

February 6, 2026

Dear Zehua Song,

The Graduate Program Committee has completed the review of your application, and we are pleased to offer you admission to the graduate program in the Department of Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering at UMass Amherst for Fall 2026. Your record demonstrates that you have the ability, ambition, and drive to build a great career. We believe that our department will provide you with an outstanding program of graduate study as a platform for your career. Our faculty and staff are committed to your success, and our graduate program offers a supportive yet challenging environment as an excellent setting for your studies.

Our offer includes a full graduate research assistantship, including a living-expenses stipend of at least \$45,162.00 (paid bi-weekly) per year plus tuition, and health care coverage. We will pay directly to the University your graduate tuition for the academic year (a value of \$34,409 for 2025-2026, final rates are to be determined yet will be paid in full). You will be responsible for other miscellaneous University fees, which currently total approximately \$1,000/year plus a one-time graduate entering fee of \$507 that is due the first semester. We will pay for 95% of your individual health care coverage, a benefit with a current value of approximately \$4,166.40. [If you should need family coverage, we will pay 90% of the fee.] Please note that many graduate-school offers expect you to pay for full health care coverage and fees from your stipend. This research assistantship also entitles you to dental, vision and wellness benefits offered through the UMass/UAW Health and Welfare Trust Fund: <http://www.hwtrust.geouaw.org/main>. The value of this offer totals at least \$83,737.40.

The assistantship is contingent on your official admission by the Graduate School. It is our intention that this assistantship will be continued to the completion of your degree program, dependent upon your satisfactory academic and research progress, placement in a research lab, and the availability of sufficient funds. The term "satisfactory" includes, but is not limited to, matching into a research group, following instructions of your research advisor, conducting high-quality research, producing publications as expected, maintaining semester and cumulative grade point averages of at least 3.0 out of 4.0, taking and passing required Ph.D. examinations on schedule, and working on your dissertation in a manner that meets the expectations of your research advisor. To find a research advisor, the Graduate Program Director and Secretary will provide you with a list of all primary and adjunct faculty members with open research positions. Students are also welcome to meet with faculty members of interest beyond this scope. You will attend all group information sessions and engage in individual information sessions with departmental faculty who have open graduate student positions. Satisfactory progress in the graduate program requires

matching with a research advisor by December 31, 2026. The topic of your dissertation will depend upon availability of research projects and funds.

Though it will not affect you during your first semester of study in our Graduate Program, a departmental policy according to the Graduate Program Regulations provides that “Every graduate student shall be required, as part of the academic requirements, to participate in departmental teaching activities.” These activities normally consist of serving as a teaching assistant and assisting the faculty with the teaching of courses. Teaching assistants typically perform such duties as grading homework assignments and leading recitation sessions.

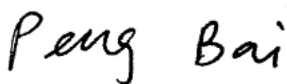
We hope that you will accept our offer based on our strongly favorable assessment of your abilities and potential. If you have any questions, please call me at (413) 545-6189, or e-mail me at pengbai@umass.edu, or call our Graduate Secretary, Marie Wallace, at (413) 545-6164, or e-mail her at wallace@ecs.umass.edu.

The Graduate School of the University will soon send you its formal notification of admission along with the necessary paperwork. You should promptly return the paperwork as soon as you make a decision on our offer of admission. The final deadline to make your decision is by April 15, 2026. The Graduate School will contact us, but we would appreciate you notifying us directly of your decision as well.

To summarize, we offer a wonderful research and educational environment together with a great living environment. The Department of Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering offers leading research programs in the fields of bioengineering, materials science & nanotechnology, catalysis & reaction engineering, and molecular & multi-scale modeling. Moreover, Amherst and nearby Northampton are delightful, culturally rich towns surrounded by natural beauty: fields, forests, hiking trails, and the beautiful mountains of New England. The major urban centers of Springfield, Boston, and New York are easily accessible.

We look forward to your joining us here for your graduate studies.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Peng Bai". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style. The first name "Peng" is connected to the last name "Bai".

Peng Bai,
Associate Professor and Interim Graduate Program Director