



## Equine Research Call

### QNRF-CNRST Joint Funding Program



### Call for Proposals (CFP)

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## Section 1. Acronym List

AA	Award Administration
AMG	Award Management Guide
AROR	Authorized Research Office Representative
CFP	Call for Proposal
Co-LPI	Co-Lead Principal Investigator
CNRST	National Center for Scientific and Technical Research
GS	Graduate Student
IACUC	Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee
IBC	Institutional Biosafety Committee
IP	Intellectual Property
IRB	Institutional Review Board
KI	Key Investigator
LPI	Lead Principal Investigator
MOPH	Ministry of Public Health –Qatar
PD	Postdoctoral Scholar
PI	Principal Investigator
PR	Peer Reviewer
QNRF	Qatar National Research Fund
QNRS	Qatar National Research Strategy
QRLP	Qatar Research Leadership Program
RA	Research Assistant
REG	Research Ethics Guide
RIG	Research Integrity Guide
RO	Research Office
ROC	Research Outcome Centre
SI	Submitting Institution



## Section 2. Equine Research Call Snapshot

SCOPE	
Competition opens	<b>12 January 2021</b> (noon, Doha time), (10:00 am, Morocco time)
Submission deadline	Final date for proposal submission by LPI: <b>6 April 2021</b> (noon, Doha time), (10:00 am, Morocco time) Final submission and RO vetting: <b>13 April 2021</b> (noon, Doha time), (10:00 am, Morocco time). The complete application is due at this time.
Announcement of results	<b>October/November 2021</b>
Anticipated project start date	Project activities can begin only after the Master Research Funding Agreement (MRFA) has been signed. This process can take around 60 days from the time of the award announcement which should be taken into consideration when preparing the application implementation timeline.
Research priorities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Study of the details of the biochemical and cellular pathways that underpin performance, immunology, reproduction, and infectious disease response in horses</li> <li>• The integration of genetic information with traditional breeding approaches</li> </ul>
Eligible applicant	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The LPI from academic/research institution must be a researcher who holds an approved terminal degree as defined under the approved list of terminal degrees available at <a href="#">Link</a> and has at least ten peer reviewed publications.</li> <li>• The LPI from a research end-user entity may not hold a terminal degree, however they must have a track record in managing technology development projects and/or research projects, and a minimum of ten publications, technical reports, or authored patent applications/patents.</li> <li>• The LPI must be affiliated with an approved submitting institution inside Qatar or a Moroccan submitting institution.</li> <li>• If the LPI is from an institution in Morocco, they must collaborate with a Co-LPI from an approved submitting institution inside Qatar.</li> <li>• If the LPI is from Qatar, a Moroccan PI Co-LPI must be identified and their institution will be called the Moroccan Submitting Institution and will be responsible for signing the funding agreement with CNRST. If the LPI is from Morocco, their institution will be automatically considered the Moroccan Submitting Institution</li> </ul>
Awards parameters	For up to four-year awards, the overall application budget may not exceed <b>USD 200K</b> for a one- year project, <b>USD 400K</b> for a two-year project, <b>USD 600K</b> for a three-year project, and <b>USD 700K</b> for a four-year project. For projects of more than one year, the budget may not exceed <b>USD 250K</b> in any year. This amount includes personnel, capital equipment, consumables, materials, services, travel, miscellaneous, and indirect costs as applicable.
Co-funding opportunities	QNRF & CNRST encourage co-funding of projects in cash and/or in-kind.
IP Policy	QNRF & CNRST shall comply with the Qatar Foundation (QF) Intellectual Property (IP) Policy. For further details, refer to the Section 17 of this document.
How to apply	Register and submit the full application through the online submission system website: <a href="https://www.qgrants.org/">https://www.qgrants.org/</a> . The Grant Application Guide is available for download on <a href="http://www.qnrf.org">www.qnrf.org</a> . The site will be active on <b>12 January 2021</b> (noon, Doha time).
QNRF program contact & support	QNRF support system: <a href="https://qnrf.kayako.com/conversation/new">https://qnrf.kayako.com/conversation/new</a>



**CNRST contact &  
support**

Please contact: [equineresearch2020@cnrst.ma](mailto:equineresearch2020@cnrst.ma).



## Section 3. Overview

Qatar National Research Fund ([QNRF](#)), in partnership with the National Center for Scientific and Technical Research ([CNRST](#)), is hereby launching the equine research call. This call aims to enhance and improve equine research and strengthen the equine industry in Qatar and Morocco by combining their research activities, resources, and human skills. Moreover, this initiative will build upon the existing knowledge and skills in genomics research to advance the breeding programs and the overall health of the horses.

## Section 4. Call Objectives

The key objectives of this call are:

- Advancing the sequences and reference genomes of all Arabian horses and other relevant breeds, including basic annotation of genetic variation, by broad sequencing among different lines and breeds of animals.
- Developing strategies to identify and exploit genes and allelic variations that contribute to economically relevant phenotypes and traits, in part through improving functional annotation of the genomes of our breed.
- Facilitate analysis, curation, storage, distribution, and application of the datasets now being generated by next-generation sequencing and related *omics* technologies with regard to horse breeds of interest.
- Sharing, strengthening, and utilizing biobanks with different tissues, cell lines, and fluid types and data for analysis and research.
- Facilitating and strengthening collaboration between the two countries in research and development.

### 4.1. Deliverables

- Strengthening the equine industry in both Qatar and Morocco by sharing and utilizing the current knowledge and skills in genomics research. This will advance the breeding programs to produce better quality and internationally competitive and healthier horses
- Developing common equine biobanks to support further research in the field
- Comparing medical conditions common in horses and humans.
- Developing new commercial diagnostic and therapeutic tools.

## Section 5. Research Priority Areas

The collaborative nature of this project enables sharing the costs, experiences, skills, and benefits for the use of equine research and genomic data in both the countries. The suggested collaborative research is expected to strengthen the capabilities to investigate and identify the Arabian specific good and bad genes that are important for many breeding programs and for flourishing the equine industry. In line with the call's objectives and in consultation between the teams of the two organisations, CNRST and QNRF, and their respective research communities, the following research priority areas have been identified as the focus of this maiden call. Proposals submitted under this call are required to be aligned to at least one of the research priority areas listed below:

### 5.1. Study of the biochemical and cellular pathways that underpin performance, immunology, reproduction, and infectious disease response in horses

- Support researchers to find new therapies and treatments for diseases in horses that are common in Qatar/Morocco.



- Help the horse breeders, veterinarians and horse owners to improve physical characteristics of horses and to better anticipate problems and predict outcomes.
- Improve the diagnosis and therapy for disorders related to horses.
- Conduct comprehensive studies of important diseases and conditions affecting the equine population in Qatar and Morocco. Examples include breeding and fertility, neurological diseases, and complex medical conditions such as Equine Metabolic Syndrome (similar to human diabetes).
- Pioneer investigations of equine performance and sports medicine. This will develop new capabilities for diagnostics, treatment, and rehabilitation.
- Identify positively selected genes in the natural harsh environment for making horses originally adapted to it. This should always be looked for keeping in breeding programs.
- Develop a large database of genetic variants for the horse based on short-read whole genome sequences.

## **5.2. The integration of genetic information with traditional breeding approaches**

- For the sustainability of a healthy horse population in the future.
- Genetic tests that can be diagnostic for the presence or absence of new desired traits, or as a screening and selection tool for prediction, or for the potential to study the development and effect of new traits.
- Comparative genomics of Arabian and Barb horse breeds in Qatar and Morocco. This section would explore the ancient origins of these breeds and identify specific genes causing inherited diseases and those associated with performance traits.
- Genomics and phenotypic studies related to horse performance and endurance as well as other desired traits
- Genome wide association studies.

## **Section 6. Eligibility**

### **6.1. Eligibility of Proposal**

**6.1.1.** The proposal must be within the specific research areas described in **Section 5**.

**6.1.2.** The proposal must include Key Investigators from Qatar and Morocco.

### **6.2. Eligibility of Submitting Institution**

**6.2.1.** Institutions inside Qatar with approved Research Offices (ROs) are eligible to submit proposals. See submitting institution and RO roles in the Institution's Responsibilities and Post-Award document available at [link](#). Authorized Research Office Representatives (ARORs) and other members of the RO are not eligible to participate in any Equine Research projects.

**6.2.2.** [Institutions inside Morocco that are accredited by the Department of Higher Education and Research.](#)

### **6.3. Eligibility of Participants**

#### **6.3.1. Eligibility of Lead Principal Investigators (LPIs)**

**6.3.1.1.** LPI is the individual who owns the scientific idea and hence is eligible to apply for the Equine Research grant. The LPI must be affiliated with an approved submitting institution in Qatar or a "Moroccan submitting institution" [accredited by the Department of Higher Education and Research](#).



- 6.3.1.2. If the LPI is from an institution in Morocco, they must collaborate with a Co-LPI from an approved submitting institution inside Qatar. The Co-LPI's institution in Qatar will be considered as the submitting institution and will be responsible for vetting the proposal.
- 6.3.1.3. If the LPI is from Qatar, a Moroccan Co-LPI must be identified and their institution will be called the "Moroccan Submitting Institution", and it will be responsible for signing the funding agreement with CNRST. If the LPI is from Morocco, their institution will be automatically considered the "Moroccan submitting institution".
- 6.3.1.4. The submitting institution in Qatar (of the Qatar-based LPI or Qatar-based Co-LPI) is responsible to do the proposal vetting. [For the Moroccan Submitting Institutions, a supporting letter must be uploaded by the LPI \(template available at link\).](#)
- 6.3.1.5. The LPI may collaborate with other PIs from institutions located in Qatar or Morocco only.
- 6.3.1.6. An eligible LPI from academic/research institutions, must hold a terminal degree as defined under the approved list of terminal degrees available at [link](#).
- 6.3.1.7. The LPI should have at least 10 peer-reviewed publications uploaded in their profile in the QNRF online submission system. Types of publications accepted by QNRF and [CNRST](#) include journal papers, full paper conference proceedings, books, book chapters, or patents by the LPI. In addition, QNRF and [CNRST](#) accepts peer-reviewed creative works that cover the following research areas: performing arts, visual arts, creative writing, design works, and communication media. These creative works are only accepted when the LPI provides an "attestation letter" from the LPI's affiliated institution, indicating that these particular creative works are acceptable research outcomes.
- 6.3.1.8. The LPI from a research end-user entity may not hold a terminal degree. However, they must have a track record in managing technology development projects and/or research projects, and a minimum of 10 peer reviewed publications, peer reviewed technical reports, or authored patent applications/patents.
- 6.3.1.9. A postdoctoral scholar is not eligible to act as a LPI (see definition at [link](#)).

### **6.3.2. Number of Roles**

- 6.3.2.1. The LPI can submit only one application per cycle in the Equine Research Call.
- 6.3.2.2. The count of an individual's participation in all on-going projects in the calls under the Thematic and Grand Challenges Program ([TGRP](#)) as a key investigator (KI) must not exceed three roles, excluding participation in projects ending before **1<sup>st</sup> October 2021**.

## **Section 7. Research team**

### **7.1. Other Key Investigators KIs (Co-LPI, PI)**

- 7.1.1. The Co-LPI must hold any of the approved terminal degrees as defined under the approved list of terminal degrees, which is available at [link](#).
- 7.1.2. The Co-LPI from a research end-user entity may not hold a terminal degree, however they must have a track record in managing technology development projects and/or research projects, and a minimum of five peer-reviewed publications, technical reports, or authored patent applications/patents.
- 7.1.3. The Co-LPI must be affiliated with a submitting institution in Qatar or a "Moroccan submitting institution".
- 7.1.4. An eligible PI must hold at least a university postgraduate degree and should have a suitable research experience relevant to the area of the proposal and the tasks assigned to them.





**7.1.5.** The PI must be affiliated with the submitting institution or collaborative institution in Qatar, or the Moroccan submitting institution or collaborative institution in Morocco.

**7.1.6.** A postdoctoral scholar is not eligible to act as a KI (see definition at [link](#)).

## **7.2. Other Research Team Members**

Postdoctoral scholars (PD), graduate students (GS), research associates, research assistants, undergraduate students, lab technicians, and engineers are considered Research Team Members. For the Qatar-based team, LPIs are required to recruit GS and PD through GSRA and PDRA programs. Also, for the Qatar-Based team, QNRF encourages the applicants to hire QRLP (Qatar Research Leadership Program) graduates and candidates and GSs from Qatar. The QRLP members will be at zero cost. The LPI can find Information about QRLP members, in addition to other QNRF awarded researchers through QNRF Researcher Network (QRN) (**Section 20**).

## **7.3. Graduate Students**

A graduate student (GS) is eligible to participate in Equine Research projects provided that they are enrolled in a higher educational degree program at the submitting and collaborative institutions.

## **7.4. Undergraduate Students**

If necessary, the LPI may include undergraduate students as Research Team Members under the Undergraduate Student roles on the QNRF online submission website, provided that their participation complies with their institution's policies.

## **7.5. Consultants**

If the need for consultant (see definition at [link](#)) services is anticipated, the nature of the proposed consultant services must be justified and included in the proposal. The consultant services cannot be considered as scientific or intellectual contribution to the project. Consultants must not conduct research, analyze, or report its results. Consultants who are added to the project shall not be compensated from the equine research call funds.

# **Section 8. Submission Process**

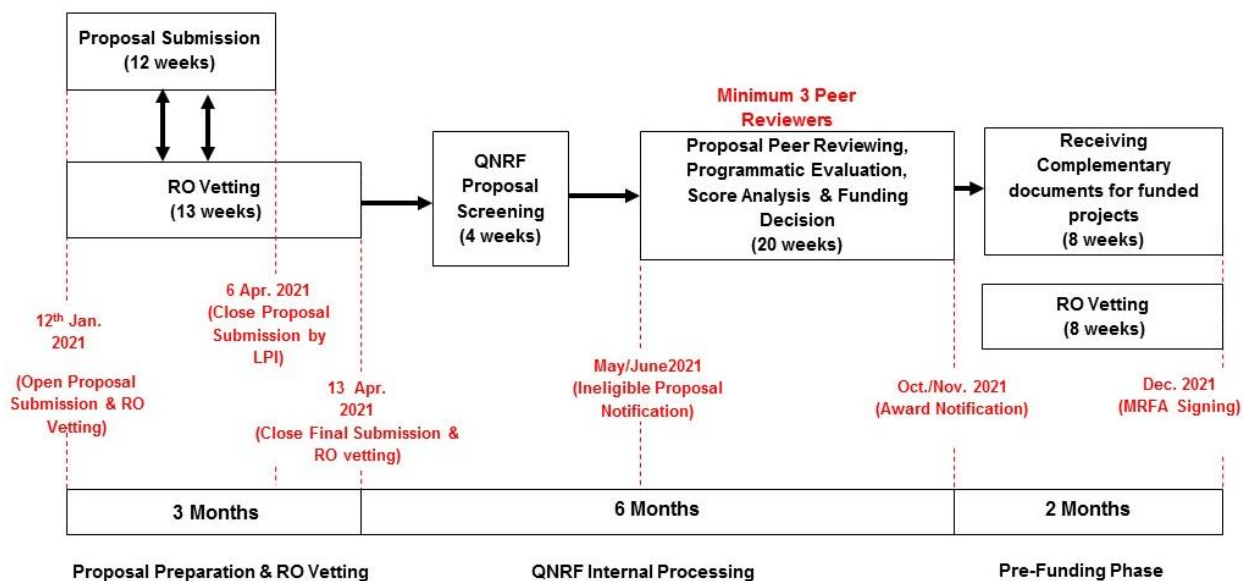
## **8.1. Proposal Submission Flowchart and Timeline**

### **8.1.1. Flowchart**

The following flowchart illustrates the steps necessary from proposal submission by the LPI and the RO to the notification of the final award.



## The Equine Research Call Proposal Submission Flowchart



### 8.1.2. Timeline

The following table shows important dates for the Equine Research call.

Timeline for the Equine Research Call	
Description	Dates
Open proposal submission as well as RO vetting* process.	10:00am (Morocco time), 12:00pm (Doha time) Tuesday 12 January 2021
Close proposal submission by LPI	10:00am (Morocco time), 12:00pm (Doha time) Tuesday 6 April 2021
RO Final proposal submission and vetting	10:00am (Morocco time), 12:00pm (Doha time) Tuesday 13 April 2021
Ineligible proposals notification	May/June 2021
Successful proposals notification, awards announced	October/November 2021

\*RO vetting can only start once the proposal is submitted

## Section 9. Budget

### 9.1. Grant

Table 2 shows the maximum grant of each award according to the project's duration. However, the grant may not exceed USD 250,000 in any year for projects lasting two years and longer.

**Table 2- Total Basic Grant vs Project's Duration**

Project duration	Maximum Basic Grant (USD)
One-year project	200,000
Two-year project	400,000
Three-year project	600,000
Four-year project	700,000

## 9.2. Co-Funding

Co-funding is highly encouraged as it is seen as evidence of interest of stakeholders and end-users and of their engagement. The relevance of the co-funders and the level of the co-funding will be evaluated as part of the programmatic review. Applicants are requested to comply with QNRF's Co-funding policy at [link](#).

## 9.3. Grant and Effort Allocation

**9.3.1.** 100% of the proposed funded research effort and budget must be spent inside Qatar and Morocco by the research team.

**9.3.2.** There should be a fair budget and effort distribution between the two countries. This is going to be reviewed during programmatic review.

For more information about budget document, please refer to the Budget Components document available at [link](#).

**The below are specific to the Equine Research Call:**

**9.3.3.** Only Qatar-based institutions can request indirect costs which should not exceed 10% of the project's annual direct cost.

**9.3.4.** Travel Budget:

9.3.4.1. The accommodation and maximum of USD 81 per diem of the Moroccan team when they are traveling to Qatar will be paid by QNRF.

9.3.4.2. The accommodation and maximum of USD 81 per diem of the Qatari team when they are in Morocco will be paid by CNRST.

## Section 10. Online Submission Procedures

### 10.1. Submission Requirements

**10.1.1.** The online application submitted by the LP must be vetted by the Research Office (RO) of the submitting institution in Qatar in order to be considered as an official submission to QNRF. RO vetting must be completed in accordance with the timeline (**section 7.1.**), and the RO responsibilities at [link](#).

**10.1.2.** All Co-LPIs and PIs listed on an equine research grant application, residing inside Qatar or Morocco, must register with QNRF at <https://oss.qgrants.org/>.

**10.1.3.** An applicant is required to use their official work email addresses during registration. Those who have previously registered do not need to re-register, but will need to update their profile and CV, as applicable. Applicants who register with two different emails will be disqualified.

**10.1.4.** Each LPI is required to upload a minimum of ten peer-reviewed publications. Research end-user LPIs may include peer-reviewed technical reports or patent applications.

**10.1.5.** LPIs from a research end-user entity who do not hold a terminal degree should request an approval from QNRF to act as a LPI through the online system. Also, the LPI should request an approval for the Co-LPI from a research-end user entity who does not hold a terminal degree. For more details, please refer to the Grant Application Guide (GAG), at [link](#).

**10.1.6.** Consultants are required to register and upload their CVs, stating their affiliation.

**10.1.7.** For the requirements regarding online registration, please refer to the Grant Application Guide at [link](#).

## 10.2. Proposal Registration

- 10.2.1.** After registration, the LPI is required to register the proposal at <https://oss.qgrants.org/>. For more information regarding the proposal registration and submission, please refer to Grant Application Guide at [link](#).
- 10.2.2.** The LPI may use the Comments to QNRF box to designate persons they would prefer to not review the proposal, indicating why. The decision whether or not to follow the suggestions, however, remains with QNRF. The LPI may also utilize the Comments to QNRF box for any other issue they need to declare ahead of submission. The LPI should also identify any research work that they have conducted/are conducting which is similar to the proposal and explain how the latter is distinct.

## 10.3. Proposal Preparation

During proposal preparation, the LPI has to submit the information according to the online sections listed below along with uploading the documents as required.

- 10.3.1. Proposal Summary:** A brief description written in the third person outlining the major aspect(s) of the proposed activity, while illustrating the objectives and methods to be used. The description should be informative, highlighting the intellectual merit and the potential impact of the project; it is requested during the proposal submission phase on the system.
- 10.3.2. Submitting Institution's Information:** A research institution registered inside Qatar that has appropriate research resources specialized in area(s) within QNRS and is responsible for submitting research proposals to QNRF. The LPI's institution in Qatar will be considered as the submitting institution and will be responsible for vetting the proposal. If the LPI is from Morocco, the LPI's institution will be considered as a "Moroccan Submitting Institution", and the LPI is required to identify a Co-LPI from inside Qatar along with uploading a Moroccan Submitting Institution supporting letter (template available at [link](#)). The Co-LPI's institution in Qatar will be considered as the submitting institution and will be responsible for vetting the proposal.
- 10.3.3. Collaborative Institutions' Information:** Institution inside Qatar or Morocco collaborating with the submitting institution in conducting the research proposal. If collaborative institutions are involved in the proposal, the LPI should enter the required information for each institution, including uploading an official support letter. The letter template is available at [link](#). The collaborative Institution must include at least a KI.
- 10.3.4. Personnel:**
- 10.3.4.1. Research Team:** The LPI can nominate Research Team Members (see definition at [link](#)) from the submitting and collaborative institutions. PIs are required to be registered in order to be added to the proposal submission. The system will request the PIs to update their profiles with all required documentation/information in order to be added to the proposal.
- 10.3.4.2. Consultant:** The LPI lists the consultant(s) for the project, if needed. Consultants (see definition at [link](#)) are required to be registered in order to be added to the proposal.
- 10.3.5. Research Plan:** The LPI should prepare the research plan file according to the research plan template available at [link](#). The research plan should use Arial font for the body text, font size 11, single space and the margins as identified in the template (no less than 0.5 inches). The research plan must not exceed 40 pages excluding cover page, table of contents, and references.
- 10.3.6. Budget:** For more information on the budget, see **Section 9** and Budget Components document at [link](#).



- 10.3.7. Co-Funding:** In a case of co-funding, the LPI is required to provide justification, the total amount of co-funding, including the expected categories of contributions, and upload a commitment letter from the co-funder(s) signed by an authority of the co-funder(s). The template is available at [link](#).
- 10.3.8. Other grants:** The LPI should disclose any information on all on-going and completed previous research funds for each Key Investigator over the last three years such as project title, name of funding agency, project duration, start and end dates, the total amount of fund/year, total effort, remaining effort, abstract and, if applicable, outcome summary.
- 10.3.9. Ethical Compliance:** For research involving human subject(s), stem cells in human subject(s), research with laboratory animals, recombinant or synthetic nucleic acid, and genetically modified materials research and biohazardous materials, the LPI is required to comply with the laws and regulations set out by the Ministry of Public Health in Qatar (MoPH) for research activities conducted by the Qatari team. Researchers in Morocco are required to abide by the relevant policies and regulations in Morocco.
- 10.3.10. Intellectual Property (IP):** This section addresses some questions related to Intellectual Property that need to be addressed by the LPI.
- 10.3.11. Miscellaneous Documents:** This section may contain any supporting documents such as tables, appendices, etc. However, documents wrongly uploaded under this section, such as a research plan, will not be considered. All the information required for the evaluation process should be included in the research plan.
- 10.3.12. Declarations:** The LPI should declare that the proposal is their own work, except where appropriately referenced and that the proposal was not and will not be submitted in whole, or in part, for funding more than once within the same cycle, or to other funding programs within QNRF, or other funding agencies.

## Section 11. Screening

All vetted proposals are subject to screening by QNRF/CNRST which entails screening of eligibility, research plan, letters, etc. For more details, please refer to the screening process and criteria outlined at [link](#).

## Section 12. Proposal Evaluation

### 12.1. Proposal Review and Ranking

The proposal review and ranking process comprises of several assessment steps that begin with a scientific peer review by international experts and are followed by a programmatic review. The two processes are detailed below.

#### 12.1.1. Scientific Peer Review

A minimum of three qualified, international, peer reviewers (representing an appropriate mix of academic, industry and public-sector expertise) are solicited by QNRF to evaluate each proposal against the criteria listed below. The reviewers will evaluate the proposals, make recommendations as to *Fund* or *Not Fund* and provide narrative feedback to applicants. The evaluation criteria consist of the following:

##### 12.1.1.1. Intellectual Merit (Excellent; Very Good; Good; Fair; Poor)

- Does the project address an important problem or a critical barrier to progress in the field? Is there a strong scientific premise for the project?
- Are the objectives for the project clear, measurable, realistic, and achievable?



- What is the potential for the proposed activity to advance knowledge and understanding within its own field or across different fields?
- How will successful completion of the aims change the concepts, methods, technologies, treatments, services, or preventative interventions that drive this field?
- Does the application challenge and seek to shift current research by utilizing novel theoretical concepts, approaches or methodologies, instrumentation, or interventions?
- Are the concepts, approaches or methodologies, instrumentation, or interventions novel to one field of research or novel in a broad sense?

#### 12.1.1.2. Expected Impact (Excellent; Very Good; Good; Fair; Poor)

- How significant is the envisaged outcome in addressing priority issues, in areas that are critical to Qatar and Morocco, in terms of:
  - The potential for the proposed activity to benefit society or advance desired economic and societal outcomes.
  - The expected benefits of the proposed research activity to Qatar and Morocco.
  - Plans to disseminate and exploit the project's results.
  - Extent to which end-users may realistically benefit (co-funded research) from the research.
  - Plans to utilize project outcomes in future studies.

#### 12.1.1.3. Work Plan (Excellent; Very Good; Good; Fair; Poor)

- Is the plan for carrying out the proposed activities well-reasoned, well organized, and based on a sound rationale? Does the plan incorporate a mechanism to assess success?
- The breakdown into consistent work packages.
- Timeline and time-allocation for work packages.
- Coherence and effectiveness of the project organization, including appropriateness of the allocation of tasks and resources.
- The organizational aspects of the project and the methods of coordination.

#### 12.1.1.4. Qualifications and complementarity of the Research Team (Excellent; Very Good; Good; Fair; Poor)

- How well qualified is the research team in Qatar and Morocco are their designated roles suitable to conduct the research?
- Assess the LPI's capability to coordinate and manage the project and the research teams.

#### 12.1.1.5. Budget

- Appropriateness of the budget in regard to the work plan and effort planning.
- Evaluation of the adequacy of co-funding commitments, if any.
- Are the proposed outcomes and outputs appropriate for the amount of effort and funding?

#### 12.1.1.6. Research Compliance

- Protection of human subjects.
- Inclusion and protection of children.
- Vertebrate animals.
- Biohazards.

The table below shows the weights of the peer review criteria.

Criterion #	Criterion name	Weight
C1	Intellectual Merit	30
C2	Expected Impact	30
C3	Work Plan	20
C4	Qualifications and Complementarity of the Research Team	20



### **12.1.2. Programmatic Review**

Following the peer-review evaluation, top-scoring proposals will be shortlisted. Subsequent to this, expert panels will perform a programmatic review.

The programmatic review is designed to assess, compare, and rank all shortlisted proposals. It takes into account the peer reviewers' comments, as well as programmatic and strategic goals of QNRF/CNRST as related, but not limited to:

#### **12.1.2.1. The strength of the alignment with the Equine Research call objectives and the specific research priority**

- To what degree do the project objectives address the research priority areas of this call.

#### **12.1.2.2. The quality of collaboration and co-funding commitment**

- The extent of knowledge creation inside Qatar/Morocco and of knowledge transfer and potential for technology transfer to both the countries.
- The quality and extent of collaboration among researchers across Qatar and Morocco.
- The relevance of the co-funders and the level and adequacy of co-funding, as evidence of the interest, engagement, and potential to create impact in the relevant sectors.

#### **12.1.2.3. The potential impact on Qatar and Morocco and the broader commercial market and TRL level (if applicable)**

- The relevance of the project to Morocco's and Qatar's with respect to industrial development, socio-economic, health and environmental aspects and the ability to address end-user needs, as well as the potential to create positive international scientific visibility for Qatar/Morocco
- The extent to which the project provides a solution addressing research needs of end-users in Qatar and Morocco.

#### **12.1.2.4. The past performance of the LPI/Co-LPI and participating PIs**

- Prominence in the respective field of research, scientific background, and track record (quality of publications/patents, technical expertise), proven ability as an independent researcher to carry out the research projects, research team leadership, and project management experience.
- The quality of the outcomes and impact of prior QNRF/CNRST funded research performed by the LPI/Co-LPI and participating PIs.

#### **12.1.2.5. Previous QNRF/CNRST funding in this area of research**

- Does the project duplicate/overlap with previous or existing grants in the QNRF/CNRST portfolio?

#### **12.1.2.6. The composition of the research team**

- Participation of local industry, academic and/or governmental entities. Local capacity building (training of graduate students in the project and involvement of RAs, postdocs, and junior researchers in the project), the level of commitment by local institutional participants (resources, effort).

#### **12.1.2.7. Budget**

- Appropriateness of the budget as related to the objectives of the project.
- Fair budget and effort distribution between the two countries.
- If relevant, end-users' contribution to the budget (co-funding).

At the end of the review and ranking processes, proposals are categorized in terms of their competitiveness. The final funding decision will group proposals as shown in the table below:





	Group	Evaluation Outcome	Description
<b>Shortlisted – Programmatic Review</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>Highly Competitive</b>	The proposal was evaluated to be an excellent project during the review process (with minor to negligible weaknesses) and is, therefore, considered highly competitive for funding. (Funding decisions are based on the available budget).
	<b>B</b>	<b>Competitive</b>	The proposal was evaluated to be a very good project during the review process (with moderate to minor weaknesses) and is, therefore, considered competitive for funding. (Funding decisions are based on the available budget).
	<b>C</b>	<b>Not competitive</b>	The proposal was considered not competitive for funding, due to moderate to significant weaknesses identified by the review process.
<b>Not shortlisted</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>Not shortlisted</b>	The proposal was not shortlisted and is considered not competitive for funding due to significant weaknesses or shortcomings identified by the review process.

## Section 13. Pre-Funding

- 13.1.** Awarded proposals will go through a pre-funding stage, which starts after the award announcement. During pre-funding, the approved submitting institution will be notified about the requirements (possible budget reduction, budget details, timeline changes, etc.) and the duration allocated to complete these requirements on the system.
- 13.2.** During the pre-funding phase, the LPI needs to provide the requested information related to the data management plan.
- 13.3.** For each awarded proposal, QNRF will sign the MRFA agreement with the RO of the submitting institution for the Qatar-based team. CNRST will sign the agreement with the Moroccan Submitting Institution for the Morocco based team.

See more information on the pre-funding stage in the Institutions Responsibilities and Post-Award document available at [link](#).

## Section 14. Post-Award

For rules and regulations related to fund management, payment schedule, and reporting, please refer to the Award Management Guide (AMG) document available at [link](#).

- 14.1.** Post-award stage managed by each funding agency with joint annual reports and Kick off meeting as needed
- 14.2.** The progress reports will be submitted to QNRF by the LPI and will be reviewed jointly by QNRF and CNRST.

## Section 15. Research Ethics and Regulatory Requirements

The proposed research must meet all the applicable policies and regulations of the Ministry of Public Health in Qatar and the relevant regulatory bodies in Morocco for the protection of human subjects from research risks, and data and safety monitoring (when applicable). Please refer to the Research Ethics and Regulatory Requirements document available at [link](#).





## Section 16. Research Integrity

QNRF and CNRST seek to ensure the quality and integrity of the research it funds by developing, implementing, coordinating, and overseeing policies and procedures that provide standards and consistency for the process of monitoring research conducted under QNRF awards.

In fostering scientific integrity, QNRF wants to ensure that:

- (1) Scientific findings are credible, and
- (2) QNRF code of conduct and processes are transparent for all grant applicants.

For further information regarding research integrity and other related policies, please see the Research Ethics Guide (REG) at [link](#).

## Section 17. Intellectual Property Policy

IP generated from the joint research program between the parties is subject to Qatar Foundation IP policy. This allows coownership of any generated IP. It also implies sharing costs of the IP protection expenses. The parties will engage in negotiations to agree on the terms and conditions of any issues related to the exploitation of the generated IP in good will. A specialized QF entity will be in charge of the IP management and commercialization process. Please consult the QNRF website for details on the applicable intellectual property policy at <http://www.qnrf.org/en-us/Funding/IP-Policy>.

## Section 18. Data Management Plan Policy

This policy supports the development of a robust environment for the sustainable management, use, and reuse of QNRF-funded research data in collaboration with the Qatar National Library (QNL).

QNRF recognizes the importance of data management to protect its investment in research and development by ensuring that research data are findable, accessible, interoperable, reusable (FAIR) which will:

- 1) expedite the scientific process;
- 2) reduce duplication of effort;
- 3) support reproducibility and research integrity;
- 4) optimize availability and reuse of research outputs; and
- 5) facilitate the preservation of the scholarly record of Qatar.

LPIs of the awarded projects should submit the data management plan during the pre-funding phase according to the templates that will be available on QNRF website. The Data Management Plan Policy is available at [link](#).

## Section 19. Inquiries

For any inquiry regarding this CFP and the electronic proposal submission process, please use the QNRF Support link at <https://qnrf.kayako.com/conversation/new>. For enquiries regarding the Morocco based team, please contact [equineresearch2020@cnrst.ma](mailto:equineresearch2020@cnrst.ma).

## Section 20. QNRF Research Support Resources

This section describes a number of available research support resources whether within QNRF or inside Qatar. For more details, please refer to the Research Support Resources at [link](#).

These resources include, but are not limited to:

- Qatar Biobank (QBB) Data and Samples
- Asset management (for available equipment)
- QNRF Researcher Network (QRN)
- QNRF Awarded projects

