

Assistant or Associate Research Professor
Pennsylvania State University

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Posted Nov. 13, 2025, set to expire Mar. 10, 2026

Job Title	Assistant or Associate Research Professor
Department	The Thomas D. Larson Transportation Institute https://www.larson.psu.edu
Institution	Pennsylvania State University University Park, Pennsylvania
Date Posted	Nov. 13, 2025
Application Deadline	Open until filled
Position Start Date	Available immediately
Job Categories	Assistant Professor Associate Professor Research Professor
Academic Field(s)	Transportation Engineering
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Job Description

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Assistant or Associate Research Professor, The Thomas D. Larson Transportation Institute

POSITION SPECIFICS

The Thomas D. Larson Pennsylvania Transportation Institute (LTI) at The Pennsylvania State University invites applications for a professional-track research faculty position at the Assistant or Associate Research Professor level. Candidates with expertise that contributes to LTI's core focus areas are encouraged to apply. These areas include enhancing infrastructure resiliency in the face of adversity; promoting efficiency in transportation systems; advancing community access and mobility;

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integrating advanced technologies such as electrification, automation, and connectivity; simulation and digital twins related to transportation; integration of artificial intelligence and data security within transportation systems; and ensuring the safety of all transportation system users.

The primary goal of this search is to expand LTI's research capacity and impact in the core areas listed above. The successful candidate is expected to be an independent researcher capable of securing external funding and sustaining their own research program, while also collaborating effectively with existing LTI faculty and research centers. A Ph.D. degree is preferred; however, candidates with a master's degree and substantial relevant experience will also be considered. The ideal candidate will demonstrate strong motivation and potential for advancement along Penn State's professional research track and will have demonstrated experience in obtaining external research funding and would be eligible for membership of the Penn State graduate faculty (<https://gradschool.psu.edu/graduate-education-policies/gcac/gcac-100/gcac-101-graduate-faculty-membership>).

The Thomas D. Larson Pennsylvania Transportation Institute is Penn State's transportation research center. Since its founding in 1968, LTI has maintained a threefold mission of research, education, and service. The Institute brings together faculty from more than 14 colleges and research centers, world-class laboratory and full-scale test track facilities, and motivated students from across the University to address critical transportation challenges in partnership with public and private stakeholders. LTI houses three centers: the Bus Research and Testing Center (BRTC), the Center for Dirt and Gravel Road Studies (CDGRS), and the Northeast Center of Excellence for Pavement Technology (NECEPT). For additional information about the Institute, please visit <https://www.larson.psu.edu>. For information on Penn State's academic ranks and promotional opportunities for non-tenure-track faculty, please see <https://policy.psu.edu/policies/ac21>.

Applications should include a cover letter, curriculum vitae, statement of research interests, contact information for three references, and up to three journal publications or research reports authored. Application materials should be uploaded as two PDFs: one PDF containing all application materials in the order listed without journal publications, and a second PDF containing only the journal publications.

For full consideration, applications should be received by **January 15, 2026**. Review of applications will start on December 1, 2025 and will continue on a rolling basis until the position is filled. Questions may be sent to the search committee chair, Dr. Xianbiao Hu at xbhu@psu.edu.

BACKGROUND CHECKS/CLEARANCES

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Employment with the University will require successful completion of background check(s) in accordance with University policies.

BENEFITS

Penn State provides a competitive benefits package for full-time employees designed to support both personal and professional wellbeing. In addition to comprehensive medical, dental, and vision coverage, employees enjoy robust retirement plans. One of the standout benefits is the generous 75% tuition discount, available to employees as well as eligible spouses and children.

For more detailed information, please visit our [Benefits Page](#).

EEO IS THE LAW

Penn State is an equal opportunity employer and is committed to providing employment opportunities to all qualified applicants without regard to race, color, religion, age, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, national origin, disability or protected veteran status. If you are unable to use our online application process due to an impairment or disability, please contact 814-865-1473.

The Pennsylvania State University is committed to and accountable for advancing equity, respect, and belonging. We embrace individual uniqueness, as well as a culture of belonging that supports equity initiatives, leverages the educational and institutional benefits of inclusion in society, and provides opportunities for engagement intended to help all members of the community thrive. We value belonging as a core strength and an essential element of the university's teaching, research, and service mission.

Apply online at https://psu.wd1.myworkdayjobs.com/PSU_Academic/job/Penn-State-University-Park/Assistant-or-Associate-Research-Professor--The-Thomas-D-Larson-Transportation-Institute_REQ_000073124-2

CAMPUS SECURITY CRIME STATISTICS: For more about safety at Penn State, and to review the Annual Security Report which contains information about crime statistics and other safety and security matters, please go to <http://www.police.psu.edu/clery/>, which will also provide you with detail on how to request a hard copy of the Annual Security Report.

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Contact Information

Please reference Academickeys in your cover letter when applying for or inquiring about this job announcement.

Contact

N/A

Pennsylvania State University

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