



Ph.D. opportunities in the HUGO Lab

The **HU**man Factors & **erGO**nomics (**HUGO**) Lab in the Department of Mechanical Engineering at University of South Carolina, Columbia, is seeking highly motivated PhD students to work on cutting-edge research in human factors, human-machine interaction, human-robot interaction, human-AI interaction, product design and development, industrial safety, vehicle ergonomics, and digital-twin systems. Multiple Ph.D. positions are anticipated beginning Spring/Fall 2027.

Research Areas: Human-AI Interaction; Ergonomics; Safety; Human Variability; Digital Twin Systems (e.g., control room, pipeline safety); Human-Centered Design (with applications in transportation, energy, and industrial systems).

Qualifications: M.S. in any engineering major or related field; Strong interest in human-centered systems, ergonomics, and applied research; Experience in data analysis or experimental methods is a plus; Strong analytical and communication skills.

Preferred Qualifications: Demonstrated research productivity (e.g., conference/journal publications); Programming skills (e.g., MATLAB); Statistics (e.g., regression, ANOVA).

Funding: Full financial support (tuition + stipend) is guaranteed for the first two years of candidacy. Continued support is expected for the duration of the PhD program, contingent on satisfactory academic progress and research performance.

Application Instructions: Interested applicants should email to the lab director, Dr. Jangwoon Park (Jangwoon.park@sc.edu), Associate Professor (Incoming), with the following materials:

- Cover letter (1-page)
- Curriculum vitae (CV)
- Statement of research interests (1-page)

Shortlisted candidates will be contacted for a virtual or in-person interview.

Additional Information for Applicants:

Deadlines of USC Graduate Program

- International Applicants Spring 2027 Deadline: October 1, 2026
Domestic Applicants Spring 2027 Deadline: October 15, 2026
- International Applicants Fall 2027 Deadline: May 1, 2027
Domestic Applicants Fall 2027 Deadline: May 15, 2027

Admission Requirements for the USC Graduate Program

- Standardized Test Requirements
 - GRE Verbal ≥ 150 and GRE Quantitative ≥ 155
 - For international applicants only: TOEFL iBT ≥ 80 or IELTS ≥ 6.5 .
- Minimum GPA Requirement: Undergraduate engineering GPA $\geq 3.0/4.0$
- Required Application Materials
 - [Official transcripts](#)
 - Three letters of recommendation
 - CV or resume
 - Personal statement
- International applicants should review the [International Applicants](#) page for information regarding additional application requirements. For more details, please see the Graduate Student Handbook: [Graduate Student Handbook](#)