

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS  
AT URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

Department of Mechanical Science and Engineering

College of Engineering  
140 Mechanical Engineering Building, MC-244  
1206 West Green Street  
Urbana, IL 61801



Dear Prospective Graduate Student

We are very pleased that you are interested in our research group for your potential study at the University of Illinois. UIUC is an excellent place to be a graduate student, particularly in Controls, because of the depth and breadth of ideas available for exchange and learning. Across the College of Engineering, we have one of the largest Controls faculty in the country and an incredibly deep set of courses. This allows for a significantly better set of interactions with faculty and peer graduate students than most other programs in the country.

We are very proud of our accomplishments over the years and they are directly correlated with having outstanding people as part of the group. We work at the intersection between theory and practice in Control Systems therefore our members have multiple skills (modeling, simulation, hardware, theory/analysis, etc.). We work on a broad array of applications with a strong emphasis on those with high societal relevance. We are always looking for the best and brightest to join our ARG family to help us develop our ideas and people. Those we have had in the past have been truly excellent and we expect those in the future will carry on that tradition.

With that said, it is important that you understand how our process works at MechSE @ Illinois. Unlike some schools, individual faculty do not make decisions on admission of students. All prospective students must apply to the department. Their application is reviewed by a subset of our Graduate Programs Committee and a decision is rendered. After admission, the faculty within MechSE are allowed to see the admits and then initiate communication. So, I would encourage you to apply but understand that no decision could be started until after admission has been gained.

Admission to UIUC MechSE is the first step. The next step is to determine whether or not you would fit in with our research group. To make that assessment, I would strongly encourage you to visit UIUC and spend some time with us. It is very rare that we make a decision without first hand interpersonal interactions. We realize this puts some international students at a disadvantage but there are some ways around this (e.g. Skype). Usually, decisions for new students are finalized around the Spring time, such as April. We will often reserve a spot or two for the Fall in case there are good students who we did not get a chance to meet.

If you contact us prior to the decision on your admission status, please understand that we will not be replying because there will be little to discuss. However, I would encourage you to look through our website and learn a bit about what we do and, as importantly, how we do it. Again, we do appreciate your interest. Good luck!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Andrew Alleyne".

Andrew Alleyne  
alleyne@illinois.edu