



Yicheng Zhang will be joining the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering at George Mason University (GMU) as a tenure-track Assistant Professor starting in **January 2026**. He is actively seeking **highly motivated Ph.D. students** to join his research group in **Spring or Fall 2026**.

Open Positions

- **2–3 Ph.D. positions** (fully funded; includes stipend, tuition, and health insurance)
- **Start Dates:** Spring or Fall 2026
- **Application Deadlines:**
 - *Spring 2026:* August 15, 2025 (priority funding), October 15, 2025 (final)
 - *Fall 2026:* December 1, 2025 (priority funding), March 15, 2026 (final)
- Please apply to the [GMU ECE Ph.D. program](#) and **mention my name** in your application.

How to Apply

Please email the following to arresearch828@gmail.com with the subject line: **[Prospective PhD Student]**.

- Semester you wish to apply for (Spring or Fall 2026)
- Your CV and transcript
- Research interests and relevant experience
- A brief summary of one of Yicheng's papers, including your thoughts on its strengths, weaknesses, and possible extensions

Research Areas

Prof. Zhang's research lies at the intersection of **computer architecture** and **hardware/system security**. Topics of interest include (but are not limited to):

- AR/VR Security and Privacy
- Microarchitectural Attacks and Defenses
- Large Language Models (LLMs) for AR/VR Systems
- Related topics in computer architecture and system security
- **More Info:** Visit: <https://yichez.site/>

About George Mason University (GMU)

GMU is a **top-tier R1 research university** located in **Fairfax, Virginia**, just 30 minutes from Washington, D.C. According to csrankings.org, it ranks **32nd overall**, with **Security ranked 18th**. All Ph.D. students receive **full financial support**, including tuition and health insurance. Fairfax offers a **mild four-season climate**, **reliable public transportation**, and access to **two major international airports**. The area is home to leading **tech companies** (Amazon HQ2, Microsoft, Google) and **federal agencies** (NSF, CIA, DARPA), providing exceptional career and internship opportunities. The region features a wide variety of **international cuisines and markets**. GMU fosters an **inclusive and globally minded campus culture**, attracting students from all over the world. On weekends, students can explore over **100 museums** in D.C., or enjoy **hiking, foliage viewing, and skiing** in nearby **Shenandoah National Park**.