

# Academic & Research Collaboration in GCC

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## Abstracts

### Summary:

This report provides a strategic overview of academic and research collaboration across the GCC region, highlighting key trends, government initiatives, institutional partnerships, and international cooperation. It examines how countries like the UAE, Saudi Arabia, and Qatar are investing in higher education and R&D to drive innovation, economic diversification, and global competitiveness. The report offers valuable insights for policymakers, academic institutions, and private sector stakeholders seeking to enhance cross-border collaboration and build knowledge-based economies in the Gulf.

This report explores the academic and research landscape of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) region, which includes Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Oman, Qatar, Kuwait, and Bahrain. It provides a holistic analysis by examining economic indicators, the structure of the education system, and the opportunities for collaborative development within and beyond the region.

### Report Scope

This report explores the academic and research landscape of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) region, which includes Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Oman, Qatar, Kuwait, and Bahrain. It provides a holistic analysis by examining economic indicators, the structure of the education system, and the opportunities for collaborative development within and beyond the region.

The study begins with an overview of the macroeconomic environment of each GCC country, highlighting nominal Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in US\$ billions (sourced from the International Monetary Fund) and total population in millions (based on the latest World Bank data up to 2023, with estimates for 2024 and projections for 2025).

This contextual foundation is crucial for evaluating the scale and growth potential of the education sector. Due to limited data availability for some smaller GCC nations, the analysis is restricted to projections up to 2025.

A critical component of the study is evaluating government and private sector investment in education, represented by the share of education expenditure as a percentage of nominal GDP. This serves to indicate each country's commitment to the development of its academic ecosystem and human capital.

The study further examines the extent and diversity of the region's educational infrastructure. It includes a count and classification of educational institutions such as nurseries, primary and secondary schools, colleges, universities, and vocational training institutes. It also considers emerging models like online and distance learning centers that have recently gained popularity.

Student enrollment is analyzed in detail, considering the total number of students across various levels of education. All types of students, such as regular full-time students, part-time learners, and online students, which are further distinguished between local and foreign (expatriate) student populations, have been considered.

In addition to institutional and demographic analysis, the study assesses the state of academic and research collaborations across the GCC. It examines the nature and extent of partnerships among regional institutions and international academic and research bodies. Particular focus is given to government-led initiatives, funding programs for R&D, and the role of public-private partnerships in fostering innovation and scientific advancement.

Finally, the study estimates the total addressable market (TAM) for the education sector in the GCC from 2022 through the end of 2025. This includes projected spending on educational infrastructure such as campus development and facility upgrades, revenue generation from educational services including tuition, training, and certification programs, and investments in education technology encompassing digital platforms, tools, and AI-driven solutions. The TAM analysis helps identify the commercial potential and investment opportunities in the region's evolving education landscape.

The study aims to support policymakers, investors, academic institutions, and technology providers in understanding the scope for growth, collaboration, and innovation in the GCC education sector through this comprehensive framework.

## Report Includes

Analysis of the regional market for academic and research collaboration in the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC)

An understanding of the opportunities and progress in academic and research collaborations in the GCC market

Facts and figures pertaining to the current market dynamics, advances in technology and regulations

Coverage of joint research programs, co-funded projects, academic exchange agreements, and the establishment of regional centers of excellence for academic and research collaborations in the GCC countries

Information on international university partnerships, public-private research collaborations, sector-specific focus areas such as healthcare, energy and artificial intelligence, and government initiatives promoting excellence

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