

Questionnaire Instructions

The questionnaire below includes some of the most asked questions for Worldcon/SMOFcons and bids. Please email the completed answers to info@smofcon38.ca by **Sunday, 22 November, 2020**. The completed questionnaires will be posted on the Smofcon 37 ¼ website (<https://sites.grenadine.co/sites/conzealand/en/skofcon-37-14>) by **Tuesday, 1 December, 2020**.

Please answer all the questions *in line* below. If a question doesn't apply to your bid, please state: N/A.

If the answer won't be known until some future date, please provide an estimate of when you will be able to provide an answer. For example, for the question about room rates you might answer "These are expected to be agreed by [date]. Current internet rates are X per night room only for a double or twin and Y for single occupancy."

QUESTIONNAIRE

General

Name of Bid

JeddiCon

What dates are you bidding for?

2026 (still working out exact dates)

What is your proposed convention host city? Is your convention site in a city center location or a suburb? If a suburb, what are the transport options into the city centre? How far is the site from the city centre?

King Faisal Conference Center @ King Abdulaziz University (<https://goo.gl/maps/SRCX49C2s6YPGkvm6>), let us say it is more closer to the city center (about 10 min drive to the city center)

What are your main facilities? How far are your hotels from your main venue?

King Faisal Conference Center has a large auditorium and a couple of smaller ones, in addition to 6 meeting rooms. Additionally we will be utilizing one of the lecture buildings near the center as well as the Sports tent where we plan to hold the exhibitions and tables.

Who is your bid chair? Who is on your committee? What experience do they have in general? In running Worldcons?

Yasser M. Bahjatt is the Master of The Order. The Jeddi High Council includes Ahmad Sabbagh, Mohammed Albakri, Tamim Kashgari & Thamer Alturaif. They are all have long experience in their professional fields (HR, Data analysis, management consulting, event management, finance, eSports, publishing, etc.)

If known, who will be the chair of the convention? What experience do they have?

Yasser M. Bahjatt will continue as Master of the Order, he is a serial entrepreneur, Co-Founder of Yatakhayaloon (a publishing house focused on Arabian fiction), author of “Yaqteenya: The Old World” the first ever Arabian alternate history, Co-Author of the English editions of the Arabian best sellers: HWJN, Somewhere & Binyameen. He has 15+ years experience in running large scale eSports events across multiple countries with volunteer crews. He is also a long standing member of the TED community, was the first to translate TED talks to Arabic and organized/co-organized several TEDx events in Saudi Arabia.

Have you agreed to participate in Pass-Along Funds? Would you be willing to increase the percentage from 50% to 70% of surplus?

We are still not sure about the legality and requirements under Saudi law to do so, but if it is allowed we will for sure.

Travel

What is the typical current airfare to your closest airport from world cities such as London, Boston, Los Angeles, Tokyo, Melbourne, etc.?

City	Cost USD	Stops	Trip Time
Boston	1,400	1	15:40
Chicago	1,400	1	18:40
Los Angeles	1,500	0	15:20
New York	1,300	0	11:40
Dublin	900	1	12:20
London	750	0	06:00

Washington	1,300	0	11:50
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Do international flights, as well as domestic, fly into your local airport? Which airlines? If not, where is the closest international airport? Are direct flights from the cities above flown into your local airport?

King Abdulaziz International (JED) is an international airport with over 100 direct destinations, you can see a full list of direct flights here <https://www.flightsfrom.com/JED/destinations>

How far is your convention site from the nearest airport/train station and what is the likely cost of getting to the hotels by both public transport and taxi from that airport/train station?

King Abdulaziz International (JED) is about 30 min by taxi for about 20 USD or 10 min by train for about 10 USD

Facilities

What hotel(s) are being used for the convention? How many rooms, what type, do they accommodate accessibility needs, etc.?

There are several hotels near the convention center, we are currently working to get deals for some of them.

What are your hotel room rates? Do these rates include breakfast? Do they include internet access in the room? How firm are these rates? What additional taxes and fees are there?

Rates will be negotiated closer to the event, if the bid is successful. But we expect a double occupancy room to run between 100-150 USD per night

What does parking cost at your main hotels?

Free

What is the distance from the nearest door of your main hotel(s) to the closest entrance of the convention site? What are the transportation options for those who prefer not to walk or who have mobility difficulties?

Walking is not really an option ATM, however we will be providing shuttle service between the venue and the hotels. It would take about 5min.

Where will your large events (i.e. Hugo Ceremony and Masquerade) be held?

The main auditorium of King Faisal Conference Center

Please describe the restaurant scene near your site.

The entire street the venue is on is lined with all sorts of restaurants and food options. Additionally there are two malls with food courts near the main hotels we are working with.

What arrangements will be made for evening socialising and party space? Do you have a corkage waiver?

We will be reserving some of the ball rooms at the hotels for those who want to have parties, We will be allowed to bring our own food and drinks, however alcohol is not allowed anywhere in Saudi.

Please describe the policies / laws regarding smoking in your hotel(s), convention centre, and city.

Smoking is illegal in doors across Saudi.

Given the current pandemic, have you considered any arrangements have been made for social distancing and the health and safety of members? If you have, can you describe what your current plans are?

Given that our event is in 2026, we will wait and see how things progress until then.

Miscellaneous

What type of weather can we expect during your convention? What is the average temperature during that time of year?

We expect the temp to be between 32-45 C.

What are some of the main tourist attractions of your city?

Diving in the Red Sea & Desert trails

Are you planning to have any membership discounts for certain demographic groups, such as young adults, military, or seniors?

We are planning to have discounts for Students.

What is your vision for your Worldcon? How do you plan to make it happen?

What is a notable aspect of your local fan culture and how do you plan to incorporate it into your Worldcon?

We have very strong fandom for Western and Eastern SciFi, we will do our best to show the

diverse nature of our culture and make sure we properly represent the "World" in Worldcon

Do you have a code of conduct? If so, is it available online and if so, where?

Not yet.

What do diversity and inclusion mean to you?

To hear the voices of all cultures from all over the globe.

How are you working towards your goals in these areas?

We are planning to have our GoH come for all over the planet (Arab, West, East, etc.)

What would concrete achievements look like in these areas?

What changes or challenges do you expect the current pandemic to present?

Have you planned for a virtual component to your convention?

Our plan includes a convention that is a full hybrid where all activities will have an online presence. We will live stream all our sessions (at least in audio if we cant do full video). In addition to live streaming live interpretations in English and Arabic (and if we can get more volunteers in other languages). We will have live video feeds and tables from all public spaces so that the live community can easily interact with the online one.

Your members vote for Hugo Finalists who are then excited and wish to play a full part in the convention programme. How do you plan to facilitate the Finalists input as recognised by your community?

We are planning on setting up tables in public spaces where finalists can interact with the Worldcon's community as well as insuring each finalist will be given the opportunity to participate in at least one program item