

Call for Applications

Open PhD Position in Soft Robotics

The Robotics and Intelligent Systems Laboratory (<https://home.riselab.info>) at the Ira A. Fulton Schools of Engineering, Arizona State University (ASU), invites applications for a fully-funded PhD position starting in Spring 2026 or Fall 2026. The applicant should have a BS or MS degree in mechanical engineering, computer science, or a related field. The project is at the intersection of control systems, robot learning, and soft robotics. Self-motivated students with a strong background in one or more of the following disciplines are encouraged to apply:

- Dynamic modeling and control of soft robots
- Design optimization, fabrication, and integration of soft robotic actuators
- Reinforcement learning, motion planning, and human-in-the-loop optimization

The successful candidates will have opportunities to conduct both analytical and hands-on research, publish papers in professional journals, make presentations at major academic conferences, and serve as mentors for undergraduate research projects. Evidence of abilities to work in collaborative teams and good communication skills (oral and written) is essential.

How to apply: Interested applicants are encouraged to send their 1) curriculum vitae, 2) transcript, and 3) one-page summary of their relevant research experience and/or interests to the lab director, Dr. Wenlong Zhang at wenlong.zhang@asu.edu. In the email, please also include the contact information for two references. The Email Subject Line should be "Prospective PhD Student: Soft Robotics [Your Name]".

About ASU: ASU is the largest public research university in the United States, with a 2022 student enrollment over 140,000. U.S. News & World Report ranks ASU #1 on its "Most Innovative Schools" list for the past 11 years. ASU is located in Phoenix, AZ which is the 5th largest city in the US. The research will be conducted within the School of Manufacturing Systems and Networks of the Ira A. Fulton Schools of Engineering, located in a brand-new building on ASU's polytechnic campus.