

## PROJECT RAKSHAK COHORT 2

### Job Description | Mentors

#### 1. About the Program

Project Rakshak is a youth-anchored road safety and infrastructure initiative conceptualized under the guidance of **Dr. Geetam Tiwari** (Emeritus Professor, TRIPC IIT Delhi) and **Dr. Richa Ahuja** (Assistant Professor, IIT Kharagpur). The programme aims to strengthen road safety governance by enabling structured, ground-level identification and analysis of blackspots, followed by evidence-based solution design aligned with national standards.

The program brings together undergraduate students from civil engineering, urban planning, and related disciplines to identify, investigate, and address real-world road safety challenges in their localities.

Project Rakshak goes beyond academic exercises. Participants conduct on-ground road safety audits, engage with local stakeholders and authorities, and develop recommendations with a focus on implementation and follow-through. The programme is built on the belief that sustainable road safety outcomes require both technical credibility and community ownership.

Now entering its second cohort, Project Rakshak is evolving from a youth audit programme into an audit, accountability, and implementation-oriented platform with a stronger emphasis on:

- Focus on identified blackspots and priority high-risk locations recognised by relevant authorities
- Technical rigour through expert-guided and implementation-ready audits
- Sustained engagement with DRSCs, road-owning agencies, institutions, and communities
- Tracking sites beyond report submission through review, follow-up, and implementation monitoring
- Building a long-term ecosystem of young road safety practitioners and institutional partnerships

#### 2. Role Overview

Mentors are the backbone of Project Rakshak's quality and impact. You will serve as a trusted guide, reviewer, and thought partner for 4 student teams working within your city. Your role is not to solve the problem for them - it is to sharpen their thinking, stress-test their assumptions, and ensure their work meets a standard that can actually influence change.

Beyond coaching, mentors also play a gatekeeping role: you will conduct structured intake interviews with prospective teams before cohort confirmation, evaluate milestone deliverables through the program, and assess final presentations. This makes the mentor's judgment central to both team selection and program quality.

##### Organization

Crashfree India

##### Role Type

Part-time | Virtual / Remote

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<b>Engagement Period</b>	3 months (extendable in case of delay of the program)
<b>Teams per Mentor</b>	Strictly 4 student teams
<b>Time Commitment</b>	6 – 8 hours per week
<b>Honorarium</b>	₹25,000 (TDS applicable, on successful completion)
<b>Cities</b>	Where possible, mentors are matched with teams from their own city or uni. In some cases, teams across the same city may be grouped under one mentor regardless of the mentor's location based on availability and program needs
<b>Cohort Start</b>	Cohort 2   2026

## 3. Key Responsibilities

### A. Team Selection

- Conduct structured intake interviews with shortlisted student teams to assess the rationale, and team readiness

### B. Ongoing Mentorship & Guidance

- Guide teams through the full arc of the program: problem framing, field audit, data analysis, solution validation, and stakeholder engagement
- Meet each team at least once per week (individually or in a group check-in) for structured progress review
- Help teams identify blind spots in their site analysis and challenge their assumptions constructively
- Advise on stakeholder mapping and assist teams in preparing for government, community, or institutional engagement
- Support implementation planning — ensuring teams produce work that is actionable, not just academic

### C. Deliverable Reviews & Evaluations

Mentors formally review and evaluate team deliverables at structured milestones across the cohort. The number and nature of checkpoints will be communicated during mentor onboarding and may include but are not limited to the following types of deliverables:

- Problem identification and site audit presentations (PPT / report)
- Solution design and intervention planning documents
- Stakeholder engagement updates and progress reviews
- Final presentations to government authorities

At each milestone, mentors provide structured written or verbal feedback and evaluate deliverables against the shared evaluation rubric. Final presentations are assessed by mentors in coordination with the CFI core team. Specific checkpoint details, timelines, and formats will be shared in the cohort calendar at onboarding.

### D. Program-Level Participation

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- Attend mandatory mentor orientation and briefing at the start of the cohort
- Participate in program-wide mentor syncs (approx. once every 2–3 weeks) to align on cohort progress, share observations, and escalate challenges
- Flag team performance concerns or disengagement to the CFI program coordinator promptly
- Contribute to post-cohort debrief and evaluation for program improvement

## E. Fostering the Right Mindset

- Actively encourage ownership, intellectual curiosity, and ground-level problem-solving in your teams
- Model a solution-oriented and evidence-driven approach to road safety challenges
- Create a space where teams feel supported to take risks, make mistakes, and course-correct

## 4. Expected Commitment

<b>Weekly Time</b>	6 – 8 hours per week
<b>Weekly Check-ins</b>	1 structured session per team (can be done as a group across your 4 teams)
<b>Deliverable Reviews</b>	Formal PPT/report reviews per team across the cohort
<b>Mentor Syncs</b>	Approx. 1 session every 2–3 weeks with the CFI core team
<b>Duration</b>	3 months   Extendible in case of delay of the program
<b>Mode</b>	Fully virtual / remote

This is a part-time engagement and is designed to be compatible with full-time professional roles. However, consistent availability and responsiveness are essential as teams depend on you at critical stages of their work.

## 5. Preferred Qualifications / Ideal Profile

We are looking for practitioners, academics, and professionals who have worked on real-world problems and understand what it takes to move from insight to action. You do not need to be a road safety specialist but you do need to care about systems, people, and outcomes.

We welcome applications from professionals with backgrounds in:

- Road safety, traffic engineering, and crash analysis
- Urban planning, transportation planning, or infrastructure design
- Public policy, governance, and civic administration
- Civil and structural engineering
- Research, academic institutions, or think tanks working on mobility or safety

Experience in the following areas is particularly valuable:

- Mentoring, coaching, or teaching at the university/early-career level
- Managing field-based or implementation-heavy projects
- Working with government stakeholders, municipal bodies, or civic systems

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- Designing or reviewing technical audits, reports, or feasibility studies
- Cross-sectoral problem-solving in resource-constrained environments

## 6. Skills & Competencies

<b>Communication</b>	Ability to explain complex ideas clearly, give structured feedback, and adapt communication style for students at varying levels
<b>Leadership</b>	Comfort with guiding teams through ambiguity, setting direction without micromanaging, and holding high standards
<b>Analytical Thinking</b>	Capacity to review field data, audit findings, and intervention designs with a critical and constructive eye
<b>Empathy &amp; Guidance</b>	Ability to support students through setbacks, build confidence, and keep motivation high across the full arc
<b>Problem-Solving</b>	Practical orientation toward identifying workable solutions in real-world, multi-stakeholder contexts
<b>Accountability</b>	Reliability in meeting review timelines, attending program sessions, and communicating proactively with the CFI team

## 7. What Mentors Gain

- A formal Certificate of Mentorship from Crashfree India, recognizing your contribution to national road safety efforts
- Honorarium of ₹25,000 on successful completion of mentorship responsibilities
- Continuous engagement with program advisors and expert panel for technical guidance and feedback
- Access to the CFI ecosystem of policymakers, urban planners, engineers, and development-sector professionals
- Opportunity to shape curriculum, evaluation frameworks, and future cohort design
- Meaningful contribution to a programme focused on reducing road fatalities in India
- Preferred consideration for future advisory and leadership roles as the programme scales

## 8. Reporting Structure & Coordination

Each mentor reports directly to the CFI Program Coordinator for day-to-day coordination.

<b>Direct Coordination</b>	Project Rakshak Coordinator (weekly touchpoints and deliverable alignment)
<b>Teams Assigned</b>	4 student teams
<b>Escalation</b>	Project Rakshak Coordinator, Crashfree India
<b>Mode</b>	All interactions are virtual — email, scheduled calls, and a shared program platform

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## 9. Selection Process

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1. Application submission (short form + CV) and assignment submission
2. A short conversation with the CFI team (to assess alignment, availability, and city/sector fit)
3. Offer and onboarding (including documentation and team assignment)

Shortlisted candidates will be contacted within 7 working days of application. We keep this process light on purpose - your time matters.

## 10. A Note Before You Apply

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*Road safety in India is not a niche concern — it is a crisis that claims over 1.8 lakh lives every year. Project Rakshak is one response to that crisis. It is continuously evolving, but it is grounded in the belief that real change starts with real people doing real work on the ground. If that resonates with you, we'd be glad to have you with us.*

If you are a practitioner who wants to give back, an expert who believes in youth-led change, or simply someone who thinks India's roads can be safer - we invite you to apply.

**To apply or to learn more, write to us at:**

[muskan.yadav@crashfreeindia.org](mailto:muskan.yadav@crashfreeindia.org)

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