



## Graduate Student Positions (PhD/MS)

### Structural Engineering | University of Mississippi (Ole Miss)

Dr. Liang Cao is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Civil Engineering at the University of Mississippi, with a research focus in Structural Engineering. He is seeking highly motivated graduate students (PhD preferred, MS considered) for **Spring 2027 and Fall 2027**.

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### Research Areas

The research group focuses on developing next-generation smart and resilient civil infrastructure systems under extreme conditions such as earthquakes, strong winds, and ocean environments. Current topics include:

- Structural vibration control (reducing motion in structures)
  - Metamaterial-based smart damping
  - Innovative structural design under multi-hazard loading (wind, earthquake, ocean)
  - AI-driven modeling and data-informed mechanics
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### About Dr. Liang Cao

Dr. Liang Cao received his PhD in Civil Engineering from Iowa State University in 2016 and previously served as a Research Scientist at Lehigh University's ATLSS Engineering Research Center. His research focuses on structural dynamics and vibration control, with emphasis on high-performance damping systems, multi-hazard structural response, and advanced computational and experimental methods. His work aims to improve the safety, resilience, and performance of civil infrastructure through the integration of mechanics-based modeling, intelligent control, and innovative design.

Google Scholar: <https://scholar.google.com/citations?user=HwG-bb4AAAAJ&hl=en>

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## About the University of Mississippi

The University of Mississippi (Ole Miss), founded in 1848, is the state's flagship and an R1 research university with the highest level of research activity. Located in Oxford, MS—one of the top college towns in the U.S.—UM is a fast-growing institution serving over 24,000 students.

The Department of Civil Engineering at the University of Mississippi offers comprehensive undergraduate and graduate programs across all major civil engineering areas, with a strong emphasis on research and professional development. With a history of over 125 years, the department is committed to providing a vibrant and engaging learning environment that fosters critical thinking, practical problem-solving, ethical development, and strong technical and communication skills.

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## Qualifications

Applicants should have:

- A degree in Civil Engineering or a related field
- Background in structural engineering, mechanics, or dynamics
- Experience with MATLAB, Python, ABAQUS, OpenSees, or similar tools (preferred)
- Interest in research and strong motivation to learn

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## How to Apply

Please email the following materials to [lcao2@olemiss.edu](mailto:lcao2@olemiss.edu):

- CV
- Transcripts
- Brief statement of research interests
- (Optional) publications or project reports

Applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis until positions are filled.

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*Feel free to contact Dr. Cao for more information.*