



Fully Funded Ph.D. Positions in Physical Embodied AI and Robotics

Dr. Quan Luu will join the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering (ECE) at the University of Nebraska–Lincoln (UNL) as a tenure-track Assistant Professor in Fall 2026, where he will lead the **Physical Embodied AI and Robotics Laboratory (PEARL)**.

Dr. Luu is actively looking for two fully funded, passionate, and highly motivated Ph.D. students to join his lab in Spring 2027 (or Fall 2027). Students from diverse backgrounds are encouraged to apply, including mechanical engineering, electrical engineering, computer engineering, computer science, robotics, and related fields. Prior experience with tactile sensing, machine learning, imitation learning, reinforcement learning, vision-language-action models, world models, model-based control, classical control, and physics simulation tools is preferred but not required.

Research Focus

The **PEARLab** will focus on developing novel soft and intelligent robotic components with tactile-centric multimodal sensing, while advancing physics-informed and learning-based methods for robot perception and control with multimodal inputs such as touch, vision, and language. By integrating mechanically intelligent hardware with computational intelligence, the lab aims to enable safe, adaptive, and dexterous robotic manipulation in unstructured, contact-rich environments. In the long term, the lab seeks to advance physical and embodied AI technologies for applications in agriculture, manufacturing, retail, logistics, and home-assistance robots.

How to Apply

Interested students are encouraged to send their CV to Dr. Luu at luuquan.bku@gmail.com. More information about Dr. Luu and his research can be found at his personal website: <https://quan-luu.github.io/>.

About the PI

Dr. Quan Luu received his Ph.D. and M.S. degrees from the Japan Advanced Institute of Science and Technology (JAIST), Japan, in 2024 and 2021, respectively. He was a Visiting Researcher at Carnegie Mellon University in 2023 and a Postdoctoral Researcher at Purdue University. His research interests include tactile sensing, robot learning, and embodied intelligence, with applications to robot manipulation.

Dr. Luu was a recipient of the NVIDIA Academic Grant Award and the prestigious Japan Society for the Promotion of Science (JSPS) Research Fellowship for Young Scientists. He was selected as a member of the 2024 RSS Pioneers cohort. He was also recognized as a finalist for the Best Paper Award at IEEE/SICE SII 2024 and received the Best Paper Award at the Sense of Touch Workshop, CVPR 2026. He has served on the Program Committee for the RSS Pioneers Workshop 2025, the Organizing Committee of the ViTac Workshop at IEEE ICRA 2026, and as an Associate Editor for IEEE RoboSoft 2026 and IEEE CBS 2026.