

PhD Position in Self-Driving Labs for Perovskite Solar  
Cells  
University of Southern Denmark

Direct Link: <https://www.AcademicKeys.com/r?job=269722>

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Posted Dec. 22, 2025, set to expire Mar. 15, 2026

**Job Title** PhD Position in Self-Driving Labs for Perovskite Solar Cells  
**Department** The Centre for Advanced Photovoltaics and Thin-Film Energy Devices (SDU CAPE), part of the  
<https://www.sdu.dk/en/forskning/cape>  
**Institution** University of Southern Denmark  
Sønderborg, , Denmark

**Date Posted** Dec. 22, 2025

**Application Deadline** Mar. 15, 2026  
**Position Start Date** Apr. 15, 2026

**Job Categories** Graduate Student

**Academic Field(s)** Material/Metallurgy  
Engineering Physics  
Electrical and/or Electronics  
Engineering - Other

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**Job Description**

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The Centre for Advanced Photovoltaics and Thin-Film Energy Devices (SDU CAPE), part of the Mads Clausen Institute, University of Southern Denmark (SDU), invites applications for a 3-year PhD position within the R2-D2 project: "Robotic Research platform and automated Device Doctor for Perovskite Solar Cells". The position is available from April 15, 2026, and the specific start date will be agreed with the successful candidate.

#### **About the Project**

As a PhD fellow, you will become part of the SDU CAPE research center at the Mads Clausen Institute, SDU, where we focus on designing, developing, and bringing forward new sustainable solar energy conversion and storage technologies, in particular new thin film solar cells and modules. Working as a PhD fellow, you will focus on developing a robotic research platform and an automated 'Device Doctor' for perovskite solar cells. The goal is to combine high-throughput experimentation, machine learning, and advanced modeling to accelerate device optimization and enable automated diagnosis of performance-limiting factors and suggest optimization strategies. The project will be part of the DFF Sapere Aude project, and research stays abroad are part of the position.

The majority of your working time is devoted to your own research studies. As a PhD student you are expected to develop your own ideas and communicate scientific results in English.

We offer a fully funded PhD position for the duration of three years.

The successful applicant will be enrolled as a PhD student at the PhD School at the Faculty of Engineering.

#### **Your Profile**

Candidates who have a previous master's degree in a field relevant to the mentioned PhD-project may seek the fellowships (material science, physics, chemistry, electrical engineering and similar). Candidates with experience in thin-film fabrication and characterization, perovskite and/or organic hybrid semiconductors, or thin-film photovoltaic devices are especially encouraged to apply. Additional skills in self-driving laboratories, programming/modeling, or machine learning will be considered an advantage. Due to the strong cross-disciplinary nature of the work, the candidate is expected to have excellent collaboration skills. A very good capability of communicating scientific results in English, both orally and in writing is required.

#### **About the Workplace**

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We are an international research center working in the field of green energy technologies (CAPE), and we are looking for a highly motivated PhD candidate to join our CAPE research center at University of Southern Denmark (SDU), campus Sønderborg, for developing next-generation sustainable and high performance photovoltaics. We offer a modern, inclusive, international and interdisciplinary working environment with state-of-the-art facilities as well as a strong tradition of international collaboration. Our ambition is, to recruit, develop, and retain talented scholars committed to both academic excellence and departmental development.

Having a focus on green energy technologies - improving performance, device stability and up-scaling, the center has full access to an ISOS5 cleanroom and surface science laboratory facility for the preparation and characterization of thin films and photovoltaic devices, a dedicated robotic system for automated small-area sample preparation, as well as a fully equipped Roll-to-Roll (R2R) facility for upscaling flexible devices. Our research center CAPE is a partner in various national and international research projects and networks that include collaboration partners from both academia and industry.

Read more on: <http://www.sdu.dk/en/stillinger>.

### Further information

For information about the Mads Clausen Institute and SDU CAPE, please see [www.sdu.dk/en/mci](http://www.sdu.dk/en/mci) and <https://www.sdu.dk/en/forskning/cape>.

Further information about this position is available from Assistant Professor Vincent M. Le Corre, e-mail: [lecorre@mci.sdu.dk](mailto:lecorre@mci.sdu.dk).

If you experience technical problems, please contact [hcm-support@sdu.dk](mailto:hcm-support@sdu.dk).

### Application

Before applying the candidates are advised to read the [Faculty information for prospective PhD students](#) and the [SDU information on how to apply](#).

Assessment of the candidates is based on the application material, **and an application must include:**

- Motivated application.
- Curriculum Vitae.
- Master's and bachelor's degree certificates or equivalent, including transcripts of grades (copy of original/official English translation).

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- Completed TEK PhD application form for 5+3 applicants. Find the form at the [Faculty website](#).
- Completed TEK PhD form for calculation grade point average. Find the form at the [Faculty website](#).
- An official document describing the grading scheme of the awarding universities (if not Danish).
- Only for applicants from programmes that evaluate thesis/examination project by approved/not approved: An official written assessment of the thesis or dissertation project from the grade giving institution. The statement must clearly state that the candidate has been among the top 30 pct. in the graduation class for the study programme.
- List of publications and maximum 2 examples of relevant publications (in case you have any publications).
- References may be included, you're welcome to use the form for reference letters at the [Faculty website](#).
- A statement/documentation of other qualifications relevant to the position may also be included.

All documents must be in English and PDF format. CPR number (civil registration no.) must be crossed out. All PDF-files must be unlocked and allow binding and may not be password protected.

SUBMISSION GUIDE: Motivated application shall be uploaded in the box 'Cover letter' (max. 5 MB), Curriculum Vitae shall be uploaded the the box 'Resume' (max 5 MB). All other documents shall be uploaded in the box 'Miscellaneous documents' (max 10 files of max 50 MB per file).

**The application deadline is March 15, 2026, at 11.59 PM / 23.59 (CET/CEST)**

### Assessment and selection process

Applications will be assessed by an assessment committee. Shortlisting may be applied, and only shortlisted candidates will receive a written assessment. [Read about shortlisting at SDU](#). Interviews and tests may be part of the overall evaluation.

Read about the [Assessment and selection process](#).

### Conditions of enrollment/employment

Appointment as a PhD fellow is a 3-year salaried position, and the **monthly gross salary incl. pension is 36.608 DKK**. If you have relevant postgraduate experience, you may be placed on a higher salary step.

The preferred start date is from April 15, 2026.

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Applicants must hold a master's degree (equivalent to a Danish master's degree) at the time of enrollment and employment. Employment is contingent on enrollment approved by the PhD School. Enrollment will be in accordance with [Faculty regulations and the Danish Ministerial Order on the PhD Programme at the Universities \(PhD order\)](#). Employment will be in accordance with the collective agreement between the Ministry of Finance and the Danish Confederation of Professional Associations for academics in the state with the associated circular on the job structure for academic staff at Danish universities and the provisions for PhD fellows as described herein as well as the Protocol on PhD fellows signed by the Danish Ministry of Finance and the Danish Confederation of Professional Associations (AC). [Further information about salary and conditions of employment](#). The person employed in the position may, based on a specific individual managerial evaluation, be exempted from time registration, also known as a "self-organizer".

The University of Southern Denmark wishes our staff to reflect the surrounding community and therefore encourages everyone, regardless of personal background, to apply for the position. SDU conducts research in critical technologies, which, due to the risk of unwanted knowledge transfer, are subject to a number of security measures. Therefore, based on information from open sources, background checks may be conducted on candidates for the position.

[Further information](#) for international applicants about entering and working in Denmark. You may also visit [WorkinDenmark](#) for additional information.

[Further information](#) about The Faculty of Engineering.

### About Us

The University of Southern Denmark was established to create value for and with society. Whether our contributions come in the form of excellent research, innovative solutions, education or learning, we must make a positive difference to society and contribute to a sustainable future. We do this by cultivating talents and creating the best environments for research and learning. It is therefore crucial that SDU retains, develops and recruits talent. At the same time, we need to ensure consistently high quality in all our activities – and we can only do that with the right people. The University's researchers, lecturers, students, managers and technical/administrative staff are the foundation of our success.

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**Contact Information**

Please reference Academickeys in your cover letter when  
applying for or inquiring about this job announcement.

**Contact**     Assistant Professor Vincent M. Le Corre  
The Centre for Advanced Photovoltaics and Thin-Film  
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