

Ph.D. Opportunity at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign (UIUC), Fall 2027

Openings:

The **Social Sensing & Intelligence (SSI) Lab** at the School of Information Sciences (iSchool: <https://ischool.illinois.edu>) and Siebel School of Computing and Data Science (CS: <https://siebelschool.illinois.edu/>) at the University of Illinois has multiple openings for Ph.D. students to work under the guidance of **Dr. Dong Wang** (<https://www.wangdong.org>) from **Fall 2027** (for Information Sciences, Computer Science, and Informatics Ph.D. applicants).

The iSchool at UIUC has been the **#1 ranked graduate program** in Information Sciences since 1996. The Siebel School of Computing and Data Science at UIUC has been consistently **ranked #5** among graduate computer science programs in the United States.

Prospective students with an M.S. or B.S. degree (or expected by the time of admission) in Computer Science, Information Science, AI, Data Science, or related fields are encouraged to apply. Successful candidates will have the opportunity to work on exciting research projects in emerging areas of Social Sensing & Intelligence. **The priority areas this year** include:

- **AI for Science**
- **Human-centered AI, Responsible AI, and AI for Social Good**
- **Agentic AI, Explainable AI (XAI), and Generative AI**

Preferred candidates should have a strong background in one or more of the following areas: AI/machine learning, human-centered AI, data analytics, social computing, or related fields. We value students who are self-motivated, intellectually curious, collaborative, and strong communicators. Previous research experience and publications in relevant venues are highly valued.

The Social Sensing & Intelligence Lab develops human-centered AI and data-driven methods for sensing, understanding, and supporting complex social and physical systems. The lab has state-of-the-art computing facilities to support research. Our work has been published in leading AI, machine learning, human-AI systems, information science, and networking venues, including NeurIPS, ICML, ICLR, AAAI, ACL, KDD, WWW, SIGIR, CSCW, ICWSM, HCOMP, INFOCOM, and others. The lab also has a very collaborative and productive working environment.

We provide individualized research mentorship and tailored career development, with pathways toward academic, industry, and national-laboratory research careers. Recent graduates have joined Google DeepMind, Amazon AGI, Scale AI, and academia as tenure-track faculty.

If you are interested, please send your CV (including GPA, GRE, and TOEFL scores as applicable), transcripts, publications, and other relevant information to **Dr. Wang** at dwang24@illinois.edu with the title of “**Prospective Ph.D. Student for 2027**”. In your email, please briefly **describe your research interests and experience, explain how they align with the SSI Lab's research directions**, and, if applicable, mention your longer-term career goals and working style.

Funding: Ph.D. students admitted through the Information Sciences program receive a five academic year funding guarantee. Funding arrangements for Computer Science and Informatics admits vary and will be discussed during the admissions process.

The **application deadline for Information Sciences Ph.D.** (for early consideration for a Graduate College fellowship) is **October 20, 2026**, and the final application deadline is **December 1, 2026**. The application can be found at <https://ischool.illinois.edu/degrees-programs/phd-information-sciences/apply>.

The **application deadline for Ph.D. in Computer Science** is **December 1, 2026**. The application can be found at <https://siebelschool.illinois.edu/admissions/graduate/applications-process-requirements>

The **application deadline for Informatics Ph.D.** is **December 1, 2026**. The application can be found at <https://informatics.ischool.illinois.edu/phd-admission/>.