

Autism Research in the GCC: A Scoping Review

Public project record

GARC-RR-2026-002

Global Autism Research Center (GARC) | A specialized research center within GRS Group

Publication note: Status: In Development / Open for Collaboration. Candidate records are not treated as final included studies until formal screening is completed.

Overview

Autism research has expanded across the Gulf region, but the evidence is distributed across countries, institutions, clinical settings, educational systems and research disciplines. GARC is developing a structured scoping review to map the breadth, distribution and characteristics of autism research produced across GCC countries.

Primary research question

What is the scope, distribution, thematic focus and methodological profile of autism research conducted across GCC countries during the defined review period?

Geographic scope

Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates.

Methodological approach

A structured scoping review using transparent search, screening, data-charting and evidence-mapping workflows. Final inclusion decisions and reported findings will only be presented after the formal review process is completed.

Current stage

Project protocol, executable search strategy, screening decision framework, extraction structure, PRISMA tracking structure and a preliminary candidate evidence corpus have been prepared.

Objectives

- Map research output across the six GCC countries.
- Identify major research themes and populations studied.
- Describe study designs and methodological approaches.
- Examine institutional and cross-country research patterns.
- Identify areas requiring deeper evidence assessment or future research.
- Create a transparent evidence base to inform later GCC research-priority work.

Collaboration opportunities

- Research Lead / Senior Reviewer
- Second Reviewer
- Research Associate
- Evidence Synthesis Contributor
- GCC Country Specialist
- Scientific Reviewer

Expected outputs

- GARC Research Review
- GCC autism evidence map
- Country comparison tables
- Thematic and methodological maps
- Institutional and researcher landscape
- Research-priority evidence input

Collaboration note: An expression of interest does not constitute appointment, employment, authorship entitlement, membership, partnership or formal affiliation.