

Job Title: Research Fellow - Contractual (Digital Technology Companies and Young People's Health)

Reports to: DTH-Lab Policy and Research Coordinator

Location: Remote

Experience (in years): (Educational background) The contractual research fellow position is open to students and researchers; candidates having a degree in the field of study would have an advantage.

Nature of work:

The DTH-Lab is offering students and early career professionals from low and middle-income countries opportunities to support a specific area of the Lab's research or analysis through their fellowship programme. An important aim of the project is to contribute to building the capacity of future health leaders to shape policy and governance issues related to the digital transformations of health.

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 DTH-Lab: The [Digital Transformations for Health Lab \(DTH-Lab\)](#) is a global consortium of partners that is pressing for stronger digital and data governance to improve young people's health and well-being and support achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

The DTH-Lab will take forward recommendations outlined in the Lancet and Financial Times Commission's report which calls on governments, technology companies and other actors to build trusted digital-first health systems that are supported by value-based governance and action to address the digital determinants of health.

About the Policy analysis: Digital Technology Companies and Young People's Health Fellowship:

Digital technology companies play a pivotal role in influencing young people's behaviours through their engaging platforms and targeted marketing strategies. Several digital technology companies are also becoming involved in the provision of digital health services. Additionally, these companies collect vast amounts of data about young users, raising concerns about privacy and data security, especially concerning sensitive health information. Understanding and evaluating company policies is essential for mitigating potential harms, promoting positive health behaviours, and ensuring the ethical and responsible use of digital technologies among young people.

Thus, the DTH-Lab is looking to undertake in depth research on digital technology companies to evaluate the organizations' approaches to digital health, promoting the health and well-being of young users and the inclusion of young people as stakeholders in their decision-making process. The output of the fellowship will be used to inform the development of effective strategies and interventions to support youth health and well-being in the digital realm, ultimately contributing to healthier outcomes for this demographic now and in the future.

Role and Responsibilities: The duration of this fellowship will be from **June to September 2024**. The fellowship will be in the form of a consultancy: contractual research fellows will receive a stipend in the amount of **up to 1,800 CHF** for an engagement of **up to 30 days** of work and the completed deliverables. This research will be exclusively desk-based, with virtual interviews, therefore not requiring any additional costs. The stipend will be released in three installments after approved completion of each milestone.

Contractual research fellows will work remotely according to their preferred schedule and location. They will be supervised by the DTH-Lab's Policy and Research Coordinator. Available support from the DTH-Lab team includes:

- An induction and regular virtual meetings with the contractual research fellow.
- Provision of background materials and contacts for interviews, etc.
- Regular input and feedback on their work.
- Opportunities for the contractual research fellow to discuss his/her research with experienced DTH-Lab partners and build their professional networks.
- Opportunities for contractual research fellows to promote and present their work following publication.

Research Objectives:

- Analyse the content of major global digital technology companies' policies and strategies relevant to digital health and promoting the health and well-being of their users.
- Assess the strengths and weaknesses of companies' policies and approaches in relation to promoting the health, well-being and inclusion of young people.

Proposed Timeline and Deliverables:

Work phase	Deliverable	Approx number of days
1. Induction: getting to know the DTH-Lab and existing work on youth-centred digital first health systems	N/A	2
2. Landscape analysis of major global digital technology companies	Interim report on major digital technology companies in the health space, including organizational profiles of companies to be examined, details of their health-related activities and compilation of relevant policies, internal guidelines to be analyzed.	4
1. Policy and strategy analysis of companies	Interim report on company policies and strategies, with emphasis on the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Policies and measures taken for user privacy and consent 2. Data governance and protection policies for health data 3. Policies governing health promotion and health tracking 4. Special measures taken for young users [Milestone 1 of 3]	10
4. Assessment of policies' strengths and weaknesses	Interim report on the strengths and weaknesses of existing policies of the company [Milestone 2 of 3]	5
5. Final report on digital technology companies' commitments and activities to promote young people's health and well-being.	Publication submitted (format to be confirmed) based on the findings from the three interim reports	7

	First draft – 3 weeks before [Milestone 3 of 3]	
Other - additional time to participate in relevant DTH-Lab activities	N/A	2
	<i>Total days</i>	<i>30</i>

Qualifications and Skills Required: The ideal contractual research fellow must possess the following:

- **Educational background:** The contractual research fellow position is open to students and researchers; candidates having a degree in the field of study would have an advantage.
- **Research skills:** They possess strong research skills, including the ability to design research assignments, collect and analyze data, and draw conclusions from their findings. They may have expertise in specific research methodologies, techniques, or tools relevant to their field.
- **Publication record:** A track record of collaborations on scholarly publications, including peer-reviewed journal articles, conference presentations, or book chapters is an advantage.
- **Communication skills:** They must show effective communication skills, as they need to communicate their research findings through written publications, presentations, and discussions with colleagues. They should be able to convey complex ideas in a clear and accessible manner to diverse audiences.

Application Submission Process:

Interested candidates can request further background information on the DTH-Lab and its existing work on this topic by writing to team@dthlab.org.

To apply for this position, send an email to team@dthlab.org with the subject line ‘APPLICATION: RESEARCH FELLOW - DIGITAL TECH COMPANIES’. Applications will only be considered if they include the following material:

- Curriculum Vitae / Resume
- Two references
- A maximum of 2 pages outlining your relevant skills and experience and a summary of how you would approach this work.

Pursuit for Excellence: The Lab welcomes applications from individuals of all backgrounds. Due to the expected volume of submissions, only shortlisted candidates will be contacted.

Adherence to Deadlines: To ensure fairness and efficiency, please submit your application by **the end of day on 24th May 2024**. Applications received after the deadline will not be considered.