

PhD Position in Engineering Systems – Fall 2026

Position Overview

Dr. Bishwodeep Adhikari's research group at Penn State Harrisburg is seeking a highly motivated PhD student in the Engineering Systems program starting Fall 2026. The position focuses on sustainable water infrastructure, urban hydrology, and data-driven approaches for understanding and managing complex environmental systems. This position offers immersive research training, opportunities for independent inquiry, and close mentorship in a collaborative environment. Students will develop strong analytical, modeling, and systems-thinking skills while contributing to peer-reviewed research and real-world applications.

Research Focus

The research group investigates how engineered and natural water systems respond to stressors such as extreme precipitation, land-use change, and urbanization. The work integrates field observations, laboratory experiments, and computational modeling to improve the design and performance of sustainable stormwater and green infrastructure systems. Key themes include water quantity and quality dynamics in urban watersheds, flood risk assessment, nutrient and pollutant transport, and systems-based approaches to water resources management. The group emphasizes interdisciplinary thinking and combines process-based modeling with data-driven and machine learning approaches.

Funding & Benefits

The selected student will receive full financial support, including a competitive stipend, tuition coverage, and health insurance during the academic year in accordance with Penn State assistantship policies. Funding is renewable annually based on satisfactory academic progress and research performance. Additional opportunities for continued support may be available through ongoing and future research projects.

Eligibility & Background

Applicants should hold a degree in civil engineering, environmental engineering, water resources engineering, engineering systems, or a closely related field. Experience or strong interest in hydrologic/hydraulic modeling, urban water systems, sustainability, or environmental data analysis is highly valued. Prior exposure to programming (Python or R), statistics, or machine learning is desirable and will be beneficial for this position.

How to Apply

Interested students are encouraged to apply to the PhD in Engineering Systems program as early as possible and to reach out with any questions about the program or research opportunity. Applicants are strongly encouraged to apply [here](#) by **January 15** for full consideration for funding. Please email Dr. Adhikari with a CV, unofficial transcripts, and a brief statement of research interests. Detailed program requirements, application procedures, and deadlines are available at: [Engineering Systems \(PhD\)](#).

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