

CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

Unite! Matchmaking for Early-Career Academics at Aalto University

7–9 October 2025, Espoo/Helsinki Metropolitan Area/Finland

Are you an **early-career academic** looking to expand your network, exchange ideas, and explore potential future projects with peers from Unite! partner universities? **Apply now** for the **Matchmaking Programme at Aalto University** taking place during the [XII Unite! Dialogue](#), a unique opportunity fostering collaboration in research and teaching within the [European University Alliance Unite!](#).

Programme Overview

Early-career academics from Aalto University will welcome peers from the Unite! partner universities. Each Aalto host, focusing on a specific academic field and research area, will engage with a small group of visiting participants from their field, creating opportunities to exchange ideas, build networks, and explore potential future collaboration. Each host will organise a two-and-a-half-day programme during 7–9 October 2025. The closing session will highlight a panel discussion by the hosts, reflecting on the matchmaking outcomes and future collaborations.

Why Apply?

- Exclusive Networking Opportunity – Connect with leading academics and experts in your field.
- Teaching & Research Opportunities – Explore future joint projects and academic partnerships.
- Fully Funded Participation – All travel and accommodation costs will be covered by TU Graz.

Availability & Selection Process

- Number of spots: A total of 5 spots are available for TU Graz early-career academics.
- Waiting list: If all spots are filled, eligible applicants may be placed on a waiting list and contacted if a spot opens.

Eligibility Criteria

- Early-career academic (post-doc) with up to 10 years of experience.
- Active in a relevant field aligned with one of the hosts at Aalto University.
- Strong motivation to engage in alliance-wide collaboration in teaching and/or research.

How to Apply

1. Review the list of academic hosts and their focus areas: [Aalto University hosts](#). If you want more information about a specific host, you can contact them directly: [Contact Details](#) (p. 2).
2. Prepare a CV (tabular form) and a motivation letter (max. 1 page) outlining your teaching and research interests, already existing or desired collaboration efforts, and preferred Aalto host.
3. Submit your application via the [submission form](#) by 21 April 2025.

Important Dates

Application Deadline: 21 April 2025

Selection Notification: 30 April 2025

On-site Programme in Espoo (Helsinki Metropolitan Area), Finland: 7–9 October 2025

For inquiries, contact: Andrina Dolinšek, unite@tugraz.at, ext. 4922


we care about **international** education

Contact details of Aalto University academic hosts

Department of Energy & Mechanical Engineering, Aalto University School of Engineering

Sam Cross, contact email: Samuel.cross@aalto.fi

Areas of interest: **Hydrogen, Renewable Electricity** (particular regulation, markets & economics for both), **Applications of electrical energy storage** (primarily batteries) – techno-economic assessment at grid & residential level

Prakhar Dixit, contact email: prakhar.dixit@aalto.fi

Areas of interest: **Sustainable energy, Thermal management in electric vehicles (EVs) using phase change materials (PCMs): Experiment and Simulation**

Department of Applied Physics, Aalto University School of Science

Yaolin Xu, contact email: yaolin.xu@aalto.fi

Research Group Energy Materials & Interfaces (EMI)

Areas of interest: **Sustainable energy and AI**

Mariia Kiseleva, contact email: mariia.kiseleva@aalto.fi

Research Group Soft matter and wetting

Areas of interest: **Water condensation, wetting and phase-change phenomena**

Dept. of Chemistry and Materials Science, Aalto University School of Chemical Engineering

Sara Pakseresht, Filipp Obrezkov and **Xiangze Kong**, contact email: sara.pakseresht@aalto.fi

Areas of interest: **battery materials, thin-film coatings, electrochemical performance optimization, material characterization, computational simulations and modelling**

Dept. of Electrical Engineering & Automation, Aalto University School of Electrical Engineering

Shankar Deka, contact email: shankar.deka@aalto.fi

Areas of interest: **AI, Learning for dynamics and control, Autonomous systems**

Li Zhengmao, contact email: zhengmao.li@aalto.fi

Areas of interest: **sustainable energy, smart cities, AI for energy systems, green hydrogen tech.**

Department of Architecture, Aalto University School of ARTS

Johanna Lilius, contact email: johanna.lilius@aalto.fi

Area of interest: **Urban planning, Housing, Left-behind places, Shrinkage**

Department of Built Environment, Aalto University School of Engineering

Eva Purkarthofer, contact email: eva.purkarthofer@aalto.fi

Areas of interest: **Sustainable cities, spatial planning, urban and regional planning, public administration, governance, agency, institutions**

Aalto University Language Center

Nicole Ivarsson-Keng, contact email: nicole.ivarsson-keng@aalto.fi

Area of interest: **Sustainability & Education, Internationalisation, Language Education**

Department of Design and Department of Art and Media, Aalto University School of ARTS

Namkyu Chun, contact email: namkyu.chun@aalto.fi

Areas of interest: **Design, Culture, Media, Cultural Intermediaries**

Unit of Organizational Communications, Aalto University School of Business

Daria Nagaivska, contact email: daria.nagaivska@aalto.fi

Area of interest: **Corporate sustainability, Business & Human Rights**



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