



Ph.D. Student Recruitment (Fall 2026)

Dr. Fan Yang will join the University of Tennessee–Oak Ridge Innovation Institute (UT-ORII) as a Research Assistant Professor starting January 2026. He is recruiting Ph.D. students starting from Fall 2026 to work on: 1) Code-aware AI for compliant, industrialized construction delivery, 2) Data-fused construction automation, robotics, and decision intelligence, and 3) AI-enhanced prediction of materials and structural performance for lifecycle optimization.

Program: Applicants must apply and be admitted through PhD programs in either the Bredesen Center or the Department of Civil & Environmental Engineering at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville (UTK).

Funding: Full graduate assistantship support is expected (tuition, fees, insurance, and stipend of at least \$38,000/yr), renewable contingent on satisfactory academic/research progress.

Requirements

- Programming background (e.g., Python, C/C++, MATLAB)
- Fundamental understanding of AI/ML and foundation models (e.g., LLMs, vision-language models)
- Master's degree in Civil Engineering, Construction Management, Architecture/Architectural Engineering, Automation, Computer Science, ECE, Mathematics or related fields (exceptional candidates with a Bachelor's degree will be considered)
- Strong self-motivation and interest in research
- Ability to work independently and collaboratively
- Strong oral and written communication skills
- Related experience and/or publications are preferred

Application



Please email the following to Dr. Fan Yang: **CV, personal statement, transcript, TOEFL/IELTS and GRE (as applicable), and sample code or publications (if available).**

Optional: **non-confidential recommendation letters** (PDF), if available.

Email: yang2051@purdue.edu (*UT email pending; please use this address in the meantime.*)

Email subject: PhD Applicant – [Full Name] – [Research Area]

Shortlisted candidates will be contacted.

About UTK • ORNL • UT-ORII

University of Tennessee, Knoxville (UTK): Tennessee's flagship land-grant and premier public research university.

Oak Ridge National Laboratory (ORNL): One of the U.S. DOE's largest multi-program science and technology laboratories, with major strengths spanning supercomputing, advanced manufacturing, materials, clean energy, and national security.

UT-ORII: Established in 2021 to align UT and ORNL's research strengths and infrastructure, supporting world-class discovery, interdisciplinary graduate education, and workforce development.