

Job posting

Ph.D. in Environmental Engineering (Environmental Microbiology in Wastewater Treatment)

Job Type: Graduate

Job Institution: University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Job Description:

The research group led by Ran Mei in the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering (CEE), University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (UIUC), is currently seeking a highly motivated and qualified M.S./Ph.D. candidate to join our research team, with a planned start date in Spring or Fall 2025.

Research focus

Qualifications

With an undergraduate or M.S. degree in Microbiology, Environmental Engineering, Environmental Sciences, or other related fields. The ideal candidate should be self-motivated, able to work independently as well as collaboratively as part of a team, and have excellent written and oral communication skills and/or the motivation to improve. Candidates should meet the requirements of the department (<https://cee.illinois.edu/admissions/graduate/admission-requirements-and-process>) and the college (<https://grad.illinois.edu/admissions/apply/requirements>). International students should also meet the minimum requirements of TOEFL (<https://grad.illinois.edu/admissions/instructions/04c>).

Benefits

The enrolled student will receive a full tuition waiver and a stipend, which is very competitive considering the living cost at Urbana-Champaign area (e.g., 1b1b apartment within walking distance to office at ~\$1000/month). In addition, the candidate with outstanding record will be nominated for prestigious entrance fellowship at the department and college level.

The student will work in a supportive research environment. They will receive tailored training in wastewater treatment, microbial ecology, bioinformatics, and classic microbiology, depending on the research interest and plan after discussion with the PI.

The student will be engaged in cross-disciplinary collaboration with experts on campus and across the world, including those in Japan, Europe, and China.

The student will be encouraged to take multidisciplinary courses, and supported to attend conferences and workshops that are beneficial for their career development.

Application process

Prospective graduate students are encouraged to contact Ran via email before application (by August 15th for spring admission and December 15th for fall admission). Please include unofficial transcripts, CV, TOEFL score, GRE score (if you have one, but this is not required by the department any more), names and contact information of three references, and a brief personal statement of your background, research experience and interest. Please note that you still need to go through the formal application process (<https://cee.illinois.edu/admissions/graduate>).

About the PI

Prior to (re)joining the CEE at UIUC as an Assistant Professor, Ran completed postdoctoral research at Japan Agency for Marine-Earth Science and Technology (JAMSTEC, 2023-24) and the National Institute of Advanced Industrial Science and Technology (AIST, 2021-2023), received his PhD (2015-2020) and MS (2013-2015) from UIUC, and BS from Peking University in China (2009-2013). The current research interests lie at the intersection of microbiology and environmental engineering, including the microbial ecology of biomass degradation in engineered and natural environments, the evolution of microbial functions relevant to ancient and modern Earth, and microbiome-informed optimization of anaerobic digestion.

About CEE and UIUC

UIUC is a world leader in research, teaching, and public engagement, ranked at #12 among public universities in the US. The CEE department enjoys an outstanding reputation for excellence in undergraduate and graduate education, and for research that improves the quality of life in our nation and around the world. The Environmental Engineering Undergraduate and Graduate Program ranked at #5 and #4, respectively. The Urbana-Champaign twin cities, which "sandwich" the University campus, are 2-3 hour drive to three major metropolitan centers – Chicago, St. Louis, and Indianapolis. Students are encouraged to learn more about the department at <https://cee.illinois.edu/> and the university at <https://illinois.edu/>. The research group, department, and university acknowledge equal access/equal opportunity and welcome

individuals with diverse backgrounds, experiences, and ideas who also embrace and value diversity and inclusivity.