

Dear Colleague:

I am reaching out to you to highlight the exciting opportunities for graduate students at the [Pritzker School of Molecular Engineering](#) (PME) at the [University of Chicago](#). It's that time of year where senior undergraduates ask their advisors where to apply for grad school, and I am writing to ask that you suggest PME.

We continue to grow every year, and the recent hiring of both Laura Gagliardi and Huanhuan Joyce Chen brings our faculty to 42. All our faculty are looking to work with graduate students to reach the cutting edge of what is possible.

In addition to hiring, we matriculated 46 students this year, bringing our graduate student body up to 262 students with an additional 78 postdoctoral researchers and staff scientists. We hope this growth creates an exciting place for graduate students to try new interdisciplinary research, especially for those focused on materials science.

With close ties both to the University of Chicago's medical campus and [Argonne National Laboratory](#), there are many opportunities for graduate students to work between medical, government, and industrial research.

You and your students may be particularly interested in some of our recent news:

- [PME researchers develop an artificial intelligence-led process that uses big data to design new proteins](#)
- [A research team develops a way to stretch and strain liquid crystals to generate different colors, determining the fundamentals for a color-changing sensing system that could be used for smart coatings, sensors, and even wearable electronics](#)
- [Scientists combine solar cell technology with a novel optimization approach to develop a smart window prototype that maximizes design across a wide range of criteria, including luminosity preferences and energy harvesting goals](#)
- [Faculty members cofound Evozyne, which combines state-of-the-art artificial intelligence with genetic engineering technology to find innovative ways to capture and store carbon, create new kinds of seeds, and reimagine polymer manufacturing](#)

After to the onset of COVID-19, many PME researchers have [dedicated their labs and resources](#) to pressing research questions surrounding the global pandemic. With [careful planning](#) and safety measures, prioritizing the health and well-being of PME's community, we have resumed research on campus in a limited capacity.

In addition, PME's STAGE (Scientists, Technologists and Artists Generating Exploration) Lab has been cultivating meaningful collaborations between the cultures of science and art. "Living Information" was a motion capture and quantum entanglement exhibit at the Field Museum designed by Profs. [Nancy Kawalek](#) and [Tian Zhong](#). In-person and online screenings of a short film about a PhD candidate working on a quantum device helped launch the docuseries [Curiosity: The Making of a Scientist](#). STAGE is also developing two theatre works: *Entanglement* based on Zhong's quantum information research and *The River Project* based on [Prof. Supratik Guha](#)'s research in partnership with UChicago's [Center in Delhi](#).

Our [master of science in molecular engineering](#) (MSME) program, designed to prepare engineers for leadership positions across industries, matriculated its first class this year.

This is <1% of what we have been up-to. If immunoengineering, quantum engineering, or soft-materials, microscopy, systems synthetic biology, bio-sensing, circuits, clean energy, clean water, art, or metrology are interests of yours, please check out our [website](#) to get a more complete picture.

If there is a graduate student you can think of who would be interested, please forward this email to him/her. The application can be accessed at <http://apply-pme.uchicago.edu/apply>. The application deadline for Autumn (September) 2021 program entry is Dec 15th. To make it easier, I would also like to offer your students an **application fee waiver (code: P4Mthc!4)**. To claim the waiver, please enter the code on the page labeled "Application" where it asks if the applicant received an application fee waiver code.

If you have similar opportunities, I would be happy to forward them to our rapidly growing undergraduate class, almost all are looking for graduate opportunities.

Best,

Chong Liu

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