The University of Texas
RioGrande
Valley

The Geomorphology Laboratory at the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley (UTRGV), led by Dr. Tian Y. Dong, is seeking a postdoctoral researcher to join us in Spring 2026 to work on a collaborative project funded by the U.S. Geological Survey. The expected start date is January 5th, 2026.

What is the project about:
- Detecting geomorphic change in the lower Rio Grande Valley using airborne LiDAR datasets collected in 2011 and 2022
- Interpreting geomorphic changes to address applied questions about the US-Mexico border and the Rio Grande
- Using the high-resolution LiDAR dataset and numerical models to address broader questions in geomorphology and hydrology
- Performing fieldwork on the lower Rio Grande, taking advantage of the unique location of UTRGV directly adjacent to the banks of the river

Who are the team members:
- Dr. Tian Y. Dong, UTRGV, primary mentor and project PI
- Dr. Timothy Goudge, University of Texas at Austin, collaborator
- Dr. Joel Sankey and David Dean, USGS Grand Canyon Monitoring and Research Center in Flagstaff, AZ, collaborators
- Dr. Haiqing Xu, University of Nevada, Las Vegas, collaborator

What do we offer:
- **16-month appointment with a yearly salary of ~$60,289.50** (annual rate; total for 16 months: $80,386), and full benefits, including health insurance and retirement plan contributions (The Rio Grande Valley enjoys a vigorous and growing economy with a high standard of living and one of the country's lowest living costs)
- For a highly motivated and qualified candidate, a shorter appointment duration of **13 months with a yearly rate of $~74180.00** is possible (total compensation is fixed)
- Support to travel to visit collaborators and to attend AGU
- Support to purchase research equipment (e.g., laptop)

What skills are required for this position:
- A Ph.D. in Earth or Planetary Sciences or related disciplines at the time of appointment
- Experience in working with LiDAR change detection and derived DEM
- This position is in person only per mandate of the State of Texas

What skills are desirable but not required for this position:
- Experience in using landscape evolution, flow routing, sediment transport, and/or hydrological models
- Drone survey and data processing experience
- Field experience in geomorphological and hydrological surveys
- Experience in mentoring undergraduate and graduate students

Apply here by November 17th, 2025: https://careers.utrgv.edu/postings/47904

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