



Graduate Research Assistantship (M.S./Ph.D.) Available in Agricultural/Biological Engineering

Position Description

The Department of Agricultural and Biological Engineering at Mississippi State University is seeking applications for a M.S./Ph.D. Graduate Research Assistantship (GRA). The GRA will cover stipends, tuition waiver and insurance, and the anticipated start date is Summer or Fall 2021. The successful candidate will work under the supervision of Dr. Yuzhen Lu (<https://www.yuzhenlu.com/>), on original research broadly within the field of **non-destructive sensing, advanced data analytics and automation for agriculture-food systems**. Potential research topics include but are not limited to spectroscopy, imaging, inspection and sorting of agricultural and food products attributes, computer vision, machine learning and robotics for plant phenotyping and precision agriculture, and artificial intelligence and internet of things in plant/animal production. The successful candidate needs be creative, self-motivated and has a strong desire to learn new skills and collaborate in a multidisciplinary environment, and he or she will be expected to communicate research results through peer-reviewed journal or conference publications and give presentations at national or international meetings.

Qualifications Sought

- Students must earn a B.S. or M.S. degree in *Agricultural/Biological/Food Engineering, Electrical Engineering, Computer Science/Engineering, Mechatronics, Optics/Photonics, Mathematics*, or other related fields, with a 3.0 or higher GPA
- Students should have demonstrated excellence in English writing and communication skills
- Students with non-English credentials must obtain a TOEFL score of 79 iBT or IELTS score of 6.5 or higher (GRE may be waived)
- Students proficient in *programming* (e.g., Python, C++/C, Matlab, Qt), *computer vision or image analysis, machine learning* (e.g., Keras, TensorFlow) or *multivariate modeling*, with demonstrated research abilities, are encouraged to apply

Application Procedures

Please contact Dr. Yuzhen Lu if interested in this position. A full application for an official offer to be made requires a cover letter describing the applicant's research interest, a CV, transcripts, test score(s), writing examples, and a list of three references (including names, email, address and telephone number). Review of applications will begin immediately and continue until the position is filled. Video interviews will be requested for potential candidates. The successful candidate will be required to apply to the Graduate School of Mississippi State University.

Please visit the website <https://www.grad.msstate.edu/students/admissions> for application details. **The application deadline for 2021 fall enrollment is May 1 (international) or August 1 (domestic).**

Contact Information

Yuzhen Lu, Ph.D., Assistant Professor
Department of Agricultural and Biological Engineering
Office: 250 Agricultural & Biological Engineering Building, Mississippi State University
Email: yzlu@abe.msstate.edu; **Phone:** (662) 325-7345