

Funded PhD position (Data-driven LULC Science) at the University of Delaware

Applications are invited for one PhD research assistant position (starting Fall 2022) in the [Department of Geography and Spatial Sciences](#) at the [University of Delaware](#), to work on an interdisciplinary project examining sustainable agricultural land use patterns (e.g., cover crop) at the continental scale. We will start with a geospatial data-driven investigation identifying large-scale land cover patterns resulting from small-scale agricultural land use practices, examine influential environmental and social factors driving the observed patterns, and gradually explain mechanisms causing such landscape evolution. The position offers a competitive stipend, a tuition waiver, and subsidized health insurance.

Qualifications: Ideal candidates have a master's degree in a related field, with (1) solid backgrounds in quantitative and computational methods (e.g., spatial analysis and modeling, geo-computation, machine learning, statistics), (2) excellent written and oral communication skills, (3) strong motivation and work ethics. Prior research experience in LULC science, geospatial/environmental data science and analytics, causal inference, or/and interdisciplinary teamwork are highly valued.

About Us: The student will be advised by Dr. Jing Gao (leading the Geospatial Data Science and Human Dimensions of Global Change lab), and also work with a wide range of interdisciplinary experts.

The Department of Geography and Spatial Sciences offers nationally and internationally recognized Ph.D. programs in both Climatology and Geography, and a graduate-level certificate in Geographic Information Science. Our students have diverse opportunities to engage with and pursue coursework in [Data Science](#).

The University of Delaware is a tier-1 research university and ranks among the top 100 universities in federal R&D support for science and engineering.

Newark, Delaware is a college town on the mid-Atlantic coast of the U.S. within 2 hours of travel to Philadelphia, Baltimore, Washington D.C., and New York City.

Application: Applicants should email Dr. Jing Gao (jinggao@udel.edu) a CV, unofficial transcripts, and a one-page research statement connecting existing experiences and skillsets with future research plans. Applications will be reviewed continuously. Shortlisted candidates will be contacted and interviewed virtually in a timely manner.

The University of Delaware is an Equal Opportunity Employer. Individuals from underprivileged backgrounds are strongly encouraged to apply.