

Workshop No. 10

Internationalization of Higher Education in the Gulf: Reality or Fantasy?

Workshop Schedule

Workshop Directors

Professor Reynaldo Gacho Segumpan
City University
Malaysia

Dr. Mary Precy Aguilar
Kalba University
United Arab Emirates

First Workshop Day - Wednesday, 23 July 2025

08:15 - 08:30 – Welcome coffee and tea

08:30 - 09:00 – Introduction of Workshop and Participants

09:00 – 09:45 – Paper 1

Hajar Mahfoodh, Zainab Mahfoodh, S Shubbar Naser (University of Bahrain, Bahrain)
Internationalization of Higher Education in the GCC: Emerging Challenges and Realities

Discussant: Aizhan Shomotova

09:45 - 10:30 – Paper 2

Majid Al Busafi, Sultan Qaboos University, Oman
Rising to the Top: Internationalization Strategies of GCC Universities in the Global Rankings Race

Discussant: Magdalena Laorden-Galindo

10.30 - 10.45 – Coffee break

10:45 - 11:30 – Paper 3

Neeraj Sharma and Nagendra Sharma (Department of Management Studies, Graphic Era, India) [RECORDED]

Global Rankings of Higher Educational Institutions: Evaluating the Impact on Gulf Region Universities

Discussant: Xing Ma

11:30 - 12:15 – Paper 4

Aizhan Shomotova (Zayed University, UAE) and Tatiana Karabchuk (United Arab Emirates University, UAE)

International Research Collaboration Patterns in GCC Universities: Impact on Institutional Research Performance and Internationalization

Discussant: Niharika Tiwari

12:15 - 13:00 – Paper 5

Anisur Rahman (Jamia Millia Islamia University, India) and Niharika Tiwari (University of Allahabad, India)

Enhancing Quality in Higher Education for Sustainable Development: A Need for Collaboration between the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and India

Discussant: Muhammad Ashfaq

13:30 - 15:00 – Lunch break (lunch is served at 13.45, please make sure to be on time as it is roughly a 15 minutes' walk to King's College from the workshop venue)

15:15 - 16:00 – Paper 6

Radha Krishan Sharma (Koneru Lakshmaiah Education Foundation, India), Vishakha Sharma (JP Morgan Chase, India), Jili Trivedi (Moore Global, India) [RECORDED]

Shaping the Future of Sustainability: The Role of Universities in the Gulf Region

Discussant: Hayfa Jafar

16:00 - 16:15 – Coffee break

16:15 - 17:00 – Paper 7

Xing Ma (City University Malaysia, Malaysia) and Anqian Zhang (University College London, UK).

Internationalization of Higher Education in the Gulf: 70% "Reality" versus 30% "Fantasy"

Discussant: Khuram Shahzad

End of First Workshop Day (free evening)

Second Workshop Day - Thursday, 24 July 2025

08:15 – 08:30 – Welcome coffee and tea

08:30 - 09:15 – Paper 8

Wan Norhayate Wan Daud, Universiti Sultan Zainal Abidin [RECORDED]
The Role of Employee Engagement in Enhancing Academic Performance: Mediating Behavioral Factors in Jordanian Public Universities

Discussant: Mariam Orkodashvili

09:15 - 10:00 – Paper 9

Mariam Orkodashvili (Georgian American University, Georgia)
Scientometric Indicators of Higher Education Internationalization in GRM Countries

Discussant: Bahtiar Mohamad

10:00 - 10:45 – Paper 10

Bahtiar Mohamad (Universiti Utara Malaysia, Malaysia) and Ridwan Raji Adetunji (Zayed University, UAE)
Do Students in Gulf Universities Perceive International Accreditation and High Global Rankings as Beneficial to Their Future Career Prospects?

Discussant: Hayyan Nassar Waked

11.00 - 11.15 – Coffee break

11:15 - 12:00 – Paper 11

Hayyan Nassar Waked, Nor Fairuz Syazana Binti Nor Fauzi, and Reynaldo Gacho Segumpan (City University Malaysia)
Transforming Higher Education in the Gulf: Overcoming Systemic Barriers to Achieve Sustainable Internationalization

Discussant: Muhammad Ashfaq

12:00 - 12:45 – Paper 12

Abdul Rauf (Wittenborg University of Applied Sciences, The Netherlands) and Muhammad Ashfaq (IU International University of Applied Sciences, The Netherlands)
Future Trends in the Use of AI in the Internationalization of Higher Education within the Gulf Region: Developments in AI-Driven Pedagogy and Research

Discussant: Nor Fairuz Syazana Nor Fauzi

12:45 - 14:15 – Lunch break (lunch is served from 13:00 till 14:00 at the workshop venue)

14:30 - 15:15 – Paper 13

Nor Fairuz Syazana Nor Fauzi (City University Malaysia)

Quality Assurance in Open Distance Learning (ODL): Addressing Challenges and Building Trust in GCC Countries' Higher Education System

Discussant: Hajar Mahfoodh

15:15 - 16:00 – Paper 14

Khuram Shahzad (University of Central Lancashire, UK), Namra Mubarak (Cardiff Metropolitan University, UK) and Magdalena Laorden-Galindo (University of Lancashire, UK)

Internationalization as a Driver of Educational Excellence: Analyzing Its Role in Shaping Higher Education Quality in Oman

Discussant: Majid Al Busafi

16:00 - 16:15 – Coffee break

16:15 - 17:00 – Paper 15

Asna Kozhikkattil (UAE University) and Mary Precy Aguilar (Kalba University, UAE)

Internationalization in the UAE Higher Education

Discussant: Anisur Rahman

17:00-17:45 - Paper 16

Hayfa Jafar (Georgian College, Canada)

Recruiting International Students: Prospects and Challenges for the UAE

Discussant: Anqian Zhang

17:45 - 18:00 – Next Steps (further revisions, book publication, group photo session) and Submission of Online Evaluation Forms

End of Second and Final Workshop Day

19:00 – Farewell Dinner at King's College