



Job Title: (Senior) Research Specialist

Terms of Reference

CAREC Institute

The Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation Institute (CAREC Institute, CI) is looking for a **(Senior) Research Specialist** focused on transport, connectivity and related issues. This is an internationally recruited position within the Research Division, **open to qualified candidates worldwide**.

CI is an intergovernmental organization dedicated to promoting economic cooperation and integration in the CAREC region and along the Silk Road through knowledge generation and sharing. It is jointly shared, owned, and governed by eleven member countries: Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, the People's Republic of China (PRC), Georgia, Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, Mongolia, Pakistan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan. It serves as the knowledge support arm of the CAREC Program. The Institute is headquartered in Urumqi, Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, the PRC.

According to the CAREC Institute Strategy 2026-2030, Transport and Connectivity will be a key priority for CI's research activities.

Functions and Responsibilities

- Lead and conduct research projects, reports, policy analysis, briefs, and other publications on issues of cross-border transport, connectivity, corridor development, logistics and trade facilitation.
- Engage with CAREC Corridor Performance Measurement and Monitoring (CPMM) research and dissemination activities.
- Manage and complete at least two papers or knowledge products annually related to the transport and connectivity sector and cross-cutting issues, identifying knowledge gaps and delivering relevant knowledge to stakeholders.
- Stay abreast of recent developments in the CAREC transport sector and cross-cutting issues, identifying knowledge gaps and delivering relevant knowledge to stakeholders.
- Support analytical and advisory engagements in the research projects and activities of the CAREC transport sector and relevant government agencies.
- Collaborate with member countries, international organizations, developing partners, research institutions, and policymakers to exchange knowledge and best practices in the transport sector and connectivity
- Prepare speeches, presentations and other documents relevant to the Research Division's activities.

- Assist in preparing annual work plans, budgets, progress reports, and fundraising activities for the Research Division.
- Contribute to and participate in CI events, workshops, and forums related to the transport sector.
- Contribute to internal and external review processes of CI knowledge products.
- Any other relevant duties as assigned by the supervisor.

Qualifications and Selection Criteria

- Master's degree, preferably Ph.D, in transport economics, transport planning, logistics and trade facilitation or related fields. Graduates with PhDs obtained through part-time, non-residential, or accelerated formats will only be considered if supported by a strong publication record, academic rigor, or equivalent professional achievements.
- At least 5 years of professional experience in transport/connectivity/corridors development/logistics-related research or policy.
- Experience with think tanks or international organizations will be an advantage.
- Strong understanding of transport, connectivity, corridors development, and trade facilitation policies in the CAREC region.
- Familiarity with connectivity, resilience, sustainability agendas within the CAREC region.
- Demonstrated track record of research publications, including working papers, peer-reviewed journals, or significant contributions to policy reports, and proficiency in data analysis tools.
- Excellent oral and written communication skills in English.

Application Requirements

- Applicants must submit at least two relevant research papers or reports in which the applicant is the main author, and a complete list of publications, reports, and other relevant research outputs in the past five years, as supporting documents to demonstrate their qualifications and research expertise.

Immediate Reporting Relationships

- The (Senior) Research Specialist reports to the Chief of the Research Division.

Other Information

- This is a 3-year fixed-term appointment with a possible extension.
- Shortlisted candidates will be informed of the final title and compensation package during the offer stage.
- The CI offers an internationally competitive compensation package and flexible work arrangements.