

## Ph.D. Research Assistantship at Virginia Tech (Fall 2023)



The Liao Environmental and Public Health Microbiology ([LEAPH](#)) Lab led by Dr. Jingqiu Liao in the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering (CEE) at Virginia Tech (VT) is recruiting a Ph.D. student to study the ecology and evolution of bacterial pathogens in natural and food-associated environments.

[VT-CEE graduate program](#) was ranked No. 7 nationally in the latest U.S. World News & Report. The LEAPH Lab is based in Blacksburg, VA, a peaceful and safe place where you get to enjoy the color of all four seasons and the beauty of the [Blue Ridge Mountains](#).

### What do we expect from you?

- Strongly interested in environmental/food microbiology with a strong work ethic
- A bachelor's or master's degree in fields including but not limited to microbiology, environmental science or engineering, computational biology, bioinformatics, etc.
- Experience in microbial cultivation and molecular biology
- Enjoy big data analysis; statistical and programming skills are preferred

### What can we offer?

- Fully cover tuition, stipend, eligible insurance/fees, and professional travel expenses
- Build interdisciplinary skillset in microbiology, environmental science & engineering, food safety, ecology & evolutionary biology, data analysis and visualization, and scientific writing and communications.
- Personal development and mentorship plan that boosts your career goals
- Collegial and collaborative environment

### How to apply?

Interested candidates are encouraged to contact Dr. Liao ([liao@vt.edu](mailto:liao@vt.edu)) to discuss opportunities. Please send a single pdf file including **1)** a one-page cover letter that highlights your background, research expertise and interests, skills, and career goals; **2)** curriculum vitae; **3)** unofficial transcripts; **4)** sample of scientific writing (e.g., published manuscript as the first author, a manuscript in preparation, thesis, project report); and **5)** contact information for 3 references. Formal applications through the graduate school system will be requested from strong candidates. All applicants must satisfy [VT graduate program admission requirements](#). Application consideration will begin immediately and will continue until the position is filled.