Technical Lead and Founding Instructor – AI Entrepreneurship Incubator and Training Program| UC Berkeley and MIT

Organization: J-PAL South Asia **in collaboration with UC Berkeley, MIT Sloan, and Sabudh**
Country: India
Start Date (Earliest): ASAP
Salary Range: Extremely competitive (pays above market standards)
Length of Commitment: 6 months – 2 years
PIs: Dr. Supreet Kaur (UC Berkeley), Dr. Namrata Kala (MIT), and Dr. Aparajit Mahajan (UC Berkeley)
Location: Ludhiana, Punjab, India (with expansion to other Punjab locations)

Background: Parvaaz AI Incubator Program

The Parvaaz AI Incubator is a university-based program with two goals: (i) training students to use AI tools to build and deploy digital products to serve local businesses, and (ii) incubating new start-up ideas to launch the next generation of tech entrepreneurs in Punjab. The program runs in 4-month cohorts. Students work in teams to develop live products — building with AI coding tools, generating business ideas, developing business plans, and deploying live products to firms. The program is aimed at improving university students' technical, digital, entrepreneurial, and workplace readiness skills. At the end of the program, graduates will have obtained extensive hands-on experience in vibe coding a range of products, as well as launching their own tech start-up business.

The program is a joint initiative of Parvaaz at UC Berkeley, MIT Sloan, and the Poverty Action Lab (J-PAL), founded at MIT.

About the Position

The project seeks a qualified applicant for the position of **Technical Lead** to lead the program. The Technical Lead will set up and develop an incubator lab, lead hands-on classroom sessions on using AI tools (i.e. Claude Code) to vibe code and deploy products, and guide and mentor students from ideation through deployment.

This position offers a unique opportunity to work at the intersection of artificial intelligence, education, and applied research while helping shape innovative approaches to AI education and entrepreneurship for university students in Punjab. Researchers at MIT and UC Berkeley are partnering with Indian universities to pilot this incubator program. The Technical Lead will work closely with the research team to develop, implement, and help scale the program.

Roles and Responsibilities

The Technical Lead will work closely with academic researchers and the implementation team to perform a variety of tasks including, but not limited to:

Teaching, Facilitation, and Mentorship

- Deliver instructor-led sessions on AI tools and vibe coding. Classes are heavily hands-on: students build in real time, deploy products, and conduct demos for classmates.
- Guide participants through practical assignments, projects, and the use of AI tools.
- Explain technical concepts in an accessible manner for participants with diverse technical backgrounds.

- Mentor participants on developing business ideas for feasible products and executing on product plans.
- Encourage active participation and foster a collaborative learning environment.
- Provide timely feedback and mentorship to students on their learning progress and entrepreneurship ideas; monitor participation, assignment completion, and engagement.

Curriculum and Technical Support

- Review and provide technical inputs on the AI curriculum and learning materials.
- Set up, customize, and manage AI-based tools used during the training program.
- Build or adapt simple AI-enabled applications, dashboards, and workflows to support learning.
- Develop and maintain communication practice bots, assessment tools, and other learning-support applications.
- Assist in designing systems for tracking student engagement, learning progress, and outcomes.
- Support pilot testing, troubleshoot technical issues, and continuously improve learning resources.

Required Qualifications and Experience:

- Bachelor's degree in Computer Science, Artificial Intelligence, Data Science, Software Engineering, or a related field.
- Hands-on, regular experience building and deploying products using AI coding tools (e.g., Claude Code, Codex, Gemini, Cursor, GitHub Copilot) — including 'vibe coding' workflows
- Experience using Git/GitHub and collaborative software development workflows.
- Experience working with Python and APIs, including integrating AI services into applications.
- Experience deploying web apps (e.g., via Vercel, Railway, or similar) and working with databases (e.g., Postgres, Supabase, Firebase).
- Experience building web applications, dashboards, chatbots, or automation workflows.
- Strong presentation, classroom management, and communication skills.
- Fluency in Punjabi.

Desirable Skills

- Ability to mentor students in developing and executing product ideas, crafting sales pitches, and creating business plans. Additional support for these activities will be provided by more senior mentors from the tech industry.
- Prior experience teaching, training, mentoring, or facilitating technical courses, workshops, or bootcamps is preferred.
- Experience delivering instructor-led technical training or coding workshops.
- Familiarity with project-based learning and active teaching methodologies.
- Prior experience supporting educational technology initiatives or research projects is an advantage.

What the Role Offers

- Founding role in AI entrepreneurship incubator
- Mentorship by leading global economics researchers at MIT and UC Berkeley
- Contribute to scalable solutions that support skill development and employability.
- Shape and improve AI education models for higher education institutions in India.
- Collaborative work environment with researchers, educators, and technology professionals.

How to Apply

If you are interested in this position, please email your CV and a cover letter describing your interest in the role and relevant experience to aartim@mit.edu and bhawna.mangla@ifmr.ac.in. Please use the subject line “Application: Technical Lead and Founding Instructor - Parvaaz AI Incubator.” Applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis until the position is filled.