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Nationality: Bahraini | **Residence:** Dubai, UAE

MAHDI JASIM GHULOOM

LINKEDIN (Mahdi Jasim Ghuloom)

PERSONAL WEBSITE (www.mahdi.bh)

*5+ years of research experience between government, consultancy, and think tank sectors in the Gulf.
My research output and interviews are collated on both LinkedIn and my personal website.*

FULL-TIME WORK EXPERIENCE

Observer Research Foundation (ORF) – Middle East (Dubai, United Arab Emirates)

Jr. Fellow, Geopolitics

February 2025 – Present

- Publishing research and analysis on Gulf States' economic competition, political institutions, and diplomacy
- Coordinating external communications and providing commentary to media outlets and think tanks

Le Beck International (Manama, Bahrain)

Regional Security Analyst

January 2024 – January 2025

- Produced analytical reports for clients on developing risks in the Middle East and North Africa
- Commentated for news outlets

Bahrain Economic Development Board (Manama, Bahrain)

Jr. Executive, Research

February 2023 – January 2024

- Created evidence-based value propositions to attract investors
- Benchmarked Bahrain against key comparative countries to inform the investment promotion strategy
- Represented the organization to nudge local companies to support elements of the investment promotion strategy

Bahrain Prime Minister's Office (Manama, Bahrain)

Sr. Research Specialist, Advisory

November 2022 – February 2023

- Supported the advisor on drafting proposals for government initiatives
- Liaised with potential vendors for proposals on the initiatives drafted by the team

Bahrain Economic Development Board (Manama, Bahrain)

Jr. Executive, Market & Strategy Intelligence

February 2021 – October 2022

- Analyzed markets for the Business Development team and presented to them on trending subsectors

ACADEMIC QUALIFICATIONS

University of Oxford (Oxford, United Kingdom)

MSt Practical Ethics (Part-time)

September 2023 – January 2026

- Grade: Pass
- Activities: St Cross College Careers Representative (2023-24); Course Representative (2023-24)
- Dissertation: Arming Authoritarians? – A Moral Evaluation

University of Exeter (Exeter, United Kingdom)

MSc Policy Analytics (Full-time)

September 2019 – March 2021

- Grade: Distinction
- Awards: Full Scholarship from the College of Social Sciences and International Studies
- Dissertation: A Policy Analysis of Financial Regulations, Inclusion and Cash Preferences

University of Essex (Colchester, United Kingdom)

BSc Economics and Politics (Full-time)

September 2015 – July 2019

- Grade: First Class Honours (1:1)

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Nationality: Bahraini | **Residence:** Dubai, UAE

- Awards: Exceptional Services to Societies Award; Dean's List of Excellence
- Activities: Committee Leader, Politics, Human Rights and Humanist Societies (2016-19); Social Sciences Faculty Convenor (2017-2018); Presenter/Discussant, Government Student Conference (2017, 2018); International Students' Representative to NUS (2015-16); Course Representative (2015-16)
- Dissertation: Government Grants, Professional Investors, and Social Entrepreneurship: Drivers of Success? A Survey Experiment on Equity-based Crowdfunding – with an excerpt published

INTERNSHIPS

Le Beck International (Manama, Bahrain)

Regional Security Analyst Intern

July 2019 – December 2019

- Contributed to analytical reports assessing significant geopolitical developments in the MENA region

Bahrain Economic Development Board (Manama, Bahrain)

Financial Services – Business Development Intern

July 2018 – August 2018

- Wrote a policy paper benchmarking the national crowdfunding regulatory environment and market with those of several countries and presented successful recommendations subsequently taken to the Central Bank of Bahrain to amend the crowdfunding regulations and strengthen the competitiveness of the financial technology sector

Arab Banking Corporation – Bank ABC (Manama, Bahrain)

Treasury Operations Intern

July 2016 – August 2016

- Organized files, conducted administrative tasks, and reviewed dealings in Foreign Exchange and Money Markets

VOLUNTEERING

Global Shapers Community (Manama, Bahrain)

Manama Hub Member

November 2021 – November 2024

- Vice Curator (2024); Supporting Member of the Skills Committee (2022-2024); Committee Manager of the External Relations and Business Development Committee (2022-2023); Member of the Equity and Inclusion Committee (2021-2022)

Esports Majlis (Manama, Bahrain)

Sr. Economic Researcher Specialist

April 2024 – October 2024

- Conducted strategic and economic research for a not-for-profit campaign aimed at promoting the culture of communication, and curiosity through eSports in Bahrain

OTHER

I. Languages: Native Arabic; Fluent English (IELTS 8.5/9); Conversational Farsi/Persian (Bahraini Dialect)

II. Program Participations:

- Fiker Institute Working Group on Gulf Foreign Policy (2026)
- International Institute for Strategic Studies (IISS) Manama Dialogue Young Leaders' Programme (2025)
- Konrad Adenauer Stiftung (KAS) GCC-German Young Leaders' Forum (2025)
- International Republication Institute (IRI) Bahrain Programme (2024)
- U.S. International Visitor Leadership Programme (IVLP) (2023)
- Bahrain HiPO Youth Programme with the Institute of Public Administration (2022)
- Bahrain Future Bet Programme with the Institute of Political Development (2021)
- Social Dialogue Facilitation Programme with the Bahrain Foundation for Dialogue (2017)