

The logo for the Indian Institute for Human Settlements (iihs) is located in the top left corner. It consists of the lowercase letters 'iihs' in a white, sans-serif font, with a registered trademark symbol (®) to its upper right. The logo is set against a dark red rectangular background.

iihs®

INDIAN INSTITUTE FOR
HUMAN SETTLEMENTS

JOB DESCRIPTION

Research Associate - Urban Observatory

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 of eminence for research and innovation focused on the challenges and opportunities of India's urban transition. The proposed IIHS University will be an institution of eminence that 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>

IIHS seeks Research Associates to join its vibrant intellectual environment within the Academics and Research programme. IIHS is increasingly recognised in India and internationally as a significant node in urban research and practice on the global South. Its promotion of inter-disciplinary pedagogy, on-the-ground learning, an excellent library on various aspects of the urban, and a convivial place for research make it an ideal location for scholarship.

This call is associated with the PEAK (Prediction and projection, Emergent urbanism, Adopted knowledge, Knowledge exchange) consortium, funded by the Global Challenges Research Fund (GCRF), UK.

About the PEAK project

Led by the University of Oxford, and in partnership with IIHS, Peking University and the University of Cape Town, the PEAK consortium has identified four overarching themes of urban dynamics - Prediction, Emergence, Adoption and Knowledge. Researchers will work across natural sciences (including mathematics, medicine, transport and engineering), the social sciences (including anthropology, development, migration) and humanities (including law, history). The PEAK framework synthesises traditional urban studies disciplines with emergent new urban sciences in a programme of research and capacity building across the humanities, social sciences and natural sciences. PEAK is grounded in the logic of urban complexity to develop an array of disciplinary perspectives that will address the challenges of the 21st century city. More details on the PEAK consortium are available here:

<http://gtr.rcuk.ac.uk/projects?ref=ES/P011055/1>

The focus of the PEAK project is particularly on developing a new cohort of interdisciplinary urban researchers, and therefore offers multiple opportunities for young scholars to develop research, teaching, and writing skills. Opportunities exist for individual scholarship, collaborative work with scholars at partner institutions including the University of Oxford and the University of Cape Town, as well as potential travel to partner institutions through summer schools and internships.

Job Description

IIHS seeks applications for a Research Associate to join an initiative to develop an observatory on Bengaluru city. This will be developed as part of a 4-year research project focusing on the economy, infrastructure, public health, energy, land, and spatial modeling. The urban observatory aims to collect various layers of quantitative and spatial data at the city scale, and develop an interactive online platform through which these can be made available to researchers and practitioners working on Bengaluru city.

We seek a person who is interested in urban data and its applications, and has expertise either in data science, database architecture, or in data design and communication. Ideal candidates will be able to experiment and come up with new ideas about developing or exploiting novel data sources. Candidates should come with a familiarity with existing public data sources at the national scale such as the Census, the National Sample Surveys, the National Family Health Survey, as well as data at the city scale such as those regarding infrastructure use and access, land use and property or housing prices, the master plan, etc.

The Research Associate will be part of the process of building the Bengaluru Urban Observatory. They will also have an opportunity to design and implement primary data collection through surveys as part of the project.

Activities and Tasks

Responsibilities would include, but not be limited to, the following:

- Assisting with all tasks related to establishing the Bengaluru Urban Observatory;
- Carrying out a study of existing city observatories across the world;
- Collating existing secondary datasets as well as building new datasets (both quantitative and spatial) related to the themes of the project;
- Assisting with the design of primary data collection instruments (both qualitative and quantitative) as part of the project;
- Developing an online tool to disseminate the data to a wide range of audiences;
- Communicating insights from the Bengaluru Urban Observatory across a range of different mediums, such as blogs and op-eds, as well as academic writing such as reports or journal papers;
- Involvement with other related research and practice projects at the Urban Informatics Lab at IIHS;
- Providing support to other IIHS activities including academics, research, training, practice and operations;
- Participating in all activities of Institution-building at IIHS; carrying out tasks as assigned by IIHS; and travelling on IIHS work within or outside the country as needed.

Structure and Reporting

The Research Associate will report to the Senior Consultant – Academics & Research and will be a part of the Urban Informatics Lab at IIHS. They will be required to collaborate effectively with a diverse group of internal teams and external individuals/organisations, and students.

Person Specification

Applicants should have:

- A Master's degree (or higher) in a relevant field such as (but not limited) to data science or informatics, information science, mathematics, statistics, urban planning, public policy, or GIS;
- 3-5 years of work experience on urban data science, urban informatics, mathematics or statistics;
- Expertise in mathematics, statistics, or econometrics;
- Proficiency in Excel / Stata / R;
- Knowledge of GIS or experience working with spatial datasets;
- Experience working with database design / architecture, or data design and communication;
- Familiarity with existing public data sources at the national scale such as the Census, the National Sample Surveys, the National Family Health Survey, as well as data at the city scale such as those regarding infrastructure use and access, land use and property or housing prices, the master plan, etc.;
- An interest in experimenting with or developing new methods as well as building new empirical evidence to study Indian cities.

This is a contractual position for an initial term of 11 months, renewable on mutual consent. 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 position is based in Bengaluru and may entail travel to other locations in India.

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.

To apply

If you are interested to explore this opportunity with us, please fill the online application form by clicking [here](#). (You can also click on the "Apply Now" button at the end of the Job Description displayed on the website).

Contact

Please write to us at hr@iihs.co.in if you need any clarifications while filling the online application form.



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