

Virginia Commonwealth University  
School of the Arts in Qatar

**Position:** Director of VCUQatar Libraries

**Position Number:** FA8030

**Location:** Doha, Qatar

**Position Begins:** Fall/Winter 2010

**Review of Applications Begins:** September 1, 2010 and continues until position is filled.

**VCUQatar** ([www.qatar.vcu.edu](http://www.qatar.vcu.edu)) is an undergraduate and graduate degree granting campus of Virginia Commonwealth University, School of the Arts, ranked by *U.S. News and World Report* as the leading art and design program among all U.S. public universities. Located in Doha, the capital city of Qatar, VCUQatar is affiliated with the Qatar Foundation for Education, Science, and Community Development ([www.qf.org.qa](http://www.qf.org.qa)). Celebrating ten years of operation in 2008, VCUQatar offers BFA degrees in Fashion Design, Graphic Design, Interior Design and Painting and Printmaking, and an MFA degree in Design Studies. The majority of students are from the Gulf region with approximately 30% international. The School is fully accredited by the National Association of Schools of Art & Design, The Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, and the Council for Interior Design Accreditation. VCUQatar has substantial involvement with the emerging design industries in Qatar and is a significant catalyst for that growth.

VCUQatar benefits from a funding situation that allows it to be driven by innovative programmatic needs rather than typical fiscal constraints. Externally funded student and faculty research opportunities are expanding with the rapid development of Qatar, now among the wealthiest countries in the world based upon per capita GDP. ([www.qnrf.org](http://www.qnrf.org)) The VCUQatar Center for Research in Design has research funding from the Qatar Science and Technology Park to develop portable, sustainable architecture for labor housing and is expanding collaborations with faculty and external partners. The school is the center for design education in the country by emphasizing design entrepreneurship and design awareness through lectures, exhibitions, and conferences, such as the international conference "Tasmeem Doha".

VCUQatar's full-time faculty and administrative staff of 120 (60% female), instruct a coed student body of 215. The school maintains an enviable student/faculty ratio of 10:1. Housed in a 96,000 square foot state-of-the-art facility, the school has 123,000 square foot addition that will open in Fall 2010. VCUQatar was the first campus established in Education City, a unique 2,500 acre campus community. VCUQatar has since been joined by Carnegie-Mellon University (Business and Computer Science), Cornell University's Weill School of Medicine, Georgetown University School of Foreign Service, Northwestern University (Journalism and Communication), and Texas A & M University (Engineering). Education City is able to continue increasing its international presence as Qatar remains one of the healthiest economies in the Gulf region.

Qatar is a liberal, hospitable and progressive country in the Arabian Gulf. English is the standard second language and the population of Qatar is approximately 1.65 million and growing – 350,000 Qatari, 15,000 US citizens, the remainder expatriates. Doha with a population of 980,000 has all the conveniences found in a contemporary city, and also maintains a traditional Arab flavor, evident in the old markets and the city's Islamic Arab architecture. The Museum of Islamic Art, designed by I.M.Pei opened in November 2008. The US Embassy considers Qatar among the safest countries in the world for Americans.

### **Position Description**

The Director of VCUQatar Libraries will develop and implement a creative vision for building cutting-edge library collections and services as part of its dynamic programs at VCUQatar. Reporting to the Associate Dean for Research & Academic Affairs, the Director will lead and mentor a diverse and accomplished staff of four professional librarians

and four support staff. The Director will oversee a newly completed Library facility, one of the largest in Qatar, which houses a collection of over 20,000 print and audiovisual materials; over 100,000 images in digital and 35mm formats; a product materials collection; as well as have access to VCU's vast collection of print and electronic resources housed on the home campus in Richmond, Virginia. Fostering an atmosphere of responsive service to deliver a full complement of reference, instructional and research capabilities, the Director will support collaborations across Education City universities and Qatar Foundation Centers to achieve the Qatar Foundation's mission to "create a center of excellence in education and research that will help transform Qatar into a knowledge-based society".

### **Major Responsibilities:**

- Leads and oversees all aspects of library operations, including collection development, strategic planning, policy development, staffing and budgets;
- Works collaboratively and routinely with the various constituencies of VCUQatar, including other Education City programs, national peer institutions, and the University Librarian and staff at the two Libraries on VCU's home campus in Richmond, Virginia;
- Regularly supports the ongoing assessment and development of the University's strategic plan by anticipating and overseeing the operational management of Library services for a diverse population of faculty, staff and students;
- Advances the library's strategic plan with a particular focus on the use and integration of leading-edge information technologies to provide both digital access to the library's collections and to manage the rapidly expanding creation and storage of digital media including image, moving image, text and audio files;
- Serves as a senior-level strategic partner with Administration;
- Fosters the Library's mission to provide a link between information and innovation to create critical thinkers and lifelong learners, and to inform the development of new knowledge;
- Aligns all Library activities and operations with VCU policies and procedures through regular communication with VCU and ensures all Library activities utilize VCU systems where appropriate and are compatible and compliant with University standards and guidelines;
- Other duties as assigned.

### **Qualifications:**

#### Required:

- ALA-accredited graduate degree or advanced degree in a related and relevant discipline.
- Minimum of five years experience in college or university libraries in positions of increasing responsibility.
- Ability to develop and maintain favorable external and internal partnerships with the various constituencies of VCUQatar.
- Excellent interpersonal and teaming skills and the ability to effectively and positively interact with a diverse range of people and develop a team in an inclusive manner.

- Superior proven project management skills; ability to convey complex information in a clear manner to a diverse audience; superior English oral and writing skills; expert analytical, planning skills; ability to prioritize and develop an effective work plan to manage multiple projects simultaneously;
- Experience in or potential to work in a culturally diverse work environment.

Preferred:

- An advanced degree in Art, Design or Art History.
- Demonstrated knowledge and understanding of current issues and trends in academic librarianship and higher education and an ability to embrace experimental approaches to library service.
- Experience with innovative applications of information technologies to deliver services and collections in digital format for a visual arts environment.
- Experience in planning and evaluating services and staff.
- National/international record of sustained scholarly contributions appropriate to senior academic library leadership.
- Arabic language skills are an asset.
- International work experience is a plus.

**Benefits**

- Competitive international salary
- Tax protection for U.S. Taxpayers
- 30% Off-shore supplement to base salary
- Medical Insurance (100% employer funded premium and employer cost shared options available)
- Fully furnished villa or apartment including wireless internet
- Annual travel allowance to home of record (to include a spouse and dependents relocated to Qatar)
- Monthly transportation allowance
- Educational reimbursement for up to 4 dependent children enrolled in an accredited K-12 program
- International Professional Development and Research Opportunities

**Application Process:** Qualified applicants who have a record of achievement appropriate to VCUQatar should submit a letter of interest with a curriculum vitae, unofficial transcripts, and the names of five references including email and telephone contact information to Ryan Ellington ([rfellington@vcu.edu](mailto:rfellington@vcu.edu)), Human Resources Administrator. Only Electronic submissions will be accepted.

Virginia Commonwealth University is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action employer. Women, minorities and persons with disabilities are encouraged to apply.

For more information on VCUQatar and this unique international opportunity, please visit

[www.vcu.edu/arts/employment/qatar](http://www.vcu.edu/arts/employment/qatar)