

## Call for Applications

### SIAS Policy Research Fellowships 2015

#### **The fellowship**

Southasia Institute of Advanced Studies (SIAS) is pleased to invite applications for Policy Research Fellowship from those who are interested to expand their policy skills and knowledge.

The fellowship starts in March 2015 for a period of eight months. The selected fellows will conduct research on a select theme, produce research papers, and present in different forums advised by SIAS.

Each fellow will receive a fixed stipend and an opportunity to work with SIAS mentor and teams. A series of interactive sessions are planned. Each fellow is expected to be in Kathmandu for at least a net time of two months, including for meetings and other activities, during this period.

#### **Number of fellowships available**

A total of eight policy research fellows will be selected through this call. Each fellow will work on a separate research theme area, shown below.

#### **Policy Research themes**

For policy fellowship 2015, the following are the selected themes:

1. Constitution making and federalism
2. Local Governance & elections
3. Climate Change
4. Agriculture and Food Security
5. Disaster Risk Reduction (DDR)
6. Health& Nutrition
7. Labor migration and human trafficking
8. Education

#### **Support from SIAS to the fellows**

The Policy Research Fellows will pass through a series of structured exercises, including methodological mentoring, peer-to-peer learning, inputs and reviews from theme experts, editing and copy-editing support and, regular presentations and engagement in dialogues.

#### **Eligibility**

The candidates should have at least a Masters degree in related discipline, and further work or research experience will be an advantage. In addition, the candidates must be a citizen of Nepal and residing in the country and must be fluent in Nepali or English language. The fellows are expected to be in Nepal and be available for interactive sessions, workshops, presentation and communication events.

MPhil/PhD candidates or those affiliated with Nepal's research organizations are also encouraged to apply.

### **Main responsibilities**

Each of the policy fellows will have the following main responsibilities:

1. Sharpen and delineate policy research questions and work out appropriate methods for policy research, communication and engagement
2. Conduct desk studies, data collection, and make presentations on findings
3. Develop a policy discussion paper, a policy brief
4. Coordinate and host policy round-table meeting and dissemination event in support of SIAS teams.

### **Specific responsibilities**

In doing the above, each of the policy fellows will:

- Work closely with a SIAS mentor, who will provide continuous mentoring and other opportunities for structured learning through lectures, workshops, and presentations at various stages over the eight-month period
- Participate and make presentations in regular in-house research workshops. These workshops discuss research methods and approaches and research product development and communication, and policy engagement
- Make presentations on these workshops
- Desk review of policy practices and gaps/bottlenecks, evaluation and exploration of alternatives
- Hold consultations/interviewing with policy makers and stakeholders
- Conduct field study/case study if relevant and essential, which will be monitored by a SIAS mentor
- Develop draft of policy discussion paper. The draft will be reviewed by thematic experts, other fellows, and SIAS mentor
- Coordinate a round-table think tank meeting by relevant government and other stakeholders and present main findings.
- Incorporate the views and observations from think tank events into the draft discussion paper
- Produce draft of policy brief on the basis of discussion paper, think tank discussion, and comments from reviewers, lead mentor and policy advisors
- Support to host policy a dissemination event and prepare dissemination communication/press brief.
- Conduct other relevant activities as suggested in the workshops and meetings, or as advised by SIAS mentor.

### **How to apply?**

Applications should include the following three documents:

1. a motivation letter (1 page), which should include applicant's interest in and motivation for the fellowship, evidence of prior involvement and achievements, skills and qualifications relative to the policy theme. It should also show which of the eight themes the candidate is applying for.
2. a curriculum vitae (max 4 pages) and
3. a research proposal (max 2 pages). It should clearly indicate proposed specific policy research questions, indicative methods, plan, and outputs

Please email your application to [sias-info@sias-southasia.org](mailto:sias-info@sias-southasia.org) by **Friday 27<sup>th</sup> Feb 2015**.

**Notice of short-listing and selection process**

Shortlisted candidates will be invited by 7<sup>th</sup> March for interview. The selection will be based on the assessment of the proposal and brief interviews. Selection of fellows is expected to be complete by 16<sup>th</sup> March.

**Additional Information**

If you have any questions, please contact Laxmi Raj Joshi: email: [laxmi@sias-southasia.org](mailto:laxmi@sias-southasia.org), Tel: 977-1-4469801, Mob.: 9849181858.

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