Fully-Funded Ph.D. Positions

Spring/Fall 2026 – Computer Science Department, Illinois Tech

About the Advisor

Yanxue Jia

I will join the Department of Computer Science at Illinois Tech as a tenure-track Assistant Professor in Fall 2025. Before joining Illinois Tech, I was a postdoctoral researcher at Purdue University and earned Ph.D. degree from Shanghai Jiao Tong University in 2022.

My research focuses on **Applied Cryptography**, especially advancing cryptography to solve security and privacy issues in existing as well as emerging real-world applications. My work has been published in top-tier conferences and journals such as ACM CCS, USENIX Security, IEEE S&P, Asiacrypt, and IEEE TDSC.

Research Areas

- **Secure Multi-Party Computation (MPC):** MPC is a crucial technique to enhance data collaborations while protecting sensitive information. Our research provides highly efficient MPC solutions for real-world application scenarios (such as healthcare, risk management, biorecognition, etc).

- **Blockchain:** We build foundational infrastructures to ensure security and privacy in blockchain ecosystems. Our research addresses critical challenges, such as resource-constrained users, data confidentiality and verifiability, decentralized services, etc.

- **Intersection between Cryptography and Machine Learning:** We advance and accelerate cryptography techniques to protect the data/model security and privacy in machine learning. Conversely, we leverage machine learning techniques to assist in proving the security of cryptographic protocols.

About Illinois Tech

Illinois Institute of Technology (Illinois Tech) is a private research university located in Chicago. According to the U.S. News & World Report 2025, Illinois Tech ranks **#105** among National Universities and **#29** among Best Value Schools in the United States. Globally, it is placed within **#351–400** in the Times Higher Education (THE) World University Rankings 2025. Known for its excellence in engineering, computer science, and applied technology, Illinois Tech offers a rigorous, innovation-driven education in one of the world's most dynamic cities.

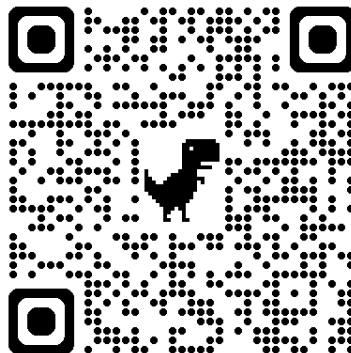Stuart Building (Computer Science)

Campus

Who We Are Looking For

- Fully-funded Ph.D. students (Spring/Fall 2026) passionate about research

- Bachelor's or Master's degree in CS, Math, or related disciplines

- Solid programming/mathematical skills and/or a background in cryptographic research or study

- Curious and eager to explore new ideas and technologies

How to Apply

Send the following to **jiayanxue820@gmail.com**:

- CV or resume

- Academic transcripts (unofficial is okay)

- Brief statement of research interest (informal is okay)

Email subject: `Spring/Fall 2026 Application - Your Name - University`

Scan the code (link: https://yanxue820.github.io/) to learn more about me and my ongoing research.

Welcome passionate, curious, and self-motivated students to join our team!