Job Title: Senior Research Associate, Artificial Intelligence
Reports to: Head, Koita Centre for Digital Health- Ashoka University (KCDH-A)
Area of Expertise: Artificial Intelligence (AI) in Health
Location: On-site at Ashoka University, New Delhi, with hybrid work options available

About Ashoka University:

Ashoka University -India's premier interdisciplinary teaching and research university. An institution that has become a beacon of academic excellence in less than 10 years since its inception. At Ashoka, we encourage you to embrace the new, push the boundaries for continuous learning, and adapt to a world of constant change. Because we believe that each Ashokan is capable of becoming a thought leader.

As part of our thriving and committed workforce, you will:

Be Mission-Driven: Champion interdisciplinary learning, innovative pedagogy, and academic rigor to transform Indian higher education.

Think Strategically: Collaborate with visionary minds to shape the future of higher education through strategic planning and a forward-thinking approach.

Act Authentically: Embrace authenticity and integrity, fostering an inclusive and supportive environment where every voice is valued.

Take Accountability: Own your work and drive positive change, as an empowering individual seeking to make a meaningful contribution.

Build Collaboration: Experience the power of teamwork and diverse perspectives, working collectively towards our shared goals.

Deliver Excellence: Strive for excellence in all aspects, upholding the highest standards of academic excellence, student support, and professional development opportunities.

At Ashoka University, we are on a mission to redefine higher education and create a remarkable space where innovation and collaboration thrive. As a **pioneering force in interdisciplinary learning**, we **continually grow and adapt** to stay at the forefront of educational excellence with emphasis on inclusivity and equal opportunity. Our philosophy revolves around **care, well-being, and connection**, which are deeply embedded in everything we do.

When you join our community, you become part of an extraordinary journey in which you can unleash your potential and make a meaningful impact. Where education empowers, where innovation thrives, and where excellence and humility coexist. We truly believe the world will enrich itself when there is progress with purpose.

About KCDH-A:

Koita Centre for Digital Health at Ashoka (KCDH-A) is an interdisciplinary Centre, offering robust academic and research programmes aimed at advancing and developing a fresh perspective on Digital Health. It will focus on the convergence of healthcare, genomics, information technology, and artificial intelligence revolutions. KCDH-A aspires to nurture a new generation of Digital Health thinkers, innovators, and implementers through a balanced emphasis on education and research.
The Centre will offer strong academic programmes in digital health & informatics, drive research in next generation digital health tools & solutions and create strong executive education in digital health.
KCDH-A is a joint centre of the Trivedi School of Biosciences and the Department of Computer Science at Ashoka University, established with support from Koita Foundation, a philanthropic organisation with a mission to accelerate Digital Health adoption in India.

Background

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is transforming healthcare by enabling innovative solutions that enhance health system efficiency, service delivery, and patient outcomes. AI technologies have the potential to optimize diagnostics, treatment planning, and health system management, ultimately contributing to the achievement of Universal Health Coverage (UHC) and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

In the South-East Asia Region, there is increasing recognition of AI's role in healthcare transformation. However, strategic planning, ethical considerations, and robust governance frameworks are essential to ensure AI's responsible and equitable implementation.

The KCDH-A is collaborating with the WHO South-East Asia Regional Office (WHO-SEARO) Digital Health Technical Unit to advance AI adoption in health. A key focus of this collaboration is developing a South-East Asia Regional Strategy on Artificial Intelligence for Health and developing national strategies for AI in health for member states. This initiative aims to guide countries in leveraging AI while upholding ethical principles, inclusivity, safety, data security, and human rights.

Educational Qualification:

Essential:

- Master's degree in data science, public health, computer science, engineering, mathematics, law, or a related field with 5+ years of combined education and experience in health and technology development/application

Desirable:

- Additional degree or specialized training in artificial intelligence, data science, or health informatics.

Experience (in years):

Essential:
- At least 7 years of experience working on AI projects or delivering data science applications in health services.
- Experience in developing conceptual frameworks, policy proposals, or strategic plans for AI and data science.
- Direct experience in advising on the technical implementation of AI and data science in health systems.
- Experience in having supported the development, testing, launch, or actual scale-up of any AI-based technology. Experience in technology assessment and product development is an advantage.
- Collaborative track record of partnering with governments, Ministries of Health, NGOs, academic institutions, and global funders, particularly in the Global South, including playing a technical advisory role.
- Demonstrated program or project management expertise: from workplan concept development through Implementation, with strong organizational and prioritization skills.
- Attention to detail including the ability to scrutinize budgets against work plans and deliverables.
- A demonstrated understanding of AI at a conceptual level.

Desirable:

- Experience in research-to-policy engagements, and facilitation of AI strategies in health

Skills and Knowledge:

- Proven expertise in designing and implementing AI initiatives in health.
- Strong knowledge of AI applications for public health innovation and health system strengthening.

- Experience in digital transformation and health policy development at the national level.
- Ability to provide sound policy and technical advice on AI in health to institutions and governments.
- Familiarity with project management methodologies, process reengineering, and innovation frameworks.
- Proficiency in standard office productivity tools (text processing, spreadsheets, presentations).
- Strong ability to work in a dynamic, multidisciplinary, and international environment.
- Emotional intelligence and the ability to manage stakeholder relationships effectively.

Language Requirements:

- Proficiency in English (reading, writing, and speaking) at an advanced level.

Nature of work:

Under the supervision of the designated lead at the KCDH-A and in close collaboration with WHO-SEARO's Digital Health Technical Unit, the Senior Research Associate for AI will undertake the following responsibilities:

- Support the development of the South-East Asia Regional Strategy on Artificial Intelligence for Health.
- Develop policies and guidelines for the ethical and responsible use of AI in health, ensuring alignment with WHO's strategic objectives and global guidance.
- Provide expert technical advice and leadership on program objectives, execution options, and implementation plans for AI in health.
- Facilitate cross-organizational contributions to AI-driven health system strengthening and public health initiatives in South East Asian countries.
- Support countries in developing national AI strategies and frameworks for health.
- Conduct research and analysis on emerging AI trends, opportunities, and challenges to inform policy development.
- Collaborate with governments, academia, industry, and civil society organizations to gather input and build consensus on AI policy priorities.
- Evaluate AI implementation in South-East Asia and compile a compendium of best practices in AI for health.
- Develop and deliver training programs, workshops, and capacity-building initiatives to enhance AI literacy among WHO staff and Member States.
- Establish monitoring mechanisms to assess AI policy implementation and its impact on health outcomes, equity, and human rights.
- Continuously assess AI policy effectiveness and recommend adjustments based on emerging evidence and best practices.
- Contribute to knowledge-sharing initiatives through publications, presentations, and digital platforms.

Provide technical assistance on AI-related projects as required by the KCDH-A

Key Deliverables

Over a 12-month period, the Senior Research Associate will:

- Develop a comprehensive South-East Asia Regional Strategy on AI for Health.
- Draft policy briefs, implementation roadmaps, and guidelines for AI ethics and governance in health.
- Conduct research and author reports on AI trends, best practices, and challenges in the region.
- Design toolkits and frameworks to support national AI strategy development.

- Develop capacity-building materials and facilitate training sessions on AI applications in health.
- Support the evaluation and documentation of AI-driven health initiatives in South-East Asia.
- Develop and assist in implementing an evaluation and monitoring framework to assess AI's impact on health systems and equity.
- Develop context-appropriate frameworks by which AI models should be evaluated for accuracy, safety, usability, and cost-effectiveness
- Develop the pathways/frameworks by which promising health AI applications transition from small, defined proofs-of-concept to minimal viable products and ultimately scaled products/applications that are sustainable across multiple countries.
- Conduct monthly seminars on responsible and trustworthy AI in health
- Facilitate and assist in organizing a regional workshop on AI in health

Location & Travel

- **Work Location:** On-site at Ashoka University, New Delhi, with hybrid work options available.
- **Travel:** Occasional travel within the South-East Asia Region.

Remuneration & Contract Details

- **Remuneration:** Competitive salary based on qualifications and experience.
- **Contract Duration:** 12 months (tentative).

Start Date: 15th April 2025

Application Submission Process:

Submit your application to Ashoka University's office to ensure your candidacy receives the attention it deserves, kindly follow the application submission process outlined below:

Prepare an Updated CV: Showcase your professional accomplishments, skills, and experiences in an updated curriculum vitae.

Submit Your Application to KCDH-A Office : <head.kcdha@ashoka.edu.in>

Include Essential Details: Along with your CV, kindly provide the following information:

- Last compensation received: We value your expertise and acknowledge the importance of fair compensation.
- Expected salary: Share your aspirations for growth and remuneration.
- Notice period: Inform us of the time required to transition from your current role, if applicable.

Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted as part of our rigorous selection process.
process.

Adherence to Deadlines: To ensure fairness and efficiency, please submit your application by 10th April 2025. Applications received after the deadline will not be considered.

For any inquiries regarding this position, please contact: head.kcdha@ashoka.edu.in

We look forward to receiving your application as we embark together on a remarkable journey of professional growth and development. Join our exceptional community at Ashoka University, where excellence is nurtured, and aspirations are transformed into reality.