

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST *SHAPE LAB*

PROGRAM AT AAU INNOVATE

Fall 2026 Cohort

Please fill out the form in either English or Danish

APPLICANT INFORMATION

Name:

Title:

AAU E-mail:

Phone:

Institute:

Faculty:

VCN Profile:

Employment status:

Employment end date (if applicable):

Research Area:

VISION & VALUE CREATION

Motivation

Why do you want to join SHAPE LAB?

Relevant SDGs

Which [Sustainable Development Goals](#) will your work address?¹ (circle applicable ones)

- 00. The idea is not linked to any of the SDGs
- 01. No poverty
- 02. Zero hunger
- 03. Good health and Well-Being
- 04. Quality Education
- 05. Gender Equality
- 06. Clean water and Sanitation
- 07. Affordable and Clean Energy
- 08. Decent Work and Economic Growth
- 09. Industry, Innovation and infrastructure
- 10. Reduced Inequalities
- 11. Sustainable Cities and Communities
- 12. Responsible Consumption and Production
- 13. Climate Action
- 14. Life below Water
- 15. Life on Land
- 16. Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions
- 17. Partnerships

Learning goals

What do you hope to learn or achieve through the program?

Future plans

Do you intend to continue working with your idea/innovation afterward? How?

¹ We wish to understand the societal focus of your project and help AAU document its broader impact.

PROBLEM & IDEA

Societal challenge

Which challenge(s) do you aim to explore or solve?

Idea description

Briefly describe the idea(s) you want to develop and explore:

Landscape

Do others work on something similar? How will you differ?

Success criteria

For you during the three-month program:

For society once implemented:

Research foundation

Which parts of your research does the idea build on?

PARTNERS

External business partners

Do you (plan to) collaborate with businesses? How?

External research partners

Do you (plan to) collaborate with researchers? How?

Ideal mentor

Picture your ideal mentor for the business part of this project – who would that be / what skills would that person have?

SIGNATURES

By signing below, **the applicant** confirms:

- That all information provided in this Expression of Interest is accurate and complete, including details regarding their **employment status and contract period**.
- The applicant understands that any incorrect or incomplete information may affect their eligibility for participation in SHAPE LAB.
- The applicant further confirms that **if they hold an active Danish business registration number (CVR)**, their SHAPE LAB idea and all time spent in the program **will not be used for, derived from, or conducted on behalf of that business**.

Applicant's signature

By signing below, **the Head of Institute** acknowledges that:

- They approve the applicant's participation in the SHAPE LAB program, **should the applicant be selected**, including approval for the applicant to be **bought out for up to one (1) day per week** for the full duration of the program (September through November 2026).

Head of Institute's signature

Please email your application to shape@aau.dk no later than **30 April 2026**

IMPORTANT DATES

Letters of submission/rejection: 15 May 2026

SHAPE LAB kickoff: TBA, early September 2026

EVALUATION CRITERIA

APPLICANT'S EMPLOYMENT

- hold a **PhD**
- have an **employment contract/agreement** with AAU that extends at least **one year** beyond the end of the program.
- be employed at an institute within the **Faculty of Social Science and Humanities (SSH)**
- have a minimum employment level that **includes research responsibilities**

APPLICANT'S PROJECT IDEA

- stem fully or partially from the applicant's **research**
- address a clear **societal challenge**
- have the **potential to contribute to positive change/impact** for the planet, society, or a larger group of individuals.
- build on existing research but **focus on exploring the external/application potential** of that research
- be **innovative** – e.g. this could include a new method and process, a changed system perspective, something new for a specific target group, or a new product or service.

APPLICANT'S MOTIVATION AND VISION

- potential to act as an **SSH ambassador for innovation** within their institute.
- an understanding of **how research can contribute to societal change**, rather than a strict requirement for a personal ambition to "change society"
- concrete steps for how ideas could be translated into real world application

APPLICANT'S PARTNER(S)

- the number and quality of **internal and external partnerships**.
- **diversity** in partner types and perspectives.

SHAPE LAB COHORT

- a **diverse group** of SSH researchers across institutes
- strong potential for positive **team dynamics** and synergy