

**DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL AND AVIAN SCIENCES  
COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES  
UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND, COLLEGE PARK**

**GRADUATE STUDENT POSITION ANNOUNCEMENT**

**POSITION:** PhD position available in the Gastrointestinal Health and Physiology Lab in the Department of Animal and Avian Sciences.

**INSTITUTION:** Founded in 1856, University of Maryland, College Park is the state's flagship institution. Our 1,250-acre College Park campus is just minutes away from Washington, D.C., and the nexus of the nation's legislative, executive, and judicial centers of power. Our location in the Washington DC metropolitan area offers a wealth of other opportunities for internships and collaborations for undergraduate and graduate students with government agencies such as the NIH, USDA, EPA, FDA, and National Zoo.

**POSITION DESCRIPTION:** PhD Graduate Assistant positions are available beginning in Spring 2027 (domestic applicants only) or Fall 2027 (domestic and international applicants) in Gastrointestinal Health and Physiology Lab in the Department of Animal and Avian Sciences at the University of Maryland (UMD) – College Park under the supervision of Dr. Younggeon Jin. The overall goal of the lab is to study mechanisms responsible for maintenance and restoration of the intestinal barrier, with the ultimate objective of pharmacologically restoring the mucosal barrier in animals and human suffering from diseases associated with increased intestinal permeability. The incoming student will primarily work on Cre-loxP conditional mouse models (Lgr5- and Hopx-specific Cdh1 knockouts) to study E-cadherin's role in intestinal stem cell regeneration, along with complementary E-cadherin siRNA knockdown experiments in intestinal organoids. The project also includes a pig model component. Prior hands-on experience with mouse handling and animal experiments is important for this position. Our work incorporates tools from physiology, genetics, bioengineering, and molecular biology. We are seeking self-motivated MS or PhD candidates from varied backgrounds in animal sciences, veterinary sciences, physiology, genetics, and molecular biology.

**QUALIFICATIONS:** A BS in molecular biology, physiology, animal sciences, veterinary sciences, or a related field is required. A MS degree is preferred for the PhD candidate position but not required. Candidates should have strong written and oral communication skills. A desire to work individually, or in dynamic multi-disciplinary groups is also required. Experience with data analysis techniques and programs are preferred but not required.

**APPLICATION:** Interested candidates should send a CV with references, unofficial post-secondary transcripts, TOEFL (for international students, if applicable), and a cover letter explaining their interest and qualifications for the position to Dr. Jin (e-mail: ygjin@umd.edu). Applications will be accepted until November 15, 2026 (Spring 2027 semester, domestic applicants only) or January 15, 2027 (Fall 2027 semester, open to domestic and international applicants). Following candidate selection, the successful applicant will be invited to formally apply for official acceptance into the Graduate School at University of Maryland College Park (required).

