



R&D

**INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH
CAPACITY BUILDING WORKSHOP**

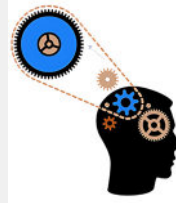
Workshop Agenda



For the First Time

R&D

INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH CAPACITY BUILDING WORKSHOP



Purpose: Enhance the Quality Assurance and Capacity Building of the Universities

- 01.06.2024 Dinner Opening Reception by Invitation**
- 02-03.06.2024 Two Days Workshop All Participants**
- 04.06.2024 Visit Universities + MOHE by Invitation**

It is led by the Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research (MOHE) Apparatus of Supervision and Quality Assurance of the Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG), under the influence and support of the Prime Minister’s office, in partnership with the Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research (MOHESR) in Iraq and the Higher Committee for Education Development (HCED) in Council Ministers in Iraq, as well as several Iraqi universities, and organized by Salahaddin University, Hawler Medical University, Tishk International University, and Knowledge University.

Erbil - Kurdistan - Iraq
1st-4th June 2024
Erbil International Hotel:
30 Metre Street, 20/116 Erbil, Iraq

Participants from:



International Research Capacity Building Workshop

Workshop Aims

This workshop aims to further the modernization of the higher education sector in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq (KRI) and Iraq more broadly; to accelerate its transition to becoming a research-active member of the global third-level education community. It is led by the Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research (MOHE) Apparatus of Supervision and Quality Assurance of the Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG), under the influence and support of the Prime Minister's office, in partnership with the Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research (MOHESR) in Iraq and the Higher Committee for Education Development (HCED) in council ministers in Iraq, as well as several Iraqi universities, particularly sponsored by Salahaddin University, Hawler Medical University, Tishk International University, and Knowledge University.

The purpose is to make connections between international research institutions, improve research quality and impact, and share expertise between experienced UK academics and policymakers in the Kurdistan Region and Iraq, as well as to inform decision-making by senior managers both at governmental level and within the private sector. In doing so, it is intended to serve as a foundation for establishing a research council comprising figure from the UK and KRI, to strengthen the research culture in the KRI and Iraq more generally, and to promote quality assurance of such research. This fits within the vision of the Kurdistan Region's Prime Minister, to enhance education through a focus on three main pillars: establishing critical institutions, implementing innovative policies

and fostering collaboration with international partners. Amongst the institutions created to support the region's aspirations are the Kurdistan Innovation Institute (KII), the Kurdistan Accrediting Association for Education (KAAE) and for the first-time allocated budget for the currently established (Kurdistan Research Development Council (KRDC)) at MOHE. Other initiatives have sought to advance the higher education sector in the region, with the British Council supporting a delegation from universities in the KRG which visited five UK universities in December 2023, to learn from the research culture, initiate collaboration, and develop connections. It is hoped that the current workshop will strengthen existing ties and develop new connections, with input from participants helping to shape and guide the development of the region's Higher Education sector.

The visit of the delegation from the Kurdistan region to UK universities, supported and funded by the British Council, has had a significant impact on the delivery of the International Research Capacity Building Workshop. This visit has allowed the delegation to learn from the experience and expertise of UK universities in developing a strong research culture.

Building on this visit, the workshop will now involve more than 10 reputable universities from the UK. These universities will play a crucial role in running the workshop and solidifying long-term partnerships between the Kurdistan region and British universities. The involvement of these UK universities will further enhance the quality and effectiveness of the workshop, as participants will have the opportunity to interact with and learn from experienced academics and researchers from these institutions.

The collaboration between the Kurdistan Re-

gion and UK universities will not only benefit the participants of the workshop but also contribute to the overall development of the higher education sector in the Kurdistan Region but now for the whole Iraqi universities. By establishing long-term partnerships, the workshop aims to foster ongoing collaboration, knowledge exchange, and research cooperation between universities in the Kurdistan Region, Iraq and the UK. This will create opportunities for joint research projects, student and faculty exchanges, and other forms of academic collaboration, ultimately strengthening the research capacity and international standing of universities in the Kurdistan Region and Iraq.

The involvement of more than 10 UK universities in running the workshop demonstrates the commitment of both the Kurdistan Region and the UK to promoting research and academic excellence. It also highlights the mutual interest in building strong and sustainable partnerships that will benefit both regions in the long term.

The International Research Capacity Building Workshop will also focus on providing participants with the necessary skills and knowledge to successfully apply for international grants for research projects. This includes guidance on identifying suitable funding opportunities, developing strong research proposals, and understanding the requirements and expectations of funding agencies.

In addition to international grants, the workshop will also address the importance of securing local funds for research development. Participants will learn about the available funding sources within the Kurdistan Region and Iraq, and how to navigate the application and eval-

uation processes. This will enable researchers to access local resources and support for their projects, fostering a culture of research and innovation within the region.

A key aspect of the workshop will be dedicated to grant management. Participants will gain insights into effective project management techniques, including budgeting, reporting, and monitoring progress. They will learn how to effectively allocate resources, manage timelines, and ensure compliance with funding agency requirements. This will enable researchers to successfully implement and complete their research projects, maximizing the impact and outcomes of their work.

Furthermore, the workshop will emphasize the importance of research and development (R&D) in driving a knowledge-based economy. Participants will explore how investing in R&D can lead to innovation, technological advancements, and economic growth. They will learn about successful examples of countries that have transitioned from an oil-based economy to a knowledge-based economy, and the role that research and innovation played in this transformation. The workshop will highlight the potential of R&D to diversify the economy, create new industries, and generate sustainable development.

By addressing these topics, the International Research Capacity Building Workshop aims to equip participants with the necessary skills, knowledge, and resources to enhance international collaborations, secure funding for research projects, effectively manage grants, and contribute to the development of a knowledge-based economy in the Kurdistan Region and Iraq.

For the First Time



INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH
CAPACITY BUILDING WORKSHOP

Subject: Enhance the Quality Assurance and Capacity Building of the Universities

Dear Esteemed Representatives of Iraqi & Kurdistan Universities,

We are thrilled to extend an invitation to the upcoming Capacity Building Workshop, an extraordinary initiative designed to empower research leadership and foster innovation within Iraqi universities. This transformative event is a collaborative effort between ten distinguished UK universities and will take place from June 1st to June 4th, 2024.

Workshop Agenda: [Attached]

We are delighted to inform you that this workshop has garnered invaluable support from the esteemed Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research of the Kurdistan Regional Government, with the participation of esteemed British Council and British Universities. This endorsement underscores the significance and potential impact of this initiative on the academic landscape of the Kurdistan Region and Iraq.

The workshop's comprehensive agenda encompasses a range of crucial topics, from establishing a research culture to navigating the intricacies of grant management. It is designed to equip participants with the tools and knowledge needed to excel in the realm of research and development.

We encourage each participating university to nominate and fund a one week stay in Erbil for a distinguished member of their senior management team to lead the charge in implementing the insights gained from the workshop. This appointed individual will serve as a driving force in propelling research and development initiatives within their institution.

For the First Time

R&D

**INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH
CAPACITY BUILDING WORKSHOP**

Additionally,

we are seeking individuals who meet the following criteria:

1- Proven leadership skills and experience in managing academic or research departments.

2- Demonstrated ability to foster interdisciplinary collaboration and partnerships.

3- A strong network within the academic and research community, both nationally and internationally.

Experience in mentoring and guiding junior faculty or researchers.

3- Track record of successful project management and implementation.

4- Proven commitment to promoting diversity and inclusion in research initiatives.

5- Evidence of participation in conferences, workshops, or seminars related to research and development.

6- Demonstrated understanding of intellectual property and technology transfer processes.

7- Previous involvement in establishing or contributing to research centers or institutes.

These additional criteria can help identify individuals who have a well-rounded skill set and a comprehensive understanding of the research landscape, which will be beneficial in driving research and development initiatives within their respective institutions.

Moreover, it is important to highlight that this workshop is a pivotal part of the long-term strategy of the Ministry, which aims to announce a small initiative budget for research development for the first time in the Kurdistan Region and Iraq. This initiative reflects our commitment to fostering a culture of research excellence.

We anticipate a dynamic and collaborative workshop that promises to be a cornerstone in advancing the research landscape of Iraqi universities.

This workshop aims to: _____

- Strengthen the research quality and capacity of universities in Iraq and the Kurdistan region, toward establishing a solid research culture that supports research leadership, grant application and research development.
- Provide insight into British universities' research activities, facilities and organisational structures.
- Build research networks, share skills in grantsmanship, and expand collaboration between universities in the UK, Kurdistan, and the rest of Iraq.
- Increase the impact of research to support social and economic development in Kurdistan region and the rest of Iraq.
- Support quality research production to enhance Iraqi and Kurdistan universities' rankings internationally.
- Develop a road-map for the Kurdistan Research and Development Council.

Organising Committee



Dr. Amir Chali
Ministry of Higher Education
and Scientific Research



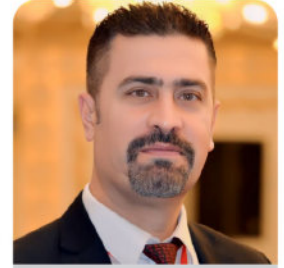
Dr. Muhammad Hussein Ahmed
Ministry of Higher Education
and Scientific Research



Dr. Rozhen Kamal
Kurdistan Institution for
Strategic Studies & Scientific
Research (KISSR)



Asst. Prof. Dr. Shareef M Shareef
Salahaddin University-Erbil



Asst. Prof. Dr. Samir Jawdat
Salahaddin University-Erbil



Prof. Dr. Abdulkarim Y. Karim
Salahaddin University-Erbil



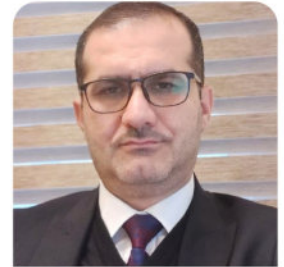
Dr. Sangar Othman
Salahaddin University-Erbil



Dr. Mehmet Ozdemir
Tishk International University



Dr. Wasfi Kawachi,
Tishk International University



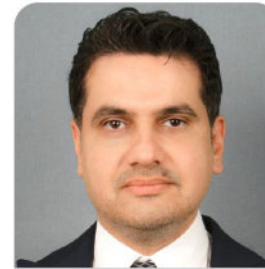
Asst. Prof. Dr. Dara Abdulla
Tishk International University



Eng. Muhammed Sherwan
Tishk International University



Asst. Prof. Dr. Marwan Aziz
Knowledge University



Asst. Prof. Dr. Alan Haydar
Knowledge University



Prof. Dr. Talib Khalil Ibrahim
Knowledge University



Assoc. Prof. Janroj Yilmaz
Middlesex University



Prof. Michael Osborne
University of Glasgow



Dr. Mary Ryan
University of Glasgow



Dr. Anthony O'Tierney
University of Leicester



Dr. Michael Green
Independent consultant for
British council in Iraq.



Prof. Dr. Zhian Mahmoud
Hawler Medical University

Venue: Erbil International Hotel: 30 Metre Street, 20/116 Erbil, Iraq

Contacts: For urgent issues, please contact:

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Dr. Muhammad Hussein, Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research

General Director of Apparatus of Supervision and Quality Assurance of the Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG).

Email:

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Dr. Amir Ahmad Chali

Senior Advisor to The Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research

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Mr. Ammar Tariq

Head of Education (Interim), British Council, Iraq

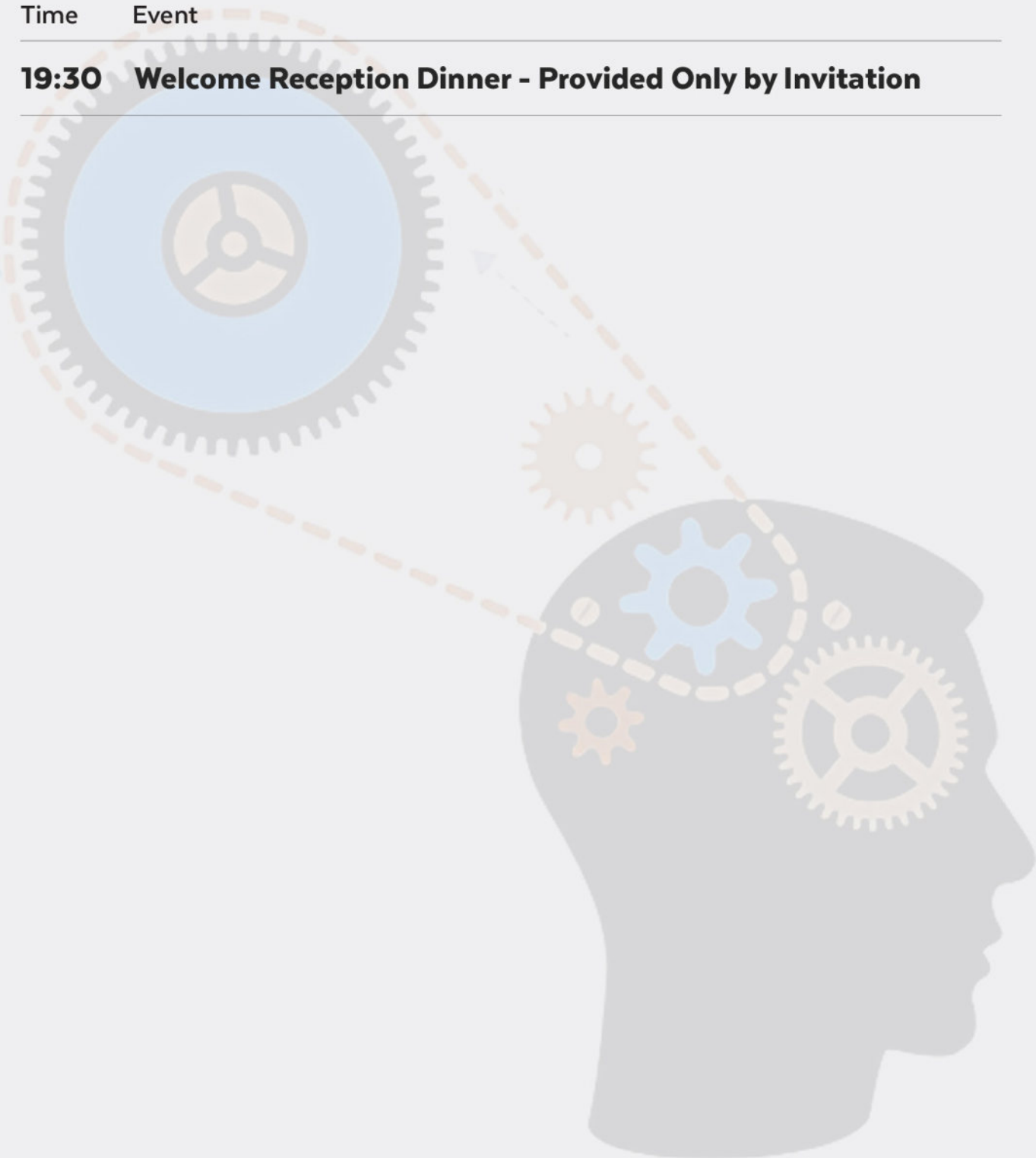
E: Ammar.Tariq@britishcouncil.org

M: 00964 (0) 7901 935 143



DAY ONE - 01 June 2024 - ARRIVAL

Time	Event
19:30	Welcome Reception Dinner - Provided Only by Invitation



DAY TWO – 02 June 2024

Time	Event
09:00	Registration
09:30	<p>Open ceremony: Welcome speech: Dr. Muhammad Hussein Ahmed – Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research, Head of Apparatus of Supervision and Quality Assurance Dr. Aram Kadir – Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research Dr. Idris Hadi Salih – Tishk International University, Head of Board of Trustees Dr. Abdulkareem Al Faisal, Chairman of PM’s Advisory Council Professor Hamid Khalaf Ahmed – PM Advisor Executive Director, The Higher Committee for Education Development Mr. Ammar Tariq- British Council Representative – Head of Education (Interim), British Council in Iraq.</p>
10:00	<p>Keynote Speakers</p> <p>Professor Iain Gillespie – Principal & Vice Chancellor at University of Dundee. Professor Elenaor Robson-UCL Professor of Ancient Middle Eastern History, with a particular focus on Iraq Dr. Muhammed Hussein – Director General for Quality Assurance at the Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research: Current Quality of Research in Kurdistan, KRG Professor Serwan Baban, Chief Scientific Advisor for the President of KRG , Research for Decision making and Ensuring a Sustainable Future for the KRI’</p>
11:00	Break
11:15	<p>Research and Innovation, Chaired by Janroj Yilmaz Keles – Middlesex University. Professor Michael Osborne, University of Glasgow – How a Good Research Culture Can Be Developed: winning grants from multiple sources (identification of opportunity, creation of teams, honing grant-writing skills, providing admin support). Virtually online</p>
11:35	<p>Professor Simon Thompson, University of Sussex – Developing an inclusive and impactful research culture – maximising the potential of all research and scholarship faculty through mentoring, research communities and professional development (UK).</p>
12:30	Lunch
13:30	<p>Developing a Vision for Research Excellence, Chaired by Professor Serwan Baban, Chief Scientific Advisor for the President of KRG Professor Pat Wheeler, University of Nottingham – The Research Excellence Framework (REF): an overview of research outputs and impact case studies Dr. Diane Levine, University of Leicester – An Overview of How Research Support works at UK University. – Virtually online</p>
14:30	<p>Learn from Success: Professor Graeme Barker – Cambridge University Learn from Success: UK International research Collaboration. Dr. Sura Al-Maiyah, Loughborough University, the Science & Technology Development Fund (STDF) of Egypt, Collaboration with Ain Shams University.</p>
15:15	Break
15:30	<p>Roundtable Discussions: Research and Innovation Issues to be discussed: • What is your institutions’ research and innovation ambitions? • What approaches and ideas from today’s sessions could you adopt at your own institutions to help you to achieve those ambitions? • What are the obstacles to implementing the changes you think are needed?</p> <p>Room 1: Amr Fahhad, Loughborough University Assoc. Prof Janroj Yilmaz Keles, Middlesex University Room 2: Dr Sura Al-Maiyah, Loughborough University Dr. Michael Green, British Council Iraq Room3: Professor Tala Kasim, Aston University Dr Mehiyar Kathem, UCL -The Nahrein Network’s Deputy Director</p>
16:30	<p>Wrap-up session (closed session) Wrap up of day’s discussion sessions and recommendations Assoc. Prof Janroj Yilmaz Keles – Middlesex University Dr Amir Chali –Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research Dr Anthony O’Tierney – University of Leicester.</p>
17:30	<p>Closing Remarks Dr. Muhammed Hussein Ahmed – Director General for Quality Assurance at the Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research: Current Quality of Research in Kurdistan, KRG. Professor Sultan Abuorabi – President of Tishk International University in Erbil.</p>
19:30	Dinner - Provided by Tishk International University. Only by Invitation

DAY THREE - 03 June 2024

Time Event

- 09:30 Developing Strong Research Proposals I, Chaired by **Eleanor Robson**, University College London
Dr. Tala Kasim, Aston University - Multidisciplinary research and Ethical Considerations.
Professor Claudia Glatz, University of Glasgow - Searching for Research Grant - International Funders: Who are they? How to approach them? Which ones are relevant to my research interest?
Professor Stephen Syrett, Middlesex University - Knowledge Exchange Through Research Development and Engagement with Different Stakeholders
-
- 11:00 Break
-
- 11:15 Developing Strong Research Proposals II, Chaired by **Assoc. Prof Janroj Yilmaz Keles**, Middlesex University.
Mary Ryan, University of Glasgow - Developing Strong Research Proposals: Insights from the advice UK university research development staff give their research teams (including interdisciplinary research and team development in preparing to respond to various funding calls. Virtually Online
Professor Pat Wheeler, University of Nottingham, Building Research Groups: How to foster collaboration (internal and external) and how to manage teaching departments to give the time/space/motivation for academics to excel.
-
- 12:30 Lunch
-
- 13:30 Managing a Research Project, Chaired by **Professor Pat Wheeler**, University of Nottingham
Professor Huseyin Dogan – Bournemouth University. Software, Tools and Resources for Grant Submission and Academic Research: Overview of some of the software, systems and approaches used to support grant administration processes in the UK
Dr. Rozhen Kamal Mohammed-Amin – Kurdistan Institution for Strategic Studies & Scientific Research (KISSR) - Reporting, Compliance, and Impact Assessment: Case study of successful grant management, including reporting (Researchfish) and impact assessment (providing concrete examples and illustrations of how to measure both academic and community impacts).
Dr Mehiyar Kathem, UCL - The Network's Deputy Director and **Mrs Oana Borlea-Stancioi** (Virtually Online), UCL- The Nahrein Network's Administrator - Evidence of Expenditure: Funder representative provides overview of eligible expenditure and what counts as appropriate evidence of expenditure.
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- 14:30 Research Outputs, Chaired by **Dr. Tala Kasim**, Aston University
Professor Graeme Barker - Cambridge University - How to Attract, Support and Develop Early Career Researchers
Assoc. Prof Janroj Yilmaz Keles, Middlesex University -How to publish in peer-reviewed journals
-
- 15:15 Break
-
- 15:30 Roundtable Discussions -Mechanics of Proposal Development: Overview of grant submission platforms, budgeting processes, internal peer review, institutional sign-off, responding to reviewers, interview preparation. Activity suggestion: two anonymized proposals (a successful and an unsuccessful one) along with their reviewers' feedback to be provided to the participants in advance of the workshop; to be discussed and reflected on during the workshop so that the participants learn by examples.
Room 1: Dr Sura Al-Maiyah – Loughborough University
Dr. Rozhen Kamal Mohammed-Amin – Kurdistan Institution for Strategic Studies & Scientific Research (KISSR)
Room 2: Professor Simon Thompson – School of Education and Social Work
Professor Huseyin Dogan – Bournemouth University
Room3: Dr Jason Norris – University of Dundee
Dr Mehiyar Kathem, – UCL. The Nahrein Network's Deputy Director
-
- 16:30 Wrap-up session (closed session)
Wrap up of day's discussion sessions and recommendations
Dr Janroj Yilmaz Keles – Middlesex University
Dr Amir Chali –Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research.
Dr Anthony O'Tierney – University of Leicester
-
- 17:30 Closing Remark
Dr. Muhammed Hussein Ahmed - Director General for Quality Assurance at the Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research: Current Quality of Research in Kurdistan, KRG.
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- 19:30 Dinner - Provided by Knowledge University. Only by Invitation

DAY FOUR- 04 June 2024 - BY INVITATION ONLY

Time Event

09:30 Building International Research Collaborations Visiting Kurdish Universities in Erbil:

Tishk International University, Salahaddin University, Knowledge University

12:30 Lunch - Provided by Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research

13:30 Road Map for the Kurdistan Research and Development Council

This session will be open to all participants from the UK and selected committees from the Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research to focus on shaping the direction of the newly-established Research and Development (R&D) Council.

The aim of these two sessions are to:

1- seek appropriate advice to guide the Research and Development Council in the region.

2- identify international experts to be affiliated with this council in the future.

3- explore the potential benefits for UK and Kurdistan universities in connection to local and international funds.

Group work 1: Identifying and Engaging Stakeholders in Research Initiatives.

Table Discussions: Participants engage in role-playing scenarios, simulating interactions with stakeholders to identify potential challenges and solutions.

Group Work 2: Drafting a Research Collaboration Plan for International Funds for Developing Countries.

Participants work on a mock research collaboration plan based on a real-life interdisciplinary project and write inter-disciplinary proposals for grants.

14:30 Closing Ceremony

Dr Amir Chali - Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research

Dr. Muhammed Hussein Ahmed - Director General for Quality Assurance at the Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research: Current Quality of Research in Kurdistan, KRG.



ARAM MOHAMMAD QADIR
Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research



ABDULKAREEM AL FAISAL
Chairman of PM's Advisory Council



Serwan M. J. Baban
Chief Scientific Advisor to the President of KRI.



HAMID KHALAF AHMED
Advisor to the Prime Minister
Higher Committee for Education Development in Iraq



Adnan Ibrahim Al-Sarraj
Advisor to the Prime Minister for Education Affairs



MOHAMMED HUSSEIN AHMED
Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research
Head of Apparatus of Supervision and Quality Assurance



IAIN GILLESPIE
University of Dundee
Principal and Vice-Chancellor

Professor Iain Gillespie has been Principal and Vice-Chancellor of the University of Dundee since January 2021. He is the elected Convener of Universities Scotland (US) and Vice-President of Universities UK (UUK), having previously held the role of Chair of Universities Scotland Research & Knowledge Exchange Committee. He is also Chair of the Universities & Colleges Employers Association (UCEA) Scottish Committee and a member of the UK UCEA Board. Iain was Visiting Professor in innovation in the life sciences at the University of Edinburgh. He spent 10 years at the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) leading work on science, technology and innovation and more than a decade in UK central government, with science-based roles in the Cabinet Office, and the Departments of Environment of Trade and Industry and of Health. He has had considerable engagement at UN and regional institutions.



IDRIS HADI SALIH
Tishk International University
Head of Board of Trustees

Dr. Idris Hadi Salih is the Head of Board of Trustees of Tishk International University, Erbil, Iraq. He has taken several ministerial positions in Iraq and Kurdistan Region. He is a former Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research in the Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG) (2006-2009), former Minister of Labor and Social Affairs in Iraq (2005-2006), former Deputy Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research in Iraq (2004-2005), former Minister of Municipal-Energy in KRG (1996) and former Minister of Transportation and Communication in KRG (1992-1996). Dr Idris also holds the position of president of Salahaddin University in Erbil, Iraq during 1999-2000, and head of Electrical Engineering Department, College of Engineering at Salahaddin University during 1985-1990. He speaks Kurdish, Arabic, English, Russian and some Turkish.



Kamaran Younis Mohammadamin
Salahaddin University
President

Assistant Professor Dr. Kamaran Younis Mohammadamin has BSc in Chemistry, MSc in Biochemistry and PhD in Clinical Biochemistry. He has a long experience in teaching undergraduate and postgraduate students in the College of Medicine and the College of Health Sciences. He has an extensive experience in higher education management and administration. He previously held the positions of Acting President, Vice President for Admin and Financial Affairs and Vice President for Students Affairs at Hawler Medical University. He also worked as the General Registrar of Hawler Medical University and the Registrar of the College of Medicine. Besides, he headed or acted as a member of different committees such as examination committees, postgraduate studies, university planning and development and scientific committees. He has published several research papers on the different aspects of clinical biochemistry and supervised several postgraduate students (MSc and PhD students). His research interest is in the field of clinical biochemistry.



Nooraddin Ismail Alla Werdi
Hawler Medical University
President

Professor Dr. Nooraddin Ismail Alla Werdi is consultant and professor of surgery. He has F.R.C.S in London and Fellow of Royal college of surgeon of England, American College of Surgeons (F.A.C.S.), and European board (E.B.S.Q). and Candidates for the Arab Board of Surgeons (CABS). He is a president of Hawler Medical University. He teaches different courses in the College of Medicine. He is a Patron of Zanco Journal of Medical Sciences, Erbil Dental Journal, and Erbil Journal of Nursing and Midwifery.



SULTAN T. ABU-ORABI
Tishk International University
President

Prof. Sultan T. Abu-Orabi is an organic chemist, who obtained his PHD from the University of Michigan, USA in 1982. Currently he is the Secretary General of the Association of Arab Universities, which has its headquarters in Amman, Jordan. Professor Abu Orabi previously served as President of Yarmouk University, Jordan's second largest public university, President of Irbid National University, and Tafila Technical University in Jordan. He was also President of the Jordanian Chemical Society and President of the Arab Union of Chemists. He was a visiting Professor at Bahrain University and at King Fahd University for Petroleum and Minerals, Saudi Arabia. Dr. Abu Orabi is an Editor-in-chief of two international chemistry journals, and is a member of many editorial boards. He has served in many advisory boards, and presented lectures at numerous international conferences. He has also received several research fellowships and awards, and published over seventy papers throughout his career spanning thirty-five years



Ahmed Anwar Dezaye
Knowledge University
President

Ph.D in Chemistry (Catalysis), the University of Sidney, Australia. The President of Knowledge University/Erbil(private) from 1st of February 2024 till now. The President of Bayan University/Erbil (private) from 2nd of October 2021 till 5th of August 2023. The President of International University of Erbil (private) from 4th of March 2020 till 31st of August 2021. He has been appointed as a President of Salahaddin University/ Erbil, Kurdistan Region from November 2009 till 12th of February 2020. General Director of Scholarships at the Ministry of Higher Education, Kurdistan Regional Government between 2006-2009. Vice- President of Salahaddin University from 2004-2006 in addition of his role and lecturing at the department of Chemistry since 1985. Prof. Dezaye has more the 35 publications in different Iraqi and world reputable journals. He has supervised three PhD students. Prof. Dezaye is a member of several professional bodies including, Chemists syndicate, the Royal Australia Chemical Society, Kurdistan Teachers society, a council member of the University of Salahaddin and the Ministry of Higher Education, KRG.



AMMAR TARIQ
Head of Education British Council Iraq

Before joining the British Council, Ammar Tariq worked on humanitarian, construction and environmental projects. Over the last fifteen year Ammar have been involved in the designing and leading teams to deliver national scale donor funded programme on both basic and higher education sectors in Iraq. Development of the National Technical and Vocational Education Strategy, National Inclusive Framework, National Enrolment Strategy, and School) were among the many outcomes that Ammar contributed to their development. Ammar has degree in construction and environmental engineering from the University of Technology in Baghdad.



ELEANOR ROBSON
University College London
Ancient Middle Eastern History

Eleanor Robson is Professor of Ancient Middle Eastern History at University College London and a Fellow of the British Academy. Since 2017 she has directed the Nahrein Network, based at UCL, the British Museum and the Kurdistan Institution for Strategic Studies and Scientific Research. The Network fosters interdisciplinary, locally led research on how history, heritage and related areas can contribute to the sustainable development of culture, economy, environment and society in Iraq and KRI. Her personal research for the Network involves increasing the accessibility and understanding of the ancient cuneiform cultures of Sumer, Babylonia and Assyria, through digital humanities.



ROZHEN KAMAL MOHAMMED-AMI
Kurdistan Institution for Strategic Studies & Scientific
Research Researcher

Rozhen Kamal Mohammed-Amin is an architect and academic with an interdisciplinary background and research interest in the confluence of digital technology, architecture, and heritage. She is an Associate Professor and Researcher at the Kurdistan Institution for Strategic Studies & Scientific Research (KISSR) and President of the Cultural Heritage Organization (CHO). Rozhen also serves as a Co-Director of the Nahrein Network (based at University College London (UCL), UK), and Vice President of RASHID, an international- ECOSOC/UN special consultative status (based in Germany). She is also an Honorary Research Fellow at UCL and a member of UKRI's (UK Research and Innovation) International Development Peer Review and Talent Peer Review Colleges. Rozhen's research focuses on developing and evaluating emotional AR and VR experiences for engaging with heritage (including difficult heritage) and eliciting historical empathy. She is a recipient of numerous national and international appreciations, scholarships, awards, and fellowships and is also the developer, proposal writer, and director/co-director for a number of academic and heritage projects that received international funds from the UK, USA, and the European Union



Online Virtually

MICHAEL OSBORNE
University of Glasgow
Adult and Lifelong Learning

Michael Osborne is Professor of Adult and Lifelong Learning at the University of Glasgow, and Director of the Centre for Research and Development in Adult and Lifelong Learning within the School of Education. He is also the European Director of the PASCAL Observatory on Place Management, Social Capital and Lifelong Learning and one of the core members of the Lower to Middle Income Countries research group at the university. His main interests in research are: the role of education in international ties, widening participation to higher education, teaching and learning in higher education, the VET/HE interface and the development of learning cities and regions. He is a Co-I within the ESRC funded Urban Big Data Centre within which he has worked on projects concerned with education, place and disadvantage, and on learning city metrics. He has been PI of the British Academy GCRF funded Strengthening Urban Engagement of Universities in Africa and Asia project. He has also been Co-I within the UKRI GCRF funded Global Centre for Sustainable, Healthy Learning Cities and Neighbourhoods.



Online Virtually

Stephen Syrett
Middlesex University

Stephen Syrett is Professor of Local Economic Development and Deputy Dean of Research and Knowledge Exchange for the Faculty of Business and Law at Middlesex University. Stephen's research interests relate to issues of local and regional economic development and small business, with particular reference to immigrant and diaspora business, social enterprise, and governance and policy. He of books, journal articles and reports, and worked extensively with a wide range of national, regional and local government bodies in the UK and Europe, as well as with a wide range of voluntary and community sector and private sector organisations.



SIMON THOMPSON
School of Education and Social Work

Professor Simon Thompson is Head the School of Education and Social Work and is committed to researching and developing effective practice and scholarship in higher education and teacher education pedagogy. After 20 years of successful teaching and leadership in undergraduate, postgraduate, doctoral and initial teacher training he was awarded a National Teaching Fellowship for the quality and impact of his contribution. Simon has deliv- Beijing, Cyprus, Nigeria, Ghana, India, Japan, Cambodia and Kazakhstan



Online Virtually

Claudia Glatz
University of Glasgow

Claudia Glatz is Senior Lecturer in Archaeology at the University of Glasgow. She is an anthropological archaeologist researching the material production of early states and empires and their underlying social relationships at both the landscape scale and through material culture. She is especially interested in the nature and context of sovereignty along the geographical and topographic margins of early states and the ways in which societies located in highland and transitional zones negotiated and resisted external control. This interest in the margins has led her to conduct fieldwork in the mountains of the Pontic region of northern Turkey (Cide Archaeological Project) and in the highland-lowland transitional zone of the Upper Diyala/Sirwan River valley in the Kurdish Region of north-east Iraq (Sirwan Regional Project). She also directs a British Council - Cultural Protection Fund funded project, "Archaeological Practice and Heritage Protection in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq" that combines research-led archaeological practice and heritage protection in the Kurdish region of Iraq, targeting not only archaeologists and heritage professionals but also the wider public, educators, and children.



JANROJ YILMAZ KELES
Middlesex University
Faculty of Business and Law

Janroj Yilmaz Keles is an Associate Professor in Politics at Middlesex University Law School and a Visiting Senior Research Fellow at LSE, researching on peace and conflict, political violence, ethnicity and migration in the Middle East and South Asia. He studied in Turkey, Germany and United Kingdom and received his PhD in Sociology and Communications from Brunel University, London. He served as a co-editor of Work, Employment Association (2018-2022). He publishes articles in highly ranked peer-reviewed journals. His monograph *Media, Conflict and Diaspora* (I.B. Tauris, 2015), was well received by the academic community. He is currently a co-investigator of the GCRF Gender, Justice, and Security Hub, focusing on migration and displacement in Afghanistan, Kurdistan, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka.



PAT WHEELER
University of Nottingham
Faculty of Engineering

Prof Pat Wheeler received his BEng [Hons] degree in Electrical Engineering in 1990 from the University of Bristol, UK. He received his PhD degree for his work on Matrix Converters from the University of Bristol, UK in 1994. In 1993 he moved to the University of Nottingham and worked as a research assistant in the Department of Electrical and Electronic Engineering. In 1996 he became a Lecturer in the Power Electronics, Machines and Control Group at the University of Nottingham, UK. He is currently the Director for Global Engagement in the Faculty of Engineering and the Head of the Power Electronics, Machines and Control Research Group. He was Head of the Department of Electrical and Electronic Engineering at the University of Nottingham from 2015 to 2018. He is a member of the IEEE PELs AdCom and is currently IEEE PELS Vice-President for Technical Operations. He has published over 850 academic publications in leading international conferences and journals



MEHIYAR KATHEM
Nahrein Network Deputy Director

Dr Mehیار Kathem is the Nahrein Network’s Deputy Director. As part of his role, Mehیار supervises all the network’s programmes, including Research Grants, Visiting Scholarships and Graduate Studentships. He is also Programme Lead for AcademIQ, a multi-year programme designed to support Iraqi researchers in the arts, humanities and social sciences with academic skills development. He also assists Iraqi academics and opening partnerships and communication with Iraqi Government institutions, domestic NGOs and academics. Mehیار completed a PhD at the School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS) where he researched peacebuilding interventions and the formation of Iraq’s domestic NGO sector after the 2003 War. His current publications explore the often problematic relationships between heritage and state-building in post-war Iraq.



JASON NORRIS
University of Dundee
Director of Globalization

Jason Norris is Director of Global Partnerships at the University of Dundee and is responsible for the strategic implementation and delivery of the University’s Internationalisation Strategy as it relates to educational partnerships and student mobility. Key successes have been supporting the launch of a new Joint Institute and Joint Educational Programme in China, as well as setting up University operations in multiple regions. Jason graduated from the University of Dundee in 1999 with a BSc (Hons) in Microbiology, and following roles in the industrial and commercial sector, joined the University of Dundee in the Student Recruitment & Admission department in 2003. Since then, Jason has worked in management and leadership roles covering student recruitment, admissions, international development and partnership, and higher education management.



MICHAEL GREEN
British Council Iraq

Dr Michael Green is currently working for British Council Iraq on a project to develop research-based partnerships between UK universities and universities in Iraq and Kurdistan Region. Following a Bachelors degree in Oriental Studies, Michael completed his PhD in Egyptology and spent almost 20 years as an Egyptologist. During this period, he held research fellowships in the universities of Edinburgh, Melbourne, Goettingen, Tuebingen, and Durham and worked also in the Leiden Museum of Antiquities in Netherlands. Subsequently he worked for almost 30 years leading on international recruitment and partnerships in De Montfort, Ulster, Leicester and Loughborough universities. During this time, he engaged personally in development of partnerships within Iraq, China, Taiwan, Japan, Indonesia, India, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Kazakhstan, Azerbaijan and Turkey. In addition to his current role on behalf of British Council Iraq, Michael is also Advisor to the Stirling Education Group, which operates private schools and universities in several countries, and is joint director of Central Asia Education Consultants, based in Almaty, Kazakhstan. Based on his experience as an Egyptologist, Michael retains a strong interest in all projects related to cultural heritage in the Middle East, and its potential to support sustainable initiatives at local level, through development of areas such as heritage tourism.



DR. DIANE LEVINE
University of Leicester
Criminolog

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Dr. Diane Levine began her career as a school teacher and was then in civil service for over a decade before completing her PhD (Warwick). As a result she has been - and continues to be - committed to social change through education and evidence-informed policy. Dr Levine's research is focused on understanding the ways in which children and adolescents survive and thrive when life is challenging, particularly in a digital world, and in retisystemic, interdisciplinary approach to understanding childhood resilience. Dr Levine takes an interdisciplinary approach to all her research practice, and has been funded by the British Academy, Economic and Social Research Council, Arts and Humanities Research Council, Global Challenges Research Fund, Wellcome Trust, and Horizon 2020.



MARY RYAN
University of Glasgow
International Development Research Manage

Mary Ryan is the International Development Research Manager in the University of Glasgow's Strategic Research Initiatives team. In her role, Mary builds interdisciplinary connectivity between research teams across the university, supports the development of strategic partnerships, strengthens university processes to better support international collaboration, represents the university in national fora on international development research and seeks to build the best possible environment for networking and capacity strengthening workshops for Research Managers and Administrators in the UK and Africa and sat on the Steering Group for the 'Consolidated Approach to Assurance and Due Diligence' Project. Mary holds a Bachelors degree in Biology and Sociology and a Masters degree in Cognitive and Behavioural Ecology. She has 20 years' experience in project management and 10 years' experience managing international development research. In her free time, Mary runs (very slowly) and enjoys cooking, reading and travel



TALA KASIM
Aston University
College of Engineering and Physical Sciences

Dr. Tala Kasim is a distinguished Chartered Civil Engineer, combining over 15 years of expertise in both industry and academia. Holding a PhD in Digital Construction Technologies from Cardiff University, her focus on integrated solutions and automated sustainability compliance checking demonstrates her commitment to cutting-edge advancements. Currently serving as a lecturer at Aston University, Tala is also a Senior Fellow of the Higher Education Academy and a UK. Her dynamic leadership roles, including Programme Director and Deputy Head of Department, reflect Tala's strategic planning acumen and commitment to fostering collaborative learning environments. With a solid foundation in civil engineering principles and a focus on digital construction, Tala Kasim is a pivotal figure at Aston University, embodying adaptability, extensive knowledge, and dedication to excellence in civil engineering and construction management



Graeme Barker
Cambridge University

Professor Graeme Barker CBE FBA FSA FRGS, Disney Professor of Archaeology Emeritus and Senior Fellow, McDonald Institute for Archaeological Research, University of Cambridge, Downing Street, Cambridge. CB2 3ER; Professorial Fellow, St Johns College, St John's Street, Cambridge.



HUSEYIN DOGAN
Bournemouth University
Human Computer Interaction

Huseyin Dogan is the Director of the Computing and Informatics Research Centre, and Professor of Human Computer Interaction (HCI). Prof Dogan's research focuses on Human Factors, Digital Health, Assistive Technology and Systems Engineering. He has over 150 publications and his research featured on the BBC South, BBC Radio Solent, The Ergonomist, Auto Express, Bournemouth Echo and The Sunday Times magazine. He is the Co-Founder of four MSc programmes: MSc Digital Health; MSc tors; MSc Marketing & User Experience. Prior to Bournemouth University, he worked as a Research Associate at Loughborough University. He has 8 years industrial experience working as a Higher Scientist for BAE Systems. Prof Dogan received his Engineering Doctorate (EngD) in Systems Engineering from Loughborough University, MSc in Human Computer Interaction with Ergonomics from University College London, and BSc in Computer Science from Queen Mary University of London.



ROBIN BANERJE
University of Sussex
Developmental Psychology (Mental Health Practice Uni)
Professional Service

As the first Pro-Vice-Chancellor for Global and Civic Engagement at University of Sussex, Professor Robin Banerjee is the University's strategic lead on engagement with a diverse range of partners and stakeholders locally, nationally, and internationally. Robin was previously the Head of the School of Psychology, one of the largest and most academically diverse communities of psychology students and staff in the UK. Under his leadership, the School of Psychology at Sussex has become one of the best in the UK, while also maintaining a strong position in the national top 20 for research quality and income. His own research expertise relates to the social and emotional development of children and young people, with a particular focus on working with policymakers and practitioners in education and mental health. He is the founder of the unique and innovative Sussex Centre for Research on Kindness, which brings together an interdisciplinary team of academics and diverse community partners to explore, investigate and illuminate kindness and its impacts on people and communities.



AMR FAHHAD
Loughborough University
Global Engagement Team

Amr Fahhad serves as a senior member of the Global Engagement Team at Loughborough University, where he has overseas responsibility for the Middle East and North Africa Region (MENA). In his position, Amr offers invaluable support in academic and research recruitment, while also fostering collaboration among various stakeholders.



DR. SURA AL-MAIYAH
Loughborough University
Architectural Engineerin

Dr Sura Al-Maiyah is Senior Lecturer (Associate Professor) and the BEng and MEng Architectural Engineering Programme Director at Loughborough University, United Kingdom. Prior to her current position, she led the BSc Architecture Programme at the University of Salford, the Master Course in Sustainable Architecture at the School of Architecture, University of Portsmouth, worked in the research-based practice Short and Associates Architects in London, and held a Research Associate position at the School of Built Environment at Ulster University. Sura's research interest is in daylight and health, building occupant comfort, and author of "Daylight, Design and Place-Making" by Routledge (2021) and the author of over 30 journal papers and international refereed conference papers. Sura has led and collaborated on funded research projects including the AHRC-funded project MOVE (£188K) and served as a reviewer for several journals, conferences, and funding bodies. She is a member of the AHRC's Peer Review College (PRC), a reviewer for the Council for At-Risk Academics (CARA), a member of the International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS), the Chartered Institution of Building Services Engineers (CIBSE), the Society of Light and Lighting (SLL) and Fellow of the Higher Education Academy since 2011. She supervised PhD students in the areas of thermal and visual comfort of building occupants, ageing population and inclusive living and playing environments.



ANTHONY O'TIERNE
University of Leicester
Accounting and Finance

Dr Michael Green is currently working for British Council Iraq on a project to develop research-based partnerships between UK universities and universities in Iraq and Kurdistan Region. Following a Bachelors degree in Oriental Studies, Michael completed his PhD in Egyptology and spent almost 20 years as an Egyptologist. During this period, he held research fellowships in the universities of Edinburgh, Melbourne, Goettingen, Tuebingen, and Durham and worked also in the Leiden Museum of Antiquities in Netherlands. Subsequently he worked for almost 30 years leading on international recruitment and partnerships in De Montfort, Ulster, Leicester and Loughborough universities. During this time, he engaged personally in development of partnerships within Iraq, China, Taiwan, Japan, Indonesia, India, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Kazakhstan, Azerbaijan and Turkey. In addition to his current role on behalf of British Council Iraq, Michael is also Advisor to the Stirling Education Group, which operates private schools and universities in several countries, and is joint director of Central Asia Education Consultants, based in Almaty, Kazakhstan. Based on his experience as an Egyptologist, Michael retains a strong interest in all projects related to cultural heritage in the Middle East, and its potential to support sustainable initiatives at local level, through development of areas such as heritage tourism.



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OANA BORLEA-STANCIO
Nahrein Network Administrator

Oana Borlea-Stancioi is the Nahrein Network Administrator. She has worked on the project since 2018 and is the first point of contact for applying projects, visiting scholars and graduate studentships as well as the Nahrein team member supporting devolved projects through their lifecycle, including due diligence, financial reporting and payments. Oana is currently a research student with the School of Anthropology and Conservation, Unimania through the lens of social anthropology.



INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH CAPACITY BUILDING WORKSHOP

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