



Principal Research Scientist

To apply, email
careers@nsiteam.com
www.nsiteam.com

Location: Remote (US-based)

Position Type: Full-Time

About NSI

NSI is a fully virtual company of applied social scientists with team members across the country. At NSI, you will support government and commercial clients as part of a team working on critical, real-world problems in national security and business. We take immense pride in our reputation for intellectual honesty, integrity, and rigorous analysis. We promote these attributes in everything we do and look for team members who value the opportunity to do academic-quality research in a challenging, fast-paced, applied setting.

Position Overview

As a **Principal Research Scientist**, you will serve as a senior member of our collaborative organization. You will help develop conceptual and quantitative frameworks and models, direct project tasks, manage client communications, and contribute to business development initiatives. This role requires an independent, highly motivated professional who thrives in a virtual environment, can handle multiple unrelated tasks simultaneously under narrow deadlines, and is able to actively lead a team of 4-5 analysts.

Key Responsibilities

- **Research & Modeling:** Contribute directly to the production of NSI's unique conceptual frameworks, ontologies, and empirical or computational models, specifically addressing broad, complex questions of interest to the national security and defense communities
- **Rapid Synthesis & Analysis:** Quickly learn new areas of research and distill central concepts, theories, and analytic results into clear, concise, academic-quality prose. Produce rigorous quantitative and qualitative analyses, statistical reports, and white papers
- **Project & Team Leadership:** Design and lead tasks and project sub-tasks, ensuring successful completion within specified timelines. Supervise the work and progress of 4-5 analysts. Maintain the flexibility to play multiple roles—acting seamlessly as a team lead, team member, editor, or reviewer as needs require
- **Client Engagement & Briefing:** Function as a primary point of contact to communicate project progress with clients and other performers. Prepare materials for, and deliver briefings on, complex findings to a variety of audiences, ranging from senior military decision makers to academic to industry partners
- **Business Development:** Actively lead company BD activities. Identify new business opportunities and take the lead in designing, writing, and preparing technical proposals and client briefings to win them

Qualifications & Skills

- **Substantive Expertise:** PhD in a social science with direct applicability to foreign affairs and security studies including anthropology, international relations, social psychology, geography, etc. with seven years of experience in relevant field



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- **Required:** experience teaching at the undergraduate or graduate level
- **Desired:** expertise in applied, behavioral economics/political economics
- **Technical Expertise:** Strong foundational knowledge of social science analysis, variable operationalization, and data collection techniques to ensure analytic outputs are valid and rigorous
 - **Desired:** Demonstrated fluency in multiple quantitative or computational research methods
 - **Desired:** Proficiency in R programming and basic data science (including database management and accessing data through APIs); strong agentic AI skills, including advanced prompting techniques and the capability to embed AI prompts into automated programs
 - **Desired:** Basic programming skills in Python or Java to support NLP (Natural Language Processing) and advanced data science pipelines; AI/LLM architecture and workflow design
- **Autonomy & Multitasking:** Exceptional capability to manage multiple tasks simultaneously with little direct supervision or guidance, delivering top-tier work under narrow deadlines
- **Communication & Storytelling:** Dynamic writing, public speaking, and organizational skills, backed by a strong attention to detail. *Data visualization and storytelling skills are a strong plus*
- **Intellectual Curiosity:** A natural drive to ask compelling questions, dig into data, and master unfamiliar subject matter rapidly
- **Security Clearance Statement:** You must be eligible to obtain a US government security clearance
- **Travel:** Ability to travel up to 10%–15% as required

What We Offer

NSI is dedicated to fostering an environment where employees can maintain a healthy work-life balance while doing impactful work. Our comprehensive benefits package includes:

- **True Workplace Flexibility:** remote/virtual work environment
- **Generous Time Off:** 2–4 weeks of vacation, 12 PTO days, and 11 paid floating holidays
- **Health & Wellness:** Employer-subsidized medical and dental insurance; fully subsidized short-term and long-term disability plans; and fully subsidized life insurance
- **Financial Growth:** Competitive salary, eligible for end-of-year performance-based bonuses, and a 401(k) plan with a 4% company match (100% immediate vesting)
- **Professional Development:** Paid educational and continuous learning opportunities
- **Team Connection:** Regular, fully funded company offsites to deepen collaboration, strategy, and team building

How to Apply

To be considered for employment, please submit your resume, cover letter expressing your interest in NSI, and a recent writing sample to careers@nsiteam.com.