

Delivering net-zero, transforming postdoctoral development



Services for university partners

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

C-DICE 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 government's 10 Point Plan for a Green Revolution, namely:

- 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 harnesses UKRI, university and industry investment in facilities and doctoral training, bringing together hundreds of postdoctoral researchers and ready-made impact pathways, provided by a network of partners, for sustained scientific and technological leadership. The programme 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

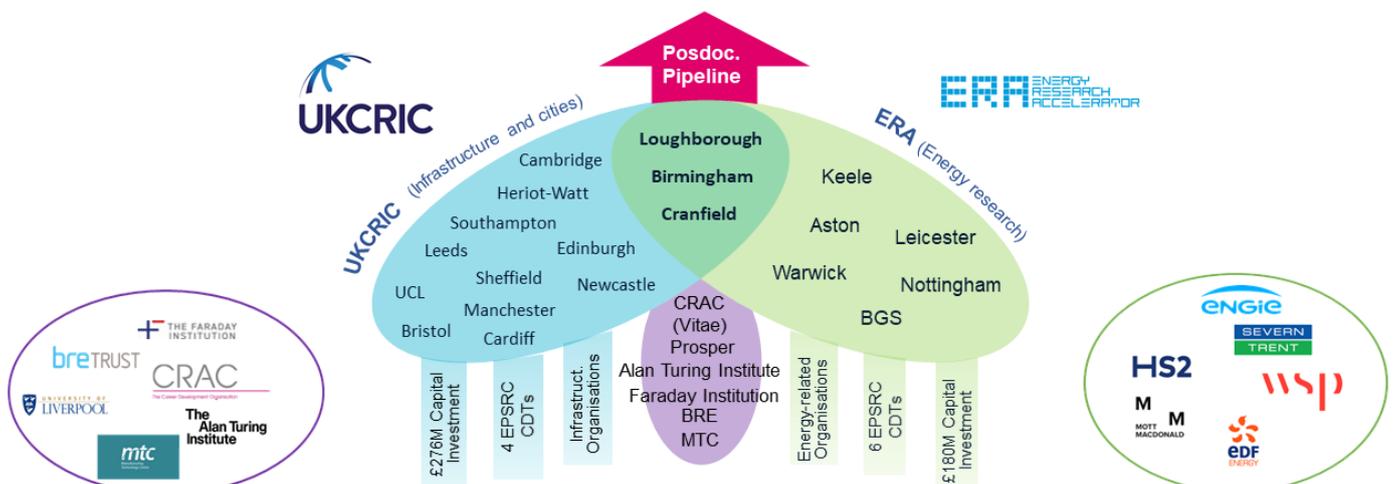
C-DICE consists of four main strands:

1. The Training Strand - providing training and development linked to partner facilities and expertise.
2. The Development Strand - providing fellowships, placements and secondments with partners.
3. The 'Sandpit' Programme - bringing together researchers in multi-disciplinary teams to generate novel solutions to the net-zero challenge.
4. The Impact Strand – delivering knowledge exchange events to maximise and disseminate the outcomes and benefits for researchers, policymakers, and business.

The C-DICE collaboration

The C-DICE partnership includes 18 higher education institutions, along with our collaborative network of 12 leading industrial partners and membership organisations, as illustrated below. Together these provide an exceptional collaborative ecosystem of partners uniquely positioned to tackle the net-zero challenges.

C-DICE: The Collaboration



C-DICE benefits for postdoctoral researchers

Be a part of a unique postdoctoral network

By participating in C-DICE, you will be a part of the largest postdoctoral network in the UK in the areas of Infrastructure, Cities and Energy. C-DICE will be able to provide access to a range of training and development opportunities designed around your needs, which you will be able to access via the C-DICE Portal to map a pathway through your research and career development. The Portal will be available from September 2021.

Training and development

C-DICE is building a portfolio of training opportunities bespoke to postdoctoral researchers, which will enable the development of deep technical skills, research and analytical skills and professional skills. The intention is to enable researchers to access and develop their skills to enable growth within their current role, and to be beneficial for future careers. The benefit of C-DICE is that our training portfolio goes over and above what one employer could deliver and is tailored for the postdoctoral career stage. We also plan to build in accreditation pathways to help strengthen employability.

Recognising that postdoctoral researchers are highly skilled, we're also offering the opportunity for you to develop and deliver training to others via C-DICE. Our 'peer-to-peer' scheme will enable you to gain recognition for any training that you deliver to support others. As a C-DICE member you will have a record of your engagement and development to enhance your CV.

We are also able to facilitate access to the extensive range of world-leading Energy Research Accelerator and UKCRIC facilities based at 18 higher education institutes across the UK.

Industrial secondments

As a postdoctoral researcher in the C-DICE programme you will have the opportunity to apply for secondments and placements in industry and other universities in order to gain additional experience. These will help with your career development, plus enable you to utilise your expertise to deliver research and innovation with partners, expand your network, mobility and flexibility.

C-DICE Development Fellowships

By participating in the C-DICE programme you will also be able to apply for a limited number of Fellowships. A Fellowship enables you to develop your own academic career and enhance your CV. Through a fellowship you can gain research independence contributing to the net zero challenge. The C-DICE Fellows will form a cohort with access to mentoring, training and other activities to help you advance your career.

The C-DICE Developmental Sandpit series

The C-DICE Developmental Sandpits bring together postdoctoral researchers from across the partnership, with other partners and stakeholders, and are based around interdisciplinary problems relating to net zero in infrastructure, cities and energy, including technical and socio-economic elements. Promising solutions may be awarded seed-corn funding for further development of the idea and to further enhance the experience of the postdoctoral researchers participating.

C-DICE and impact

C-DICE will provide opportunities to create and recognise the impact postdoctoral researchers make, both to new research and innovation and the development of others. We will provide opportunities to develop greater impact, for example through engagement with policy-makers and business. We will also gather evidence of the importance of supporting postdoctoral researchers to the UK's research and innovation, working with partners to realise new opportunities to enhance the postdoctoral experience.

C-DICE benefits for universities and academic staff

Training and development for your researchers

C-DICE offers extensive bespoke training and development opportunities for your researchers, which will help to improve their skills, including technical and research skills, and advance their careers. Given the breadth of the collaboration and the expertise C-DICE has access to, it is a unique opportunity for the development of researchers and research. We also welcome input into the programme from senior academic staff, research managers and other university staff with an interest in postdoctoral development to help shape the content of the project.

HEI to HEI secondments

C-DICE also offers short-term (up to one month in duration) placements to universities and other Higher Education Institutions. C-DICE also offers a variety of opportunities, including longer-term secondment opportunities (with a particular emphasis on industry-HEI engagement), sandpits, hackathons and bespoke training courses.

Enabling new collaborations

C-DICE provides the opportunity for you to expand your network and build contacts with experts in the 18 ERA and UKCRIC universities and also a range of industrial partners. This may help to open doors for you to work with businesses and/or other HEI researchers, and bid for funding for collaborative research programmes.

Access to cutting-edge facilities

The Energy Research Accelerator and UKCRIC have between them invested in facilities, equipment and demonstration projects worth in excess of £300m. Many of these facilities can be accessed by researchers from across the ERA and UKCRIC partnerships, subject to agreement.

Commitment to the Researcher Concordat

All of the C-DICE HEI partners have demonstrated a commitment to the Concordat for the Career Development of Researchers and the HR Excellence in Research. We can help you to deliver this commitment by engaging with C-DICE, and by developing your researchers.



Forthcoming events and activities

The following table details some of our forthcoming events and activities. You will be able to find details of all of these activities and more on our [website](#) over the coming weeks.

Activity	Details
HEI to HEI placements launch	Wednesday 1 st September 2021
Launch of the C-DICE Portal for accessing opportunities	Monday 13 th September 2021
Business secondments, matchmaking event	Monday 20 th September 2021, 14:00 – 15:00 online
National Postdoc Appreciation Week	Monday 20 th – Friday 24 th September
C-DICE conference	Wednesday 27 th October 2021, University of Birmingham (registrations open Monday 6 th September)
Developmental Sandpit programme for postdoctoral researchers with Seedcorn Funding for the best ideas Themes to be determined	<p>Sandpit 1 – need to be available for all 5 sessions Wednesday 3rd November 2021 - 10:00am-13:00pm Friday 5th November 2021 - 10:00am-13:00pm Friday 12th November 2021 - 10:00am-16:30pm Wednesday 17th November 2021 - 13:00pm-16:30pm Friday 19th November 2021 - 10:00am-12:45pm</p> <p>Sandpit 2 – need to be available for all 5 sessions Wednesday 1st December 2021 - 10:00am-13:00pm Thursday 2nd December 2021 - 10:00am-13:00pm Monday 6th December 2021 - 10:00am-16:30pm Wednesday 15th December 2021 - 10:00am-12:30pm Thursday 16th December 2021 - 10:00am-12:45pm</p>

How to get involved

If you are a postdoctoral researcher, academic, research manager or another member of university staff with an interest in postdoctoral development, please contact us and we will keep you informed of the latest C-DICE events, activities and other opportunities.

Please email Cdice-enquiries@lboro.ac.uk with details of your role and your interest in postdoctoral development.

If you have any other questions regarding C-DICE, please contact Dr Kathryn North, C-DICE Director on K.North@lboro.ac.uk

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



C-DICE in numbers



OVER

600

ACADEMICS

OVER
£400M



**INVESTMENT IN
RESEARCH FACILITIES**

£4m

**FOUR YEAR
PROGRAMME**

1

2

3

4



18

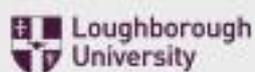
**UNIVERSITY
PARTNERS**



OVER

1400

RESEARCHERS



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