



SHEIKH SAUD BIN SAQR AL QASIMI FOUNDATION FOR POLICY RESEARCH

Annual Report
2016





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Managing Director's **Message**

As we reflect on the Al Qasimi Foundation's seventh year of research and outreach, we can't help but be grateful. The Foundation team continues to embody commitment to the people of Ras Al Khaimah and the United Arab Emirates and to partner with our community to bolster education, public health, and urban development efforts in the region.

One of the primary ways that the Foundation has supported the sustainable growth of these efforts is through the research that it has conducted this year. Talented visiting scholars and dynamic research collaborations have made 2016's collection of studies and publications the Foundation's most influential body of research findings to date. The practical implications of this are that its policy recommendations are both robust and relevant to Ras Al Khaimah and the UAE's aspiration for sustained development. These contributions have led the Foundation to be recognized as one of the Top 50 think tanks in the Middle East and North Africa as well as only one of three Middle Eastern think tanks to be listed on the Best Free Standing Regional Studies Center list in the "2016 Global Go To Think Tank Index Report."

At the same time, the Foundation has spent 2016 collaborating with local and international partners to apply this compelling research to its capacity development programs and community engagement initiatives. Partnerships with the local ministries, schools, and hospitals as well as scholarships, grants, and professional development opportunities represent an important part of the resources that the Foundation has provided to its stakeholders as the result of its research endeavors.

The Foundation shares with national leaders a vision of the UAE as a competitive and innovative nation that is thriving across its economic, social, and cultural landscapes. Evidence-based research is key to making policy decisions that help our community reach its long-term potential. To that end, we believe that what we have accomplished this year challenges us to go further in 2017, to embrace stewardship and excellence as part of the values of Ras Al Khaimah and the UAE. As we enter the Year of Giving, the Foundation looks forward to continuing to advance a culture of social responsibility and volunteerism in both the private and public sectors as well as supporting local initiatives that further develop our community.

Dr. Mohamed Abdulatif Khalifa

Managing Director
Sheikh Saud bin Sagr Al Qasimi Foundation for Policy Research

The Al Qasimi Foundation spent 2016 investing in its research and programmatic endeavors, deepening and widening our engagement in issues related to education, public health, urban development and arts and culture. While pursuing these focus areas, we also took a closer look at our relationships with stakeholders, who motivate us and help us to remain committed to research and development initiatives.

This year, the Foundation's ongoing research has built relationships with faculty at Columbia University in New York, experts at UNESCO Doha, and non-profit organizations across Ras Al Khaimah and the Gulf region. This included coorganizing the Seventh Annual Gulf Comparative Education Society Symposium with Arab Open University as well as becoming members of the UNESCO Education 2030 in the GCC Working Group. Long-term, it is hoped that these connections will produce additional research on education in the northern emirates and increase collaboration among community members.

Given the increasing events and activities around arts and culture, the Foundation made this an official priority area in 2016. These included the Fourth Annual Ras Al Khaimah Fine Arts Festival as well as the awarding of our first Documentary Film Grant, which seeks to support emergent directors. The Foundation recognizes the evolving role of arts and culture in sustainable community, urban, and economic development and we look forward to deepening our relationships with the arts in 2017.

Our local community engagement and capacity development activities have also been varied and fruitful. The Sheikh Saqr Student Enrichment Program piloted multiple new courses and workshops as well as saw its first group of graduates. The educator professional development programs and school reform initiatives continued to yield impressive results, bolstered by our formal collaboration with the Ministry of Education. Additionally, the Community Gathering events introduced local residents to health, cross-cultural and artistic experiences as well as to one another.

Relationships like these have renewed our commitment to strengthening the economic, social, and cultural sustainability of Ras Al Khaimah and the UAE through relevant research and evidence-based policy recommendations. Our team looks forward to working with our neighbors both here and abroad for a 2017 dedicated to the improvement of education, public health, urban development, and the arts in the UAE and beyond.

Dr. Natasha Ridge

Executive Director Sheikh Saud bin Saqr Al Qasimi Foundation for Policy Research



Executive Director's **Message**



Who We Serve
Our Community



Our Community

The Sheikh Saud bin Saqr Al Qasimi Foundation for Policy Research was established in 2009 to aid in the social, cultural, and economic development of Ras Al Khaimah and the United Arab Emirates (UAE). The Foundation seeks to support public and private sectors by helping them ground policy decisions firmly in relevant bodies of research that reflect the best thinking in the world as well as the local Ras Al Khaimah and UAE contexts.

All of the Foundation's efforts are designed to support progress in our emirate and nation, and our activities impact a broad range of local and international stakeholders. From partnering with academics at New York's Columbia University to collaborating with researchers at UNESCO Doha, all of our initiatives remain focused on our community. The Al Qasimi Foundation is grateful for the opportunity to partner with the people of the UAE and remains dedicated to championing their best interests through its research, capacity development, and community outreach efforts.







What We've Done
Our Progress
in 2016



Research

As part of its mandate to support evidenced-based planning among the region's policymakers, the Al Qasimi Foundation views research as the cornerstone of its mission. The Foundation both conducts and promotes—through diverse grant offerings—high-quality research focused on Ras Al Khaimah, the United Arab Emirates, and the broader Gulf region.

The Foundation collaborates with scholars and esteemed universities across the globe and works to connect these researchers with relevant policymakers. The result has been progressive, applied research in the areas of education, health and well-being, and community development. This year we were honored to co-organize the 7th Annual GCES Symposium as well as to collaborate with UNESCO Doha on the Ras Al Khaimah Case Study as part of the Momentum for Education Beyond 2015 research project.

"Hands on Learning, an AQF research pilot, is one of the most successful educational programs that have ever been applied at this school. The program increases the motivation of students by providing opportunities for them to discover their abilities and talents. It enhances the students' observational and discovery aptitudes, as well as stimulates their mental and manual dexterities. I have witnessed firsthand the joy and the sense of ownership they feel when they complete their projects."

Mr. Mohammed Al Mulla, School Principal

Our

Progress in 2016



3 Seed Grants awarded



4

Doctoral and Faculty Scholars sponsored



4

In-house research projects



1

Working Paper published



3

Policy Paper published



21

Presentations



76

Gulf Comparative Education Society Symposium participants



Our

Progress in 2016



School Grants awarded



Health Practitioner Scholarship awarded



Ras Al Khaimah Teachers members



Teacher Scholarships awarded



13
Members of the Advisory
Council for The Whole
School Renewal Program



Teachers enrolled in professional development programs (peer-to-peer)

Capacity Development

One way that the Al Qasimi Foundation stewards its research findings is by developing and providing strategic services and support in order to build individual and local capacity across public sectors. These capacity development efforts cultivate local talent and support institutional improvements through evidence-based initiatives related to education, health, and urban development. This year, the Foundation has focused on improving teacher quality, promoting school development, establishing formal collaborations with the Ministry of Education, developing gifted and talented students, and serving at-risk youth through supplemental life skills programming.



Secondary students sent to summer university preparation courses in the US, UK, and South Korea



Professional development courses & workshops offered



Student fieldtrips and university campus visits



Participants in Ras
Al Khaimah Teacher
Exchange to Malaysia



166
Inmates attending development courses



School piloting
Hands on
Learning initiative



Students participating in the Sheikh Saqr Student Enrichment Program

Our

Progress in 2016



2 nentary Film Grants awarded



Care packages donated and distributed to local laborers



YouTube videos uploaded



1600+

Guests at Foundation events



76

Artists from 30 countries
participated in the 4th Annual Ras Al
Khaimah Fine Arts Festival

Community Engagement

Investing in people means nurturing collaboration and advancing a spirit of community while demonstrating a transparency in all of our operations. The Foundation therefore remains committed to inclusiveness, open-source (public) information, and straightforward communication as pillars of our community engagement activities. The Foundation's primary avenues of outreach include its quarterly newsletter, social media presence, and publications. Our community engagement is supported by Community Gathering events, Majlis presentations, and the annual Ras Al Khaimah Fine Arts Festival.



3400+

Instagram followers



9

Community Gathering events engaged the public in activities related to heritage, health, and arts and culture



20

Foundation appearances n local and international news coverage



18,000

Ras Al Khaimah Fine Arts Festival Facebook page likes



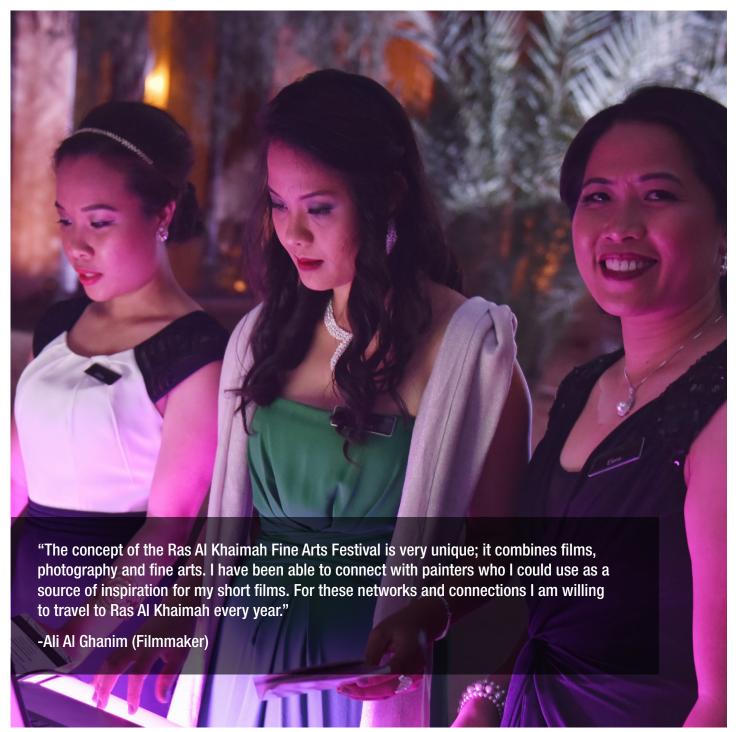
2682

Local and international recipients of quarterly



10

Majlis events connected researchers to policymakers interested in their work





What We Do
Our Focus



Education

Education was the original and remains the primary research priority of the Al Qasimi Foundation, as we view education as the key to the sustainable health and growth of our emirate and our nation. Community advancement requires investments in public education and related social services, and the Foundation focuses its educational activities on primary stakeholder groups including students and educators.

Students

- February-May 2016
 Sheikh Saqr Student Enrichment Program pilots student
 Skills For Life workshops
- March 2016
 Sheikh Saqr Student Enrichment Program students visit the Emirates Literature Festival to learn from published authors and discover new books
- April 2016
 Sheikh Saqr Student Enrichment Program students
 volunteer to clean Wadi Shawka
- April 2016
 Sheikh Saqr Student Enrichment Program students visit
 American University of Sharjah
- May 2016
 Artist Ruzica Simonic leads mosaic art and design workshop for the Foundation's Hands on Learning students
- July-August 2016
 Eleven Sheikh Saqr Student Enrichment Program students take part in summer English and university preparatory programs in the United States, United Kingdom, and South Korea
- September 2016
 McDonald's Ras Al Khaimah hosts the Foundation's Hands on Learning students for a work experience day
- September-December 2016
 Sheikh Saqr Student Enrichment Program pilots Community
 Engagement, Volunteerism, and Youth in Action courses

Educators

- February 2016
 Community Gathering: Parents, Children, & Play: A Child
 Development Workshop
 - February-December 2016
 Phase one of the Education Technology, Parent
 Involvement, Teaching with Brain Research, and Building
 a Strong Foundation Program teacher and administrator
 professional development workshop series are held
- April 2016
 Majlis: Public Private Partnerships in Education in the UAE: A Model for Success?
- April 2016
 7th Annual Gulf Comparative Education Society
 Symposium held in Kuwait
- May 2016
 Held educator and policymaker focus group discussions for the Ras Al Khaimah Case Study included in UNESCO Doha's report on Momentum for Education 2030
- May 2016
 Majlis: Strengthening the Basic Skills of Arab Students in the Emirates: Insights from Cognitive Science

Health & Well-being

In 2016, the Al Qasimi Foundation supported the transformation of public health policy, health education, nutrition and lifestyle choices in Ras Al Khaimah and the emirates. Initiatives ranged from scholarships to Ras Al Khaimah specific case studies.

- January 2016First Health Practitioner Scholarship awarded
- October 2016
 Majlis: 4get-me-not (I Love my Brain Campaign)
- November 2016
 Majlis: EatWell Assist: A feasibility study targeting expectant parents to improve diet and nutrition and prevent family obesity in Ras Al Khaimah

- November 2016
 Majlis: Streamlining and Modernizing Medical
 Workforce Governance: A Case Study of Ras Al
 Khaimah, United Arab Emirates
- December 2016
 Majlis: Transforming Breast Cancer Diagnosis in Ras Al
 Khaimah







Community Development and Urban Planning

The Al Qasimi Foundation is committed to working with local stakeholders and decision makers to strengthen local communities in Ras Al Kahimah and the emirates. As such, it encourages research and programming related to any aspect of the community. In 2016, the Foundation largely focused on issues related to sustainable community and urban development as well as the environment.

- February-December 2016
 The Foundation's Prison Project delivers phase one of Information Technology, English, and Business Management workshops for prisoners at the Ras A Khaimah Correctional Facility
- May 2016
 Majlis: Preserving and Promoting Ras Al Khaimah's
 Cultural Heritage
- April 2016
 Seed Grant awarded for Raising Public Awareness of Ras Al Khaimah's Mangrove Wetlands project
- November 2016
 Majlis: Ras Al Khaimah Really Recycles







Arts and Culture

Given the increasing events and activities around arts and culture, the Foundation made this an official priority area in 2016. The Foundation recognizes the evolving role of arts and culture in sustainable community, urban, and economic development and looks forward to exploring new research avenues and community engagement initiatives.

- February 20164th Annual Ras Al Khaimah Fine Arts Festiva
- March 2016
 Community Gathering: A Musical Evening with the
 Henhouse Prowlers: Electrifying Bluegrass Music
- May 2016
 Community Gathering: Barbecue Master Class for
 Everyone: A Culinary Experience with Waldorf Astoria
- June 2016
 Community Gathering: Iftar for Everyone: A Ramadan
 Experience in an Emirati Home

- September 2016
 Community Gathering: Fashion for Everyone with Eman & Elham Al Flamrzi
- November 2016
 Community Gathering: An Equestrian Adventure for the Whole Family
- December 2016
 Community Gathering: Holiday Feast for Everyone,
 Exploring Traditions in Ras Al Khaimah.













This year the Al Qasimi Foundation's research team focused on establishing and deepening collaborations with both local and international partners. The scope of this year's publications speaks to these burgeoning relationships.



January 2016

First, Business, and Economy Class Education: For-Profit Education Providers and the Implications for Public Education (Published in a chapter for the 2016 volume of the World Yearbook of Education by Routledge)

May 2016

What is the Status of State-funded Philanthropy in the United Arab Emirates?

June 2016

Teacher Professional Development in the UAE: What Do Teachers Actually Want?

July 2016

Emirati Identity and Social Interaction in the Emirate of Ras Al Khaimah

October 2016

Private Education in the Absence of a Public Option: The Cases of the United Arab Emirates and Qatar (Published in a peer-reviewed volume by Forum for International Research in Education, October, 2016)

December 2016

An Experimental Investigation of the Determinants of Teacher Quality: Risk, Patience or Altruism?



What We've Shared
Our
Presentations

above that implied in any contract) between a public sector organization with any organization outside of the public sector (Bovaird, 2004, p.200)

PPP 2.0 - Multistakeholder partnerships

 "pooling and managing of resources, as well as the mobilization of competencies and commitments by public, business and civil society partners, to contribute to the expansion and enhanced quality of education" as defined by UNESCO and World Econom Forum (in Draxler, 2008, p.16)



Community Engagement as a Key Response to Global Humanitarian Needs

Event: Majlis Series

Date: February 7, 2016

Location: Ras Al Khaimah, United Arab Emirates

Presenter: Mohammed Abu Asaker

Hands on Learning: Re-engaging At-Risk Youth Beyond Vocational Education

Event: 2016 Comparative and International Education

Society (CIES) Conference Date: March 9, 2016

Location: Vancouver, Canada

Presenters: Natasha Ridge & Sahar El Asad

An Experimental Investigation of the Determinants of Teacher Quality: Risk, Patience or Altruism?

Event: 2016 Comparative and International Education

Society (CIES) Conference Date: March 10, 2016 Location: Vancouver, Canada

Presenter: Natasha Ridge

Coping with (School) Culture: Assessing School Culture in Ras Al Khaimah's Public High Schools

Event: 2016 Gulf Comparative Education Society Symposium

Date: April 7, 12016

Location: Arab Open University, Kuwait Presenters: Soohyun Jeon & Brian Chung

Overview of the Sheikh Saud bin Saqr Al Qasimi Foundation for Policy Research

Event: NYU Abu Dhabi Student Visit to the Al Qasimi

Foundation

Date: April 24, 2016

Location: Al Qasimi Foundation, Ras Al Khaimah, UAE Presenters: Natasha Ridge, Susan Kippels, & Brian Chung

Public Private Partnerships in Education in the UAE: A Model for Success?

Event: Majlis Series Date: April 24, 2016

Location: Ras Al Khaimah, United Arab Emirates

Presenter: Samar Farah

Education Research in the UAE: Methodological Challenges and Possibilities

Event: Paris Sorbonne Master's Class

Date: May 3, 2016

Location: Paris Sorbonne Abu Dhabi, Abu Dhabi, UAE

Presenter: Natasha Ridge

From Classroom to Boardroom: A Learning Journey

Event: Women in Educational Leadership Summit (WELS 2016)

Date: May 4, 2016

Location: University of Wollongong in Dubai, Dubai, UAE

Presenter: Natasha Ridge

Strengthening the Basic Skills of Arab Students in the Emirates: Insights from Cognitive Science

Event: Majlis Series Date: May 8, 2016

Location: Ras Al Khaimah. United Arab Emirates

Presenter: Dr. Helen Abadzi

Preserving and Promoting Ras Al Khaimah's Cultural Heritage

Event: Majlis Series Date: May 22, 2016

Location: Ras Al Khaimah, United Arab Emirates

Presenter: Matthew MacLean

The Rise and Role of GCC Philanthropy in Education Development

Event: The Governance of Education and Training: Agenda

2030 and Beyond **Date:** June 22, 2016

Location: Geneva, Switzerland Presenter: Natasha Ridge

Role and Impact of Arab Fathers in the Gulf Context

Event: Centre for Research on Families and Relationships

(CRFR) Conference Date: June 30, 2016 Location: Edinburgh, UK

Presenters: Natasha Ridge & Soohyun Jeon

Proposal to Host the World Congress of Comparative Education Societies in Dubai 2019

Event: World Congress of Comparative Education Societies (WCCES). Executive Council Meeting

Date: August 23, 2016

Location: Beijing Normal University, Beijing, China

Presenter: Susan Kippels

4get-me-not (I Love my Brain Campaign)

Event: Majlis Series

Date: October 9, 2016

Location: Ras Al Khaimah, United Arab Emirates

Presenter: Desiree Vlekken

Exploring the Impact of School Curriculum on Student Success in Higher Education in the UAE

Event: 2nd International Conference for the Khalifa Award

for Education

Date: October 17, 2016 Location: Abu Dhabi, UAE Presenter: Natasha Ridge

The Big Talk: Redefining Education in an Increasingly Connected World

Event: 18th Global Women in Leadership (WIL) Economic Forum

Date: October 24, 2016

Location: Dubai Ritz Carlton, Dubai, UAE

Presenter: Natasha Ridge

Ras Al Khaimah Really Recycles!

Event: Majlis Series

Date: November 2, 2016

Location: Ras Al Khaimah, United Arab Emirates

Presenter: Sonia Ytuarte Nasser

EatWell Assist: A feasibility study targeting expectant parents to improve diet and nutrition and prevent family obesity in Ras Al Khaimah

Event: Majlis Series

Date: November 13, 2016

Location: Ras Al Khaimah, United Arab Emirates

Presenter: Mary Steen

Streamlining and Modernizing Medical Workforce Governance: A Case Study of Ras Al Khaimah, United Arab Emirates

Event: Majlis Series Date: November 23, 2016

Location: Ras Al Khaimah, United Arab Emirates

Presenter: Stephanie Short

Economy, Business, & First Class: The Implications of For-Profit Education Provision in the UAE and Beyond

Event: Research on Learning and Educational Innovation Seminar Series of the Faculty of Education and Social Work

(University of Sydney) **Date:** December 12, 2016

Location: University of Sydney, Sydney, Australia

Presenter: Natasha Ridge

• Transforming Breast Cancer Diagnosis in Ras Al Khaimah

Event: Majlis Series

Date: December 15, 2016

Location: Ras Al Khaimah, United Arab Emirates

Presenter: Dr. Syeda Zakia Hossian





Looking Forward

Plans for 2017



Looking forward: Plans for 2017

In 2017, the Al Qasimi Foundation will remain committed to strengthening the economic, social, and cultural sustainability of Ras Al Khaimah and the UAE through relevant research and evidence-based policy recommendations.

Our team looks forward to working with our neighbors both here and abroad for a year dedicated to the improvement of education, public health, and urban development in the UAE and beyond. We are particularly excited to:

- Co-organize the Symposium of Philanthropy in Education: Global Trends, Diverse Perspectives with NORRAG in Geneva,
 Switzerland.
- Conduct research on the challenges and implications of a global decline in the educational attainment and retention of boys (funded by World Innovation Summit for Education [WISE]).
- Further our formal collaborations with the Ministry of Education as well as build a library for female inmates in Ras Al Khaimah Prison.
- Increase the number of graduates from The Sheikh Saqr Student Enrichment Program who travel overseas for university studies.
- Host the 5th Annual Ras Al Khaimah Fine Arts Festival and open our own gallery space and art studio to support the arts year round
- Improve our communication efforts through surveys and focus groups with key stakeholders.



Who we are:
Our Team





Collaborators



Saqr Almalki

Human Resources & Fvents Interr

Saqr holds a bachelor's degree in human resources management from UAE University. Saqr is collaborating with the Foundation to assist in developing a clear, comprehensive vision for the organization's approach to human resources and employee relations management which will showcase the best practices in the field.



Elizabeth Buckner

Faculty Scholar

Dr. Elizabeth Buckner is an Assistant Visiting Professor of international comparative education and Middle East studies at Teachers College, Columbia University. She is interested in globalization, education and international development policy. She has researched various aspects of globalization's effect on education, including textbook portrayals of globalization, the growth of English language learning, and the privatization of higher education.



Raahima Bukhari

Research Intern

Raahima Bukhari is currently an undergraduate pre-medical student at Stony Brook University, New York where she is pursuing a bachelor's degree in health science with a concentration in emergency and critical care



Lauren Clingan

Research Intern

A rising senior at New York University Abu Dhabi (NYUAD), Lauren studies social research and public policy. Her academic and research interests center on qualitative research methods, human and labor rights, socioeconomic inequality, and gender.



Beth Derderian

Doctoral Schola

Beth Derderian is a cultural anthropologist and is a doctoral candidate at Northwestern University in Chicago, Illinois. Her research focuses on the development of arts and cultural initiatives in the UAE. It explores professionalization and cultural infrastructure, critique, the role Dubai plays as art hub within the Gulf region, emerging arts initiatives across the emirates, and the relationship between commerce and art.









Max Jundt

Canacity Development Intel

Max Jundt is an incoming freshman at the University of California, Berkeley, and plans on majoring in economics. His interests are in education and cross-cultural communication.



Simon Pepper

Research Intern

A native of the UK, Simon is in the final year of his undergraduate degree in English literature and French at the University of St. Andrews. His studies have encompassed a variety of modules in literature, cultural identity, and translation.



Moonie Sohn

Community Engagement & Outreach Intern

Myung-In "Moonie" Sohn is a rising senior at New York University Abu Dhabi (NYUAD), where she is majoring in Arab crossroads studies and minoring in Arabic language. Her academic and research interests include the classical Arabic linguistic tradition and Arabic language.



Guillaume Sylvain

Community Fnaggement and Outreach Interr

Guillaume Sylvain is currently a student at NYU Abu Dhabi and majors in Arab crossroads studies with a minor in Arabic and political science. He has a strong interest in U.A.E. national history, heritage, and society



Emily Winchip

Doctoral Scholar

Emily Winchip is currently a PhD student at the University of Nottingham. Her research focuses on the experiences of teachers with a specific focus on teachers in international and for-profit schools. Emily researches the business influences on teachers' work in the United Arab Emirates.









Who we've worked with:
Our Partners



Partners

The Al Qasimi Foundation values collaboration as a key to building a stronger community. Therefore, the Foundation remains grateful and honored to partner with high performing organizations who remain dedicated to research, development, and outreach initiatives in Ras Al Khaimah, the United Arab Emirates and beyond.

Ras Al Khaimah and UAE Government Partners

Dubai Tourism

Electronic Government Authority

Higher Colleges of Technology

Ministry of Education

RAK Correctional Facility

RAK Educational Zone

RAK Free Trade Zone

RAK Hospital

RAK Management Office

RAK Schools

RAK Waste Management Authority

Ras Al Khaimah Municipality

Ras Al Khaimah National Museum

Ras Al Khiamah Tourism Development Authority

Sheikh Sagr Program for Government Excellence

The Knowledge and Human Development Authority

Other Local Partners

4get-me-not Alzheimer's Organization

Al Dahaisa Stables

Al Jazeera Aviation Club

Alive Advertisement

Art 276

Bon Education

ColorfuLee

Emirates Airline Festival of Literature

Emirates Foundation

German Emirati Joint Council for Industry and Commerce

New York University Abu Dhabi

RAK Bank

RAK Medical Health Sciences University

RAK Rock

RAK Wild Life Project

The Talent Enterprise

Tips and Toes

Organizational Partners

Dechert LLP

Ernst & Young

IDO

Other International Partners

Arab Foundations Forum

Arab Open University Kuwait

Australian Trade and Investment Commission

British Council

CCI Greenheart Program

Education USA

FIRE: Forum for International Research in Education

Georgetown University Qatar, the Center for International and Regional Studies (CIRS)

Hands on Learning Australia

NORRAG

Oxbridge Summers Program

Teachers College, Columbia University

The Gulf Comparative Education Society

The UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR)

UNESCO Doha

University of South Australia

University of Sydney

World Innovation Summit for Education (WISE)





P.O. Box 12050, Ras Al Khaimah, United Arab Emirates
Tel: +971 7 233 8060 | Fax: +971 7 233 8070
Email: info@alqasimifoundation.rak.ae
www.alqasimifoundation.com