

CEBE International Partner Fellowship Programme

Call for 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).

International collaboration in research facilitates the combination of diverse expertise, resources, and perspectives to produce more innovative and globally impactful scientific outcomes. Through the **International Partner Fellowship** programme, CEBE aims to strengthen long-term, strategic collaboration with leading international universities and research environments.

2. Scope of the Call

CEBE is now inviting proposals for **CEBE Postdoc Projects** (two-year) under the *International Partner Fellowship programme*. It is expected that 10-15 projects will be awarded.

The projects are expected to:

- Focus on spearhead groundbreaking 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 a collaboration between a Danish CEBE partner University and an international partner university

The call funds one year of a two-year Postdoc project, whereas the remaining one year should be covered by the international partner university. The researcher will be employed one year at the Danish CEBE partner university and one year at the international partner university.

3. Who can apply

The call is based on a collaboration between two research groups of which at least one belongs to a CEBE Partner University (main applicant) and the other an international university. 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 postdoc projects and can be submitted by the principal investigator (PI, i.e. 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 and novelty of 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 collaboration between the CEBE and international partner universities including potential of future collaboration
- Scientific merits of PI and international partner, taking into account academic age
- Feasibility within the time and resource limits of the fellowship

Collaboration projects with partner universities in developing and emerging economies are preferred, as most new construction is expected to take place in these regions.

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 (mentor) from the CEBE partner university (see below)
- CV of co-PI (mentor) from the international partner university (see below)
- CV of potential Postdoc candidate (if named) (max 2 pages)
- Letter of support from international partner university, including statement of financial contribution (see below)

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*
 - 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 collaboration between the CEBE and international partner universities.*
 - *Description of other key collaborators, if applicable*
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-PIs, 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

Letter of support from international partner university. It should state their support for the project including their financial obligation to finance one year of the two-year PostDoc project and employment of the candidate in this period.

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 postdocs are members of CEBE Research School, use CEBE affiliation and acknowledgement in publications, conference presentations and in relevant communication channels, as well as to 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

The call funds one year of the Postdoc project in which the candidate will be employed at the Danish CEBE Partner University. It includes postdoctoral salary (according to applicable rates at the university), project supplement (DKK 250.000), consumables (equipment, running expenses, travel) (covered up to max. DKK 50.000).

8. Submission

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

<https://easychair.org/conferences/?conf=cebeipfp2026>

Submission requires creating a free EasyChair account.

9. Timeline

22nd June 2026: Call opens

30th September 2026: Call closes

1st December 2026: Decision on accepted projects

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

10. Questions

In case of questions, please contact cebe@cebe.dk