Global Future Council on Biotechnology Fellows – Call for applications

Context
The World Economic Forum Network of Global Future Councils is the world’s foremost interdisciplinary knowledge network dedicated to promoting innovative thinking on the future. The network convenes the most relevant and knowledgeable thought leaders from academia, government, business and civil society over a one-year term to challenge conventional thinking and develop new insights and perspectives on the key global systems, as well as the impact and governance of key emerging technologies.

In a global environment marked by short-term orientation and siloed thinking, the network fosters interdisciplinary and long-range thinking to support a sustainable and equitable future. Members of the network meet each November at the Annual Meeting of the Global Future Councils in the United Arab Emirates, and virtually several times a year to monitor trends, identify global risks, discuss ideas and explore interconnections between issues. They also develop recommendations and integrate their findings into World Economic Forum activities and into global decision-making processes.

The Global Future Council Fellowship
Global Future Council (GFC) Fellows, nominated by the Global University Leaders Forum (GULF) and select research universities, are fully embedded in one of the 40 Global Future Councils and attend the Annual Meeting of the Global Future Councils in Dubai. They play a crucial role in the council by being responsible for capturing, synthesizing and disseminating knowledge and insights from the council’s deliberations.

The GFC Fellowship allows the Forum to create an unparalleled opportunity for promising young scholars to build networks and engage with leading cross-sectoral experts from around the world. It is also an opportunity to build deeper connections between the council network and the academic community, which may unlock new impact-oriented research agendas and partnerships.

Mandate of the Global Future Council on Biotechnology
As the evolution of medical biotechnology accelerates, the scope of discussion about ethical and safety issues is migrating from the scientific community into wider society. Consumers in developed economies are increasingly active in their healthcare choices and solicited for genetically based products. Consumers in emerging economies may be sceptical of new biotechnology-based diagnostics and treatments given the history of medical research and economically disadvantaged populations. In this context, the Global Future Council on Biotechnology aims to identify policy opportunities capable of accelerating new biotechnological discovery and application while guiding the dialogue with consumers about their implications.

The role of the Fellow for this council
The Fellow will:
• Capture and synthesize knowledge and insights from Council meetings, in person and virtual
• Drive outputs of the Council through, for example, research, writing and/or assisting in piloting an initiative
• Develop their own thought leadership piece aligned to the mission of the Council
GFC Fellow Profile

- Postdoctoral scholars at a GULF university or selected research institution
- At early stages of their professional careers (not yet tenured)
- Keen to shape the global agenda and interact with luminaries in their field
- Disposed with a future-looking and systems-oriented mindset
- Able to articulate their ideas in a way that influences the prevailing thinking

Engagement Requirements

- Serve as a GFC Fellow from Oct. 2019 to Sept. 2020
- Capture and synthesize knowledge and insights from the council’s in-person and virtual deliberations as well as draft council outputs
- Participate in and actively contribute to the council’s virtual meetings (at least four in the one-year term)
- Participate in and actively contribute to the Annual Meeting of the Global Future Councils 2019 in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, the annual meeting for the network of Global Future Councils (3-4 November 2019)*
- Disseminate content produced by the council via TopLink, the Forum’s collaboration platform, and other media as determined by the council

Global Future Council participation, for members and fellows alike, is unremunerated.

Calendar

GFC Fellowship means a commitment to the following milestones:

- **October 2019-September 2020**: Regular contribution to council work and interaction in virtual meetings, in collaboration with the Forum’s council manager
- **3-4 November 2019**: Participation in the Annual Meeting of the Global Future Councils 2019*

*Accommodation and flights (from selected Emirates airline hubs) for academic participants will be covered by the Government of the United Arab Emirates, host of the event.

How to apply

Send the following information to gulf@weforum.org no later than 2 August:

- Name of the Global Future Council to which you are applying
- Motivation letter of no more than 500 words
- Confirm your availability for the Annual Meeting of the Global Future Councils 2019 (3-4 November 2019)
- CV

Only candidates that are short-listed will be contacted.