

GUIDE FOR APPLICANTS



GREENLAB-VILLUM FELLOWSHIPS AT AIAS

2023-2025



Technical University
of Denmark



AARHUS
UNIVERSITY



AIAS
AARHUS INSTITUTE
OF ADVANCED STUDIES

AARHUS UNIVERSITETS
FORSKNINGSFOND
AARHUS UNIVERSITY RESEARCH FOUNDATION



GreenLab

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GreenLab-VILLUM Fellowships at AIAS 2023-2025

1 The GreenLab-VILLUM fellowship Programme at AIAS

1.1 About GreenLab

GreenLab, in Skive, Denmark is a green and circular energy park, a technology enabler and a national research facility. GreenLab is specialized in accelerating research and technology, and the concept transforms the way green energy is produced, converted, stored and applied. GreenLab, works to transform the way green energy is produced, converted, stored and put to use. This effort is pursued at the eco-industrial park, which is a business park of the future where nothing goes to waste. The need for upscaling these initiatives and finding global solutions is evident, and Denmark is an optimal base for furthering international, inter-sectoral and interdisciplinary research collaborations. GreenLab tests theories in practice and search for viable green solutions to the world's biggest challenges. Read more on: <https://www.greenlab.dk>

1.2 About AIAS

Curiosity-driven and independent research for excellent scholars worldwide and across all research disciplines is the hallmark of Aarhus Institute of Advanced Studies (AIAS). As an 'Institute for Advanced Study', AIAS brings researchers together across disciplines, seniority and nationality. AIAS offers fellowships for excellent researchers from all core academic disciplines to pursue cutting-edge research projects for the benefit of society and humankind in optimal research conditions. The daily encounter with the diverse research disciplines at AIAS provides fellows with fresh and different insights and perspectives on their own research, leading to new and unexpected research questions and ideas.

A GreenLab-VILLUM fellowship gives the possibility to explore the methodologies and approaches taken in other scientific disciplines, thus making cross-disciplinary inspiration and initiatives possible. Read more on: www.aias.au.dk

1.3 The thematic mission and the fellowship programme

The focus of the fellowship is identifying new pathways for building a truly sustainable industrial sector. This requires reshaping industrial networks as regenerative systems in the form of eco-industrial clusters with the ability to e.g., preserve and upgrade material streams, decouple production from greenhouse gas emissions, adapt to systemic transitions and unforeseen disruptions, as well as place human well-being as a focal point of the acceptable impact of industry within the planetary boundaries. There is a need for a framework of milestones by which to evaluate industrial sustainability, and a roadmap on ways to achieve this. This thematic mission is a challenge that brings together scientific, technological, and social research to holistically assess the societal, environmental, and economic impacts of eco-industrial clusters with integrated industrial symbiosis and advanced data-driven value stream optimization. The challenge furthermore creates the interdisciplinary knowledge and innovative solutions for addressing the gaps from today's industrial status-quo to a future sustainable production industry.

Specifically, the purpose of the theme-based fellowships is to engage an interdisciplinary and international group of excellent researchers in research projects and themes related to understanding industrial

sustainability and how to mitigate the sustainability gaps from current industrial production. Suggested fellowship projects can draw on theories and methods from all academic fields within the theme of assessing and/or improving the performance of eco-industrial clusters in terms of their sustainability, circularity, or resilience.

A non-exhaustive list of examples of research topics for fellows under the thematic mission includes:

- Digital solutions for control and optimization of hybrid energy to industrial production and storage, as well as new market mechanisms
- New models for Socioeconomic value, new capitalism, circular economy, and equilibrium models for circular industrial cluster design
- Economic modelling of integrated energy infrastructure in cluster development

Applications are individual, but the selected fellows - up to 5 participants - will work together with each other and with researchers at GreenLab and relevant research centres at the Danish Universities during the 22 months fellowship. Moreover, fellows will receive training in interdisciplinary dialogue and are expected to contribute, via their own research agenda, to existing research agendas on industrial sustainability.

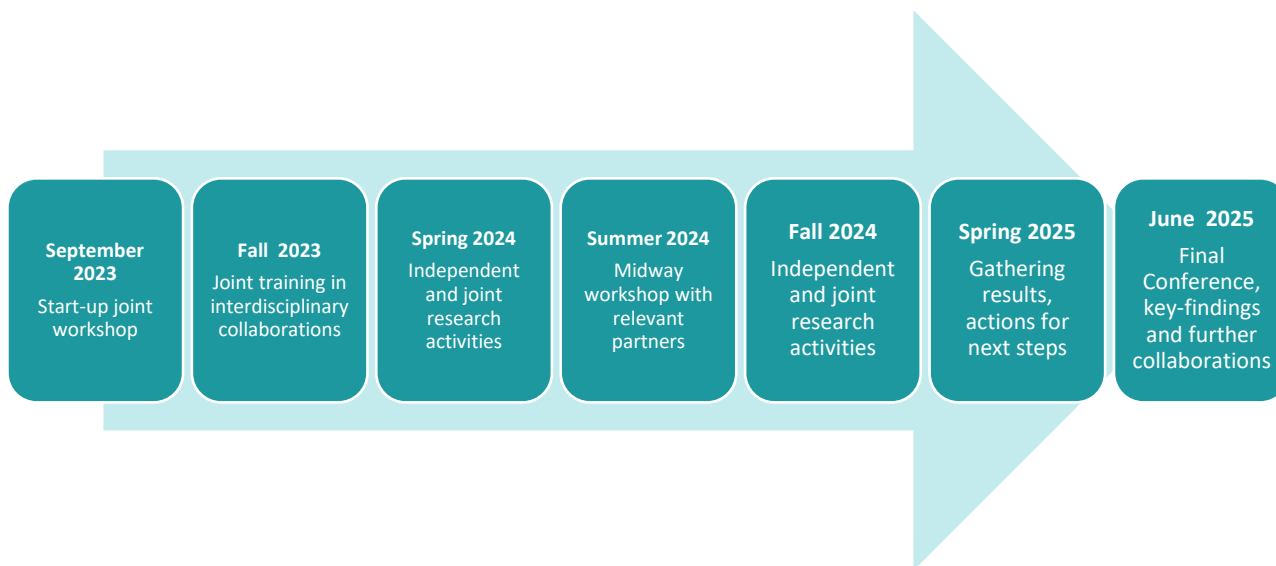
The fellowship programme combines GreenLab and the Danish Universities' dedication to research on the challenges related to industrial sustainability with the proven experience of Aarhus Institute of Advanced Studies in:

- attracting and retaining outstanding research talents
- promoting excellence in research and innovation
- developing research-based dialogue across different fields
- developing and expanding new research insights and promoting interdisciplinarity, leading to research-based solutions of societal challenges

A GreenLab-VILLUM fellowship at AIAS provides fellows with the possibility of collaborating and sharing knowledge with other researchers with an interdisciplinary approach to research within the selected group, in the multidisciplinary and international environment of excellence at AIAS, and Aarhus University.

This offers the individual fellow a unique opportunity to focus on developing the research, while also interacting and collaborating with researchers with different research perspectives within the same research theme. In order to ensure the collegial and collaborative approach among the group, the fellowship will begin with a joint workshop hosted at AIAS or GreenLab.

During the fellowship, a number of joint research activities will be organized depending on the need and interests of the involved researchers. The fellowship will end in June 2025 with a joint conference where key findings and ideas for further collaborations and research projects will be presented to relevant stakeholders and interested participants. The GreenLab-VILLUM fellows will be based at AIAS but with office facilities at GreenLab and, when relevant, at the affiliated Danish Universities.



2 When, how and what to apply for

2.1 Who can apply

The programme's target group is **talented researchers with an interdisciplinary research profile and interest in the theme of the call**. Researchers from **all nationalities and research disciplines** within the scope of the call are eligible to apply.

2.2 Duration of the fellowship

The duration of a fellowship is **22 months**. The fellowship period should be consecutive, and therefore it is not possible to split up the fellowship period into smaller parts. The fellowship is a full-time position and it is not possible to prolong the fellowship by working part-time. **The fellowship starts 1 September 2023 and ends 30 June 2025.**

2.3 Eligibility

In order to be eligible to apply for the GreenLab-VILLUM fellowship programme at AIAS two conditions apply:

- 1) Academic eligibility:** Applicants must hold a PhD degree (or equivalent) at the time of the application deadline.
- 2) Application eligibility:** The application must be complete and comprehensive and contain all mandatory documents. All mandatory documents must meet the requirements listed below, including format, page limitations and necessary content.

All applications are screened and will be rejected if one or both conditions are not met.

3 Application system, application requirements and content

Below is an overview of the content needed in the application template, and the flow in the online application system '[GrantOne](#)' The template is divided into three parts in the application system:

- 1) **Applicant**
- 2) **Application**
- 3) **Consent**

3.1 Applicant

The following information about **the applicant** should be provided:

- Name (as stated in your passport)
- Private Address
- Postal code
- City
- Country
- Email
- Phone number
- Date of birth
- Gender (for statistical purposes only)
- Nationality

The following information about the **Home institution** should be provided:

- Home institution (name, address and country)
- Department

Academic title

Date of completed PhD:

- Year of completed PhD: When selecting the year of completed PhD in the application system, the year must be identical with the date stated on the diploma.
- Upload the PhD diploma. The diploma must be written in the Latin alphabet. If not, a certified translated copy must also be attached. (Mandatory upload, file unloaded in Pdf.)

CV:

- CV and publication list: a maximum of ten pages (2400 characters including spaces per page, font size 12 points, 1,5 line spacing). The CV must describe your personal background, education and career until now; and a selected list of your recent publications and/or publications in relation to the theme (Mandatory upload, file uploaded in Pdf.)

3.2 Application

Area of research

Please select your **main area of research**. The areas are indefinable with the faculties of Aarhus University:

- Natural Sciences
- Technical Sciences
- Health & Medical Sciences
- Business & Social Sciences
- Arts & Humanities

A second main area of research

If your research is in more than one main area, please select a second main area of research, if applicable.

Project title

The title should provide the reader with a general idea of what the project is about. (Max 100 characters in, textbox)

Short abstract (Max 500 characters, in textbox)

The abstract should provide the reader with a clear understanding of the objectives of the proposal and the motivation and approach to the theme. This summary will be used as a short description of the proposal in the evaluation process when communicating with the reviewers. It must therefore be short and precise and should not contain any confidential information.

Collaborations or connections at a research environments at GreenLab or affiliated partners (Max 500 characters, in textbox)

Established collaborations at GreenLab or affiliated partners are not a requirement, but such collaborations are in many cases helpful for a successful fellowship. Please state if connections to Danish research environments have already been established and describe plans for further cooperation and note the contact information of the collaborator.

Project description (Max three pages (2400 characters including spaces per page, font size 12 points, 1,5 line spacing), mandatory upload in Pdf.)

The project description should give the reader a clear and comprehensive understanding of the specific research project in relation to the theme. **Applications must have a detailed project description** since the reviewers cannot evaluate poorly defined proposals adequately. The project description should be a clear, convincing and compelling account of the proposed research theme and include:

- Own research agenda and experience in relation to the specified thematic mission
- Interdisciplinary research considerations and expected impact.
- Description of method/ theoretical approach.
- Motivation, vision and contribution towards development of the thematic mission in an interdisciplinary group.

Project plan (Max one page mandatory upload in Pdf.)

A timeline or Gantt chart of the proposed project description.

Please make sure that all the requested information is included in the application, and that the mandatory files are uploaded. **If the requirements are not met, the application will be rejected.**

3.3 Consent

A consent form must be filled in to consent that Aarhus University and Aarhus University Research Foundation can process all personally identifiable data in accordance with applicable personal data regulations and to confirm that the information provided in the application system is correct.

4 Assessment and selection

The fellowship applications will be assessed based on the evaluation criteria below:

- Scientific excellence of the project description and contribution to the thematic mission of the call
- Interdisciplinary match and expected impact
- Scientific excellence of the applicant and fit in a collaborative group
- Project plan and implementation (project feasibility)

4.1 Assessment criteria

4.2 Review and selection panel

After the application deadline, applications will be subject to an eligibility screening. A review and selection panel will evaluate each eligible proposal and make the final selection. The review and selection panel is consisting of members from Danish Universities and GreenLab researchers, covering a broad range of disciplines, and the AIAS management. Applicants will receive offers in May/June 2023.

5 The fellowship

The following is included in a fellowship:

- A full salary, equivalent to the Danish wage levels and based on individual merits and seniority.
- The journey to Aarhus (economy class only – and up to a maximum of 2000 euros).
- Expenses related to visa and work permit applications, if applicable.
- A smaller amount for research related travels during the fellowship.
- A standard computer, office supplies etc.

6 Timeline

- Opening of call: April 2023.
- Deadline for applications: 16 May 2023 at 12.00 (noon) CET.
- Evaluation period: May 2023.
- Applicants will receive answers: end May/ early June 2023.
- Fellowship periods begin: 1 September 2023.

7 Working at AIAS and in Denmark

7.1 Benefits and services at AIAS

The GreenLab-VILLUM fellows will be employed at the Aarhus Institute of Advanced Studies, and will receive an employment contract. Foreign employees are entitled to social security benefits in Denmark. The employment contract will specify the most important terms and conditions of the employment such as salary, income-based contribution to a pension fund, holiday allowance, working hours, etc.

The GreenLab-VILLUM fellows can expect assistance with practical and logistical matters that may arise from pre-arrival to post-departure. AIAS has dedicated relocation employees who, in collaboration with the International Academic Staff Services at Aarhus University, will be of assistance in solving matters regarding visa applications, relocation, accommodation, language courses, spouse support, childcare options, finding schools for accompanying children, etc.

7.2 Employment conditions

The GreenLab-VILLUM fellows will be recruited in accordance with the collective agreement for state-employed academics. Terms of pay and employment are regulated by the collective agreement for state-employed academics. The Aarhus University work conditions will allow researchers to combine family and work, children and career.

- 37 hour work week (full-time – part-time is not possible)
- 5 (+ 1) weeks paid holiday annually
- Salary paid during illness
- If you have a sick child, you are entitled to stay at home with your child under the age of 18 on the first two days of illness with full salary

For successful applicants who are already employed at a Danish university, terms of the fellowship is contingent of a negotiation with the relevant head of department.

Foreign employees are covered by the same rules and regulations as Danish employees and are therefore covered by the Danish social security system, and entitled to social security benefits. Social security in Denmark is tax-funded, i.e. as a fellow you will not have to pay health insurance contributions or long-term healthcare insurance. Danish taxes are high. However, more attractive and special taxation rules (known as “The researcher taxation rule”) are applicable to most foreign researchers. The HR Department at Aarhus University and the Danish tax authorities will be able to advise foreign researchers whether they qualify for the special tax rate for foreign researchers.

7.3 Life in Aarhus

Right next to the sea and ancient forests, the City of Aarhus lies as a vibrant urban environment surrounded by the beauty of nature. Aarhus is an open, inclusive city where there is room for everyone.

With a population of 335,000, Aarhus is Denmark’s second-largest city and the fastest-growing in the country. In the past ten years, the city has received 15,000 new residents and created 20,000 new jobs, the majority within the knowledge, service and innovation industries.

Being a city of engaged citizens, innovative businesses and students from all over the world, Aarhus is characterised by a strong spirit of cooperation and social cohesion.

Aarhus has often been called the ‘City of Smiles’ and is proud of this nickname. Unpretentious, easy-going, fresh, optimistic, ambitious and buzzing with life. The City of Aarhus’s vision is that Aarhus is and continues to be a good city for everyone.



Photo of the campus area (the yellow buildings) and part of the city, 2005. Photo: Erik W. Olsson

More information about Denmark can be found on www.workindenmark.dk - a public organization that offers practical information and general advice on all issues related to working in Denmark.

8 Sources of help and additional information

For additional information regarding the application process or the GreenLab-VILLUM programme in general, please feel welcome to contact:

Programme Manager, Helle Villekold at helle@aias.au.dk

The programme has received funding from 'VILLUM FONDEN', GreenLab, Aarhus University Research Foundation (AUFF) and Aarhus University. For further information about AIAS, please visit www.aias.au.dk. For further information about GreenLab, please visit: [GreenLab](#)



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