



ARISA
FOUNDATION

+91 7558580463

www.arisafoundation.org

Pune, India

WE'RE HIRING / ARISA RESEARCH LAB

Postdoctoral Research Fellow

Type	Contract	Base	Qualification
Full-time	1 year, extendable	Pune	PhD in psychology or allied field

About ARISA

ARISA Foundation is a Pune-based non-profit working where art, neuroscience and psychology meet, for mental well-being. Our work runs across four pillars: the Research Lab, Community Canvas, the Education Hub and the Creative Lab Festival (CLF). The Research Lab is built on three commitments: cross-cultural empirical aesthetics, community-based inquiry, and building theory from local practices rather than importing it.

The role

You'll co-lead the ARISA Research Lab with our Founder & CEO. The role has two halves: making research a working part of everything ARISA does, and running independent research programmes of your own. We're looking for a mixed-methods researcher who is as comfortable with a regression model as with a community conversation.

Who this is for

This fellowship suits an early-career researcher who wants to build experience leading research outside a university, or who hopes to one day run their own lab in a non-profit, community or applied setting. You'll learn what that takes first-hand: setting a research agenda, running studies with communities, building partnerships and finding funding.

Research areas

- **Cross-cultural empirical aesthetics:** how people across cultures and communities experience, value and make art.
- **Community mental health and arts-based research:** community-led, participatory studies of how the arts support well-being.
- **Neuroaesthetics collaborations:** joint projects with partner labs working in neuroaesthetics.

What you'll do

Co-lead the lab

- Shape the lab's research agenda and priorities.
- Oversee study design, ethics approvals and data practices.
- Lead or support grant applications and publications.

Build research into ARISA's programmes

- Design research and evaluation frameworks for the Education Hub, Community Canvas and CLF.
- Turn programme work into studies that generate evidence and theory.



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Run independent research

- Lead community-led, mixed-methods studies across the three research areas.
- Build and manage collaborations with academic and neuroaesthetics labs.

What you bring

- A **PhD in psychology** or an allied field.
- **Strong quantitative skills** (study design, statistics, R or Python) **and strong qualitative skills** (interviews, focus groups, thematic or similar analysis).
- Experience running **mixed-methods** research from design to publication.
- Experience with **community-based or participatory research**.
- A record of peer-reviewed publications or work in preparation.

Good to have

Background in empirical aesthetics or neuroaesthetics / Cross-cultural research experience, especially in India / Grant-writing experience / Experience mentoring students or junior researchers

To apply

Apply by 15 November 2026. Email your CV and a brief cover note to kohinoor@arisafoundation.org.



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