

December 31, 2019

Dear Shizheng Wen:

I am delighted to inform you that **we have recommended your admission to the Ph.D. program in mechanical engineering at the University of Minnesota**, beginning in the Fall Semester of 2020! An official letter of acceptance will be sent by the University of Minnesota Graduate School subsequently. On behalf of my faculty colleagues, please accept my warmest congratulations for your outstanding record and accomplishments! We look forward to welcoming you to our department, and to helping you launch an exciting and rewarding graduate career.

We are also pleased to offer you financial support for your education in the form of a **2020-2021 mechanical engineering department fellowship**. Our fellowship offers are extremely competitive to receive, and indicate our strong interest in having you join our department as a PhD student. The fellowship provides 12 months of financial support for your studies, and includes full tuition benefits, health insurance, and an annual stipend in excess of \$29,000. The stipend normally increases every year consistent with University-wide increases in academic salaries. The full package is valued at over \$49,000 per year. As a department fellow, you would serve as a Spring 2021 semester teaching assistant for a mechanical engineering course. During the Fall 2020 semester, you will participate in a structured process to find an adviser for your PhD studies, beginning in September 2020, with the goal of finding a PhD adviser by December 15, 2020. Financial support for subsequent years of your PhD studies will be provided by a combination of a research assistantship from your adviser, teaching assistantships, or fellowship programs, pending continued success in your graduate studies. Pending successful performance in courses and research (as defined by you and your adviser), **we anticipate that you will be fully funded for the entirety of your doctoral studies in our department, including complete tuition coverage, annual stipend, and health insurance benefits** (less student fees, which are deducted from the stipend).

As you may know, the University of Minnesota is one of the only large (>40,000 students) Carnegie R1 “very high research activity” Universities in the United States which is located in one of the 20 largest metropolitan areas of the United States. The Department of Mechanical Engineering has one of the foremost mechanical engineering graduate programs in the world, with notable strengths in **medical devices and surgical robotics, fluid power and control systems, multiphase, particulate, and plasma systems**, and **heat transfer & fluid flow**. The most recent Assessment of Doctoral Programs performed by the National Research Council ranked the department as high as 7<sup>th</sup> out of 163 mechanical engineering doctoral programs in the United States by its “R-ranking”. This ranking is rigorously determined, based upon the research output of our faculty and graduate students.

You are also invited to visit our campus to meet with faculty and students, and to experience the exciting environment in our Department. We would like to host your visit for a special event for prospective students on March 6 and 7, 2020. We will assist you with travel expenses up to \$500, and will provide hotel accommodation and meals. If you are interested in attending please do not book your own airfare or hotel at this time, simply e-mail Mr. John Gardner, our graduate program manager, at [gardn032@umn.edu](mailto:gardn032@umn.edu) indicating you would like to come to the event. John will then follow-up with you regarding details on travel. Please let John know whether you can attend no later than January 24, 2020. John will be happy to answer any other logistical questions you may have about the event. If this

weekend is inconvenient, please do not hesitate to contact John so that we can arrange a more suitable visit date for you.

During the recruiting event, you will have an opportunity to explore research opportunities in the department, to meet faculty members, and to interact with current graduate students as well as other prospective students from around the world. The two days of educational and social events will begin at 8:00 am, March 6, in room 1130 of the Mechanical Engineering Building. The event will culminate in a social event on Saturday evening. A tentative schedule of events and travel information are attached. To develop some appreciation for the many leisure and entertainment offerings of the Twin Cities, we encourage you to plan your visit for arrival on Thursday mid-day and departure on the Sunday. There will be an optional event to attend on the evening of Thursday, March 5 (details forthcoming for those who can attend).

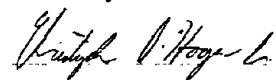
While we were extremely impressed by our application to our department, our records indicate that your TOEFL speaking score is 22, which provides you with an English Language Proficiency score of 4 (for an explanation of ELP scores, please see: <https://cei.umn.edu/spoken-english-test-teaching-assistants-setta>). As part of your fellowship offer, we will require you to achieve at ELP score of 1 or 2. An ELP score of 2 can be obtained by:

- Retaking the TOEFL examination and achieving a speaking score of 23 or higher.
- Taking the SETTA English test upon arrival at the University of Minnesota. The test can be scheduled periodically throughout the year.
- Enrolling in GRAD 5102 (<https://cei.umn.edu/grad-5102-grad-5105>) during your first semester at the University of Minnesota and passing the final exam of this course.

My colleagues and I hope that you will join us in the fall and we are certain that your graduate career will flourish at the University of Minnesota. We would appreciate your response to our offer as soon as you have reached a decision. By agreement of the Council of Graduate Schools, commitments should be made by April 15, 2020 for entrance in August /September 2020. An acceptance before this date is not binding, but it would help us in our planning. If you accept, please sign below and return this letter to us, keeping one copy for your records. Please notify John Gardner, by e-mail to [gardn032@umn.edu](mailto:gardn032@umn.edu) of your decision. You may return the signed letter by e-mail, attaching it as a pdf, or by regular mail as long as you have notified us by April 15, 2020.

On a personal note, I do hope you choose the University of Minnesota for your graduate studies, I am proud of our graduate program and our University, and I believe you will be a valuable addition to our team of students, faculty, and staff. If you have any questions about our graduate program or the Twin Cities area, please feel free to email me at [hogan108@umn.edu](mailto:hogan108@umn.edu) or visit our website at <http://www.me.umn.edu/education/graduate/index.shtml>.

Sincerely,



Chris Hogan  
Professor and Director of Graduate Studies  
University of Minnesota  
[hogan108@umn.edu](mailto:hogan108@umn.edu)

---

Shizheng Wen

date