

# CEBE Interdisciplinary Fellowship Programme

## Call for PhD and PostDoc projects

### 1. Background

CEBE (Civil Engineering and the green transition in the Built Environment) is a Danish cross-university research programme focusing on the sustainable development of the built environment. CEBE's vision is to promote science-based circular, low-carbon and resilient built environment within planetary boundaries. CEBE brings together leading researchers, industry partners, and international collaborators and stakeholders to advance excellent research, education, and innovation across the full value chain of the built environment. CEBE is supported by the Villum Foundation for a period of 10 years (2026 – 2035).

CEBE is structured with 7 research fields:

1. Assessing and measuring environmental sustainability
2. Design for regeneration, circularity and longevity
3. Low carbon and robust construction materials
4. Digitalisation and automation
5. Climate resilient and adaptive infrastructure
6. Sufficiency, well-being and energy efficiency
7. Extending the life of the built environment

More information about the CEBE programme and the seven research fields, including our research roadmap, can be found on our webpage ([www.cebe.dk](http://www.cebe.dk)).

Interdisciplinary research is markedly more effective at leading to groundbreaking results when compared to mono-disciplinary research. Through the **Interdisciplinary Fellowship programme**, CEBE aims to bridge research in civil engineering with other research fields like for example architecture, environmental science, urban planning, computer science, humanities and social science by jointly educating the next generation of researchers in order to strengthen interdisciplinary research projects in civil engineering and sustainability at the CEBE partner universities. Fellows are expected to involve industry partners and/or other stakeholders to ensure that their research has practical applications in the construction and infrastructure sectors and is relevant for society.

### 2. Scope of the Call

CEBE is now inviting proposals for **CEBE PhD or Postdoc Projects** under the *Interdisciplinary Fellowship programme*. It is expected that 10-15 projects will be awarded.

The projects are expected to:

- Focus on spearhead groundbreaking interdisciplinary research that advances CEBE's vision
- Address important research questions within CEBE's research fields that cannot be answered by the research groups separately
- Be based on an interdisciplinary collaboration between two or more research groups of which at least one belongs to a CEBE Partner University (main applicant). Cross-university projects will be preferred.

The call funds PhD or Postdoc projects. For PhD student projects, the PhD student will be enrolled and employed at a CEBE partner university. For both the PhD and postdoc projects it is expected that an equal amount of time is spent at each of the participating research groups.

### 3. Who can apply

The call is based on an interdisciplinary collaboration between two or more research groups of which at least one belongs to a CEBE Partner University (main applicant). It is open to applicants from all departments and research groups at CEBE's four Danish partner universities, respectively AAU (Aalborg University), AU (Aarhus University), SDU (University of Southern Denmark) and DTU (Technical University of Denmark).

The proposals are for single PhD student or postdoc projects and can be submitted by the principal investigator (PI, i.e. main supervisor/mentor). Each PI can submit one proposal. The proposals are evaluated individually.

CEBE encourages PIs at different stages of academic seniority to apply. CEBE is committed to diversity and welcomes applicants with different backgrounds, experiences, and perspectives.

### 4. Evaluation process

Project proposals will be evaluated by an international review panel of qualified scientists generating a short-list of highly qualified proposals. The final decision will be taken by the CEBE Steering Committee taking into consideration that a reasonable total balance of projects across the CEBE programme research fields is achieved.

The evaluation criteria that will be used for evaluating the project proposals are:

- Scientific excellence, novelty and need for an interdisciplinary approach in the proposed research
- Relevance to CEBE's overarching programme objectives as well as specific research field objectives
- Potential benefits and synergies to be achieved by the interdisciplinary approach
- Scientific merits of PI and academic partners, taking into account academic age

- Involvement of building sector stakeholders in the project
- Feasibility within the time and resource limits of the fellowship

Cross-university projects will be preferred.

If more than 100 proposals are received, they will be pre-screened by the Managing Director of the CEBE program as a maximum of 100 proposals will be evaluated by the international review board.

Rejected proposals will not be given individual feedback.

## 5. Application guideline

The application should include:

- Frontpage (including title of projects, name and affiliation of applicants, table of content)
- Project proposal (see below)
- CV of PI (main supervisor/mentor) from the CEBE partner university (see below)
- CV of Co-PI(s) (co-supervisor(s)/mentor(s)) from the participating research group(s) (see below)
- CV of potential PhD or Postdoc candidate (if named) (max 2 pages)

Project proposal must include the following four sections, and the project description must include the headings and the information stated below.

1. Project Summary (max ½ page)
2. Project Description (max 4 pages excluding references)
  - Motivation, Significance and Scientific Challenges
    - *Include a clear description of the visions and goals, the distinguishing features, and foci*
    - *Include a motivation for why a doctoral student or postdoc is most appropriate for the interdisciplinary project*
  - State of the Art
  - Scientific Approach, Methodology, and Novelty
    - *Describe the research contribution and potential impact*
  - Research Environment and Supervision
    - *Description of research environment and infrastructure (demonstrating feasibility of the proposed project)*
    - *Description of potential benefits and synergies expected through the interdisciplinary collaboration*
  - Stakeholders involved in the project
    - *Description of which stakeholders will be involved and how*
3. Project relevance to CEBE research fields (½ page)
  - *Identification of the relevant research field(s) for the project*

- *Description of the expected contribution to the research field(s)*
- 4. Sustainability goals of the project and relation to the CEBE program vision (½ page)
  - *Specific sustainability objectives taking into account possible sustainability-related trade-offs,*
  - *Sustainability-related conceptual and methodological choices*

The proposal must be composed in Times New Roman font, 12 pt, single-spaced text, margin 2,5 cm.

CV of PI and Co-PI(s), max 2 pages each, should at minimum include:

- Name, title and affiliation
- PhD year
- Short statement on previous research achievements and relevant impacts, including, e.g., in the policy, industrial, or public arenas
- Number (not name list) of current and number of former PhD students, postdocs, and masters students
- List of 10 publications including:
  - 5 most important publications (from the last 15 years)
  - 5 recent for the project relevant publications (from the last 5 years)
- Link to Scopus profile or Orcid account

## 6. Responsibilities

Recipients of awarded proposals (i.e., applicants) will become CEBE Affiliated and are expected to be engaged in the CEBE programme, including, e.g., attendance at CEBE , seminars, workshops and events, ensuring that CEBE-financed PhD students and postdocs are members of CEBE Research School, use CEBE affiliation and acknowledgement in publications, conference presentations and in relevant communication channels, as well as submit requested input to CEBE coordination unit, e.g. for administrative, reporting and budgeting purposes. In addition, CEBE expects that recipients of project funding from CEBE are committed to maintaining an updated ORCID account.

## 7. Funding

### PhD student project

Salary for PhD student (according to applicable rates at the partner university), max. 3 years full-time, project supplement (DKK 750.000), PhD education rate (DKK 240.000), consumables (equipment, running expenses, travel) (covered up to max. DKK 100.000).

### Postdoc project

Salary for Postdoc (according to applicable rates at the partner university), max. 2 years full-time, (project supplement (DKK 500.000), consumables (equipment, running expenses, travel) (covered up to max. DKK 100.000).

## 8. Submission

The application should be submitted as a single PDF file to the submission portal link:

<https://easychair.org/conferences/?conf=cebeifp2026>

Submission requires creating a free EasyChair account.

## 9. Timeline

22<sup>nd</sup> June 2026: Call opens

30<sup>th</sup> September 2026: Call closes

1<sup>st</sup> December 2026: Decision on accepted projects

30<sup>th</sup> May 2027: Deadline for project start / employment of candidate

## 10. Questions

In case of questions, please contact [cebe@cebe.dk](mailto:cebe@cebe.dk)