



1-2 Funded Graduate Student Positions in Intelligent Transportation Systems
(Fall 2025/Spring 2026)

About the position

Dr. Ran Sun's research group at Utah State University is seeking motivated graduate students (M.S. and Ph.D.) to join the team starting Fall 2025 and beyond. The group is part of the Transportation Engineering program within the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering at Utah State University.

The research group focuses on advancing intelligent, connected, and resilient transportation systems through the integration of AI, transportation system modeling, and digital infrastructure. Current research areas include AI in transportation networks, safety in mobility systems, and cyber-physical systems for mobility and logistics.

Qualifications:

- B.S. or M.S. degree in Transportation Engineering, Industrial Engineering, Computer Science, Applied Mathematics, Statistics, or related fields.
- Proficiency in programming and computational skills (e.g. Python, C++, MATLAB).
- Strong skills and interest in quantitative research, examples including Operations Research (e.g., convex/nonconvex optimization, dynamic programming, MDP), Statistics (e.g. stochastic processes, high-dimensional statistics, time series), and others.
- Experience with machine learning frameworks (e.g., PyTorch) and transportation simulation tools (e.g. SUMO, CUBE, MATSim) is a plus but not required.

About the PI

Dr. Ran Sun is an incoming assistant professor in Civil and Environmental Engineering at Utah State University. As of Spring 2025, he is a Postdoctoral Research Fellow at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor. He obtained his Ph.D. in Transportation Systems and M.S. in Statistics from the University of California, Davis. His research is centered on developing intelligent, connected, and resilient services for large-scale transportation networks and systems. His work addresses key challenges in high-dimensional transportation systems, supply chain and freight transportation network modeling, and connected and autonomous vehicles.

About USU

USU is a premier public land-grant and space-grant institution located in Logan, Utah. Recognized as a Carnegie R1 research university, USU is among the top-tier research institutions in the nation, reflecting its commitment to high-impact research and graduate education. The university's main campus is nestled in the picturesque Cache Valley, offering students a vibrant college-town atmosphere with access to a multitude of outdoor recreational activities. USU's Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering is nationally acclaimed for its excellence in transportation, structural, water and environmental research. With a collaborative environment and strong industry partnerships, USU offers an ideal setting for aspiring engineers and researchers to thrive.

How to Apply

Interested applicants are encouraged to send the following materials: curriculum vitae, copy of transcripts, brief statement of research interests, and samples of prior work (e.g., publications, coding projects, or research reports).

Contact Information:

Ran Sun, Ph.D.

(Incoming) Assistant Professor, Civil and Environmental Engineering (Transportation)

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