Position 1: PhD position available for Fall 2026 in Remote Sensing of the Cryosphere
University of Colorado - Boulder

Responsibilities: The successful candidate will explore biologically driven darkening of the cryosphere (with a focus on Antarctica and Greenland) using multi- and hyperspectral imaging collected with UASs and spaceborne platforms. The student will be part of the Remote Sensing and Earth Observation focus area within the Aerospace Engineering Sciences Department and College of Engineering and Applied Sciences at CU-Boulder.

Benefits: The position will come with full tuition payment, 90% health care coverage, an academic year stipend with a minimum-monthly stipend around $3,224/month, and a relocation scholarship to assist with moving expenses, that is typically around $5,000. There is potential for fieldwork and data collection on federally funded awards with fieldwork in Antarctica and Greenland. Top applicants will be invited to a recruitment weekend - Feb 13th.

Minimum Qualifications

- A bachelor's degree in engineering or physical sciences, or a related field.
- Strong scientific programming skills with languages such as Python or Matlab.
- Strong writing skills.
- Ability to lift ~50 pounds and conduct fieldwork in low temperature environments.
- Valid Driver's License

Preferred Qualifications

- Experience with geospatial data analysis, or demonstration of coursework
- Experience with ArGIS and/or ENVI
- Experience operating drones/UASs
- Teaching/mentoring experience in an academic or experiential setting
- Previous field experience in snowy low-temperature environments
- Demonstrated experience leading or contributing to peer-reviewed publications.

CU-Boulder Department of Aerospace Engineering Sciences (AES): The AES Department is consistently ranked among the top aerospace programs in the U.S. For more information on the PhD program, refer to the 2025-2026 Graduate Handbook. Students will be encouraged to pursue the other offerings within the College of Engineering for Applied Sciences, such as the Graduate Certificate in Global Engineering.

How to Apply: To learn more about the research, please visit this site. To be formally accepted to the PhD program, a full application must be submitted by Dec. 1st. If interested in a Winter '26 start, schedule a Zoom meeting ahead of the application deadline, before Nov. 21st. Send your CV and statement of interest addressing minimum and preferred qualifications listed above with the header 'Prospective PhD student - Winter 26, Position 1' to: alia.khan@colorado.edu. Please also note if you are available to begin in summer 2026 and if you are interested in international polar fieldwork (pending physical qualification through the US Antarctic Program).

Zoom meetings for Fall '26 start dates will be scheduled after the application deadline.