

Job Description: Big Data Researcher

Do you want to work on cutting-edge research and application of Big Data? Are you interested in becoming a data scientist? Do you want to contribute to innovative solutions for social good that also have applications for private enterprise? Do you have dreams of graduate studies and want to boost your research skills? If so, we may be interested in you. We are looking for researchers with solid data mining and/or statistics skills to join our big data analytics team.

LIRNEasia (www.lirneasia.net) is a policy and regulation think tank based in Colombo but working across South Asia, South East Asia and the Pacific Islands. We generate and disseminate actionable knowledge using Big Data analytics. The audiences for our work involve government, private sector stakeholders (including telecommunication companies) as well as media. The work involves the use of big data from different sources (e.g. mobile networks, electricity, CCTV, satellite imagery) to generate actionable insights for the population of Sri Lanka (and other countries). Our collaborators include researchers and professors from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, the University of California Berkeley, University of Tokyo, as well as Moratuwa University.

The position is full-time.

Responsibilities

- Pro-actively drive individual and group research outputs from conceptualization to delivery (include data pre-processing, data analysis, visualization, and presentation of findings).
- Develop statistical models to uncover insights from real world big data
- Create compelling visualizations to communicate the findings to a non-technical audience
- Work closely with a inter-disciplinary teams from different countries
- Publish and present research findings at local and international forums

Required Qualifications

- Should have, at a minimum, a B.Sc. in computer science & engineering, statistics with programming experience and demonstrate academic excellence. In lieu of such a degree, people who have extensive knowledge of computer programming and statistics will also be considered.
- Must possess strong analytical and statistical knowledge and show excellent systematic reasoning skills
- Should possess a good knowledge of Map-reduce paradigm and related big data technologies. Hadoop, Pig, etc.
- Ideally be proficient in statistical tools like R or Python based data mining libraries like SciPy, SciKit-Learn, and also have prior knowledge of NoSQL databases, GIS tools, Git
- Ideally would have prior experience in data mining, machine learning and social network analysis
- Should possess strong verbal and written communication skills

What we offer

In addition to a competitive, remuneration package the position will enable the motivated employee to take advantage of a work environment highly conducive towards conducting cutting-edge research in computational data science and applying them to real world problems. Furthermore this position affords the opportunity to work alongside researchers of international repute as well as travel internationally to present their research. **This position will be ideally suited to someone who wishes to go on for higher studies (especially a PhD) as past researchers have.**

How to apply

Submit a detailed CV (no more than four pages) to BigData-HR@lirneasia.net as soon as possible but no later than **1st March 2017**. The subject of the email should be: Big Data Researcher - YOURNAME (where "YOURNAME" should be replaced with your given name and surname name; e.g. "Big Data Researcher – John Smith"). Also include phone/email contacts of two non-related referees who can speak of relevant experience/abilities.

Due to the high volume of applications expected, please follow application instructions carefully so that we do not ignore your application. Only candidates who are selected for a first round interview will have their applications acknowledged and contacted.