

Job Title: Project Associate I (in a SERB funded project “A Virtual Reality-based Experiment Environment to Investigate Sensorimotor Alterations in Depression”)

Reports to: Dr Dipanjan Ray

Location: Mind-Brain-Body-Society Lab (MBBS Lab), Department of Psychology, Ashoka University, Sonapat, India

Nature of work: Full Time

Duration: Till the end of the project (12-Mar-2026)

About the Project:

The project centers on examining sensorimotor changes in depression and utilizing a virtual reality setup. While cognitive alterations in depression have been extensively studied, sensorimotor changes remain relatively unexplored. A key challenge lies in the absence of ecologically validated experimental setups. However, virtual reality presents an emerging paradigm that can overcome this limitation. In this project, we aim to initially develop and validate a VR experimental framework for assessing sensorimotor alterations in depression. Subsequently, we will apply this framework to individuals with depression and control participants for testing purposes.

About Department/Centre:

Psychology at Ashoka University is organized around a scientific approach to the study of behaviour. The Department of Psychology is committed to a cross-disciplinary study of the subject, spanning different domains of psychology, and faculty expertise is representative of this cross-disciplinary approach. The department provides a vibrant learning and research environment, encouraging engagement in intellectual curiosity and allowing seamless crosstalk of Psychology with various other fields including Cognitive Neuroscience, Computational Neuroscience, Biology, Philosophy, Physics, and others. Our department aims to create a conducive academic climate for intellectual growth, both for ourselves and for our students. The department’s culture aims to be one of mutual respect and consultation among students, staff members and faculty, whether in research, pedagogy or administration

About Ashoka University:

10 years ago, we embarked on a journey to establish a world-class, multi-disciplinary, liberal arts and sciences university in India. Built on the finest global best practices of institution and university governance, Ashoka has truly transformed Indian higher education in India with its unique pedagogy, governance and best practices.

Ashoka is today India’s #1 liberal arts and sciences university that is home to the most diverse student body, a hub for impactful research and a magnet for best-in-class faculty and staff.

Ashoka has been ranked in the top five among private Universities in India by QS Asia and has also secured top rank among all Indian Universities in the ‘International Faculty’ indicator. The University was earlier awarded Diamond rating by QS I.GAUGE as a recognition of its continuous focus on academic rigour, inter disciplinary pedagogy, world-class faculty, academic research, innovative modules of engagement with the community and teaching methods.

For further information, visit www.ashoka.edu.in.

We aim to co-create a nurturing space for our students, faculty, staff, donors and community positively through universal values:

- **Be Mission-Driven**
- **Think Strategically**
- **Act Authentically**
- **Take Accountability**
- **Build Collaboration**
- **Deliver Excellence**

Role and Responsibilities:

The roles encompass either programming/coding or clinical domains, and candidates may express interest in either or both. Responsibilities include either aiding in the development of the VR paradigm for the project or assisting in the recruitment, evaluation, and implementation of experimental paradigms on participants (both control and those with depression). Proficiency in programming and/or an interest in it is necessary for the former, while training in the clinical domain and/or an interest in it is required for the latter. Mentoring will be available for both roles.

Eligibility:

Master's degree in quantitative subjects (e.g., Statistics, Computer science etc.) or clinical subjects (e.g., psychology) or bachelor's degree in Engineering, Medical, Technology from a recognized university or equivalent.

Age limit:

Upper age limit is 35 years. Age relaxation is applicable as per SERB rules.

Fellowship:

[1] 31000/- + HRA for scholars who are selected through (a) National eligibility tests such as CSIR-UGC NET including lectureship (Assistant Professorship) or GATE or (b) a selection process through National level examinations conducted by central government departments and their agencies and institutes.

[2] 25000/- + HRA for others who do not fall under (a) and (b) above.

Last Date for Application:

Candidates will be selected on an ongoing basis.

(First Deadline: 10-05-2024)

Application Submission Process

Email the application to Dipanjan at dipanjan.ray@ashoka.edu.in. The subject of the email should be "Application for Project Associate I (MBBSlab-Ashoka)". The application should include at least the following: 1. A cover letter or email body incorporating a section highlighting self-assessment and justifying interest in the position. Additionally, indicate your availability to commence work. 2. An updated CV

Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted.

Informal enquiries are welcome.