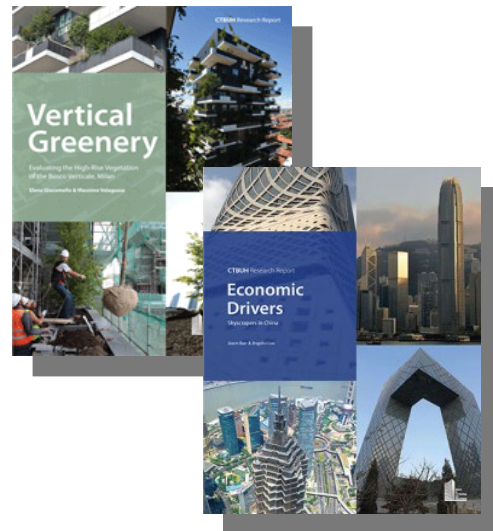


Award Brief

The Council on Tall Buildings and Urban Habitat (CTBUH) is pleased to announce the “Call for Proposals” for its **2025 International Research Seed Funding** – culminating with an award of US\$20,000 to be recognized at the [CTBUH 2025 International Conference](#), held in Toronto from 6–9 October 2025.

The goal of the seed funding assists talented researchers in developing projects/ideas to a level that would secure additional, more significant, funding—in conjunction with the CTBUH. Proposals should relate to the tall building typology/urban habitat, but are open to any topic/discipline, including but not limited to: architecture, construction, energy issues, energy harvesting, environmental engineering, façades, financial & cost issues, fire & life safety, geotechnics, humanities, infrastructure, interiors, maintenance & cleaning, materials, MEP engineering, policy making, resource management, seismic design, social aspects, structural engineering, systems development, urban planning, vertical transportation, wind engineering, etc. The proposals should have the potential to improve tall buildings and cities from a wide perspective. A non-exhaustive list of possible research topics is provided in the “Roadmap on the Future Research Needs of Tall Buildings,” produced by the CTBUH in conjunction with UNESCO and CIB, and available [here](#).



The ideal final objective of the potential bigger research project to come out of the CTBUH 2025 Research Seed Funding is to produce an official CTBUH Research Report publication, much like those available [here](#).

Acceptance of the award obligates applicants to develop the research in conjunction with the CTBUH, including taking the research forward for more significant funding/development after the seed funding period, should that be appropriate based on the initial findings of the research.

Submission Deadline

Proposals (to be submitted [here](#)) are due by **Monday 28 July 2025** (11:59 PM Central Time). To express your interest in participating prior to this date, to discuss the suitability of your proposal in more detail, or to ask any questions, please contact: competition@ctbuh.org

Please note: The Research Seed Funding initiative is open to research professionals, while the [CTBUH Student Research Competition](#) is aimed specifically at student applications. It is therefore not possible to submit a proposal to both programs.

Award

Amount: US\$20,000, paid in three installments at project start, midpoint and conclusion, on display of satisfactory progress. The research period itself should ideally last for a maximum of **six months**. Please note: the grant budget should not be spent to disseminate the findings at conferences, symposiums, etc.

Key Dates

- 27 May 2025: Call for Submissions
- 28 July 2025: Submissions Due
- August 2025: Jury Deliberates
- August 2025: Winning Team Notified
- October 2025: Winning Team announced at CTBUH 2025 International Conference
- October 2025 – March 2026: Research Conducted

Proposal Submission Requirements / Submission Template

All applications must be submitted in English. Applications should stand on their own merits and not be dependent on other pending research. All proposals should include information/details necessary for the Expert Peer Review Committee to understand the research ideas and anticipated outcomes. The final proposal should be completed using the online form provided and adhere to the formatting standards contained therein. In the proposal submitted, text or images from other research or publications should not be utilized without proper citation. All quotations and bibliographic references should be fully documented. The award funds are intended to finance the Award Recipient's scientific work and may be used to cover all expenses which serve this purpose (including the necessary equipment and material, personnel, travel expenses directly related to the research itself, etc.). It may not be used to cover indirect costs of the institution, nor be used for dissemination (attending conferences, publishing papers/books, etc.). CTBUH will assist with dissemination of progress and findings to the international community through its normal channels—publications, website, newsletters, etc.

Team Submissions

Applicants may be individuals or teams, however applicants must be representing public or private institutions that can effectively carry out rigorous research (i.e., non-institutional, individual private submissions will not be accepted). Each person can submit only one research proposal, either as an individual or as a member of a team. The submitter or team members do not need to be CTBUH members, however, it is expected that the award recipient(s) will become CTBUH members and get involved in the activities of the Council more generally. Team projects may have up to three members and must designate one principal investigator (PI) who will serve also as the communication liaison with the CTBUH. Individual team members need not be affiliated with the same institution, though the award will be made to—and managed by—one institution.

Selection Committee & Criteria

The evaluation of proposals will be undertaken by the CTBUH Expert Peer Review Committee, with guidance from the funding sponsor. The committee reflects a multi-disciplinary group of tall building/urban experts from around the world, with established research and publication records, as well as tall building experience in varying fields. After a first-round evaluation by the Expert Peer Review Committee, the top five proposals will be reviewed by a jury representing the Seed Funding Sponsor and CTBUH representatives, to determine the winner. The CTBUH reserves the right to reject all applications and grant no awards.

The criteria for selection include the following broad guidelines:

1. Relevance, novelty, and suitability for the result to be published as a CTBUH Research Report (20 Points)
2. Quality of the proposed methodology (20 points)
3. Experience and aptitude of the researcher(s) to deliver the research (20 Points)
4. Use of prior research to inform the project (10 points)
5. Applicability for industrial or commercial use (10 points)
6. Justification of project support expenses for which funds will be used (10 points)
7. Awareness of research limitations (5 points)
8. Clarity of the written proposal including proper use of grammar (5 points)

Total (100 points)

Post Award Procedures

The goal of the work under the auspices of the award is to initiate and conduct research in a formal partnership with the CTBUH.

1. The CTBUH encourages the award recipient to attend the [CTBUH 2025 International Conference](#) to collect the award. The CTBUH will offer a complimentary Conference Only registration for the principal investigator of the winning research project. The CTBUH Research Seed Funding grant should not be used to cover the recipient's remaining costs to participate in the event.
2. Following the successful award announcement, the Award Recipient must facilitate the execution of a signed grant agreement between the home institution and the Council within 30 days.
3. The actual research must start within 30 days of the initial awards funds transfer.
4. Typically, it is expected that the project will be completed in a maximum 6-month timeframe.
5. In all announcements, publications, presentations and other outputs in connection with this project, the Award Recipient should include appropriate reference to the funding provided by the sponsor with the phrasing "with kind support of the Council on Tall Buildings and Urban Habitat and Sun Hung Kai Properties."
6. The CTBUH expects the home institution of the Award Recipient (which has, among other things, the necessary experiences of institutional, legal and labor issues) to take on fiduciary responsibility for the administration of the award funds in the name of, and on behalf of, the Award Recipient. For this purpose, an agreement must be concluded between the Award Recipient and the home institution, and submitted to CTBUH before the award funds are paid.
7. The Award Recipients will submit full and complete reports to the Council of the findings of the research, including the manner in which the funds are spent, and the progress made in accomplishing the purposes of the grant (two reports are necessary—interim and final).
8. The Award recipients will keep records of receipts covering all expenditures and supply justification of the complete expenditure to CTBUH for accounting purposes.
9. The Award Recipient will cooperate with the Council staff on all publicity and media related to the award, its progress and outcomes throughout the duration of the grant and afterwards.
10. The Award Recipient will repay any amount not used for the purposes of the grant if not expended within 12 months of the award announcement.

11. The CTBUH considers it essential that research results be published. An obligation of the research award is that the findings be submitted first for consideration for publication in the CTBUH Journal. Ideally, they will be used to produce a publication in the [CTBUH Research Report series](#).
12. Acceptance of the award constitutes an agreement to pursue the development of the research jointly with the Council. The agreement provides for the Council to offer its full cooperation in supporting future research efforts including: 1) offering strategic and technical information for developing the research; 2) assisting with locating and developing subsequent funding proposals; and 3) serving as the fiscal agent for research funding obtained jointly. In return, the CTBUH is expected to be acknowledged as a partner on the project and have provision within the financial budget submitted.

About the CTBUH

The Council on Tall Buildings and Urban Habitat (CTBUH) is the world's leading resource for professionals focused on the inception, design, construction, and operation of tall buildings and future cities. Founded in 1969 and headquartered at Chicago's historic Monroe Building, the CTBUH is a not-for-profit organization with an Asia Headquarters office at Tongji University, Shanghai; a Research Office at IUAV University, Venice, Italy; and an Academic Office at the Illinois Institute of Technology, Chicago. CTBUH facilitates the exchange of the latest knowledge available on tall buildings around the world through publications, research, events, working groups, web resources, and its extensive network of international representatives. The Council's research department is spearheading the investigation of the next generation of tall buildings by aiding original research on sustainability and key development issues. The Council's database on tall buildings is updated daily with detailed information, images, data, and news. The CTBUH also developed the international standards for measuring tall building height and is recognized as the arbiter for bestowing such designations as "The World's Tallest Building."