

## Project Title

### Qatar-aware Personal Assistant Based on Amazon Echo

#### Project Description:

*Background:* In collaboration with MIT, QCRI has developed a system that predicts which answers in a forum are good with respect to a question, and it has already been integrated in the Qatar Living website.<sup>1</sup> We have also developed a better search for Qatar Living, which allows one to get an answer to a new question without the need to post it; this is currently in beta testing.<sup>2</sup> We are also working on predicting the factuality of answers, as well as on cross-lingual aspects, e.g., asking a question in Arabic and getting an answer in English or porting an English question answering system to Arabic. We are further experimenting with incorporating all this knowledge in a chatbot.

*Goal of the internship:* Now we want to explore the possibility to port some of these capabilities to a personal assistant like Amazon Echo. In particular, we want to make Amazon Echo smarter by “loading” it with knowledge about Qatar, e.g., extracted from Qatar Living, and potentially other sources.

#### Duties/Activities:

- learn about, program and experiment with Amazon Echo

#### Required Skills:

- knowledge of English
- programming skills

#### Learning Opportunities:

The intern(s) will learn how to program for Amazon Echo (we have the device), and will gain basic knowledge about how automatic question answering works. This should be a lot of fun!

#### Expected Team Size:

1-2 interns

#### Mentors

Name:	email:
Dr. Preslav Nakov	pnakov@hbku.edu.qa
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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.qatarliving.com/forum/technology-internet/posts/searching-information-qatar-living-has-just-grown-faster>

<sup>2</sup> *QatarLiving Beta Search:* <http://www.qatarliving.com/betasearch>