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## Programme to foster local talent launched

DOHA: Arqaam Capital, a Dubai based investment banking organisation, launched an ongoing partnership with Georgetown University — School of Foreign Service in Qatar and Carnegie Mellon University in Qatar (CMU-Q), creating an innovative internship programme designed to foster local talent, recently.

The inaugural two week programme was offered to students of Georgetown University and CMU-Q on a competitive basis, with 21-year-old Hadi Fakhri Murtada, a General Management major at CMU-Q, and Sara Berhie, an economics and international relations student at Georgetown, chosen as the first successful students.

Following the success of the 2009 winter programme, an internship is now planned to take place during the 2010 summer semester break. The summer programme will give successful students the opportunity to work for Arqaam for an extended period in a defined area of the business where they will receive an excellent grounding in the area in question and have the opportunity to gain first hand knowledge and experience by undertaking specific work based projects with one of Dubai's most dynamic and successful financial services firms.

Unlike conventional internships,

Arqaam Capital's internship programme is experiential and is designed to integrate students' academic studies with real-life workplace experience. The programme provided Hadi and Sara with task orientated sessions, covering Arqaam's eight different departments, whilst giving them an opportunity to take part in actual day-to-day work.

The programme also afforded students a chance to work in an international environment with some of the region's most skilled financial practitioners, precisely what appealed to Hadi Fakhri Murtada or Carnegie Mellon.

"Arqaam Capital's areas of expertise are very dynamic, in addition to its cultural diversity, and the multi-lingual and multi-talented backgrounds of its staff. All this made my experience a very exciting one," said Murtada.

Sara Berhie of Georgetown pointed to the broad ranging experience she gained from the internship. "The internship with Arqaam Capital gave me a clearer understanding of the inner intricacies of an industry leading investment bank, as well as a working knowledge of the various sectors in which Arqaam operates. Arqaam's knowledge base and reach throughout the region and the world made the internship that much more interesting", Sara said. **THE PENINSULA**

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