



Department of Nutrition Sciences
College of Health Sciences, QU Health, Qatar
University

MSc in Nutrition
Graduate Student Handbook



MASTER OF SCIENCE IN NUTRITION

Program Description

The Department of Nutrition Sciences, College of Health Sciences at Qatar University, offers a Master of Science (MSc) program in Nutrition. Students enrolled in this program will undertake advanced coursework in the biochemical, clinical, community, and behavioral aspects of nutrition. This program will also offer opportunities for currently employed dietitians and nutritionists to obtain a graduate degree in Nutritional Sciences. The MSc in Nutrition at Qatar University is a two-year (4 semesters), 36-credit-hour program divided into 18 credit hours for each year. A part-time enrollment option is available, with a maximum completion time of four years (8 semesters). Students will complete 24 credit hours of core courses, 6 credit hours of electives, and 6 credit hours of thesis. The core coursework in the MSc will be in the areas of advanced biochemical nutrition of macronutrients and micronutrients, statistical and research methods in nutrition, nutrition care management, cardio-metabolic diseases, nutritional epidemiology, and nutrigenomics.

Mission Statement

The mission of the MSc degree in Nutrition is to maintain a progressive and effective academic program that integrates graduate education, professional experience, research, and public service to develop competent graduates with the knowledge and skills necessary to satisfy and improve the diet, health, and nutritional needs of the Qatari community and communities of the Gulf region.

Program Objectives

The principal operational objective of the MSc in Nutrition is to address the country's need for nutritional and dietetic professionals to deliver excellent nutritional services and preventive programs in accordance with world-class standards.

The operational objectives of the Nutrition program are to:

- 1) Meet the requirements of the health institutions in Qatar for Nutritionists and Dietitians with advanced qualifications
- 2) Prepare competent individuals with higher qualifications in nutrition and dietetics who can manage nutrition and dietetic services and specialized clinical services
- 3) Provide qualified staff to meet the country's needs for compiling data on the nutrition status of the country and implement effective prevention programs targeting the emerging nutrition-related chronic diseases

Learning Outcomes

Graduates of the Master of Science in Nutrition will be able to:

- 1) Apply the knowledge of biochemistry, physiology, and genetics to understand the use of nutrients by the human body and in the development of nutrition recommendations for health promotion and disease prevention.
- 2) Evaluate nutritional status using appropriate and advanced clinical assessment strategies and plan and implement individualized, appropriate medical nutrition therapy for clients.
- 3) Understand the socio-cultural, psychological, economical, and political factors influencing food choices and nutrition behaviors and plan, implement, and evaluate nutrition education programs for specific population groups.
- 4) Evaluate the biochemical mechanism of metabolic and cardio risk factors and implement strategies in the management of these diseases.
- 5) Design and implement appropriate research methods and nutrition surveys to investigate nutrition problems and nutritional behaviors
- 6) Interpret and prepare professionally written reports and oral presentations of research findings appropriately

Admission Requirements

All applicants to the Master of Science in Nutrition program who meet the following minimum criteria will be considered for admission to Qatar University:

- Applicants must have earned a baccalaureate degree from a university or college accredited by an International Accrediting Association or by the Ministry of Higher Education or comparable in that country. An official transcript from each college or university attended as an undergraduate or graduate student must also be submitted. Individuals possessing a baccalaureate degree in nutrition, dietetics or related health fields are eligible to apply.
- Applicants must have an overall undergraduate grade point average (GPA) of 2.8 or more on a 4.0 scale.
- TOEFL (C-based exam) minimum score of 520 or IELTS minimum score of 6 is required of applicants seeking admission, taken within 2 years of the start of the intended semester of admission.
- Successful performance in the personal interview with the Admissions committee
- Applicants must provide two letters of recommendation from professors and/or supervisors, submitted to the Head of the Department of Nutrition Sciences, College of Health Sciences, Qatar University, and sent directly to the department by the recommender.
- Applicants must submit a typed, 300-word personal statement discussing their motivation for seeking a master's degree in view of prior formal education, current job responsibilities, and career plans.

- The application process is coordinated by the university admissions office and is made on an annual basis. The admission process is competitive, and the number of available seats is limited.

For additional information on the program, please see our website at: [Post Graduate Program](#)

Application Procedure:

Applicants for the Master of Science in Nutrition program must follow the steps outlined below:

Step 1: Online Application Submission

Complete and submit the Online Admissions Application through the university portal within the specified application period.

Step 2: Submission of Academic Documents

Upload or submit final, official, and certified university transcripts to the Admissions Department.

Step 3: English Proficiency Requirement

Provide an official TOEFL score report or an equivalent proof of English proficiency in accordance with Qatar University policy.

Step 4: Supporting Documents

Submit the following supporting materials:

- Two confidential recommendation letters from undergraduate professors or employers
- A current Curriculum Vitae (C.V.)
- A typed personal statement (approximately 300 words) outlining academic background, research interests, and professional goals
- A valid Health Certificate

Step 5: Identification Documents

Submit a copy of the Qatar ID card (if available). Non-Qatari applicants must provide a copy of their passport.

Step 6: Photographs and Fees

Provide two recent passport-sized photographs and complete payment of the required application fees.

Step 7: Review and Notification

Applications will be reviewed by the program committee. Shortlisted candidates may be invited for an interview. Final admission decisions will be communicated by the Admissions Department.

Incomplete applications or submissions received after the deadline may not be considered.

Admission to the Master of Science in Nutrition program takes place in the **Fall Semester** only.

For additional information on the program, please see our website at: [Graduate](#)

Potential Careers

For the candidates who are not already -employed, there are many employment opportunities in the growing Qatari health sector including:

Hospitals: Hamad General Hospital, Al Khor Hospital, National Center for Cancer Care and Research, Heart Hospital, Al Wakra Hospital, Cuban Hospital, Qatar Rehabilitation Institute, Women’s Wellness and Research Center, Ambulatory Care Center, Mental Health Hospital, Surgical Specialized Center, Umm Saeed Hospital, Ras Lafan Hospital, Rumailla Hospital, Enaya, Homecare Services, Qatar Military Hospital, Private hospitals and clinics, SIDRA Medicine, Ministry of Public Health, Primary Health Care Corporation (PHCC) and Primary Healthcare centers.

Schools and universities: Private and public schools, Qatar University, Qatar Foundation.

Catering companies and associations: Food catering companies, Qatar Diabetes Association, Qatar Cancer Society, ASPETAR, ASPIRE, Private Health & Fitness clubs, and Diet centers.

DEGREE REQUIREMENTS

Master of Science in Nutrition

A minimum of 36 credit hours is required to complete the Master of Science in Nutrition, including the following:

- A minimum of 24 credit hours in Major Core Requirements
- A minimum of 6 credit hours of Electives (chosen with the consultation of the program coordinator/thesis supervisor)
- A minimum of 6 credit hours of Thesis
- A minimum cumulative GPA of 3.0 upon completion of the program.
- Passing of thesis defense exam
- A maximum period of program completion of 4 years.

For more details: [Qatar University Graduate Study Policy](#)

Retention Requirements

- Students will be under academic probation if their GPA falls below 3.0
- Graduate students placed under Academic probation are only allowed to register a maximum of six (6) credit hours per regular semester
- Students will be dismissed from the program if they fail to achieve a GP of 3.0 by the end of the following semester after having been placed on Academic Probation.

For more details: [Qatar University Graduate Study Policy](#)

Major Requirements (36 CH)

The following courses must be completed by all students in the Master of Science in Nutrition program:

| Course Id. | Course Title | # Credit Hours | # Contact Hours | | Prerequisites |
|------------|--|----------------|-----------------------|------|---------------|
| | | | Theory/ Discussion | Lab. | |
| NUTR 620 | Advanced Nutrition I | 3 | 3 | 0 | - |
| NUTR 621 | Advanced Nutrition II | 3 | 3 | 0 | - |
| NUTR 601 | Advanced statistics for nutrition research | 3 | 3 | 0 | - |
| NUTR 631 | Research Methods in Human Nutrition | 3 | 3 | 0 | - |
| NUTR 640 | Nutrition Care Management | 3 | 3 | 0 | - |
| NUTR 645 | Nutrition Epidemiology | 3 | 3 | 0 | - |
| NUTR 650 | Cardiometabolic Diseases and Nutrition | 3 | 3 | 0 | - |
| NUTR 681 | Graduate seminar | 1 | 1 | 0 | - |
| NUTR 682 | Nutrigenomics | 2 | 2 | 0 | - |
| NUTR 698 | Master's Thesis I | 3 | | | - |
| NUTR 698 | Master's Thesis II | 3 | | | - |
| | Electives | 6 | | | |
| | Total | 36 | | | |

STUDY PLAN**Master of Science in Nutrition**

| FIRST YEAR [18 credit hours] | | |
|---|--|---------------|
| Fall Semester III [9 credits] | | |
| Course # | Course Title | Cr Hrs |
| NUTR 620 | Advanced Nutrition I | 3 |
| NUTR 601 | Advanced Statistics for Nutrition Research | 3 |
| NUTR 640 | Nutrition care management | 3 |
| Spring Semester II [9 credits] | | |
| Course # | Course Title | Cr Hrs |
| NUTR 621 | Advanced Nutrition II | 3 |
| NUTR 631 | Research Methods in Human Nutrition | 3 |
| | Elective | 3 |
| SECOND YEAR [18 Credit hours] | | |
| Fall Semester III [9 credits] | | |
| Course # | Course Title | Cr Hrs |
| NUTR 645 | Nutrition epidemiology | 3 |
| NUTR 650 | Cardiometabolic diseases and nutrition | 3 |
| NUTR 698 | Master's Thesis I | 3 |
| Spring Semester IV (9 credits) | | |
| Course # | Course Title | Cr Hrs |
| NUTR 682 | Nutrigenomics | 2 |
| NUTR 681 | Graduate Seminar | 1 |
| NUTR 698 | Master's Thesis II | 3 |
| | Elective | 3 |

Graduate Faculty in the Department of Nutrition Sciences

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|---|--|
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