



Gulf Research Centre Cambridge
Knowledge for All

Gulf Research Meeting

17th GRM, Cambridge 20-22 July 2027

Workshop Director Guidelines

13 August 2026

A. INTRODUCTION

1. Acceptance

- By submitting a workshop proposal, prospective directors 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 applicants have already acted as directors in previous years, they are kindly asked to go carefully through these guidelines again.

2. Scope

- This document describes the application, selection, publication process, and role of the workshop directors from the moment their workshop proposal has been accepted until the publication of all the papers of their workshop (jointly in edited volumes or special issues of academic journals or individually in academic journals or as working papers).

B. THE MEETING

1. GRM objectives

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

- Advance knowledge and understanding of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) 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 nationals 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 or special issues of academic journals or individually in academic journals or as working papers.
- Provide policy recommendations on the topic of the workshops.

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 and projects.
- Workshops have exactly 2 directors who complement each other (see section B.3 below).
- Workshops ideally have 16 participants who are selected on a competitive basis through a Call for Papers.
- GRM is conducted entirely in the English language so all directors and participants should have proficient fluency.
- 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 (see section E.4 below).
- Papers will be distributed among workshop participants in advance of the meeting and presented and discussed during the workshop. 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 plan with book publishers 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 the special issue of a journal are expected to be published individually in academic journals or as working papers.
- Workshop directors may also write a paper for their workshop but are not required to do so.
- GRM welcomes scholars from all nationalities on the condition that they respect the opinions of all participants.

3. Eligibility and preferences

Eligibility

- Number of directors per workshop: exactly 2 (no exceptions will be made - those who would have acted as additional directors can be accommodated among the workshop participants).

- Workshop directors should have demonstrated expertise on the workshop topic (as evidenced by their CV and publications).
- Workshop directors should complement each other in terms of expertise.
- Workshop directors should be affiliated with different institutions, preferably in different countries.
- Workshop directors of all levels of seniority are eligible. Junior applicants should be complemented by a more senior scholar.
- Workshop directors must be fluent in the English language as English is the working language of all workshops.

Preferences

- Workshop proposals should preferably include at least one female director.
- One workshop director should preferably be employed by a Gulf institution (i.e., based in the Gulf).
- One workshop director should preferably be a Gulf national.
- Workshop directors should preferably not have directed a workshop at the 16th GRM of 2026.

4. GRC staff and workshop directors

- a. GRC sets the terms of participation and the deadlines and ultimately reserves the unappealable right to withdraw the invitation to direct a workshop or present a paper to make sure that all conditions for participation are equal to all directors and participants.
- b. GRC assists workshop directors and participants throughout the process from application to the workshop through to the publication of the papers.
- c. The GRM Team includes the GRM academic coordinator and the GRM academic manager who deal with all workshops, directors, and applicants.
- d. The GRM Team also includes GRC researchers, one of whom will be assigned to each workshop to follow the workshop preparations and assist in the workshop sessions.
- e. The GRM Team organizes two brief preparatory seminars, one in the last week of November / first week of December of 2026 and one in the first half of May 2027, to clarify key elements of GRM. Participation of all directors is essential.
- f. The GRM Team monitors whether deadlines are observed and whether papers meet the formal GRM requirements in terms of size and format.
- g. Workshop directors propose the selection of participants on their quality and relevance for their workshop.
- h. Workshop directors are expected to establish and maintain communication with their selected participants during the period leading up to the meeting and afterward through to the paper publication and keeping the GRM Team informed.
- i. Workshop directors review the papers submitted by the participants and provide them with feedback.
- j. Workshop directors advise which papers are not academically strong enough to be included in the workshop.
- k. Workshop directors seek agreements for joint publications with publishers or editors but must keep GRC informed of all developments. In the case of an edited volume, GRC needs to be part of the agreement.

C. 17th GRM 2027

1. Timetable

- 17 August 2026 – Call for Workshop Proposals published
- 28 September 2026 – Deadline for workshop proposal submission (late applications may be accepted under exceptional circumstances)
- 09 November 2026 – Applicants informed (accepted; revise and resubmit; rejected)
- 23 November 2026 – Call for Papers published
- 06 January 2027 – Deadline for paper proposal 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
- 31 March 2027 – Final date for alternates to join
- 31 May 2027 – Deadline for paper submission
- 01 June – 22 June 2027 – Paper review by directors; requests for revision and resubmission sent out to authors; resubmitted papers review by directors
- 28 June 2027 – Participation cut-off date
- 10 July 2027 – Participant granted access to workshop papers
- 13 July 2027 – Workshop schedule / agenda published
- 20-22 July 2027 – 17th GRM
- 22 July 2027 – Deadline for directors to indicate which papers will be published and where
- 20 September 2027 – Deadline submission of final versions of papers
- 30 September 2027 – Submission of materials to publisher/editor

2. Topics

Proposals with a focus on Gulf societies and culture, economies, politics, international relations, defense and security, energy, sustainable development, and environment are welcomed.

For GRM 2027 GRC welcomes, in particular, proposals on the following topics:

1. Gulf International Relations

- Contours of a Changing US-GCC relationship
- GCC and the Wider Middle East
- Elements of the EU-GCC Partnership (e.g., as related to connectivity and energy ties)
- Multilateralism and GCC Foreign Policy

2. Gulf Environment and Sustainability

- Gulf Climate Diplomacy
- Meeting the Sustainable Development Goals
- Water Security
- Food Security Strategies

3. Gulf Security

- Nuclear Energy and Non-Proliferation
- Evolving Threat Perceptions and Strategic Doctrines in the Gulf
- Maritime Security
- Critical Infrastructure Protection

4. Gulf Society (Culture, Education, Sports, Women)

- National Identity, Cultural Change, and Generational Tensions
- GCC Youth: Developing the Workforce
- Changes in the GCC Media Landscape
- Demographic Shifts and Challenges of National Populations
- GCC Sports Diplomacy

5. Gulf Economy (Labor Market, Trade, Investment)

- The Future of the Gulf's Economic Model
- The Logistics Sector in the Gulf
- The Rising Importance of Geoeconomics for GCC Foreign Policy
- Changes within GCC Labor Markets

D. WORKSHOP APPLICATION

1. Proposal submission

Workshop proposals should:

- Be submitted by the deadline: 28 September 2026 (late applications may be accepted under exceptional circumstances).
- Be submitted using the online Workshop Application Form (available on the GRM website). (available on the GRM website).

2. Clarifications and inquiries

- Prospective applicants should first consult the FAQs for any questions they may have.
- If questions remain, they can contact the GRM Team at grm@grc.net.

3. Proposal review

- Proposals are checked as soon as they are received.
- Applicants may be asked to provide additional information if needed.
- Incomplete application forms may be rejected at the discretion of GRC.
- Reviews will be conducted by GRC senior research staff and external reviewers.
- GRC may schedule virtual meetings with the proponents of shortlisted proposals in October 2026.

4. Workshop selection criteria

There are three sets of selection criteria:

a. The proposal

- Overall quality of the proposal.
- Fit with the topics suggested by the GRC.
- No (close) overlap with any GRC-sponsored workshop.
- Relevance for understanding the contemporary Gulf region.
- Contribution it makes to the field of Gulf-related studies.
- Topics that are comparative in nature (i.e., focusing on more than one Gulf state).
- Clarity of the solicited papers.
- Publication plan for all papers (jointly/individually) and its feasibility.
- Potential to attract at least 30 applicants and select 20 strong not overlapping ones and a few alternates.
- Potential for institutional cooperation and/or external funding.

b. The directors

- Expertise on the proposed topic.
- Complementarity of directors in terms of expertise.
- Inclusion of Gulf-based academic/expert applicants.
- Inclusion of a Gulf national.
- Inclusion of a female scholar.
- New directors (as opposed to returning directors).
- Track record of producing joint publications.
- Past record with GRM.

c. The overall program

- Having shortlisted the workshop proposals on the above-mentioned selection criteria, GRC will seek to define a program with a differentiated set of workshops.
- GRC will have to avoid selecting workshops that are too similar, thus risking competition in their search for participants and maximizing the diversity of topics.

E. PAPERS

1. Call for papers

- The Call for Papers will be published approx. 23 November 2026 with a deadline of 6 January 2027.
- The contents of the Call for Papers will be extracted from the workshop proposal as approved by GRC.
- Paper applicants are asked to provide their CV along with an abstract of 500 to 750 words on their proposed paper which should fit closely with the workshop objectives, as written by the directors.

2. Getting applicants

- GRC will publicize the Call for Papers for all GRM 2027 workshops as widely as possible.
- Workshop directors are required to also publicize the Call for Papers through their networks.
- The workshops receiving the highest number of quality applications are those in which the workshop directors participate actively in soliciting submissions through their networks and directly invite people whom they know will make strong deliveries (these persons should still formally apply). Directors should not entirely reproduce their existing networks in the workshop but also bring in scholars they do not know who apply through the Call for Papers.
- Generally, workshops should receive at least 30 applications, and possibly more, as there will inevitably be weak proposals; proposals that do not fit in the workshop; and proposals on (almost) identical topics from which directors will choose one. Ultimately, directors need all slots of their joint publication covered while having to reject some applicants.
- Directors will be asked to select exactly 20 strong participants whose proposed paper fits well in the workshop and are likely to submit their proposed paper by 31 May 2027, meeting the GRM paper requirements.
- Directors are also asked to select one or more alternates who could replace selected participants who withdraw. Alternates should be as strong as the selected participants and, irrespective of the date on which they are asked to replace participants, will also have to submit their paper by the 31 May 2027 deadline and meet the GRM paper requirements.
- In GRC's experience approximately 10% of the selected participants will not manage to submit by the 31 May 2027 deadline or will submit a paper that cannot be accepted.
- In addition, in GRC's experience, between early June and mid-July another 10% of the participants will withdraw because they are unable to obtain a visa or because of other personal reasons.
- Hence, the initial number of selected participants of 20 is likely to drop to the ideal number of 16 papers.
- Workshops for which fewer than 20 paper proposals are received by the 6 January 2027 deadline or are unable to select 20 strong participants by 20 January 2027, may be cancelled by GRC.
- Workshop directors will be able to monitor the applications received in real-time, for their workshops through the GRM online system.

3. Paper proposal selection and preparation

- Directors are urged to review the paper proposals as soon as they receive them.
- By 20 January 2027, directors should communicate their selection of exactly 20 applicants to GRC and as many suitable alternates as possible who meet the selection criteria.
- Those selected as participants will be informed by GRC not later than 25 January 2027 and will be asked to confirm their participation no later than 4 February 2027.
- Those selected as alternates will also be informed by GRC not later than 25 January 2027, asking whether they are willing to stand by.
- Starting 5 February 2027, after consultation with the directors, GRC will invite alternates for selected participants who did not confirm by 4 February 2027. Alternates will be given 7 days to confirm. If necessary to reach the threshold of 20 participants, additional alternates will be invited until 31 March 2027 on the condition that they commit to submitting their paper by the 31 May 2027 deadline.
- All participants (including alternates) will have to submit a paper that matches the requirements by 31 May 2027.
- Throughout the paper writing process, directors are asked to maintain regular contact with the selected paper presenters and guide them through the writing of their paper, enhancing the chances that the paper submitted by the 31 May 2027 deadline meets the paper guideline requirements.
- Participants who do not submit a paper by the 31 May 2027 deadline or whose submitted paper does not meet the requirements may be disinvited from GRM 2027.
- Participants who submitted their paper by the 31 May deadline often are requested to revise and resubmit their paper within 7 days and in any case not later than 22 June 2027.

4. Paper requirements

- Deadline: 31 May 2027
- Submission: Uploading onto the GRM website
- Focus: Follows the workshop description and the abstract that was accepted
- Language: English - should be submitted in (almost) perfect English
- Paper length: 6,500-10,000 words (including tables, graphs, footnotes, and references)
- Paper abstract: 250-300 words
- Biographical note author: 250 words
- Photo author: 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 different font sizes and where necessary, 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 to be placed in the text)
- Footnotes/bibliography: Chicago Manual of Style, i.e., in the text use surname of 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 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.
- On the top of their papers, authors should write:
 - 17th Gulf Research Meeting, Cambridge (UK), 20-22 July 2027
 - Workshop Number and Title
 - Paper Title
 - Author(s)
 - Affiliation(s) of Author(s)
 - Add: No Citation, Quotation, or Sharing
- When uploading the paper to the GRM portal, please ensure that the file name contains no spaces, no special characters (comma, periods, semicolon, etc.), and is titled with the first author's name and workshop number (i.e., JohnSmith-WS7).

5. Paper review

- GRC urges directors to review the papers as soon as they have been received and conclude the revision process by 10 June 2027.
- In parallel, the GRM Team will review the papers for adherence to the formal paper guidelines and signal any discrepancy to the directors.

- GRC's objective is to have complete and finalized versions of the papers before GRM. This benefits the discussions at GRM and reduces the time needed for further revisions after GRM.
- Directors should write by 10 June 2027 (cc to GRM Team) to all participants whose papers need to be revised and resubmitted with a deadline of 7 days and in any case not later than 22 June 2027.

F. WORKSHOP

1. Structure

- The workshop is exclusively in-person; there will be no room for any online participation.
- Workshops last two full days, each with a morning and an afternoon session for 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 be asked to assign a discussant for each paper.
- Directors will also be asked to 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 minutes for each paper, 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 meeting GRM standards (i.e., papers are not being read aloud).
- Overall presentation timing breakdown is suggested as follows:
 - Author presentation: approx. 10 minutes
 - Discussant comments: approx. 10 minutes
 - Open discussion: approx. 20 minutes
 - Authors' replies: approx. 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/tea breaks.

2. Policy Recommendations

- Workshop directors and participants will be asked to provide a short document with policy recommendations on the topic of their workshops. GRC suggests that one hour of the workshop will be dedicated to this in the afternoon of the second day.

3. Publication Plans & Evaluation Questionnaire

- GRC suggests that the last half hour of the workshop will be dedicated to discussing the publication plan and the filling in of the general questionnaire.

G. PAPER PUBLICATION

- Publication of the conference papers is one of the primary goals of the GRM, thus GRC requires detailed publication plans during the application process.

- Jointly in edited volumes (first choice) or 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 31 July 2027, directors are asked to indicate which papers:
 - will be included in their proposed joint publication (edited volume, special issues of a journal)
 - cannot be included in it but are still publishable and indicate where they could be placed
 - are not publishable
- By 31 July 2027, directors should make sure that all authors have received all the feedback (from directors, discussant, other participants) and formatting guidelines to revise their papers.
- Authors should revise their papers by 20 September 2027 and upload it to the online system.

H. GRC PAPER POLICY

1. GRC's interests in the GRM papers

- As many papers as possible are to be published in edited volumes (first choice) or special issues of academic journals (second choice) or, for those which cannot be included in these, published individually in academic journals as working papers (with GRC or elsewhere) (third choice). Ideally, one hundred percent of papers presented at the GRM will be published.
- All publishable papers are published as soon as possible after GRM 2027.
- GRM and GRC/GRCC are fully acknowledged:
 - Edited volumes: GRCC copyright on the entire publication; GRCC logo on the cover of the publication; GRC "institutional profile page"; Workshop/Gulf Research Meeting acknowledgments
 - Special issues of a journal: GRCC copyright in the single papers; workshop/Gulf Research Meeting acknowledgments
 - Individual papers: GRCC copyright; workshop/Gulf Research Meeting acknowledgments.
- GRC/GRCC is part of the agreement between the co-editors and the publishers of edited volumes.
- GRC/GRCC has the right to publish papers as presented at GRM in case they are not published elsewhere, after consultation with the authors.
- GRC/GRCC has the right to translate the papers into Arabic and publish the Arabic versions.
- GRCC copyright of the English version will be returned to the author(s) if the paper cannot be published in the edited volume proposed by the workshop directors and if this is necessary for the paper to be published in a journal or working paper.
- All individual and join publications must have a DOI.

2. GRC's copyright explained

- GRC organizes GRM and acts as the medium between authors and directors, directly and indirectly, to write, present, discuss, and improve their work with the aim that eventually the fruits of all of this will be distributed among a wider audience. Anything otherwise would contradict GRM's objectives and the GRC credo: "Knowledge for All."

- GRCC claims the copyright of the papers submitted to GRM to ensure that the above-mentioned points can be fully achieved, including making papers available to Arabic reading audiences.
- In the case of edited volumes, GRCC will be part of the agreement between co-editors and publishers maintaining the copyright over the entire publication.
- In the case of papers published jointly in special issues of journals, GRCC will maintain the copyright over the single papers, unless this impedes the moving forward of the publication.
- In the case of papers published individually in journals or as working papers, GRC will maintain the copyright unless this impedes the publication.
- Authors can ask GRCC to return the copyright for the English version to them if this is necessary to publish the paper individually in a journal or as a working paper. In doing so, they are asked to indicate where the paper will be published and acknowledge GRM/GRC/GRCC.

I. DIRECTORS COSTS

- GRC covers the following costs for directors for participation in the workshop in Cambridge.
- Travel:
 - Economy class ticket for the most direct flight (or train ticket) from their place of work/residence to London. GRC generally arranges prepaid tickets.
 - Local transportation to the airport of departure and back
 - Local transportation from London to Cambridge and back (may be provided directly by GRC)
 - Visa costs
- Accommodation:
 - 4 nights of accommodation in Cambridge
- Meals:
 - Directors will be offered a dinner following the Opening Ceremony, lunch on both workshop days, and a farewell dinner.
- Conditions:
 - Directors need to contact GRC's events manager Mrs. Sanya Kapasi - sanya@grc.net providing her with information pertaining to their itinerary and dates/times.
 - Directors should not purchase any ticket unless explicitly authorized by Mrs. Kapasi.
 - Directors may be asked to fill out a form stating that they do not receive any reimbursement for the same costs that GRC offers to cover.
 - Directors will be asked to submit receipts for all costs claimed.
- Other costs cannot be covered, and directors are not eligible to receive a fee (honorarium) for papers that they may write for GRM 2027.