

## Open call: Early Career Plenary Lecture on “Energy Transition in the Chemical Industry”

The Early Career Chemical Engineers Section of EFCE is excited to announce an open call for early career researchers to apply for one (1) plenary speaker position at the 2026 EFCE forum. The event will be organised on the last day of the 16th Mediterranean Congress of Chemical Engineering (MeCCE) in Barcelona, held from 2 to 5 June 2026. More information about the conference can be found here: <https://www.mecce.org/>

The EFCE forum will focus on the energy-related threats and opportunities facing the European chemical industry, particularly the impact of Europe’s high energy prices and the resulting relocation of production outside the region. It will explore how to counter this industrial exodus by examining the role of energy transition, energy-supply security, and governmental support.

The selected early career plenary speaker will have the opportunity to showcase their research and work on an international platform and a diverse audience of leading academics and industrial stakeholders. This is a unique chance for emerging scientists and engineering specialists to make a visible impact in the chemical engineering community, which is a significant achievement.

We are seeking candidates who have demonstrated expertise and insight in energy-related aspects of the chemical industry. We welcome applicants who can deliver a presentation focused on one or more of the following suggested areas (but not limited to):

- Electrification of chemical processes
- Process intensification for low-carbon production of chemicals
- Integration of intermittent renewable energy in plant operation
- Industrial-scale hydrogen for chemical synthesis
- Carbon capture and utilisation integrated into chemical processes
- Digitalisation and AI for energy-efficient operations for chemical production

Please note that the presentation should be related to decarbonisation of the chemical industry and thus topics outside of this scope (such as energy efficient building technologies, sustainable aviation and maritime fuels) are not preferred.

### Eligibility Criteria

- Early Career status, which refers to candidates who have obtained their Ph.D. within the last 8 years or have less than 8 years of relevant professional experience after completing their master's or bachelor's degree\*. We encourage both academics and industry professionals to apply.
- Demonstrated expertise in energy transition for the decarbonisation of the chemical industry through research, publications, or professional experience.
- Strong public speaking and presentation skills.
- Fluency in English, as it is the official language of the conference.

*\*We are committed to a transparent and fair selection process, ensuring equal opportunities for all candidates. The eligibility period will be extended to account for any maternity or paternity leave.*

## Application process

### **1st Stage - Expression of Interest**

We invite early career researchers and chemical engineers to express their interest in being considered for a plenary lecturer position by submitting:

1. Extended CV, which includes year obtaining PhD or master degree, prizes and awards, list of publications and conferences
2. Short statement (200 words max). The text should explain the significance and impact of the candidate's work, how it aligns with the EFCE Forum, the motivation for applying, and why they should be selected as plenary lecturer
3. Tentative title of the talk they are planning to deliver

### **2nd Stage - Full application**

Shortlisted candidates will be asked to submit a full application, which includes:

1. Video of 3-min (max) duration
2. Short abstract (300-500 words)

Both video and abstract should provide details of the topic that will be covered during the presentation. This can include an overview of the candidate's research or professional experience, key insights, and potential contributions to the field. The video allows to also demonstrate communication skills, enthusiasm, and the ability to present with clarity.

For both stages, kindly send all documents to Dr Theodoros Papalas ([tp557@cam.ac.uk](mailto:tp557@cam.ac.uk)) and the Early Career Chemical Engineers Board ([EFCE.earlycareerchemengs@gmail.com](mailto:EFCE.earlycareerchemengs@gmail.com)).

## Timeline

- Opening of the Call of Interest: 10th of December 2025
- Deadline for first round of applications: 23rd of January 2026
- Invitation sent to shortlisted potential speakers: 6th of February 2026
- Deadline for second round of shortlisted applications: 27th of February 2026
- Final selection of Plenary Lecturer: 25th of March 2026

The selected candidate will have their registration fee covered, while all remaining candidates will be informed for the final selection so that they have time to register with reduced registration fees (31/03/2026 - end of early bird registration). Application to the Early Career Plenary Lecture does not alter the conference abstract submission rules (<https://www.mecce.org/index.php/abstracts>).

The selected candidate will also have the opportunity to perform up to two virtual mock plenary lecture sessions in April and May 2026 and receive feedback from members of the Early Career Chemical Engineers Section and the EFCE community.

**Referral Option:** Senior professionals or professors can recommend early career candidates through our referral option. Please provide the candidate's contact information and a brief statement on their suitability for the role.

For any questions or concerns, please contact us at [EFCE.earlycareerchemengs@gmail.com](mailto:EFCE.earlycareerchemengs@gmail.com)