

Postdoctoral Research Fellow Opportunity

The Experimental Fluid Dynamics Laboratory (Sareen Lab) in collaboration with the Center of Naval Research and Education (CNRE) at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor invites applications for a Postdoctoral Research Associate position starting as soon as April 1, 2026 (start date flexible). We are seeking an exceptionally motivated experimentalist to join our research effort at the intersection of fluid–structure interaction and bio-inspired flow control. The postdoc will work on multiple cutting-edge research projects including adaptive flow control using smart morphable surface and wave-assisted propulsion. A strong interest and/or demonstrated ability in deep reinforcement learning (DRL) for flow control of unsteady flows is preferred.

As a Research Fellow, you will

- Independently conduct high-impact research in cutting-edge areas of experimental fluid dynamics
- Be part of an interdisciplinary team of researchers at the Center of Naval Research and Education (CNRE) at U-M with access to interdisciplinary research teams and networks at U-M, Navy labs and beyond. Access to professional development opportunities and networks at CNRE and U-M
- Mentor graduate/undergraduate students & contribute to proposal writing

Required Qualifications

- Ph.D. in a closely related field.
- Strong track record of scholarly publications in top journals in the field.
- Demonstrated expertise in Particle Image Velocimetry (2D & Stereo) and/or Particle Tracking Velocimetry, force measurements, motion control systems, feedback control.
- Ability to work independently and collaboratively with other team members and collaborators
- Excellent communication (written & verbal) and organizational skills
- US citizens or permanent residents are preferred.

Why Join EFDL at University of Michigan?

The EFDL provides a platform for conducting cutting-edge experimental research in fluid–structure interaction, adaptive flow control, and bio-inspired propulsion. Our lab combines fundamental fluid dynamics with bio-inspired flow control strategies to develop technologies that enhance the performance, endurance, and efficiency of future unmanned aerial and underwater vehicles.

You will have access to state-of-the-art experimental facilities, including:

- A custom low-turbulence recirculating water tunnel
- Stereo- Particle Tracking Velocimetry (PIV/PTV) systems
- Access to unique facilities: 35 m long Wind-Wave Tank and 110 m long Tow tank capable of simulating sea states up to 7
- Force and motion control systems for unsteady flow manipulation, smart morphable surface platforms
- Affiliation with the center of naval research and education – strong interdisciplinary team of researchers working towards naval relevant problems.
- Professional development opportunities
- U-M is the top public school in the country providing you with a platform to launch your independent career. Access to unique resources & exposure to interdisciplinary research.

We foster an environment of scientific rigor and mentorship, preparing postdoctoral researchers for independent academic or research careers.

Application Process

Applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis until the position is filled. For full consideration, please submit the following documents as a single PDF file to Prof. Anchal Sareen (asareen@umich.edu) with the subject line: “Postdoc Application – EFDL”

- Cover letter describing how your prior research experience is the best fit for EFDL
- Curriculum Vitae, including a complete list of publications and experimental skillset
- Contact information for three references.

The University of Michigan is an equal opportunity employer committed to diversity, equity, and inclusion. Join us in pushing the boundaries of experimental fluid dynamics and intelligent flow control.