

# Qatar



## COUNTRY FACTS:

**Capital:** Doha

**Population:** 1,600,000

**Area, sq. mi.:** 4,473

**Real GDP per capita:** 121,000

**Adult literacy rate:** 89% (male);  
89% (female)

**Ethnic make-up:** Arab 40%, In-  
dian 18%, Pakistani 18%, Iranian  
10%, other 14%

**Religion:** Muslim 77.5%, Chris-  
tian 8.5%, other 14%

## Introduction

Qatar is a country which has a significant number of residents who live in Qatar but hold citizenship from other countries. The population of Qatar citizens who are known as locals or nationals comprise about 25% of the country's population. YES Qatar students are widely recruited and reflect many backgrounds in culture, family tradition, and schooling.

## School Classes

Students in Qatar are expected to take the lead in their school and academic studies. Both public and private schools hold classes in different rooms, based on the subjects being taught. Students are evaluated on daily homework, class participation, and periodic written exams. To maintain a good grade, students must turn in daily homework, participate in class regularly and perform well on exams. Students in Qatar typically attend single gender schools.

## School Relationships

To show respect, students in Qatar refer to their school teachers as "Teacher."

## Extracurricular Activities

Opportunities to participate in extracurricular activities are limited at school, though the concept does exist. Students usually go to private sports clubs in Qatar. Students are not accustomed to parents taking interest in extracurriculars.

## School Rules

Schools in Qatar share similar strict "no cell phone" policies with the U.S. Most schools in Qatar have dress codes or uniforms.

## Family Life

In Qatar most households consist of parents, or a parent, and their children (if any). Rarely do grandparents, aunts, uncles or cousins live in the same house, even if they live in the same town. Teenagers are expected to interact respectfully with their parents at all times. It is common for both parents to be professionals, and for both to be financially responsible for the family. Men often have greater authority within and outside of the household in many of the societies reflected in Qatar. It is typical for students from Qatar to be informal with their siblings. Family time and activities are usually organized around religious activities such as prayer for many families.

## Teen Life

Teenagers may think of peers with whom they are only casually associated as friends. Teenagers in Qatar are accustomed to having their own personal space (in interactions, in terms of physical space, etc.). Just as American teenagers tend to show negative emotions quite freely amongst their peers and family, so may some teens in Qatar. It may be uncommon for some of the teenagers from Qatar to share money with each other or it may be common, depending on their cultural background.

## Responsibilities

Many families in Qatar may have domestic help living in the household, especially if the mother is working. Most Qatar students, both boys and girls, will not be accustomed preparing their own meals. Teenagers in Qatar are usually given an allowance by their parents and spend it for their own personal use, parents typically provide all necessities.

## Parental Involvement

For the most part, Qatar students are very dependent upon their parents. Parents are generally in direct contact with their children's school and are kept aware of their academic progress as education is extremely important.

## Pets

Most families in Qatar do not have pets in their homes. Students often request and prefer to have pet-free bedrooms.

## Personal Interactions

### Mixed Gender Socializing

Socializing one-on-one with teens of the opposite gender is generally taboo. Some students may attend co-ed schools, and may associate in groups of mixed-gender teens, however one-on-one is the exception.

### ***Communication Styles***

Students from Qatar may not make eye contact because they are trying to demonstrate respect, or simply because they are shy. They also may not be very direct in their communication.

### ***Personal Hygiene***

Students from Qatar maintain good hygiene habits and share similarities with U.S. teens regarding how often they shower and the length of that shower. Students tend not to wear the same clothes two days in a row, and they do not change clothes upon entering the house.

### ***Religion***

Religion is a primary component in the lives of many families in Qatar. During the month of Ramadan, students fast from dawn until sunset. Eid al-Adha and Eid al-Fitr are two major religious celebrations and family events that are similar to the social aspects of Christmas, however gifts are not exchanged. Parents give money to their children.