



Gulf Research Centre Cambridge
Knowledge for All

Gulf Research Meeting

17th GRM, Cambridge 20-20 July 2027

Participants Guidelines

12 August 2026

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.
- Contribute to the field of Gulf studies by publishing high-quality academic research papers either jointly in edited volumes or as special issues of academic journals, or 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.
- Workshops are conducted fully in the English language.
- GRC may include workshops emanating from its programs.
- Workshops 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 that has not yet been published nor committed to publication elsewhere.
- Papers should follow precise guidelines (see the Paper Guidelines on the GRM website) 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 17th GRM 2027

- 23 November 2026 – Call for Papers published
- 6 January 2027 – Deadline for paper abstract submission (late applications may be accepted)
- 20 January 2027 – Selection made by workshop directors
- 25 January 2027 – Applicants informed (selected, alternate, rejected)
- 4 February 2027 – Deadline for confirmation of selected participants/alternates
- 31 May 2027 – Deadline for paper submission

- 01 - 22 June 2027 – Authors may be asked to revise and resubmit their paper within 1 week of the request and in any case not later than 24 June
- 28 June 2027 – Deadline for revised paper submission – participation cut-off date
- 13 July 2027 – Workshop schedule/agenda published
- 20-22 July 2027 – 17th GRM
- 20 September 2027 – 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 female scholars/experts.
- 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: 6 January 2027 (late applications may be accepted at the discretion of GRM organizers and workshop directors).
- Be submitted exclusively using the online Participant Application Form available on the GRM website.
- 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 2027 that is in accordance with the GRM Paper Guidelines and is approved by the workshop directors. Failure to do so may preclude applicants from participating in GRM and from 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), the GRM Paper Guidelines published on the GRM website, and the FAQs (also published on the GRM website) 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.

5. Co-authors

- Papers can be co-authored, but only one author will be eligible to receive the honorarium (see section C.14).
- Authors should specify on their application who the attending author will be.
- Additional co-authors are welcome to attend the GRM for a discounted fee.
- (Co)Authors are required to communicate any changes of attending (co)authors no later than 6 July. Failing to do so may result in withdrawal of the offer to pay the participant's honorarium.

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 select which workshop(s) he wants to present in by 31 January 2027, 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 by 20 January 2027 and participants to be notified by 25 January 2027.
- Paper proposals can be accepted, put on the alternate list, or rejected (note that acceptance is contingent upon submission of the full paper by the deadline of 31 May that is in line with the accepted abstract and the GRM Paper Guidelines available on the GRM website).

- 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 by a specific deadline after receiving the acceptance email, committing them to the participation conditions (see section C.3 above). Failure to do so will result in the invitation to join GRM 2027 being automatically withdrawn.

9. Alternates

- Since workshops can only accept a limited number of papers/participants, sometimes good paper proposals have to 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 participants do not confirm or withdraw their participation.
- As soon as an author(s) of a selected paper withdraws/does not confirm, workshop directors will indicate an 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 included within one week's time, accepting the participation conditions. Failing to do so will result in the applicant being withdrawn, and a different alternate will be invited instead.
- From 31 March 2027 onwards, alternates will no longer be invited as there will be insufficient time to finish the paper by 31 May 2027.

10. Paper deadline

- The full-paper submission date is 31 May 2027.
- 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 2027 will be promptly reviewed.
- Authors may be asked to revise and resubmit their paper within 1 week of the request and in any case not later than 24 June 2027.
- In the case of papers submitted that need very substantial revisions, authors may be informed that their invitation to participate in the workshop has been withdrawn.

12. Early submission

- Participants are encouraged to submit their papers well in advance of the 31 May 2027 deadline.
- They may do so as early as 31 March 2027.
- GRCC and the workshop directors will review them at their earliest convenience.

- This will allow for revision and resubmission well in advance of the 31 May 2027 deadline.

13. Claims

- In case participation in GRM has been cancelled because of failure to submit the paper by 31 May 2027 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 2027 participants who have submitted their paper by the deadline of 31 May 2027 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 will pay an honorarium to one presenting author in Cambridge.
- Participants need to attend all the workshop sessions in person on 21 and 22 July 2027 as well as the opening ceremony on 20 July 2027. Absence for more than 1 (one) hour of the workshop will disqualify the participant from receiving the honorarium.
- Participants may 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 GRCC confirmation of selection for GRM 2027.
- Participants must complete the honorarium form in all its parts and submit it to GRCC by 22 July 2027, before leaving Cambridge.
- In principle, honoraria will be paid via bank transfer starting 23 July 2027.
- (Co)Authors are required to communicate any changes of attending (co)authors no later than 6 July 2027. Failing to do so may result in withdrawal of the offer to pay the participant's honorarium.

Amounts

- Presenting authors from anywhere except Europe and the UK will receive 250 GBP.
- Presenting authors from within Europe but outside the UK will receive 150 GBP.
- Presenting authors from within the UK will receive 100 GBP.
- Participants who need a visa to enter the UK for GRM can claim an additional reimbursement of up to 100 GBP for their visa application fees (the same is eligible to be claimed even if the visa is denied).
- 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 2027

- 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. Plagiarism is not acceptable in any form.
- Use of AI: We recognize that AI tools can be useful in supporting academic work. However, their use must remain limited, transparent, and fully aligned with established academic standards. Thus:
 - AI tools may be used only for assistance purposes, such as language editing, clarity, or formatting. They must not be used for conceptualization, argument development, original analysis, or the generation of substantive academic content.
 - As one of the primary objectives of the GRM is the publication of papers in reputable academic journals and edited volumes, keep in mind that these outlets apply strict policies and rigorous checks regarding AI-generated content.
 - The use of AI in GRM papers must not exceed 20% of the total text, including but not limited to quoted material, footnotes, references, and bibliographies.
 - To ensure compliance, the GRCC uses various software tools to assess the extent of AI use in submitted papers and reserves the right to reject or require revision of any paper that exceeds the permitted level of AI use.

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 10 July 2027.
- 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.

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 22 July 2027, 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 2027 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 20 September 2027.