

**Job Description: Research Associate and Junior Research Associate – Critical  
Minerals & Circular Economy**

**A. Organisation:** Ashoka Centre for a People-Centric Energy Transition (ACPET), Ashoka University

**Location:** New Delhi, India

**Assignment Type:** Full-time

**Compensation:** Competitive, commensurate with experience and industry standards

**Application Deadline:** Rolling (until positions are filled)

**B. About ACPET**

ACPET is a leading research hub at Ashoka University, driving India's transition to a net-zero economy through actionable research, policy advocacy, and cross-sector partnerships. Our focus areas include Critical Minerals, Circular Economy, and Energy Transition in the Global South.

The energy transition is poised to reshape India and the world, with India's commitment to achieving net-zero by 2070. In this journey for the Global South, ACPET addresses critical knowledge gaps through the following initiatives:

1. Social Energy Transition (SET): Ensuring equity in decarbonization by prioritising marginalised communities in energy access and job creation.
2. Energy Futures Lab (EFL): Delivering data-driven policy, technology, and finance solutions to bridge gaps between ambition and implementation.
3. Critical Minerals & Circular Economy (CM&CE): Navigating geopolitics, resource efficiency, and sustainable material flows in a decarbonizing world.
4. Energy Policy: Advancing India's ambitious renewable energy goals through evidence-based frameworks while addressing energy security, just transitions, and governance in emerging markets.

**C. Open Positions**

**1. Research Associate (RA) – 4+ years of experience – 01**

Core Responsibilities:

- Lead high-impact research on critical minerals (e.g., lithium, cobalt, rare earths) and circular economy frameworks (e.g., recycling, supply chain resilience).
- Analyse sector-specific circularity challenges in building materials, textiles, electronics, and energy storage.
- Develop policy briefs, business models, and techno-economic analyses for stakeholders (government/industry).
- Utilise tools like Safari, TIMES, GEM, or LEAP for energy/material flow modelling (training provided if needed).
- Mentor junior researchers and represent ACPET in conferences/workshops.

**Qualifications:**

- PG/PhD (TA-ship will be regarded as experience) in Energy Economics, Industrial Ecology, Resource Efficiency, Sustainability, or Material Science.
- Over 4 years in energy/climate research, with an understanding of International Relations (IR) related to energy/minerals.

- Proficiency in Python, R, and R (for optimisation/LCA) and data visualisation tools such as Tableau and Power BI.
- Knowledge of mining policies, trade dynamics, or circular business models.

## **2. Junior Research Associate (JRA) – <3 years’ experience - 01**

Core Responsibilities:

- Support the CRM-CE team in data collection/ compilation, literature reviews, and case studies on circular economy practices.
- Assist in modelling material flows (e.g., building materials, textiles) using Excel/Python.
- Create communication materials (reports, infographics) for ACPET’s outreach.
- Engage with partners to document best practices in recycling, reuse, and industrial symbiosis.

### **Qualifications:**

- PG in Sustainability, Environmental Science, or related fields.
- 0–3 years of experience (including internships) in the energy/environment sectors.
- Basic understanding of circular economy principles (e.g., EPR, Cradle-to-Cradle).
- Strong writing abilities and proficiency in MS Office/Google Suite.

### **D. Desirable Skills (for Both Roles)**

- Knowledge of renewable energy technologies (solar, wind, battery storage, etc., relevant for the energy-material nexus)
- Familiarity with design tools (InDesign, Illustrator) or geospatial analysis (QGIS). (Optional but valuable for outreach)
- Prior exposure to policy research or industry collaborations.

### **E. Who Should Apply?**

- Candidates with expertise in resource efficiency, material science, and industrial ecology, along with researchers with interdisciplinary backgrounds in energy economics, international relations, or material science.
- Professionals skilled in data tools (Python, GEM, LEAP) or lifecycle assessment (LCA).
- Researchers passionate about sustainable textiles, low-carbon construction, or critical minerals.

### **F. How to Apply**

1. Email your CV, a 1-page cover letter, and a writing sample (e.g., report, article) to:
2. Email: [acpet@acpet.ashoka.edu.in](mailto:acpet@acpet.ashoka.edu.in) & cc: [animesh.ghosh@ashoka.edu.in](mailto:animesh.ghosh@ashoka.edu.in)
  - a. Subject Line:
    - “Application for RA – Critical Minerals & Circular Economy”
    - “Application for JRA – Critical Minerals & Circular Economy”

*Note: Women and candidates from underrepresented backgrounds are strongly encouraged.*

### **G. Why Join ACPET?**

- Shape India’s energy transition through evidence-based solutions.
- Competitive compensation + flexible, impact-driven work environment.
- Work with Vaibhav Chowdhary, Animesh Ghosh, and a dynamic research team.