



HARVARD Kennedy School

Building State Capability

Job Description: BSC Research Fellow

[Building State Capability \(BSC\)](#) at the Center for Public Leadership is committed to resolving public problems with purpose. BSC empowers public organizations to find context appropriate solutions and improve the implementation of their policies and programs. BSC supports government implementation teams around the world to solve complex public problems, offers a variety of executive training programs, provides tools and self-paced guides, publishes papers, posts blogs, records podcasts, and hosts events on a wide range of topics in international development. BSC has trained over 4,500 practitioners in 156 countries and created a community of practice on implementing public policies.

Position summary:

The BSC Research Fellow is an exciting and challenging role that offers a unique opportunity to work on a combination of action research projects and facilitate implementation teams around the world working on public problems. Under the guidance of [Professor Matt Andrews](#) and the BSC Director, Research Fellows contribute significantly to the core agenda, collaborate with government leaders and development practitioners, and gain practical experience in leading PDIA teams.

We are looking for candidates who have a background in economics, excellent interpersonal skills, and enjoy building meaningful relationships with people from around the world, in a fast-paced environment.

Activities and responsibilities:

- Support the execution of BSC's action research projects, including executive education programs
- Work in close collaboration with project stakeholders in the field and travel to project sites as needed
- Build and maintain networks and strong relationships with colleagues, counterparts, and the community of practice
- Conduct other miscellaneous tasks related to the ongoing activities

Required qualifications:

- Exceptional organizational and management capabilities with ability to work independently
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills
- Exercise good judgment in problem solving and decision-making
- Passion for supporting policy practitioners to improve their outcomes
- Self-motivated, comfortable with ambiguity, and flexible to adapt to changing needs and priorities
- Team player, eager to learn, and attention to detail

Preferred qualifications:

- Knowledge of the PDIA approach
- Experience working with public officials and civil servants
- Proactive, collaborative, and able to work in a fast-paced environment
- Ability to plan and work on multiple projects simultaneously in an organized way

How to Apply:

We invite candidates to send a cover letter, resume, and a brief (1-2 pages) writing sample on a policy issue (i.e., policy memo). Please send all documents to bsc@hks.harvard.edu with 'BSC Research Fellow' in the subject line. Applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis until the position is filled.