GATOR LAB

GEOSPATIAL ANALYTICS, TECHNOLOGY AND OPEN RESEARCH

FUNDED PhD OPPORTUNITY • FALL 2027 • DEADLINE: DEC 31, 2026

UF IFAS UNIVERSITY of FLORIDA

SCHOOL OF FOREST, FISHERIES, AND GEOMATICS SCIENCES • FT. LAUDERDALE REC

About the Position

The newly established GATOR Lab at the University of Florida is seeking a PhD student for a 4-year research assistantship. We position ourselves at the intersection of modern computing and geospatial science. As a freshly founded lab, we offer the unique opportunity to be part of something new, and help shape the future direction of the research group.

Research Focus Areas

1. GeoAI & Scalable Analytics

Developing next-generation GeoAI frameworks and cloud-native workflows. Research topics may include LLMs for geospatial reasoning, Agentic AI, and scalable geocomputation frameworks.

2. Discrete Global Grid Systems (DGGS)

Foundational research into one of the most exciting geospatial topics of recent times, focusing on spatial indexing, multi-resolution analysis, and global-scale data integration.

We also welcome original, well-motivated research proposals from well-qualified candidates whose interests align with our core pillars. To be considered, you will need to articulate what you'll bring to the table and why you want to work with us.

Our Mindset

We value intellectual curiosity and a critical mindset. We are looking for researchers who don't just apply tools, but interrogate them. You will thrive here if you are a self-starter, value quality over quantity, and becoming a geospatial scientist is your goal. On the other hand, you will thrive here only if you have these in you. We are not just looking for a researcher, we are looking for the right fit. Please familiarize yourself with our work before reaching out. The ideal start date is Fall 2027, but the position will only be filled if a suitable candidate is found.

You Will Have Access To

- **In-Lab AI Workstation:** High-performance GPU machine for rapid local development and prototyping.
- **HiPerGator:** The most powerful AI supercomputer in U.S. academia.
- **Supportive Mentorship:** A collaborative environment where you always have access to personal guidance and active support for your growth.

How to Apply

Priority Deadline: December 31, 2026 (applications reviewed on a rolling basis). Email Dr. Levente Juhász at **join@gatorlab.io** with:

1. **CV** and a link to your portfolio or GitHub (if available).
2. **Brief Statement of Interest:** Explain *why* you want to join the GATOR Lab and *how* your interests align with our research pillars. Be creative, authentic, and tell us why you want to join.

Published papers are nice to have, but not mandatory. Exceptional candidates may be nominated for additional fellowships and external recognition.

Assistantship Includes

Annual stipend • Full tuition waiver • Health insurance

Location

Based at the Fort Lauderdale Research and Education Center (near Miami). Students may be based in Gainesville, FL during the first year to do their coursework.

University of Florida

UF is consistently ranked among the **Top 10 public universities** in the U.S. across major metrics.

Explore Our Work Online

Scan to visit **gatorlab.io** for lab publications, projects, and the digital announcement.

Final admission depends on satisfying all UF Graduate Admission and US Immigration requirements (for international candidates).

Join us at the University of Florida to build the future of Geospatial Data Science.