



UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA  
**MERCED**

## Ph.D. and RA Opportunities at UC Merced (Spring 2026/Fall 2026)



### Dr. Xiaofan Yu

Assistant Professor, Department of Electrical Engineering

<https://cseweb.ucsd.edu/~x1yu/>.

- **Education:** Peking Univ (B.S. 2018) → UCSD (M.S. 2020) → UCSD (Ph.D. 2025, advised by Prof. Tajana Rosing)
- **Research Interests:** **embedded systems & edge computing** (30+ papers published in top venues including SenSys, Ubicomp, IPSN, IoTDL, DAC, DATE, TCAD, IMWUT, AAI)
- **Awards:** EECS / CPS / ML & Systems Rising Star (2022—2024)
- **Collaborations:** Extensive collaborations and strong connections in both academia and industry (e.g., Intel Labs)
- **Mentorship Experience:** Mentored approximately 40 students across high school, undergraduate, master's, and Ph.D. levels, with multiple publications led by the students

### Available Positions

#### 1. PhD Students ( 2 openings)

- ✓ Full funding via EECS program (\$30k/year)
- ✓ Start: Fall 2026 (exceptional candidates may begin Spring 2026)
- ✓ Research areas:
  - Edge-based ML & multimodal LLMs (including sensing modalities)
  - Embedded systems for space / agriculture applications
  - Neuromorphic & in-sensor computing

#### 2. Research Assistants ( Multiple openings , remote possible )

### Requirements

- ✓ Strong self-motivation to solve high-impact research problems
- ✓ Desire to communicate and collaborate within a diverse team
- ✓ Strong background in CE / ML ( Python, PyTorch, C/C++ required )
- ✓ Preferred: Experience with edge devices (RPi/MCUs) or prior publications

### Why UC Merced?

- Youngest UC campus, established in 2005 and achieved R1 institution in 2025
- U.S. News #58 (#26 public) , CSRankings #75 ( #14 in mobile computing)
- Full UC system benefits (\$30k stipend) , low living costs
- Prime location: 2hrs to Silicon Valley, 1.5hrs to Yosemite

### How to Apply

Email [xiaofanyu@ucmerced.edu](mailto:xiaofanyu@ucmerced.edu) with subject: "Prospective Student– [Your Name]"

Attach: CV, transcript, 1-page brief statement of purpose , specify position (Ph.D./RA) and research interests based on the above topics