

INTERNATIONAL SUMMER SCHOOL ON GULF STUDIES

UNDERSTANDING THE GULF: POLITICS, ECONOMY, AND SOCIETY

July 21–25, 2026

Basakşehir Campus, Ibn Haldun University, Istanbul

The Center for Gulf Studies and Global Policy (GSGP) at Ibn Haldun University is pleased to announce the International Summer School on Gulf Studies: Understanding the Gulf – Politics, Economy, and Society, to be held on July 21–25, 2026 at the university's Başakşehir Campus in Istanbul.

Organized in collaboration with The Sharjah International Foundation for the History of Muslim and Arab Sciences and University of Sharjah, this intensive summer school offers participants a unique opportunity to engage critically with the Gulf region through an interdisciplinary and globally informed academic framework.

About the Program

Over the past decades, the Gulf region has emerged as a major actor in international politics, global economics, energy markets, and cultural diplomacy. Despite its growing strategic importance, scholarly engagement with Gulf Studies remains relatively limited in many parts of the world, particularly outside Arabic-speaking academic contexts.

This summer school aims to address this gap by bringing together distinguished scholars, researchers, and practitioners specializing in Gulf Studies to provide participants with a comprehensive understanding of the region's political, economic, social, and cultural transformations.

The program is designed as an intensive and multidimensional learning experience that combines academic lectures, discussions, and networking opportunities in an international environment.

Program Themes

The summer school will explore a broad range of topics related to the Gulf region, including:

- Political systems and governance structures in Gulf states
- Foreign policy and regional diplomacy
- Gulf states in regional and global geopolitics
- Political evolution and state-building processes
- Economic diversification strategies and development visions
- Sovereign wealth funds and investment policies
- Energy politics and global energy transitions
- Social and cultural dynamics in Gulf societies
- Cultural heritage and identity formation
- Contemporary cultural diplomacy and soft power

Participants will benefit from an interdisciplinary perspective that integrates insights from Political Science, International Relations, Sociology, Economics, History, Cultural Studies, and Security Studies.

Program Structure

The summer school will consist of:

- 16 intensive lectures delivered by scholars and experts in Gulf Studies
- Interactive discussions and academic exchange sessions
- Networking opportunities with researchers and professionals from diverse backgrounds
- A concluding social and cultural program in Istanbul

The program language will be English. Proficiency in English is required.

Who Can Apply?

The program welcomes applications from individuals with a strong academic or professional interest in the Gulf region. Please note that a maximum age limit of 35 applies for participation.

Eligible applicants include:

- Graduate students
- Early-career postdoctoral researchers
- Faculty members and academics
- Public administrators and diplomats
- Media professionals
- NGO representatives

Applicants should be currently enrolled in or have completed an **MA or PhD degree** in one of the following fields or related disciplines:

- Political Science
- International Relations
- Middle Eastern Studies
- History
- Sociology
- Cultural Studies
- Security Studies
- Other relevant areas

Accommodation: Check-in on July 20 / Check-out on July 26

Accommodation and Meals: Accommodation in the university dormitories and daily meals will be provided by Ibn Haldun University throughout the program.

Travel and Transportation: Participants are responsible for their own international and local transportation expenses.

Application Deadline: June 7, 2026.

For questions and inquiries: gulf@ihu.edu.tr

For more information: www.gulf.ihu.edu.tr



Organized by
Center for Gulf Studies and Global Policy (GSGP)
Ibn Haldun University

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The Sharjah International Foundation for the History of
Muslim and Arab Sciences (SIFHAMS),
University of Sharjah, United Arab Emirates