

# **Gulf Research Meeting**

**16<sup>th</sup> GRM, Cambridge 21-23 July 2026**

## **Participants Guidelines**

*18 November 2025*

### **A. INTRODUCTION**

#### **1. Acceptance**

- By submitting a paper proposal, prospective participants accept the contents of this entire document.
- Please note that some rules have changed from the previous editions of the Gulf Research Meeting (GRM), so if an applicant has already participated in previous years, (s)he is kindly asked to read carefully through these guidelines again.

#### **2. Scope**

- This document describes the application and selection process, the workshop structure, and the publication process (jointly in edited volumes or special issues of academic journals, individually in academic journals, or as GRC working papers).

### **B. THE MEETING**

#### **1. GRM objectives**

While preparing a paper proposal, it is essential to take the objectives of GRM into account:

- Advance knowledge and understanding of the Gulf Cooperation Council countries (Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates) and their adjacent neighbors (Iran, Iraq, and Yemen) constituting the wider Gulf region.
- Focus on Gulf societies and culture, economies, politics, international relations, defense and security, energy, sustainable development, and environment.
- Inform policymakers by suggesting possible policy options and making recommendations for addressing national, regional, and global challenges.
- Encourage the participation of scholars, especially from the Gulf, whether male, female, junior, or senior, to present their research and benefit from the experience of other scholars in their field.
- Connect scholars and experts, favoring cooperation, developing joint projects, and expanding and reinforcing networks.
- Publish high-quality academic research papers that contribute to the field of Gulf studies jointly in edited volumes, as special issues of academic journals, individually in academic journals, or as GRC working papers.

#### **2. GRM structure**

GRM has a different structure from most academic meetings:

- GRM is an annual meeting of between 10 and 14 workshops which take place in parallel.
- Workshops meet for two full days and participants are requested to actively participate in all sessions.
- Workshop topics are selected on a competitive basis through a Call for Workshops.
- GRC may include workshops emanating from its programs.
- Workshops generally have approximately 16 participants who are selected on a competitive basis through a Call for Papers. All participants are requested to submit an original paper written for a particular workshop.

- Papers should follow precise guidelines and be submitted by the indicated deadline. Failing to follow the guidelines and/or meet the deadline may result in the withdrawal of the invitation to participate.
- Papers will be distributed among workshop participants in advance of the meeting and presented and discussed during the workshop.
- Authors will be requested to submit revised versions of their papers approximately 2 months after the meeting.
- Workshop directors are required to coordinate with book publishers and/or journal editors to publish all or a selection of the papers of their workshop and they are required to review the papers at various stages and ultimately submit them to the journal or the publisher.
- Publishable papers that cannot be included in the edited volume or in the special issue of a journal are expected to be published individually in academic journals or as working papers.
- GRM welcomes scholars from all nationalities on the condition that they respect the opinions of all participants.

### **3. Timetable 16<sup>th</sup> GRM 2026**

- 20 November 2025 – Call for Papers published
- 5 January 2026 – Deadline for paper abstract submission (late applications may be accepted)
- 18 January 2026 – Selection made by workshop directors
- 23 January 2026 – Applicants informed (selected, alternate, rejected)
- 2 February 2026 – Deadline for confirmation of selected participants/alternates
- 31 May 2026 – Deadline for paper submission
- 14 June 2026 – Deadline for revised paper submission – participation cut-off date
- 9 July 2026 – Workshop schedule/agenda published
- 21-23 July 2026 – 16<sup>th</sup> GRM
- 23 September 2026 – Submission deadline for final versions of papers

## **C. APPLICANTS/PARTICIPANTS/PAPERS**

### **1. Eligibility and preferences**

#### Eligibility

- Any scholar or expert can apply to participate in GRM.
- Applicants should have demonstrable expertise on the paper topic (as evidenced by their CV and publications).

#### Preferences

- Paper proposals from scholars/experts employed by a Gulf institution (i.e., based in the Gulf).
- Paper proposals from scholars/experts who are Gulf nationals.

### **2. Paper proposal submission**

Paper proposals should:

- Be submitted by the deadline: 5 January 2026 (late applications may be accepted at the discretion of GRM organizers and workshop directors).
- Be submitted exclusively using the online Participant Application Form.
- Include applicants' CVs along with a paper abstract of 500 to 750 words which should fit closely with the workshop objectives, as outlined by the directors in the workshop description.
- Applicants are encouraged to submit their application in advance of the deadline.

### **3. Conditions of Acceptance**

At the time of submitting their paper proposal, applicants will be asked to confirm that they:

- Have read and accepted the Participant Guidelines, Paper Guidelines, and Intellectual Property Guidelines
- Understand that, if selected, participation is contingent upon submitting a paper by 31 May 2026 that is in accordance with the GRM Paper Guidelines and is approved by the workshop directors. Failing to do

so may preclude applicants from participating in GRM and receiving any reimbursement of incurred costs

- Have read and accepted the conditions and amounts of honoraria
- Understand that they are responsible for their own travel arrangements
- Understand that they are responsible for their accommodation arrangements and that while GRCC may make suggestions on accommodation options, it is not responsible for such arrangements
- Understand that GRM serves as a platform for scholars from diverse backgrounds to engage in meaningful discourse and contribute to their respective fields. GRM offers an environment where ideas can be put forward, and knowledge shared without exclusion or bias. As such, GRM welcomes scholars from all nationalities on the condition that they respect the opinions of all participants.

#### **4. Clarifications and inquiries**

- Prospective applicants should refer to the Participants Guidelines (this document) and the FAQs for any questions they may have.
- If questions remain, applicants may contact a member of the GRM organizing team via email at [grm@grc.net](mailto:grm@grc.net).

#### **5. Co-authors**

- Papers can be co-authored and co-authors are welcome to attend GRM. Honoraria (see section C.14 below) will be given to up to two authors per paper.

#### **6. Multiple paper applications**

- Applications for multiple workshops are allowed.
- If an applicant is selected for more than one workshop, the applicant will be asked to choose at the end of January 2026 in which workshop (s)he wants to present, as it is only possible to participate in one workshop.

#### **7. Paper proposal selection process**

- Paper proposals will be reviewed for adherence to the Paper Guidelines (see section C.15 below), especially in size and structure.
- Paper proposals will be reviewed to determine whether they are of the necessary quality and fit for the workshop as described in the workshop description.
- The selection process is expected to be concluded around 21 January 2026 and participants to be notified around 25 January 2026.
- Paper proposals can be conditionally accepted, put on the alternate list, or rejected.
- Accepted paper proposals may be given specific indications on how to develop the paper to best fit in the workshop.

#### **8. Selected paper proposals**

- Author(s) of papers will be asked to confirm their participation within 10 days of receiving the acceptance email, committing them to the participation conditions (see section C3 above). Failure to do so will result in the invitation to join GRM 2026 being automatically withdrawn.

#### **9. Alternates**

- Since workshops can only accept a limited number of papers/participants, sometimes good paper proposals must be rejected. At the same time, drop-outs also sometimes occur early on. Thus, workshop directors will indicate paper proposals that could be included if a participant does not confirm or withdraws.
- As soon as an author(s) of a selected paper withdraws/does not confirm, workshop directors will indicate which alternate they want to invite instead, keeping in mind the topic that needs to be covered.

- Those placed on the alternate list will be asked to confirm that they are interested in being on the list within two weeks' time, accepting the participation conditions. Failing to do so will result in automatic cancellation from the list.
- From 31 March 2026 onwards, alternates will no longer be invited as there will be insufficient time to finish the paper by 31 May 2026.

#### **10. Paper deadline**

- The full-paper submission date is 31 May 2026.
- Failure to meet the paper submission deadline will automatically imply withdrawal from the workshop.
- Full papers should be submitted through the same online system used to submit the paper proposal.

#### **11. Paper review**

- Papers submitted on or before 31 May 2026 will be promptly reviewed, no later than 10 June 2026.
- Authors may be asked to revise and resubmit not later than 17 June 2026 (this will only apply to cases of limited revisions that can be done within one week).

#### **12. Early submission**

- Participants are encouraged to submit their papers well in advance of the 31 May 2026 deadline.
- They may do so as early as 31 March 2026.
- GRCC and the workshop directors will review them promptly.
- This will allow for revision and resubmission well in advance of the 31 May 2026 deadline.

#### **13. Claims**

- In case participation in GRM has been cancelled because of failure to submit the paper by **31 May 2026** or papers not meeting the conditions as indicated in the Paper Guidelines, no financial claims can be made to GRCC for any costs that the applicant may have incurred, including visa, travel, or accommodation.

#### **14. Honoraria**

GRM 2026 participants who have submitted their paper by the deadline of 31 May 2026 that meets the GRM requirements (as defined in the Paper Guidelines) and has been approved by the workshop directors and GRCC, will receive a symbolic honorarium to help defray costs based on their place of departure.

##### Conditions

- GRCC pays the honorarium to a maximum of 2 (two) authors per paper.
- Participants need to attend all the workshop sessions in person on 22 and 23 July 2026 as well as the opening ceremony on 21 July 2026. Absence for more than 1 (one) hour of the workshop will disqualify the participant from receiving the honorarium.
- Participants need to state that they are not fully reimbursed for their visa, travel, and accommodation costs by another institution.
- In case participants claim the visa contribution, they must show the receipt and/or stamp in their passport. The visa should not predate the confirmation of selection for GRM 2026.
- Participants must complete the honorarium form in all its parts and submit it to GRCC by 23 July 2026, before leaving Cambridge.
- In principle, honoraria will be paid via bank transfer starting early August 2026.

##### Amounts

- Participants from anywhere except Europe and the UK will receive 250 GBP (one author) or a total of 350 GBP (two authors).
- Participants from within Europe but outside the UK will receive 150 GBP (one author) or a total of 250 GBP (two authors).
- Participants from within the UK will receive 100 GBP (one author) or a total of 200 GBP (two authors).
- Participants who need a visa to enter the UK for GRM can claim an additional 100 GBP (one author) or a total of 200 GBP (two authors).

- Participants who apply for a visa to enter the UK for GRM but are denied can also claim 100 GBP (one author) or a total of 200 GBP (two authors).
- GRCC will pay the commissions of the outgoing and incoming banks but cannot guarantee that other fees will be levied and will not pay them.

## **15. Paper requirements**

- Deadline: 31 May 2026
- Submission: Upload onto the GRM website.
- Focus: Papers should be in line with the workshop description and the abstract that was accepted.
- Language: English - should be submitted in (almost) perfect English.
- Paper length: 6,500-7,000 words (including tables, graphs, footnotes, and references).
- Paper abstract: 500-750 words
- Biographical note author: 250 words
- Author photo: Passport size
- Software: MS Word
- Page format: A4
- Margins: 2.5 cm top, bottom, left, right
- Line spacing: 1.5
- Font: Times New Roman 12-point for text; 11 for citations; 10 for footnotes
- Sections: Main headlines, section headlines, and sub-section headlines should be clearly indicated by using different font sizes and where necessary also by using bold/italics.
- Graphs/tables: Can be included in the text or can be grouped at the end of the paper (in the latter case it should be indicated where they are in the text).
- Footnotes/bibliography: Chicago Manual of Style i.e., in the text use the surname of the author and year and provide a full bibliography at the end of the text.
- Headers/footers: None
- Page numbering: Centre at bottom
- Pictures: None
- Alignment: Justified (left and right)
- Keywords: Please choose the keywords that are the most appropriate to describe the paper.
- Plagiarism is not acceptable in any form, including self-plagiarism.
- Use of AI: Use of AI in the writing of the paper is prohibited.
- All papers will be checked with the most advanced AI and plagiarism detecting software.
- If any AI use or plagiarism the author may be asked to rewrite the paper or the paper may be withdrawn from the workshop.

## **D. WORKSHOP**

- The workshop is exclusively in-person--there will be no room for any online participation.
- Workshops last two full days, each with a morning (08:30/09:00-12:30) and an afternoon (14:00-17:30/18:00) session, i.e., a total number of hours between 14 and 16.
- All papers of each workshop will be made available to all workshop participants by 9 July 2026.
- Participants are strongly encouraged to read all the papers before the start of the workshop.
- Directors will assign a discussant for each paper.
- Directors will indicate the order in which papers will be presented and discussed (workshop schedule/agenda).
- Assuming there will be 16 papers in the workshop, there will be approximately 45-50 minutes for each paper presentation, allowing also for a brief general introduction/presentation and concluding session.
- Participants will be asked to present their paper based on presentation guidelines provided by directors and meeting GRM standards (i.e., papers are not being read aloud).
- Overall presentation timing breakdown is suggested as follows:
  - Author presentation: 10 minutes
  - Discussant comments: 10 minutes

- Open discussion: 20 minutes
- Authors' replies: 5 minutes
- Workshop start time/end times are flexible so long as they fit within the timeframe of the conference and with the fixed timing lunch and coffee breaks.
- Participants must attend in person all the workshop sessions on 22 and 23 July 2026 and the opening ceremony on 21 July 2026.
- Absence for more than 1 (one) hour of the workshop will disqualify the participant from receiving the honorarium.

#### **E. PAPER PUBLICATION**

- Publication of the conference papers is one of the primary goals of the GRM.
- Papers may be published jointly in edited volumes (first choice), special issues of academic journals (second choice), or individually in academic journals or as working papers (third choice).
- As soon as the workshop ends and, in any case, not later than September 2026, directors will indicate which papers:
  - will be included in their proposed joint publication
  - cannot be included in the joint publication but are still publishable, indicating where they could be placed
  - are not publishable
- By 31 July 2026 authors will have received all the feedback (directors, discussant, other participants) and the formatting guidelines to revise their papers.
- Authors are asked to revise and submit their final drafts by 23 September 2026 (unless the directors indicate a different deadline).