Global Future Council on Technologies for Mental Health 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 participate in the Annual Meeting of the Global Future Councils in Dubai. They play a crucial role by being responsible for capturing, synthesizing and disseminating knowledge and insights from the councils’ 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 Technologies for Mental Health
Technology – particularly social media, chatbots and digital voice assistants – is affecting individuals’ mental health positively and negatively. The Global Future Council on Technologies for Mental Health will address the potential and the pitfalls of technology and mental health. Focus areas could include detecting suicidal ideation directed at social media posts or voice-controlled devices such as Alexa or Siri, and Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Machine Learning (ML). The council will examine: understanding the strengths and limitations of AI/ML for mental healthcare applications; promoting the appropriate use of AI/ML within the mental healthcare system; and highlighting areas of work needed to facilitate the broader use of AI/ML in improving mental health.

The role of the Fellow for this council
The Fellow will:
• Attend the Annual Meeting of the Global Future Councils on 3-4 November 2019 in Dubai, contributing and capturing insights from the meeting for distribution to the council
• Work closely with the council manager to draft council’s work plan for the 2019-2020, including scope, objectives, timeline and deliverables
• Contribute to the work of the council over the course of the term, as agreed by all council members at the Annual Meeting of the Global Future Councils
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 October 2019 to September 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 (3-4 November), the annual meeting for the network of Global Future Councils*
- 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, the 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)
- CV

Only candidates that are short-listed will be contacted.