

JOB DESCRIPTION

Research Assistant: Housing and Informality

About Us

The Indian Institute for Human Settlements (IIHS) is a national education institution committed to the equitable, sustainable and efficient transformation of Indian settlements.

IIHS aims to establish an independently funded and managed national university for research and innovation focused on the challenges and opportunities of India's urban transition. The proposed IIHS University will host an integrated programme of quality campus-based education and research, training and lifelong learning for working professionals, distance and blended learning, as well as a whole array of practice and advisory services. The university will have a strong interdisciplinary orientation bringing together theory and praxis that is grounded in the South Asian context and also engages with and draws from knowledge across the globe.

For more information, please see <http://www.iihs.co.in>

Job Description

The Research Assistant – Housing & Informality will be housed in the Academics and Research programme at IIHS. The position will support research and practice on housing at IIHS. Specifically, the Research Assistant position will help anchor research on housing and informality as part of a three-year research project to understand incremental housing, its relationship with formal planning and regulation, and its role in shaping Indian cities. The research requires immersive, long-term ethnographic work in informal settlements in Delhi, Bangalore and Hyderabad, with strong writing outputs at the end. It will offer an opportunity for deeply grounded fieldwork as well as conceptual reflection and writing for the candidate in issues of housing, informality, southern urbanism, and urban and planning theory.

Apart from this primary research, the position is expected to be involved in the full range of activities at IIHS. The candidate will thus also be expected to be part of IIHS' teaching programmes, its public conferences and convenings, as well as its capacity building programmes through executive education and short courses.

Structure and Reporting

The Research Assistant – Housing and Informality will report to the Lead - Academics and Research at IIHS.

Person Specification

Applicants should hold at least a Master's degree in a relevant field (urban studies, planning, anthropology, sociology, development studies, among others), with proven research histories. More importantly, applicants must have experience in being part of previous ethnographic or qualitative research projects and be capable of independent field work. Publications would be a strong additional feature of any application.

Knowledge of English and either Hindi, Kannada, Tamil, or Telugu is essential and needs to be at a level of fluency in writing and speaking for both languages.

This offer is on an exclusive basis, which implies that other professional assignments (whether compensated or not) that bear a potential conflict of interest with IIHS cannot be undertaken.

The search will remain open until the position is filled.

Location

This is a paid position with a competitive salary, located in Bengaluru. However, the position involves travel and possible long-term presence for field work in New Delhi and/or Hyderabad, and possibly a third site.

Review and Assessment

The role and performance of the incumbent shall be subject to normal review and assessment systems at IIHS.

Diversity Policy

IIHS is an equal opportunity employer that encourages women, people with disabilities and those from economically and socially excluded communities with the requisite skills and qualifications to apply for positions.

Contact

Please email an updated resume, along with a cover letter addressing how you meet the above requirements, to hr@iihs.co.in (*Subject: Research Assistant – Housing and Informality*).



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