

BEVICA SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMME

Call for participation

How can we create an inclusive society for all?

THE CALL

Bevica Fonden invites students and lecturers at Danish universities, university colleges and design schools to take part in the Bevica Scholarship Programme.

The programme supports innovative and bold thinkers to investigate how their profession can develop universal design as a lever for the pledge in the UN Sustainable Development Goals to Leave No One Behind.

This is your chance to join the journey towards a more inclusive and sustainable society for all – regardless of ability.

Our society needs to be more inclusive in many areas. Products, environments, programmes, and services are designed for idealised average persons and use – supporting some and leaving others behind. However, living with different and changing abilities, permanent or temporary, is a human condition we all share. And to embrace and accommodate for our shared differences – in all aspects of our society – we call for multidisciplinary action.

The Bevica Scholarship Programme calls upon passionate and talented students and lecturers from all disciplines – from social service professions and humanities to political sciences, law, IT, design and beyond – to investigate the potentials of universal design as a tool within their own discipline, in a joint quest to equality.

THE CHALLENGE

Universal design is defined by the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, as: 'the design of products, environments, programmes, and services to be usable by all people, to the greatest extent possible, without the need for adaptation or specialized design'.

Developing universal designs is a multidisciplinary task and challenge – for both students and teachers – from a wide range of disciplines addressing key aspects of our daily lives.

The Bevica Scholarship Programme challenges participants to answer the questions below:

Students

The questions asked:

How can universal design contribute to creating a more inclusive society in Denmark – embracing everyone, regardless of ability? And what new knowledge is needed to do so?

The Bevica Scholarship Programme challenges participating students to develop a problem statement relevant to investigate the questions above through your own discipline. The process of developing your problem statement will be supported by workshops, online self-study and sparring with experts, and peers.

Participating students are to:

- Define and deepen a key problem statement they wish to investigate within their own discipline by means of universal design.
- Ideate how and where they will carry out their investigation. Including identifying a relevant international knowledge environment to visit and carry out their investigations.
- Identify the expected impact of their investigation and potential findings on generating a more inclusive and sustainable society for all in Denmark– regardless of ability.

Proposed projects are to:

- First and foremost, develop universal design within key aspects of our daily lives: products, environments, programmes, and services.
- Implicitly, promote an understanding of human beings that includes everyone across different and changing abilities.
- Consequently, showcase universal design as a lever for the pledge of the UN Sustainable Development Goals to Leave No One Behind

By addressing these prioritised objectives, participating students ideate, refine, and pitch their individual investigative projects for evaluation by an international and interdisciplinary jury.

Bevica Scholarships are ultimately granted to students that excel in their ambition to innovate and demonstrate how universal design can be applied within their own discipline to generate a more inclusive society for all in Denmark.

Lecturers

How can universal design contribute to a more inclusive society? How can teaching at Danish research-based universities, university colleges, or design schools support this quest? And what new knowledge is needed to take action?

The Bevica Scholarship Programme challenges participating lecturers to develop a problem statement relevant to investigate the questions above through your own discipline. The process of developing your problem statement will be supported by workshops, online self-study and sparring with experts, and peers.

Participating lecturers are to:

- Define and deepen a key problem statement they wish to investigate within their own discipline by means of universal design.
- Identify one or more key aspects of universal design they wish to gain knowledge about to inform their own teaching practice, policies, and/or subjects.
- Ideate how and where they will carry out their investigation. Including identifying a relevant international knowledge environment to visit and carry out their investigations.
- Identify the expected impact of their investigation on their teaching activities and curriculum development in universal design.

Proposed projects should stimulate and strengthen teaching that:

- First and foremost, develop universal design within key aspects of our daily lives: products, environments, programmes, and services.
- Implicitly, promote an understanding of human beings that includes everyone across different and changing abilities.
- Consequently, increases knowledge about universal design as a lever for the pledge of the UN Sustainable Development Goals to Leave No One Behind

By addressing these prioritised objectives, participating lecturers ideate, refine, and pitch their individual investigative project for evaluation by an international and interdisciplinary jury.

Bevica Fellowships are ultimately granted to lecturers that excel in their ambition to innovate and demonstrate how universal design may stimulate and strengthen their teaching activities and curricula development to generate a more inclusive and sustainable society for all in Denmark.

THE PROCESS

Students and lecturers are invited to sign up for the Bevica Scholarship Programme by 1 December 2024.

The programme is structured in three phases for all participants:

1. **The Ideation phase** where you attain new knowledge from a mix of two one-day workshops, online self-study modules and hands-on sparring with experts and peers, in order to develop a problem statement, you wish to further investigate.
2. **The Creation phase** where a selected shortlist works on refining their project, makes initial agreement with the host environment of their investigations, and prepare their potential pitch for the award ceremony.
3. **The Investigation phase** where the winners travel abroad to carry out their project investigations and bring new knowledge back to Denmark.



Specified timeline of the Bevica Scholarship Programme:

Sign-up August 2024 – December 2024	
1 August 2024	Sign-up to the Bevica Scholarship Programme opens
Sept. – Nov. 2024	Information meetings at Danish universities, university colleges and design schools across Denmark.
1 December 2024	Sign-up closes

Ideation February – April 2025	
1 February 2025 (Saturday)	Full-day physical workshop with expert presentations, mentor sparring and interdisciplinary group work (physical attendance required)
1 March 2025 (Saturday)	Full-day physical workshop with expert presentations, mentor sparring and interdisciplinary group work (physical attendance required)
1 April 2025	Deadline for submission of participants' preliminary project proposal for review by an interdisciplinary and international jury.
April 2025	Jury assessment
Creation May – October 2025	
1 May 2025	Shortlisted participants are announced
16-17 May 2025	Creation workshop with mentors and professional experts (physical attendance required)
14 August 2025	Deadline for submission of shortlisted participants' final project proposals for review by an interdisciplinary and international jury.
September 2025	Jury assessment
9 October 2025	Award ceremony with pitches from finalists (physical attendance required)
Investigation 2026	
January – December 2026	Recipients of a Bevica Scholarship award carry out their investigations abroad
	Knowledge and experiences are disseminated to Universal Design Hub during the journey

REQUIREMENTS FOR PARTICIPATION

Students

To sign up for the Bevica Scholarship Programme, students must be enrolled at a Danish research-based university, university college, or design school. Moreover, students must have completed at least the 3rd semester of their education at the start of Ideation (February 2025). Students from all disciplines can participate.

Selected participants receive a Bevica Scholarship of DKK 350,000 or a Bevica Scholarship travel grant of DKK 30,000. The Bevica Scholarships are to be used for visiting a foreign university or taking on an internship with a relevant international NGO or company, according to submitted project proposals.

The Investigation phase is planned in dialogue with Bevica Fonden and should be completed as soon as possible after receiving the Bevica Scholarship award and by no later than the end of 2026.

All recipients of a Bevica Scholarship award are obliged to disseminate knowledge and experiences to Universal Design Hub - Bevica Fonden during their investigations.

Lecturers

To sign up for the Bevica Scholarship Programme, lecturers must be employed at a Danish research-based university, university college, or design school. Furthermore, lecturers must be able to document active teaching activities within the past two years at the beginning of Ideation (February 2025). Lecturers from all disciplines can participate.

Selected participants receive a Bevica Fellowship of DKK 130,000 or a Bevica Fellowship travel grant of DKK 30,000. Bevica Fellowships are to be used to visit a foreign research-based university, university college, or design school, to stimulate and strengthen teaching and curricula development within universal design in a Danish context.

The Investigation phase is planned in dialogue with Bevica Fonden and should be completed as soon as possible after receiving a Bevica Scholarship award and by no later than the end of 2026.

All recipients of a Bevica Fellowship award are obliged to disseminate knowledge and experiences to Universal Design Hub - Bevica Fonden during their investigations.

WHAT DO YOU GET OUT OF JOINING THE BEVICA SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMME

- Students: The chance to win a Bevica Scholarship of DKK 350,000 or a Bevica Scholarship travel grant of DKK 30,000.
- Lecturers: The chance to win a Bevica Fellowship of DKK 130,000 or a Bevica Fellowship travel grant of DKK 30,000.
- An opportunity to investigate new and extensive knowledge about universal design, diversity, inclusion, and the Leave No One Behind agenda in an interdisciplinary context.
- Access to an extensive network of peers and experts – including support to identify, make contact and gain access to your potential host institution.
- You become a *Bevica Ideator*, an opportunity to become a *Bevica Creator*, and potentially a *Bevica Scholar/Bevica Fellow*.
- Membership of the Bevica Scholarship Alumni Network.
- Support and profiling through the Bevica Scholarship communication channels and networks.
- An opportunity to join a network of like-minded innovators on a journey to a more inclusive society for all.