

1–2 Fully Funded Ph.D. Positions (Spring/Fall 2027)

Position Description

One to two fully funded Ph.D. positions are available beginning in Spring or Fall 2027 in the Department of Civil Engineering Technology, Environmental Management and Safety (CETEMS) at the Rochester Institute of Technology (RIT), under the supervision of Dr. Mingfeng Shang. RIT is a top-100 national university with strong programs in engineering, technology, and applied research. Admitted students will receive full tuition coverage, a competitive stipend, health insurance, and support for conference travel. Research will focus on emerging topics in transportation systems, including connected and automated vehicles, traffic modeling and control, transportation cybersecurity, and data-driven transportation research.

Desired Qualifications

We welcome applicants interested in traffic flow theory, intelligent transportation systems, connected and automated vehicles, control, optimization, and transportation data science to help advance next-generation transportation systems. Candidates with the following qualifications are especially encouraged to apply:

- A B.S. degree in civil engineering, electrical and computer engineering, mechanical engineering, computer science, information science, industrial engineering, or a related field
- Strong background and interest in transportation systems, control, optimization, or data science
- Proficiency in programming: MATLAB, Python, and/or C++
- Experience with traffic simulation tools (e.g., SUMO, CARLA, VISSIM) and/or machine learning frameworks (e.g., TensorFlow, PyTorch)
- Strong communication skills and enthusiasm for interdisciplinary, independent research

About Rochester Institute of Technology (RIT)

Founded in 1829, RIT is a nationally recognized university ranked No. 88 among National Universities, No. 57 for Undergraduate Engineering, and No. 76 for Graduate Engineering by U.S. News & World Report (2026). RIT is also ranked No. 5 nationally for Co-op and Internship Programs. Located in Rochester, the third-largest metropolitan area in New York State with a metropolitan population of over one million, RIT offers outstanding opportunities for interdisciplinary research and collaboration. Rochester is internationally recognized for its strengths in optics, imaging, healthcare, and music, and is situated on the southern shore of Lake Ontario, approximately a 1.5-hour drive from Niagara Falls and a 2.5-hour drive from Toronto.

About the PI

Dr. Mingfeng Shang joined RIT as a tenure-track Assistant Professor in the Department of Civil Engineering Technology, Environmental Management and Safety in Fall 2026. He received his Ph.D. in Civil Engineering from the University of Minnesota in 2024. Prior to joining RIT, he served as an Assistant Research Professor at the University of Arizona. His research is highly interdisciplinary, spanning traffic flow theory, connected and automated vehicles, transportation system modeling and control, and transportation data science. His research emphasizes collaboration across academia, government, and industry, bridging fundamental research with real-world transportation applications. More information about Dr. Shang can be found at <https://www.mingfengshang.com/>.

How to Apply

To apply, please email your **resume/CV**, **unofficial transcript(s)**, and a **one-page cover letter** describing your research background and its alignment with our research interests to mfsite@rit.edu with the subject line “Ph.D. Application – YOUR NAME – Spring/Fall 2027.” The positions will remain open until filled.