

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

Department of Mechanical Engineering
College of Science and Engineering
1120 Mechanical Engineering
111 Church St S.E.
Minneapolis, MN 55455

Graduate Studies: 612-625-2009
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January 19, 2024

Dear Tapasvi Bhatt:

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 2024! An official letter of acceptance will be sent by the University of Minnesota Graduate School subsequently. All of the applications from an extremely strong pool were rigorously evaluated and discussed by a panel of nine faculty members. 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 **2024-2025 Mechanical Engineering Department Distinguished Scholar's Award**. Our Distinguished Scholar's Award offers are extremely competitive to receive and indicate our strong interest in having you join our department as a PhD student. The award provides 24 months of financial support for your studies, and includes full tuition benefits, health insurance, and annual monetary support in excess of \$30,300, provided you remain within good standing in the PhD program. The full package is valued at over \$53,000 per year. As a department distinguished scholar, you would also serve as a research assistant with an advisor and a teaching assistant for a mechanical engineering course for one or two semesters. During the Fall 2024 semester, you will participate in a structured process to find an adviser for your PhD studies, with the goal of finding a PhD adviser by November 15, 2024. 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 funded at the same level as your first two years for the entirety of your doctoral studies in our department, including complete tuition coverage, annual monetary support, and health insurance benefits**. This financial package does not cover student fees.

Please note: The University is currently in collective bargaining with the graduate assistant union (GLU-UE). Compensation amounts are subject to change pending the outcomes of bargaining.

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 that 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 *biosystems & bioengineering, combustion & engines, fluid mechanics, fluid power, materials & mechanics, particle technology, plasmas, sensing & controls, and thermodynamics & heat transfer*. The most recent Assessment of Doctoral Programs performed by the National Research Council ranked the department as high as 7th 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.

A PhD student from our Graduate Student Council will be soon in contact and we hope can

be a valuable resource and answer many questions you might have about our graduate program. You can also find a lot of information on our website at <https://cse.umn.edu/me>.

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 you for a special event for prospective students on **March 15 and 16, 2024**. We will assist you with travel expenses up to \$600 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.

Please complete the following [form](#) to RSVP

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 and other prospective students from around the world. The two days of educational and social events will begin at 8:00 am, March 15, in the Mechanical Engineering Building. The event will culminate in a social event on Saturday evening.

We realize that travel is extremely fluid right, especially for international students with travel restrictions and visa requirements. Therefore, we will also be hosting a virtual event March 19, for those who cannot attend in person.

Please complete the following [form](#) to RSVP

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, 2024, for entrance in August /September 2024. 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 of your decision. You may return the signed letter by e-mail, attaching it as a pdf as long as you have notified us by April 15, 2024.

On a personal note, I do hope that I will be able to welcome you in fall on campus to as part of our graduate program. 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 with your questions.

Sincerely,



Peter Bruggeman
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Director, High Temperature Plasma Laboratory
University of Minnesota
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