



BEST POSTGRADUATE  
THESIS AWARD



جامعة السلطان قابوس  
Sultan Qaboos University

# Best Postgraduate Thesis Award

Deanship of Postgraduate Studies  
[www.squ.edu.om/ps](http://www.squ.edu.om/ps)

# INTRODUCTION

Scientific research is a key component in achieving excellence and competition within and between universities and research centers around the world. It is also one of the criteria that characterizes the world's top universities. Postgraduate students have an important impact on institution's research output, so promoting their skills is one way in which an institution can enhance its research reputation. As such, Sultan Qaboos University's strategic plan (2016-2040) highlights the importance of achieving distinction and international recognition in research. One way this can be realized is by encouraging the formation of highly qualified researchers and recognizing excellence among postgraduate students. In order to help SQU achieve these aims, this initiative is proposed to offer an award for the best postgraduate thesis.

# OBJECTIVES

The award aims to:

1. Encourage postgraduate students to investigate local and/or international issues using scientific methodologies to find ways of addressing them.
2. Build a culture of innovative research among postgraduate students.
3. Support original and outstanding postgraduate student research and highlight its achievements and discoveries in relation to the local community development in particular and the international community in general.
4. Publicize SQU research outcomes and studies both within the university and beyond.
5. Raise awareness about the added value that can result from SQU postgraduate student research projects and achievements.
6. Promote added value that results from such researches and studies.

# AWARD'S NAME


“Best Postgraduate Thesis Award”.

- ◆ Two winners from each college will be selected, one for doctoral degree and another for master's.
- ◆ The award consists of a prize and a certificate from the Deanship of Postgraduate Studies at SQU.

# ELIGIBILITY

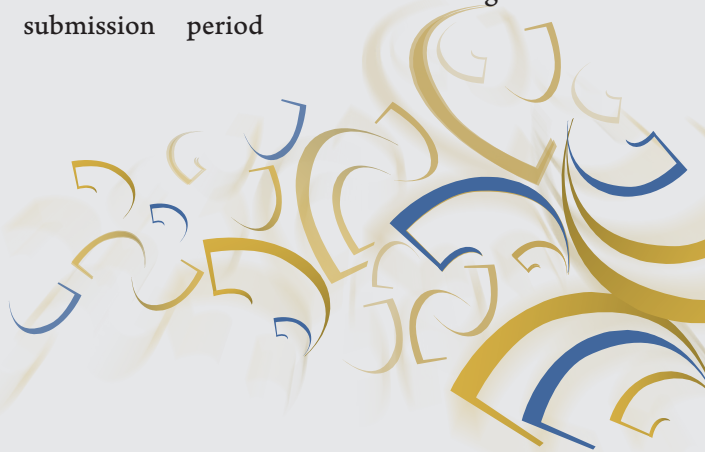
Eligibility for the award is open to all SQU master's and doctoral graduate program students of thesis-based programs who graduated no more than one year before the award application submission date.

# PROCEDURES

1. The Deanship of Postgraduate Studies announces the start of the application submission process in February each year.
  2. A committee consists of a chair, holding a rank of associate professor or higher, and three faculty members from the college, is formed in each college to evaluate applications and select two winners per degree.
  3. If the committee decides that no candidate is eligible for award, then no award will be given.
  4. The names of winners are forwarded to the Dean of Postgraduate Studies and then to Deputy Vice-Chancellor for Postgraduate Studies and Research for approval before 15th April.
  5. Winners are awarded officially in May each year during the University Day celebrations.
  6. A public seminar is held during the University Day celebrations for winners to present their theses, and to talk about their experiences in undertaking their research.
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# APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

1. Applicant's Curriculum Vitae (CV).
2. Applicant's thesis abstract.
3. Two published, or approved for publication papers in an international refereed journal, of applicant research work and where applicant is the first author in both (for Doctoral degree only).
4. Applications are submitted to office of Assistant Dean for Postgraduate Studies and research in the college within application submission period



# EVALUATION CRITERIA

## 1. Research problem

- a. Is the title stated in a clear manner?
- b. Is the problem original?
- c. Are the research questions and objectives specified correctly?
- d. Does it investigate a current vital issue?
- e. Does it have applications in country sectors?

## 2. Methodology & Tools

- a. Is the methodology clearly stated?
- b. Does a connection between the theoretical framework and methodology used exist?
- c. Are variables and samples identified reliable?
- d. From a theoretical and methodological point of view, are the methods used suitable?



### **3. Analysis, Results & Impact**

- a. Are they presented in a clear manner?
- b. Do they answer the research questions and its hypotheses and objectives?
- c. Are results publishable in scientific journals or conferences (for master's theses)?
- d. Are included data, tables, and graphs easily understandable?
- e. Has any kind of a model or a patent been generated?

### **4. Thesis format & Documentation**

- a. Is scientific language used?
- b. Are references used up-to-date?
- c. Is it documented in a scientific style?