



Walker Department of Mechanical Engineering

Cockrell School of Engineering

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<http://www.me.utexas.edu>

February 27, 2024

Dear Tapasvi Bhatt,

Congratulations! On behalf of the Walker Department of Mechanical Engineering it is our pleasure to inform you that you have been recommended for admission to the PhD program in Mechanical Engineering for the Fall 2024 semester. You will soon receive a separate letter from the University's Office of Admissions informing you of its official decision on your admission to The Graduate School at The University of Texas at Austin.

A fully funded financial package will be provided to support your graduate studies. This package includes full tuition and fee support*, a stipend, and funds to be used towards the purchase of medical insurance. This funding guarantee is provided for students who maintain satisfactory academic standing and is just one example of how our department supports its graduate students and sets them on a path to success.

Your financial package includes an assistantship position. The typical assistantship appointment for an incoming graduate student is via a Graduate Research Assistantship (GRA), which involves conducting research activities with a faculty advisor, or a Teaching Assistantship (TA), which involves assisting faculty in the instruction of undergraduate students. Each category of assistantship is a 20 hr./week appointment. The monthly stipend for your assistantship during the 2024-2025 academic year is \$2,844.34 (\$34,000 on a 12-month basis). Insurance plans and their associated costs can be reviewed [here](#). Based on values for the 2024-2025 academic year, the approximate total value of a four-year GRA or TA, including stipend, tuition waiver, and health insurance is approximately \$203,796.

Based on your excellent academic record, you have also been nominated for a Cockrell School of Engineering Fellowship. These prestigious fellowships significantly increase your stipend over the duration of the award, which is typically 4 years. The Cockrell School will send you a separate letter should you be awarded a fellowship. A typical financial support package for our PhD students with a fellowship award is shown in the following table.

Year 1 Fall	Year 1 Spring	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5+ (if needed)
Fellowship and/or GRA or TA	GRA or TA + Fellowship	GRA or TA + Fellowship	GRA + Fellowship	GRA + Fellowship	GRA or TA

Financial support in the form of fellowship and employment as a graduate research assistant (GRA), a teaching assistant (TA), or other student academic employment is contingent upon maintaining satisfactory job performance, as defined by the employing unit, satisfactory academic progress in courses and in the degree program, and continued availability of research funding. Academic employees are expected to maintain an overall minimum GPA of 3.0. All MS and/or PhD students receiving assistantship support are expected to complete a Master's Thesis or

Master's Report and/or a PhD Dissertation. Satisfactory progress in the degree program requires the selection of a Mechanical Engineering faculty member as advisor to supervise your research by the end of your first semester in the degree program. We encourage you at this point to contact faculty in whose area of research you have an interest. General information about the faculty is available from our departmental web site (<https://www.me.utexas.edu/>).

This offer provides either a GRA or TA position from September 1, 2024 – May 31, 2025.** It is expected that by the summer of 2025, you will have secured a GRA position with your research advisor. We expect that entering graduate students will quickly, and no later than the end of the first semester, identify a research adviser who will provide a Graduate Research Assistantship (GRA) appointment beyond the first academic year to support your study toward a thesis or dissertation. As you evaluate potential research projects, do inquire about the project funding.

Your offer is made through the Department of Mechanical Engineering, and it is not transferable to other departments.

For international students, if you are not offered a GRA position from an individual faculty member, you will be assigned a TA position in the first semester. The TA assignment is contingent upon successfully passing the International Teaching Assistant English Certification Exam. Although in rare cases an exception can be made, we strongly encourage you to pass the exam upon arrival. For more information about the exam and schedule, visit <https://global.utexas.edu/english-language-center/resources/international-teaching-assistants>

Why UT-Austin? In the Walker Department of Mechanical Engineering, we design and build devices and systems that transform industries and improve lives around the world. Our faculty members are game-changers who lead the way in research, industry and innovation. They are National Academy of Engineering members, national and international award winners, and inventors of life-changing technologies. Every stage of our students' academic journey is filled with experiential learning opportunities. Students learn how to think creatively and work collaboratively inside and outside of the classroom, taking theoretical ideas and testing them in world-class facilities and real-world situations.

We also encourage you to learn about Austin, Texas – it is a fantastic city! With thriving economy, the city is a hub for high-tech, engineering, and healthcare industries. The greater Austin area has numerous parks, hiking trails, and places for water activities. Information on cost of living on/off campus can be found [here](#).

We would like to know your decision on our offer of admission and financial support as soon as possible so that we may consider supporting other highly qualified applicants should you decline. There are two steps you need to take to inform us of your decision:

1. Accept or decline the admission offer via your MyStatus page <https://utdirect.utexas.edu/apps/adm/mystatus/>.
2. Accept or decline the admission offer by signing and returning this letter Mary Cantu-Garcia, Student Program Coordinator, at mary.cantugarcia@austin.utexas.edu.

Although the official deadline for your decision is **April 15**, we would appreciate notification of your decision as soon as possible***. If you have questions regarding the degree program, coursework requirements or other topics, please feel free to visit our website or contact us by e-mail at graduate-office@me.utexas.edu.

All of us in the Walker Department of Mechanical Engineering look forward to having you join our graduate program.

Sincerely,



Vaibhav Bahadur, Ph.D.
Carl J. Eckhardt Fellowship in Mechanical Engineering
Associate Professor
Mechanical Engineering
Thermal/Fluids Systems Area Representative



Yaguo Wang
Associate Professor
Associate Chair for Community, Culture and Wellness
Temple Foundation Endowed Faculty Fellowship No. 1
Walker Department of Mechanical Engineering
University of Texas at Austin
Thermal/Fluids Systems Area Representative



Alexander Marras, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor
Mechanical Engineering
Thermal/Fluids Systems Area Representative



Michael A. Cullinan, PhD
Associate Professor
Affiliated Faculty, Oden Institute
Walker Department of Mechanical Engineering
Graduate Adviser

For questions or additional information, please contact: Mary Cantu-Garcia, Student Program Coordinator, at mary.cantugarcia@austin.utexas.edu.

*Please see the following link for information on taxes in relationship to your appointment:
<http://www.me.utexas.edu/graduate/funding-and-student-employment>

** Actual start and end dates may vary

*** The University of Texas will consider the above award offer valid until April 15 unless declined at a prior time. If your reply is not received by April 15, the Graduate School may rescind the offer of financial award.

Your response to this offer:

I, _____, accept this offer and plan to join the program in the Fall 2024 semester.
(print your full name)

Signature: _____

Date: _____