ISD | Powering solutions to extremism and polarisation

ASSOCIATE, DIGITAL RESEARCH & POLICY

- **Organisation:** Institute for Strategic Dialogue
- **Reporting to:** Manager, Policy & Research
- **Location:** Central London
- **Type of Contract:** Six month fixed term contract
- **Start Date**: ASAP
- **Salary Bracket:** £25,000 - £28,000 per annum, dependent on experience

About ISD

ISD is a global counter-extremism organisation dedicated to powering solutions to extremism and polarisation. For over 10 years, we have responded to the rising challenge of extremist movements and the ideologies that underpin them, delivering cutting-edge programmes built from world-leading expertise in communications and technology, grassroots networks, knowledge and research, and policy advice. As a non-profit organisation with teams in London, Beirut, Toronto and Washington D.C., ISD enjoys strategic partnerships with the world's leading technology companies and supports more than a dozen prominent governments and institutions in stemming the rise of violent extremism, disinformation and hate speech.

Position summary

ISD seeks to appoint an Associate to join our growing and busy team, who will sit within the Research and Policy Division. This vacancy is for an integral position within ISD's Digital Research and Policy team, with broader engagement across all ISD programming as required.

We seek to recruit a driven and technically competent individual, with demonstrable experience working in the fields of quantitative or qualitative digital research. This must include experience of undertaking online analysis, with subject matter experience in working on issues of disinformation, extremism or terrorism. Experience of work relating to broader online harms, such as harassment, cyber-bullying or child sexual exploitation would be an advantage.

The successful candidate will play a key role in delivering digital research focused on issues of polarisation, extremism and disinformation in Europe and North America. They will support the wider research team in communicating the findings from our research via event organisation, report publications and policy convening events. The successful candidate must therefore demonstrate strong organisational skills.

Key responsibilities

The successful candidate will work closely with the Coordinators and Manager in the Policy & Research Division to deliver the following:

Digital Research

- Deliver digital research projects and research outputs, as part of project teams.
- Use and help to enhance and develop ISD's online analytics toolkit, including through use of social media listening and natural language processing tools, to deliver text, image or video analysis for digital research projects.
- Demonstrate strong existing knowledge of digital research methods (both quantitative and qualitative) and media studies methods, as well as their limitations and challenges.
- Demonstrate up-to-date knowledge on the latest global developments across a range of online harms such as disinformation and extremism.
- Provide support to the research team on Open Source Intelligence (OSINT) methods and support other team members with training on OSINT methods and tools.

Person specification

Essential

- Educated to degree level, ideally with a Masters degree in a relevant field.
- Excellent working knowledge of social listening technology, natural language processing, open source intelligence and machine learning techniques and tools.
- Excellent knowledge of digital research methods (both quantitative and qualitative), tools and ethics.
- Good working knowledge of the key issues and debates around disinformation, election interference, and extremism.
- Excellent written and oral communication skills and confidence in presenting complex ideas to internal senior teams.
- Highly organised with the ability to be flexible, multi-task and respond proactively.
- Ability to work well both independently and in a team.

Desirable

- At least one year's experience in project or programme delivery, with proven ability to meet deadlines and contribute to team project work.
- Professional standard of written and spoken additional languages (especially Arabic, French, German or Russian).
- Experience of coding e.g. Python / R
- Experience working in a fast-paced think tank or start up environment.
- Fundraising and business development experience.

Application process

If you would like to apply for this position, please send a one-page cover letter and up-to-date CV (no more than 2 pages) to vacancies@isdglobal.org by **12 noon Wednesday 11 September 2019.**

Please note that only short-listed candidates will be contacted and applications without a covering letter will not be considered. All applicants who are invited to interview will be asked to produce evidence of their right to work in the UK.