

2 Fully Funded PhD Positions

On Contact-Rich Robotic Dexterity & Physical AI

Start as early as Spring 27

The Intelligent Robotics and Interactive Systems (IRIS) Lab (<https://irislab.tech/>) at ASU is looking for two motivated Ph.D. students to join as early as Spring 2027. The positions focus on following research topics:

Topics for the positions

- **Robotics generative learning** (generative policy imitation, world models, representation learning)
- **Scalable physics simulation & data generation** (physics engines, scalable planning & control)
- **3D vision and understanding** (Multi-sensory sensing, spatial understanding, real-to-sim)

Applicants Wanted (CS, ME, EE, Robotics)

- Robotics basics: basic FK, IK, dynamics, basic planning/control, hardware experience.
- Non-tech skills: commitment, love to solve unsolved problems, communication skills
- AI skills: PyTorch/JAX, basic RL methods, diffusion and transformers models, or LLM agents
- Simulation skills: MuJoCo/Isaac/NVIDIA Warp, or related platforms

Resources available

- Robotic hands and robotic arms in the lab
- Sufficient computing resources
- Internship connections & 1-2 conference travel grants/year
- Immediate and hands-on help from the PI

Brief bio about the PI

Wanxin Jin is an Assistant Professor in the SEMTE School at ASU. Prior to that, he was a postdoc at the UPenn GRASP Laboratory. He received his Ph.D. from Purdue University. His lab published at top robotics journals, AI conferences, and control journals. He serves as an Associate Editor for IEEE Transactions on Robotics, IEEE Robotics and Automation Letters, ICRA 26, 27, and Area Chair of CoRL 26.

Email the PI before applying

Email wjin@asu.edu and indicate your interest from the above topics and corresponding CV, Transcripts, one work you are most proud (e.g., a paper/GitHub-repo/robot demo). I will reply within 1-2 days if it fits.