

# Delivering net-zero, transforming postdoctoral development



# In partnership with C-DICE

The Centre for Postdoctoral Development in Infrastructure, Cities and Energy (C-DICE) provides a world-class postdoctoral development programme.

The C-DICE partnership is based around the Energy Research Accelerator (ERA) and UKCRIC partnership of universities, which leverages the collective capability of 18 leading research-intensive UK universities, related research associations and institutes, and leading industries involved in Infrastructure, Cities and Energy.

C-DICE tackles two distinct but interrelated challenges, which clearly align with the 10 Point Plan for a Green Revolution and the UK Government's Build Back Better policy.

These are:

- How to build and sustain the advanced skills base required to create a pipeline of world-class talent for the Infrastructure, Cities and Energy sectors.
- How to accelerate progress towards a net-zero society by 2050, the achievement of which demands a massive interdisciplinary research effort.

C-DICE is a unique collaboration, an inclusive space to harness significant UKRI, university and industry investment in facilities and doctoral training, bringing together the intellectual capital of hundreds of postdoctoral researchers, and ready-made impact pathways, provided by an established network of globally connected partners for sustained scientific and technological leadership.

C-DICE is supported through a £4m four-year investment from the Research England Development Fund, plus £3.4m in-cash and in-kind commitments from partners. It is led by the universities of Loughborough, Cranfield and Birmingham.

## How C-DICE works

C-DICE consists of four main strands:

1. The training strand - which provides bespoke training and development activities linked to partner facilities and expertise.
2. The development strand - which provides fellowships, placements and secondments with academic and industry partners.
3. The 'sandpit' programme - which brings together researchers in multi-disciplinary teams to generate novel solutions to the net-zero challenge.
4. The impact stand – which delivers knowledge exchange events to maximise and disseminate the outcomes and benefits for researchers, policy-makers, and business.

## How your business can benefit as a C-DICE partner

C-DICE will offer you unique opportunities to address some of your emerging challenges, while also developing postdoctoral talent in your organisation, or identifying talent that could provide a positive impact through their research and perhaps join you in the future to enhance your capabilities. It will provide access to world-class academic expertise and facilities, affording membership of a unique network which is positioned to realise the net-zero challenge.

Equality, diversity and inclusion are at the heart of the C-DICE mission, and we will develop an inclusive environment within which diverse postdoctoral talent will flourish. By ultimately helping embed this diverse talent, C-DICE also hopes to contribute to enrich the partners and sector-wide diversity.

## How can your business get involved with C-DICE?

The summary table below shows some of the benefits of engaging with C-DICE. Our collaboration can develop in the form of identifying the skills gaps and research challenges that C-DICE should address, by hosting placements or secondments, funding Fellowships, co-developing and engaging in sandpits around your organisation's aspirations, providing mentors and more.

### C-DICE Membership Benefits

| Activity   | Benefits to Post-Doctoral Researchers  | Benefits to your business  |
|--|--|--|
| <b>C-DICE Membership</b>                           | <p>Part of largest postdoctoral network in infrastructure, cities and energy.</p> <p>Access to a range of training and development opportunities designed around your needs.</p> <p>Access to C-DICE toolkit to map a pathway through your research.</p> | <p>Shaping the next generation of research leaders that can have a positive impact for your business.</p> <p>Influencing the development of future skills.</p> <p>Accessing expertise and knowledge exchange.</p> <p>Part of an innovative network of post-doctoral researchers and partners.</p>              |
| <b>Training</b>                                    | <p>Access to a wide range of training and development opportunities and expertise.</p> <p>Access to training specific to UKCRIC and ERA facilities in infrastructure, cities and energy.</p> <p>Evidence of skills development and CPD.</p>              | <p>Opportunities for your employees to access training from leading universities as CPD.</p> <p>Ability to utilise state-of-the-art facilities in the UKCRIC and ERA networks.</p>   |
| <b>Secondments</b>                                 | <p>Opportunity to undertake secondments to other organisations to gain additional experience.</p> <p>Career development.</p> <p>Expand your network.</p> <p>Mobility and flexibility.</p>  | <p>Address short-term and specific problems through secondees programme.</p> <p>Gain access to skills and expertise.</p> <p>Knowledge exchange.</p>  |
| <b>Development Fellowships (a funded position)</b> | <p>Apply for a C-DICE fellowship.</p> <p>Career track record and developing independence.</p> <p>Build collaboration and address a key research challenge related to net zero carbon.</p>  | <p>Sponsor one or multiple C-DICE fellowships to address a research challenge aligned with your business priorities.</p>   |
| <b>Sandpit series</b>                              | <p>Join an activity based around an interdisciplinary team solving complex, industry-based problems.</p> <p>Promising solutions awarded seed-corn funding for further development.</p>   | <p>Work with C-DICE to define and run challenge(s) to benefit your business.</p> <p>Act as an industry mentor during the sandpit to ensure fit for purpose and impactful outcomes.</p> <p>Support the challenge solution with follow-on funding in case sufficient viability and benefit are demonstrated.</p> |

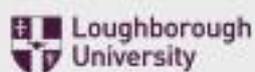
## Next Steps

As a partner, there are multiple opportunities for your business to engage with C-DICE. We will be happy to join team meetings or events to present C-DICE in further detail and explore further how we could collaborate. It may also be helpful to schedule a brainstorming meeting with you to explore your aspirations in relation to modes of engagement and opportunities C-DICE can create for you. This will be followed by an engagement roadmap, initially proposed by the C-DICE team, co-defined and agreed through a second meeting. After that, we will act swiftly to deliver the plan in collaboration with you and we would schedule regular meetings according to your availability to track progress and revise the next steps.

## Contact us

Keep up-to-date with C-DICE news by signing up for our [newsletter](#), or visiting our website at [www.cdice.ac.uk](http://www.cdice.ac.uk). You may also like to follow us on Twitter (@CentreDICE) or [Linked In](#).

For more information about how your business can benefit from partnering with C-DICE, please contact Dr Kathryn North, C-DICE Director on [K.North@lboro.ac.uk](mailto:K.North@lboro.ac.uk)



[www.cdice.ac.uk](http://www.cdice.ac.uk)

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