

The logo for the Indian Institute for Human Settlements (IIHS) features the lowercase letters 'iihs' in a white, sans-serif font, with a registered trademark symbol (®) to the upper right. The text is set against a dark red rectangular background.

INDIAN INSTITUTE FOR  
HUMAN SETTLEMENTS

**The IIHS Post-Doctoral Programme**

# A Call for Fellows

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Post-Doctoral Fellow / Senior Research Associate in Land  
Economy & Urban Finance

## **The IIHS Post-Doctoral Programme**

IIHS seeks Post-Doctoral Fellows / Senior Research Associates to join its vibrant intellectual environment within the Academics and Research programme. IIHS is increasingly recognized 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.

Post-Doctoral Fellowships / Senior Research Associates at IIHS typically have one or two-year terms, and some may be extendable. While Fellows are hired institutionally at IIHS, each is hired into a specific and on-going research-based project, which will be the Fellow's first home within IIHS.

Project-related research will account for up to half of the Fellow's time, though this can vary for different projects. The remaining time is equally split between the Fellow's own research and writing as well as their participation in IIHS institutional roles. These roles include: teaching in on-going academic or capacity building programmes, participating in the internal conference and seminar series, and supporting institutional processes.

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.

### **Post-Doctoral Fellow / Senior Research Associate in Land Economy & Urban Finance**

India's cities and their regions are made up of complex economic relationships and produce a diverse range of spatial and social economic outcomes. The relationships, spaces and outcomes visible in India's cities, are often difficult to understand using mainstream economic

theories and concepts, which draw on Euro- American development experiences. A key factor structuring the complexity of urban economies is the question of land - and the diversity of social, economic and financial relations that depend on land, land value and land use. Land has increasingly emerged as a key issue structuring urban finance, municipal autonomy and external investments into cities in India.

As a part of GCRF- PEAK, IIHS is beginning a 4- year research project to understand the urban economy in Indian cities, from the perspective of land (and real estate). As a part of this research project we are looking for a person whose research interests align with questions of land economy and urban finance. Preference will be given to candidates who are familiar with/have worked on questions of land development, land markets, land governance, land based financing and/ or the varied nature of economic relations to land in Indian cities. Candidates with either research and/ or practice based experience in urban land economy and/ or urban real estate are welcome to apply.

The project seeks to develop theoretical and conceptual frames to understand the urban land economy appropriate for urban and periurban areas in India. These frames would be informed by structures and dynamics of land & real estate markets, practices of formality/ informality and governance, prevailing here. The project will draw on both qualitative and quantitative methods. The larger objective of the research project is to understand, analyse and theorise the underlying land relations and value relations in different urban land use and development scenarios.

The Post-Doctoral Fellow / Senior Research Associate will play a central role in developing the conceptual and methodological perspectives for the research project. There will be opportunities for pursuing existing and individual work as well as generating new research opportunities within these themes. Fieldwork is envisaged primarily in the Bengaluru region.

In terms of scope and approach, the project will be developed through a set of cases, located primarily in the Bengaluru region. It is proposed that the cases would draw upon a number of land development and land use change experiences in the city. The key focus would be to research examples where different propositions of land value, different land value capture instruments and different economic relationships to land have shaped public-private collaborations, conflicts, negotiations and partnerships in the city- region. The cases could include (but not be limited to) (1) land-based municipal/ urban financing, (2) public-private partnerships in urban and periurban township and infrastructure projects, (3) land value capture instruments (4) land based financing initiatives, (5) real estate investment-led urban financing mechanisms, (6) housing and slum redevelopment initiatives, based on land sharing, (7) land use conversions, planning conversions and levies, including cases such as Akrama Sakrama, (8) municipal credit rating initiatives linked to municipal real estate assets, etc.

The Post-Doctoral Fellow / Senior Research Associate will be part of the process of expanding ongoing research at IIHS on land, land economy, urban financing and metropolitan governance.

**Field work**

This position is based in Bengaluru, with travel for fieldwork. This is a one-year position, extendable.

**Qualifications**

Applicants should hold a PhD degree, with research interests in urban land and real estate sectors (including urban finance), in a relevant field such as (but not limited to) urban economics, land economics, real estate studies, economic geography, urban planning, urban policy, urban studies, public finance, development studies, public policy studies, public management, economic sociology, among others. Candidates with relevant Master's or M.Phil. degrees with commensurate practice experience (5-8 years) and candidates who are currently pursuing a PhD will also be considered.

Ideal applicants will have experience of leading practice and/ or research projects in Indian cities.

Candidates with a proven research and publication record in or across urban governance and finance, urban economics, land economics, urban and regional economic development, economic geography, urban studies, public policy, public finance, and at least one publication in a noted peer-reviewed academic journal, would be given preference.

Working knowledge of Kannada would be an advantage.

**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](mailto:hr@iihs.co.in) if you need any clarifications while filling the online application form.

**Note**

All offers are 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.



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