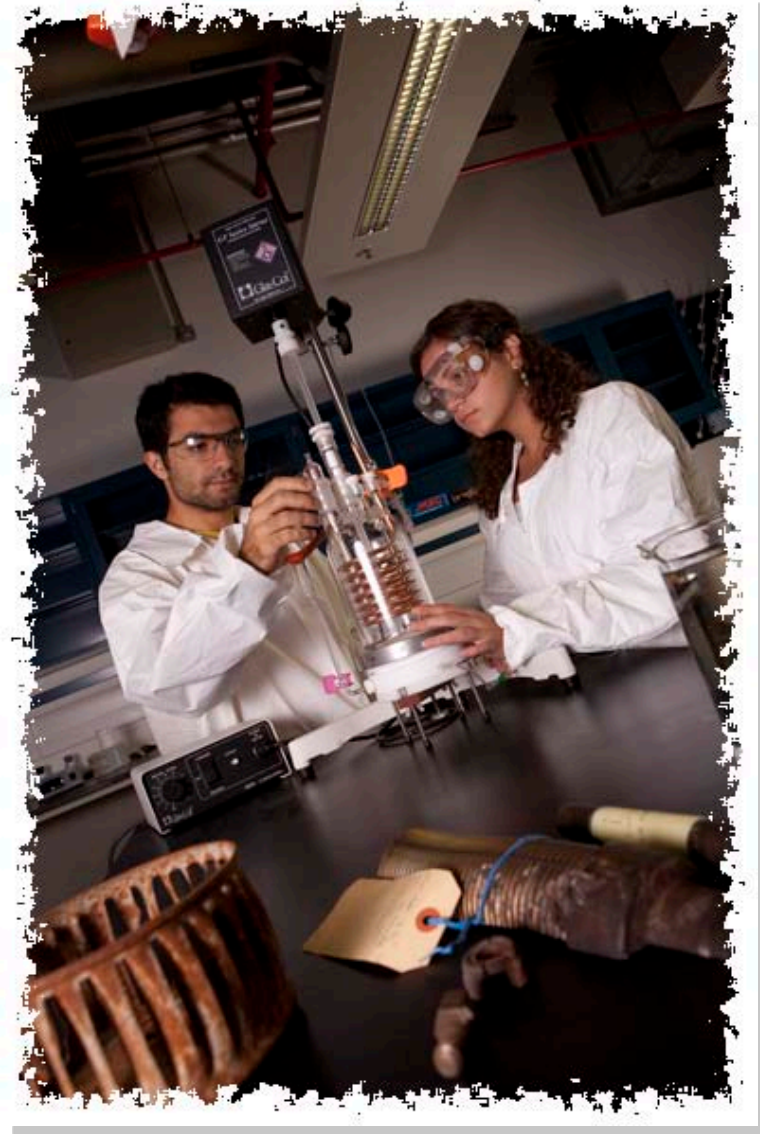
Research Activities

- National Priorities Research Program
 - 64 grants with funding commitment of \$56.3M
 - Grants span range of disciplines: engineering, natural sciences, medical sciences, and social sciences
- Qatar Science & Technology Park
 - Zero-liquid discharge water desalination
 - Road subsoil stabilization
 - Characterization and performance of advanced jet fuels



Industry-Funded Research Activities

- Past projects (examples)
 - RasGas
 - downhole wireless communications technology
 - well logging technology development
 - gas-condensate investigations
 - Qatar Shell Research and Technology Centre
 - asphalt/road studies
 - comparative assessment of desalination technologies
 - QAFCO (Qatar Fertilizer)
 - Residual chlorine
 - sea water discharge



Industry-Funded Projects

- Current projects
 - (partial list)
 - BP and Qatar Petroleum
 - LNG safety research
 - Qatar Petroleum
 - Acid Stimulation of Carbonate Reservoirs
 - Maersk Oil Research and Technology Center
 - Crude oil & water emulsions



Lessons Learned: General

- Staff requirements are higher than main campus benchmarks due to in-country challenges (i.e., housing, immigration, schools)
- Newness wears off after a few years...keep a main campus engaged and excited about the project.
- After a initial pool of adventurous faculty and staff candidates, recruiting becomes more difficult and more regional.
- Extra resources...human and financial...are usually needed to establish an academic culture among students and families.
- Staffing and funding in place for initial start-up and infrastructure, but also to operate and refresh it in the longer run. Planning must account for buildup, maintenance, and refresh of infrastructure.

Lessons Learned: General

- HR, Finance, and Administration
 - Application of Texas rules in Qatar
 - Application of Qatar rules
 - Purchasing and delivery of goods
 - Export control issues
 - Banking issues
 - Workforce experience
 - Nationalization of workforce

Lessons Learned: General

- Faculty and Staff
 - Proper pre-departure orientation essential
 - Expectations management
 - Academic and business environment different from that in West
 - Academic standards

Lessons Learned: Students

- Admissions
 - Standardized testing not the norm
 - Deadlines not as urgent as in West
 - Looking for “flexibility” in requirements
 - Importance of family in decision making

Lessons Learned: Students

- **Academics**

- Most of the parents have not had exposure to western style higher education
- Qatari nationals generally attend gender segregated secondary schools
- Time management a bigger issue than in West
- Critical thinking skills are not as developed by the K-12 system as in West
- Introduction of an Honor Code
- Different work ethic
- Seek “flexibility” in grading

Lessons Learned: Students

- **Significance of Family Relationships**
 - Role qualitatively different from that of North American and European student
 - More frequent communication with parents and family members
 - Many parents do not speak English
 - Greater expectation for the student to maintain ties with family
 - Student need to co-ordinate family responsibilities with college obligations
 - Eldest male in the family may have responsibilities to act as the head of the household
 - Students are not always able to participate in extracurricular/co-curricular activities
 - Strongly held views of the parent's responsibility to maintain control of their children...potential conflicts with FERPA
 - Student's personal autonomy/responsibility vs the need for family relatedness
 - Promote activities or events that to encourage better understanding of the goals of the university and become more integrated into the university community

Lessons Learned: Students

- **Gender-based Issues**

- Limited prior experience interacting with members of the opposite sex outside their immediate family
- Required team assignments (mix gender) can be very difficult for freshmen students
- Female graduates are frequently underutilized in the workplace
- Female students may not be able to participate in extracurricular activities that take place in the evenings or on weekends
- Families' concerns about female children participating in Study Abroad programs and other programs that involve international travel

Lessons Learned: Students

- Religion

- Vast majority of students are Sunni Muslim
- Impact of religion on academic calendar – we have to take into account the observance of the holy month of Ramadan.
- Must have prayer rooms on campus (Muslim students are obligated to pray 5 times daily)
- Although we are considered a secular institution, religious observances and traditions need to be acknowledged and supported

Lessons Learned: Students

- Culture

- Cultural influences vary, however, the culture is predominantly Gulf Arab
- Cultural influences shape the students' ideas about what constitutes effective leadership – sometimes differs from western notions of leadership
- Different understanding of what constitutes good citizenship – sometimes differs from western notions of citizenship



Questions?