

SAMS Role Deconstruct: Fellow - Macroeconomic Issues (Growth, Finance & Development), CSEP | New Delhi

(What the role truly involves and how to assess your fit)

Why This Role Deconstruct

A SAMS Role Deconstruct helps candidates understand the real expectations of a role beyond the formal vacancy announcement. It clarifies the research mandate, intellectual expectations, stakeholder context, and performance markers so you can assess your fit with greater accuracy.

This is particularly important for senior research roles in think tanks where success depends not only on academic credentials, but also on the ability to frame policy-relevant questions, conduct rigorous empirical analysis, write for multiple audiences, engage senior stakeholders, build research teams, and contribute to public policy discourse with credibility.

What This Role Is Really About

This is not simply an academic macroeconomics position. Nor is it only a data-analysis, modelling, or policy commentary role.

This is a Fellow-level research leadership role within CSEP's Growth, Finance and Development vertical. The role is intended to help conceptualise a long-term research agenda on macroeconomic issues, conduct independent research, build the requisite team, publish high-quality research outputs, and inform public policy debates with rigorous data and analysis.

The successful candidate will need to operate at the intersection of:

- Global and domestic macroeconomic and policy developments
- Economic growth, inflation, industry, agriculture, external sector, and monetary and fiscal issues
- Climate finance, climate mitigation and adaptation, and reforms of international financial institutions
- Empirical and policy-oriented research, including modelling, econometric techniques, and statistical tools
- Policy-relevant writing, research publication, seminars, presentations, opinion pieces, and external dissemination
- Collaboration with CSEP colleagues, senior Fellows, researchers globally, policymakers, industry stakeholders, and global partners
- Team-building, mentoring junior researchers and interns, and contributing to grants, research papers, and publications

The central challenge is to combine serious macroeconomic research capability with policy usefulness. The Fellow will need to identify relevant questions in a fast-changing world, generate credible evidence, translate complex economic issues clearly, and contribute to CSEP's position as an independent, non-partisan source of policy-relevant research.

The Role's Strategic Priorities

Over the next 12-24 months, the role will likely focus on:

1. Shaping a Long-Term Macroeconomic Research Agenda

Conceptualising a coherent research agenda within the Growth, Finance and Development vertical, anchored in macroeconomic issues of relevance to India and the world, and responsive to global and domestic policy developments.

2. Producing Rigorous Research on Core Macroeconomic Themes

Conducting in-depth research on economic growth, inflation, industry, agriculture, the external sector, monetary and fiscal issues, and related areas that can inform policy debate with robust data and analysis.

3. Bringing Climate and Finance into the Macroeconomic Lens

Developing research on climate finance, climate mitigation and adaptation, and reforms of international financial institutions, especially where these issues intersect with growth, finance, development and macroeconomic policy.

4. Strengthening Empirical and Methodological Quality

Collecting and analysing economic data, using appropriate methodologies, econometric techniques and statistical tools such as Stata, E-Views, Python or R, and producing research that is analytically sound and policy-oriented.

5. Publishing, Disseminating and Influencing Policy Debate

Publishing research outputs regularly; preparing reports, presentations, research papers, policy outputs and opinion pieces; hosting seminars; and engaging internal and external audiences with clarity and credibility.

6. Building Research Capacity and Partnerships

Building and leading the research team, mentoring junior researchers and interns, collaborating with interdisciplinary colleagues, and contributing to grant proposals and long-term scholarly and funding opportunities.

Your Scope of Responsibility

Reporting to the leadership/ Lead of the Growth, Finance and Development vertical, the role includes:

Research Agenda and Thought Leadership

Conceptualising the long-term research agenda; framing policy-relevant questions; identifying themes of relevance in a fast-changing world; and building research streams that strengthen CSEP's contribution to macroeconomic and development policy discourse.

Independent Research and Evidence Generation

Conducting independent research across macroeconomic and climate-related themes; collecting and analysing economic data; developing research methodologies and frameworks; and generating insights through robust empirical and policy-oriented research.

Publication, Communication and External Dissemination

Publishing research outputs regularly; preparing and delivering presentations, reports and research findings; writing opinion pieces; hosting seminars; and communicating complex economic concepts clearly to specialist and non-specialist audiences.

Collaboration, Policy Engagement and Partnerships

Working with policymakers, senior and distinguished Fellows at CSEP, national and global researchers, industry stakeholders, multilateral organisations, research institutions and leading partners, while contributing to scholarly and funding opportunities.

Team Building, Mentoring and Programme Support

Building and leading the requisite research team; guiding and mentoring junior researchers and interns; contributing to grant proposals, research papers and publications; and participating actively in discussions within and outside CSEP.

What Success Looks Like

Within 12-18 months, success would typically be visible through:

- A sharper and operationalised research agenda for macroeconomic issues within the Growth, Finance and Development vertical
- Well-conceptualised research streams on economic growth, inflation, industry, agriculture, the external sector, monetary and fiscal issues
- Visible research contributions on climate finance, climate mitigation and adaptation, and reforms of international financial institutions
- High-quality research outputs backed by good data, robust empirical analysis and clear policy relevance

- Regular publication of research work, including reports, research papers, policy outputs and other dissemination products
- Credible presentations to internal experts and external audiences, including policymakers, industry stakeholders and research networks
- Effective use of modelling, econometric techniques and statistical software where relevant to the research questions
- Contribution to grant proposals, collaborations, global partnerships, and long-term scholarly or funding opportunities
- A growing research team supported through appropriate guidance, mentoring and intellectual leadership
- Evidence that CSEP is enriching policy debate on macroeconomics, climate finance and development through independent research

Who Will Thrive in This Role

This role is suited to a research professional who brings:

- A PhD in Economics or associated areas from a reputed recognised institute within or outside India
- At least seven years of relevant professional research experience in a public or private sector policy or research organisation, think tank, bank, research organisation, or academia
- A good publication record with robust empirical and policy-oriented research
- Demonstrated ability to conduct research across a wide expanse of areas and to work on macroeconomic topics and climate change/ finance
- Strong analytical skills and the ability to interpret complex economic data
- Proven experience in conducting independent research projects, as evidenced by publications or research reports
- Experience in modelling or econometric techniques and working knowledge of statistical software such as Stata, E-Views, Python or R
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills, including the ability to present complex economic concepts clearly and concisely
- Strong teamwork and collaboration skills, including the ability to work effectively in interdisciplinary teams
- Ability to plan and conduct good quality studies with robust data analysis in a timely manner, while working independently with minimal supervision
- A strong passion for policy research and commitment to evidence-based policy recommendations
- Ability to build and lead the research team

Profiles combining strong macroeconomic research credentials, empirical depth, climate finance or climate-policy adjacency, publication ability, policy orientation, and team-building capability are particularly well aligned.

This Role May Not Be Ideal If

This role may not suit you if:

- Your experience is primarily academic teaching, policy commentary, consulting delivery, or programme management, with limited independent research and publication experience
- You have not designed and conducted independent empirical or policy-oriented research projects
- You are uncomfortable working with economic data, modelling, econometric techniques, or statistical software
- Your macroeconomic exposure is narrow and you are not interested in working across growth, inflation, external sector, monetary and fiscal issues, climate finance and related themes
- You prefer tightly defined research assistance roles rather than intellectually demanding roles requiring initiative, agenda-setting and ambiguity management
- You are not comfortable translating complex economic concepts for non-specialist policy audiences
- You have limited interest in engaging policymakers, industry stakeholders, researchers and global partners
- You are not inclined to publish regularly, present findings, host seminars, or contribute to external dissemination
- You have limited interest in building or leading a research team and mentoring junior researchers

Operating Context

- Organisation: Centre for Social and Economic Progress (CSEP)

- Location: Chanakyaपुरi, New Delhi
- Vertical: Growth, Finance and Development
- Role level: Fellow
- Reporting/ working relationship: Reporting to the leadership/ Lead of the Growth, Finance and Development vertical
- Core agenda: Independent, in-depth and policy-relevant research on macroeconomic issues in a fast-changing world
- Primary research themes: Economic growth, inflation, industry, agriculture, external sector, monetary and fiscal issues, climate finance, climate mitigation and adaptation, and reforms of international financial institutions
- Nature of engagement: Contractual engagement on the payroll of the organisation, initially for a period of one year
- Travel: Periodic travel per the needs of the projects of the organisation
- Compensation: Competitive salary commensurate with qualifications and experience, with a comprehensive benefits package

The role operates in a high-expectation research and policy environment where credibility will be built through macroeconomic depth, empirical discipline, policy relevance, publication quality, stakeholder maturity, and the ability to build a serious research agenda and team.

Before You Apply - A SAMS Reality Check

You are likely a strong fit if you can confidently say:

- I have the research training and publication record expected of a Fellow-level think tank role.
- I can frame macroeconomic research questions that are analytically rigorous and relevant to Indian and global policy debates.
- I understand global and domestic macroeconomic and policy developments and can work across a wide expanse of research themes.
- I can conduct independent empirical and policy-oriented research using appropriate data, methods and analytical tools.
- I can engage with climate finance, climate mitigation and adaptation, or reforms of international financial institutions as part of a broader macroeconomic research agenda.
- I can write serious research outputs and also communicate complex economic ideas clearly to policymakers and wider audiences.
- I can collaborate with senior researchers, interdisciplinary colleagues, policymakers, industry stakeholders and global partners.
- I can build and guide a research team rather than only contribute as an individual researcher.
- I am motivated by the opportunity to contribute to evidence-based policy recommendations through independent research.

Closing Note

This is a distinctive opportunity for a research professional who wants to contribute to macroeconomic policy research within CSEP's Growth, Finance and Development vertical.

The role offers the opportunity to work with policymakers, senior and distinguished Fellows at CSEP, national and global researchers, industry stakeholders and global partners, while producing evidence-based research on macroeconomic issues that are central to India and the world.

It demands scholarly rigour, empirical strength, independence, writing ability, policy orientation, stakeholder maturity and team-building capability - and offers the chance to shape a research agenda with relevance across growth, finance, development and climate-related policy debates.

Prepared by Strategic Alliance Management Services Pvt. Ltd. (SAMS) as a role-clarity and candidate self-assessment tool.