

Research Assistant (Contract) – 1 Post

The project on “Artificial Intelligence framework for threat assessment and containment for COVID-19”, University of Peradeniya

Salary: Rs. 100,000.00 per month

Contract Type: The post is full time, available immediately and is fixed term initially for 3 months with a high possibility of extending up to 6 months

We seek to recruit highly motivated, enthusiastic, energetic, and dynamic Research Assistants with proven intellectual and technical ability to conduct independent research activities. Having postgraduate qualification and training experience will be an advantage. Please apply with your CV and an additional document highlighting expertise, competence, skills, and research experience listed for your post.

You may email your application to Prof. J.B. Ekanayake (ekamayakej@eng.pdn.ac.lk).

Closing date of this call is 07/01/2023, 5 pm

The scope of Work:

A team of researchers from the University of Peradeniya and Institute of Policy Studies won a research grant from the International Development Research Centre of Canada. The main objectives of this research grant are:

- A. Development and use of artificial intelligence (AI) techniques to detect, model, and predict the behaviour of women, children, and underprivileged groups under COVID-19 pandemic containment strategies.
- B. Understanding of the impact of these strategies initiated in Sri Lanka.
- C. Development of AI based solutions, to predict and manage a future spread of COVID or similar infectious disease outbreaks.

The specific roles expected are:

- To analyse quantitative and qualitative data to identify barriers, stigma and discrimination of women, children, and underprivileged groups from COVID 19 pandemic containment strategies
- To assist with the preparation of progress reports on research for funding bodies as required.
- To liaise as required with relevant stakeholders on matters relating to the research programme.
- To assist conducting different meetings and workshops as specified in the research proposal.

The essential skills and qualification required are:

- Prior experience in data collection and data analysis in research projects
- Experience in using statistical packages like STATA and SPSS
- BA: Social Science, BCoM, BSc, BEd degree holder

Other common Expertise/Competence/Skills required:

- Excellent written and verbal communication skills
- Experienced at working in a collaborative and productive research environment
- Demonstrated contribution to publications or reports
- Demonstrated commitment to high quality research

Some of the other duties expected:

- To prepare and present findings of research activity to colleagues for review purposes.
- To prepare publications and research presentations with guidance and advice.

- To attend and present research at groups, meetings and conferences as appropriate.
- To help the research team in the project management activities
- To carry out any other duties as are within the scope, spirit and purpose of the job as requested by the Principal Investigator.

For informal enquiries about the post, please contact Prof. J.B. Ekanayake (ekanayakej@eng.pdn.ac.lk).