

Job Title: Pre-Doctoral Fellow (Research Associate/Senior Research Associate Equivalent)

Reports to: Dr. Shagata Mukherjee (Academic Lead, Behavioural Insights Unit of India, NITI Aayog and Deputy Director, Centre for Social and Behaviour Change, Ashoka University)

Location: Applicants should be authorized to work in India. The position is based out of New Delhi, and the successful candidate should be willing to relocate to New Delhi. Candidates will need to have their own laptops.

Experience (in years): Ideal candidates are pre-doctoral candidates with 1-5 years of research experience, but fresh graduates are also welcome to apply

Nature of work: Full-Time position for 2 years beginning August 2023

About Ashoka University:

10 years ago, we embarked on a journey to establish a world-class, multi-disciplinary, liberal arts and sciences university in India. Built on the finest global best practices of institution and university governance, Ashoka has truly transformed Indian higher education in India with its unique pedagogy, governance and best practices.

Ashoka is today India's #1 liberal arts and sciences university that is home to the most diverse student body, a hub for impactful research and a magnet for best-in-class faculty and staff.

Ashoka has been ranked in the top five among private Universities in India by QS Asia and has also secured top rank among all Indian Universities in the 'International Faculty' indicator. The University was earlier awarded Diamond rating by QS I.GAUGE as a recognition of its continuous focus on academic rigour, inter-disciplinary pedagogy, world-class faculty, academic research, innovative modules of engagement with the community and teaching methods.

For further information, visit www.ashoka.edu.in.

We aim to co-create a nurturing space for our students, faculty, staff, donors and community positively through universal values:

- **Be Mission-Driven**
- **Think Strategically**
- **Act Authentically**
- **Take Accountability**
- **Build Collaboration**
- **Deliver Excellence**

About Department/Centre:

Centre for Social and Behaviour Change (CSBC) is a leading Indian behaviour science institution, driving behavioural change measures for people and communities in need. CSBC advances the science and practice of behaviour change, harnessing cross-disciplinary expertise in the areas of nutrition, sanitation, maternal health, family planning, and financial services. The Centre executes this vision through behavioural

change programmes, foundational research, and capability building. For more information, please visit <https://csbc.org.in/>

Behavioural Insights Unit of India, NITI Aayog: To introduce a novel paradigm of behaviourally informed policy design and implementation in India, NITI Aayog partnered with the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF) and Centre for Social and Behaviour Change (CSBC) in 2019 for instituting the Behavioural Insights Unit of India (BIU). The BIU is a vibrant team of individuals from research and policy backgrounds.

Role and Responsibilities:

- Conduct literature reviews to deepen understanding of prior work and research methodologies, while applying behavioural lens to draw out insights
- Support on-ground field research including (but not limited to) preparation of interview questions, recruitment of interview subjects, and maintaining accurate records of interviews, safeguarding the confidentiality of subjects, as necessary
- Lead field data collection and empirical analysis using STATA
- Ensure alignment with developed research protocols and conduct regular quality control checks during the data collection phase
- Conduct interviews and focus group discussions with target stakeholders, government and non-government organisations representatives.
- Assist in drafting reports, academic papers, creating presentations and other products and providing project management support - including preparing materials for submission to granting agencies and foundations, management of stakeholders, attendance of meetings and seminars.
- Assist on other relevant tasks as and when required

Eligibility:

This is an exciting opportunity for anyone interested in development economics and behavioural science looking to develop top-level research and data skills. Candidates should be deeply interested in academic research and should have a clear ambition to pursue a Ph.D. or other graduate level course from a top university in the future. An ideal candidate would be:

- Recently finished or currently finishing their Bachelor's/Master's degree OR already enrolled in a Ph.D. program but can work full-time
- A strong research background. Research work samples are a plus.
- Experience with data coding and econometric analysis using STATA
- Excellent communication and writing skills in English.
- Willingness to travel, as required, for field work

Education Qualification:

Bachelor's or Master's degree in economics, development economics, behavioural economics, statistics or any other related field

Competencies and Skill Sets:

- Prior experience with literature reviews and quantitative research projects
- Proficient in managing datasets and conducting econometric

analysis on STATA

- Ability to manage and respond to varied tasks quickly and efficiently with high analytical and problem-solving abilities.
- Strong verbal and written communications skills in English- able to manage various stakeholders and develop strong research documents, articles and briefs.
- An understanding of experimental research methods and ability to code experiments on Z-tree, O-tree or other softwares would be an advantage
- Fluency in English, along with conversational skills in Hindi is desirable

Last Date for Application:

Applicants will be considered on a rolling basis. We recommend that you apply early, as applications will be processed as they are received.

Application Submission Process

Please submit your application to at careersatcsbc@ashoka.edu.in and to csbc-niti-biu@ashoka.edu.in , with the subject line – <PreDoc_CSBC NITI BIU_Applicant Name>. Your application must include:

- The name of the position you are applying for (in the subject line).
- A one-page cover letter highlighting relevant experience in STATA and an updated CV. Please combine both documents into one PDF attachment.
- An academic writing sample such as a term paper, dissertation, past research project, etc.
- If you were referred by or have already spoken to someone at CSBC, kindly mention their name.
- Kindly ensure that, where applicable, the application includes the last compensation received, expected salary, and earliest joining date.

Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted.

Ashoka is an equal opportunities employer. Remuneration will be competitive with Indian non-profit pay scales and will depend upon the candidate's experience levels and the overall organization's salary structure.