

# Ph.D. Position in Sustainable & Resilient Infrastructure Systems

## [Global Projects and Organizations Research Group](#)

### Opportunity at a glance

- **Program:** Ph.D. in Construction Engineering and Management or Civil Infrastructure Systems, [Department of Civil, Environmental and Architectural Engineering](#) at the University of Colorado at Boulder.
- **Start date:** Spring 2027 or Fall 2027.
- **Research focus:** socially sustainable and resilient infrastructure systems at the intersection of built infrastructure, organizations, communities, and policies/regulation.
- **Form:** [Expression of Interest: Ph.D. Position in Sustainable and Resilient Infrastructure Systems – Fill out form](#)

### Position Description

The Global Projects and Organizations (GPO) Research Group is recruiting a Ph.D. student interested in socially sustainable and resilient infrastructure systems. Our group, advised by Professor Amy Javernick-Will, studies how built infrastructure interacts with social, organizational, regulatory, and policy systems, with the goal of improving community outcomes through rigorous, actionable research.

GPO group members are inquisitive, self-motivated scholars who are excited to use qualitative, quantitative, and/or mixed-method approaches to address built infrastructure challenges. In addition to requiring varied analytic tools and methods, GPO works on applied research, with positions requiring the management of complex schedules, including fieldwork and interviews, in addition to avid reading, writing, and speaking. GPO members may be co- or collaboratively advised by other professors in the department, depending on topic.

### Potential Research Areas

The specific PhD project will be collaboratively developed with the student and Prof. J., related to the following areas:

- **Resilient and sustainable built infrastructure systems:** collective action for safe school infrastructure; housing and community resilience to wildfire risk; and policy, standards, and practice for modular home construction.
- **Sustainable and safe drinking water delivery:** risk management for safe water delivery at drinking water utilities and strategies that enable water reuse at drinking water utilities.

### Program and Start Date

The successful applicant will enroll in a Ph.D. program in Construction Engineering and Management or Civil Infrastructure Systems within the Department of Civil, Environmental and Architectural Engineering at CU Boulder, with an expected start date in Spring 2027 or Fall 2027. The University of Colorado Boulder is an equal opportunity/nondiscrimination institution. A four-year funding package is anticipated for the successful applicant. Funding will be provided through a combination of graduate research assistantships and teaching assistantships and includes a stipend, tuition remission, and coverage of applicable fees in accordance with CEAE annual graduate assistantship rates.

### Required Qualifications

- Completed bachelor's degree in engineering or a closely related field.
- Excellent written and oral communication skills.
- Demonstrated self-motivation, initiative, and ability to manage project-level work independently.

- Ability to begin the degree program in the United States by Spring 2027 or Fall 2027.
- Ability to meet the [admission requirements for the CEAE Ph.D. program at CU Boulder](#).
- Proof of English proficiency, if applicable, [consistent with CU Boulder Graduate School requirements](#).

### Preferred Qualifications

- Demonstrated interest in research at the intersection of social and infrastructure systems.
- Experience with qualitative, quantitative, or mixed-methods research; fieldwork; community-engaged research; policy analysis; or infrastructure-related data analysis.
- Completed or near-completed master's degree in civil engineering, architectural engineering, construction engineering and management, infrastructure systems, or a closely related field.

### Application Process

Interested applicants should complete the [expression-of-interest form, which asks you to upload the following materials](#).

- Cover letter (maximum 2 pages) describing research interests, relevant experience, why GPO would be a good fit, and a potential research question/area the applicant would be interested in exploring. Information can be duplicated from the interest form.
- Current CV or résumé (maximum 2 pages).
- As available, a writing sample, such as a journal article, report, thesis chapter, or other technical writing sample.
- As applicable, evidence of ability to meet the requirements listed above.
- If requested, names and contact information of references.

Review of applications will begin on a rolling basis and continue until the position is filled. Shortlisted candidates will be invited to a video interview and may be asked to complete a short, written assignment. Selected candidates will receive guidance on applying to the Ph.D. program at CU Boulder. Final admission decisions are made by the university.

### About the GPO Research Group

The Global Projects and Organizations (GPO) Research Group is a collaborative team of student researchers at the University of Colorado Boulder. We envision a world where people have equitable access to safe, resilient, and sustainable infrastructure. Our work seeks to improve societal outcomes and well-being by enhancing the sustainability, resiliency, and livability of communities through built infrastructure. GPO members are committed to producing high-quality, actionable research that improves communities. [Learn more about the GPO Research Group](#).

### About CEAE and CU Boulder

The Department of Civil, Environmental and Architectural Engineering (CEAE) at CU Boulder is a thriving academic community of more than 800 students, including more than 100 Ph.D. students, and a world-class faculty. Civil engineering was ranked 13th among public graduate programs by U.S. News and World Report for 2026. Located in Boulder, Colorado — just 30 miles from Denver, which was ranked the #6 best place for civil engineers in the nation by the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) in 2025 — CEAE offers an exceptional environment for graduate study, combining rigorous research and great job opportunities, with an unmatched quality of life at the foot of the Rocky Mountains.