

Call for Applications
Agritech, Aquaculture & Food Safety
UK and Gulf Countries Science Collaboration Symposium
5 – 6 March, 2018
Sultan Qaboos University, Muscat, Oman

Food security is a topic of global concern and is of specific importance to Gulf countries due to rapid population growth and constraints to local food production caused by a harsh climate and limited water supply.

Gulf States depend heavily on food imports to meet local needs, and this dependence is expected to increase with food demand projected to grow by 50% over the next 20 years. This leaves Gulf nations exposed to risks due to unreliable supply chains and unstable prices in global food markets.

Recognising these risks, countries across the Gulf have identified food security and associated topics including agritech, aquaculture and food safety as national priorities. Scientific research has a critical role in meeting the challenge of guaranteeing food security, therefore, this symposium is organised to showcase the latest advances in these thematic areas.

This event aims to encourage the exchange of ideas and experience between researchers in the Gulf and the UK and to create future cooperation to develop local food production systems, build resilience to unstable food supply networks, and tackle the increasing problems facing aquaculture and livestock farming (including antimicrobial resistance) through the presentation of research papers by participating scientists.

The sub-topics of this symposium will include the following:

- Agritech
 - Controlled environments - greenhouse technology
 - Dry land and saline agriculture
 - Biotechnology
 - Livestock farming in arid and harsh environments - challenges and advancements

- Aquaculture
 - Maximising sustainable production
 - Disease prevention and control
 - Novel species and novel production methods

- Food safety
 - Halal production - monitoring and quality
 - Food spoilage, storage and transportation
 - Food testing and standards
 - Nutrition security

This Symposium will be held at **Sultan Qaboos University from 5th to 6th March, 2018**. It will be attended by scientists from Universities, other research institutions, start-up companies and established industry from the Gulf countries and the UK, as well as government entities. It will invite open discussions and potential investment to encourage the creation of UK-Gulf collaboration to access the deep pool of information & technology, which will in turn lead to benefits for both the Gulf and the UK and open the door for commercial opportunities. We are, therefore, asking researchers to present their stimulating work and ideas related to agritech, aquaculture and food safety.

This event will be funded and delivered as part of the UK Government Gulf Science Innovation Knowledge Economy Programme. It will include a research call via the Institutional Links in the spring of 2018 and food security sub-topics will be part of the call. This research call, the second in as many years, includes a UK Government contribution of £2.4 million.

This event is organised in collaboration by the UK Science & Innovation Network (SIN), the British Embassy in Oman, the UK Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) and the British Council, and is to be hosted by Sultan Qaboos University and supported by The Research Council, Muscat, Oman.

The following expenses will be covered for UK researchers and Gulf researchers from Bahrain, Kuwait, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the UAE selected to attend:

- Return economy flight to/from Muscat, Oman International Airport.
- Return airport transfers – Muscat, Oman International Airport/Hotel/Muscat, Oman International Airport.
- 3 night accommodation in a single room (bed and breakfast, check-in on 4 March and check-out on 7 March).
- An event dinner on the first evening.
- Ground Transportation in Muscat - Hotel/Venue/Hotel.

Please note that those attending from industry/SMEs must be self-funded.

Deadline for applications: 19/01/2018

Applications to be sent to: Zuweina.Almamaary@om.britishcouncil.org

(Applications must be completed electronically. Handwritten/scanned applications will not be accepted.)

Please note that by completing and submitting this form you hereby agree that your photo, CV and other information may be used in the symposium programme and other event related material.

Part One: Personal Information

Contact Details

Name:

Job Title:

Organisation:

Nationality:

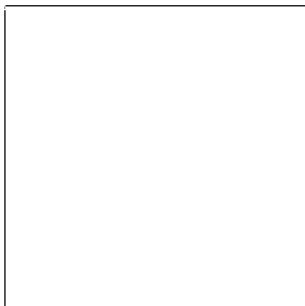
Do you require a visa for Oman? Yes No

Address:

Telephone:

Email:

Passport-size photo of participant



What is the nature of your participation in the symposium?

Attend Only Present*

*If you wish to present at the symposium, please complete **Part Three** of this application.

Part Two: Professional Information

Brief CV/Biography of participant

Brief summary of your current research and innovation topics

Added value of this activity for your organisation (200 words maximum)

Do you have existing professional links with the UK or other Gulf countries? If yes, please provide a brief description (maximum 200 words).

Please provide a brief description of how you (or your institution) would engage with participants after the end of the symposium in order to strengthen existing or established potential future links/collaboration (maximum 200 words).

Part Three: Presentation Brief

Kindly **ONLY** complete this section if you are applying to present at the symposium.

Please note that presentation slots are limited and are chosen by a panel.
Applicants selected to present will be informed by **2 February 2018**.

Title of Presentation (maximum 10 words)

Research Abstract (maximum 50 words)

Please provide a summary of the research you are presenting (maximum 250 words)

Note: Funded researchers will be contacted by SIN/BC/BEIS following the Symposium by Survey Monkey to monitor and evaluate the impact of the event. Once received, we would be grateful if you could complete and return this to us as soon as possible.

Applications to be sent to: Zuweina.Almamaary@om.britishcouncil.org

Any questions should also be directed to the UK Science & Innovation Network sin.gulf@fco.gov.uk

Selection Matrix of grant applications to attend UK-Gulf research symposia

Date: 5 – 6 March, 2018

Location: Sultan Qaboos University, Muscat, Oman

Topic: Agritech, Aquaculture & Food Safety

Based on the call, the first stage would be the eligibility checks:

- Applicants must be based at a recognised publicly funded research establishment, Higher Education Institutions (can include private universities), successful start-up companies, innovation centres and catapults and established companies.
- Applicants must have the capacity to administer a grant and satisfy the UK Government requirements to prevent bribery, fraud and professional misconduct.
- Researcher must be working in one of the relevant academic disciplines.
- Researcher is at the **appropriate** stage in their academic career.
- Researcher demonstrates their institutions commitment to enter into bilateral/trilateral research with the GCCs.
- Early career researchers (with a minimum of 2 year experience in an institution post award of their PhD).
- Lecturer post (with a minimum of 3 - 5 year experience in an institution post award of their PhD)
- Senior Lecturer/Professor (with a minimum of 6 years' experience in an institution post award of their PhD).

1. Research quality and relevance

0-20 points

Criteria:

- The academic importance and timeliness to the symposium of their current research topics are clearly demonstrated.
- The applicant has sufficient, relevant experience to contribute to the symposium and its stated objectives.
- The applicant's current collaborations with the Gulf are of suitable standing to add value to the symposium

20 points: Meets all criteria to an exceptional level

16 to 19 points: Meets the majority of the criteria to a very high level

11 to 15 points: Meets the majority of the criteria to a high level

6 to 10 points: Meets the majority of the criteria to an adequate level

1 to 5 points: Meets some of the criteria to an adequate level

0 points: Fails to meet any of the criteria to an adequate level.

2. Added value of attendance at the symposium to the applicant

0-20 points

Criteria:

- The description of the added value includes clear, feasible and realistic objectives.
- There is clear evidence that the attendance at the symposium supports new links or significantly extends and develops existing links for the applicant.
- The benefits and relevance of attendance to the applicant and institution, and to research itself, are clearly described.
- There is written evidence of support from the institutions in achieving their institutions goals in the Gulf.
- The attendance is justified as part of their or their institutions plans for a larger programme in the Gulf.

20 points: Meets all criteria to an exceptional level

16 to 19 points: Meets the majority of the criteria to a very high level

11 to 15 points: Meets the majority of the criteria to a high level

6 to 10 points: Meets the majority of the criteria to an adequate level

1 to 5 points: Meets some of the criteria to an adequate level

0 points: Fails to meet any of the criteria to an adequate level

3. Sustainability and follow-up activity

0-20 points

Criteria:

- The application includes a clear and feasible description of how the individual and institution involved intend to develop collaboration over the next 1, 3 and 5 years.

20 points: Proposed follow-up is at an exceptional level

16 to 19 points: Proposed follow-up is at a very high level

11 to 15 points: Proposed follow-up is at a high level

6 to 10 points: Proposed follow-up is at an adequate level

1 to 5 points: Proposed follow-up is at a poor level

0 points: Fails to provide an adequate follow-up