

This fact sheet is part of a series of QAI Fact Sheets profiling relationships between Qatar and U.S. states in the areas of Business, Defense, Education, Culture, and Diplomacy.



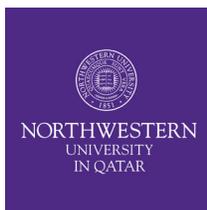
Overview

Qatar is a peninsular state located in the Arabian Gulf. The state, through the exportation of liquified natural gas, has quickly modernized and aspires to become a cultural and economic hub for the greater Middle East. Through the wealth generated by natural resources, the state has pursued modernization through the lens of American values.

The nation currently hosts 6 major American university campuses and cooperates closely with the U.S. military by hosting a major airbase.

In an effort to further enhance economic and cultural ties with the United States, Qatar conducts outreach with major American cultural and economic hubs.

From agriculture to the automotive industry, the Midwest is an industrial and economic powerhouse that often serves as a bellwether for U.S. economic growth and exports. Midwestern cities are home to some of the country's leading cultural and educational institutions, with architectural treasures and historical landmarks that rival their peer coastal cities. From the University of Michigan to Ohio State University to the University of Chicago, the Midwest's research and academic capabilities form a knowledge hub for America and the world.



Qatar and the Midwest are on the path to discovering new areas for working towards joint prosperity and greater cultural exchange. Welcoming **Northwestern University's Medill School of Journalism** as a fully degree-granting branch campus in 2008, Qatar's Education City has provided a solid foundation for building a multifaceted partnership with the state of Illinois, the city of Chicago and the Midwest at large.

As Qatar implements measures to position itself as a regional trading and financial hub, with innovation at the heart of its progress, the Midwestern United States' advanced and highly diverse economy creates opportunities for Qatari investments and provides a model that Doha can emulate.

Investment Initiatives

The **Qatar Investment Authority (QIA)** opened its office in New York in 2015 to manage its ever-growing portfolio in the United States. Since then, QIA has pledged to invest **\$45 billion** in the United States by 2020 (equal to 23% of Qatar's annual GDP).

The Qatar Investment Authority, Qatar's acquisitive sovereign wealth fund, is now aiming to increase its holdings within the United States. As a result, the wealth fund has made sizable investments within the Midwest.

Since making this pledge in 2015, QIA has already invested over **\$20 billion**.



جهاز قطر للإستثمار
QATAR INVESTMENT AUTHORITY

Recent Investments

- In December 2018, the Qatar Investment Authority (QIA) established an interest in Welltower Inc., through a **\$300 million** investment. Welltower is an S&P 500 company headquartered in Toledo, Ohio, that specializes in the transformation of health care infrastructure.
- In November 2018, QIA made a **\$15 million** in Bedrock Manufacturing Co, the parent company of Detroit, Michigan-based Shinola. **Shinola**, a provider of high-quality, hand crafted products including watches, bicycles and leather goods that are "Built in America," creating quality jobs in Detroit, MI and beyond.
- In 2012, the Qatari business conglomerate, Al Faisal Holding, acquired the **Radisson Blu Aqua Hotel** in Chicago through the U.S. development arm of its subsidiary, Al Rayyan Tourism and Investment (ARTIC). The subsidiary purchased a \$93.8 million stake in Magellan Development, which manages the hotel. Al Faisal holding recently refinanced the hotel to a tune of **\$64 million**.
- In 2017, Qatar experienced an illegal blockade by regional states that imposed a trade embargo on the nation. In an effort to continue food stocks and dairy within the country, Qatar purchased several thousand cattle from American farmers, largely from the states of Wisconsin and Texas.

Furthermore, American franchises headquartered in the Midwest such as McDonalds and Domino's are abundant throughout Qatar. The existence of such firms within Qatar not only provide profit for those companies but also assist the United States trade balance with much of the products emanating from the United States.

Qatar Airways



In June 2013, Qatar Airways launch a thrice-weekly passenger service between Chicago and Qatar Airways' hub in Doha, Qatar. Chicago has now become destination number 126 in the airline's impressive worldwide network, and one of six hubs in the United States.

As of now, there are:

- Daily passenger flight ex-ORD linking Illinois to over 160 destinations worldwide
- 9 weekly Cargo flights
- 26 jobs supported (passenger sales, cargo sales and operations, airport operations)
- Cargo and Airport Operations at O'Hare

Cultural and Educational Exchange

In 2008, Qatar's Education City opened its doors to **Northwestern University's Medill School of Journalism**, joining five other top fully degree-granting American research universities in Qatar.

- Northwestern in Qatar (or NU-Q, as it's known) focuses on communication and journalism.
- It allows students to travel "to the field" to see how media organizations work in places like New York, Turkey, Switzerland, etc.
- Underlining the cross-pollination between various academic program offerings in Education City, NU-Q offers a certificate in Middle Eastern studies for students from across Education City's branch campuses, including Georgetown University and Carnegie Mellon University.
- NU-Q gives students the opportunity to take part in the "Evanston Exchange," spending junior year at Northwestern's main campus.
- During the four-year tenure of a NU-Q graduate, 500 pieces of work are produced, directed, filmed, animated, researched, reported, and broadcasted.

In 2014, **Al Faisal Holding (AFH)**, one of the leading private companies in Qatar, whose Chairman and CEO is Sheikh Faisal Bin Qassim Al Thani, signed an agreement with Chicago's **DePaul University** to take the first steps toward a long-term collaboration that supports entrepreneurship and business development in Qatar and the Middle East.

The resulting MoU led to the launch of **The Sheikh Faisal Center for Entrepreneurship in the Middle East** at DePaul's Driehaus College of Business later this year.

"We are proud to sign this agreement with DePaul, one of the world's leading educational institutions. The government of Qatar has launched several initiatives to support entrepreneurs and is investing heavily to enhance the educational system in Qatar, providing many first-class educational facilities to build a generation that can lead the nation and achieve its vision."

- Sheikh Faisal

"Sheikh Faisal is one of the Middle East's leading entrepreneurs and this collaborative effort will bring together business leaders from the United States and the Middle East to cultivate the burgeoning entrepreneurial class in Qatar."

- Rev. Dennis H. Holtschneider, C.M., president of DePaul University

Since its launch, The Sheikh Faisal Center for Entrepreneurship in the Middle East has worked through DePaul's nationally recognized **Coleman Entrepreneurship Center**. The center facilitates a Young Entrepreneur Academy that develops new generations of Qatari and U.S. entrepreneurs and business leaders through student exchange programs.



DePaul has since hosted a group of Qatari students each summer on its Chicago campus where they work with business college faculty and alumni entrepreneurs to apply entrepreneurship theory and practice in developing their own businesses plans.

Additionally, a group of Driehaus College of Business students who are enrolled in programs related to business development in the Middle East will have the opportunity to participate in a study abroad program in Qatar.

Sports

In preparation for the **2026 World Cup** that will be jointly held by the United States, Mexico, and Canada, Qatar will be able to provide crucial knowledge transfer in both logistics and implementation strategies to host cities. One city that may potentially host a World Cup match is Cincinnati, the Queen City, at its famous Paul Brown Stadium.



Additionally, Qatar-based BEIN Sports, and its North American subsidiary, Bein Sports USA, actively exports American sports to the greater Middle East and North Africa. Games from various sports leagues (Chicago Cubs, Cleveland Browns, the Green Bay Packers, the Chicago White Sox, and many others) are now broadcast from Tunisia to Oman.

Educational Initiatives Through the Qatar Foundation International



Qatar Foundation International (QFI) focuses on student-centered learning environments that foster a deeper understanding of the Arab world through the teaching of Arabic and about the region's societies and cultures. The organization partners with primary and secondary schools, universities, multilateral entities, and other philanthropic organizations to ensure that their programs advance students' acquisition of global competency and 21st-century skills.

QFI currently conducts operations in Illinois, in partnership with the University of Chicago and University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign.

QFI also operates in partnership with **Global Educational Excellence Schools** in **Dearborn, Michigan**.

