Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine Master's in **Medical and Biological Illustration** Programs Admissions Information

Program Overview:

The Medical and Biological Illustration is a 22-month full-time campus-based master's degree program designed to prepare future leaders in the medical illustration profession.

Students in this program primarily study on the Johns Hopkins Medicine Campus.

The tuition for the 2026-27 academic year is $69,100 per year; departmental endowed scholarship funds are awarded to all MBI students and provide partial tuition support; further funding is essential for all students. Additional information regarding tuition, fees, financial aid, and student financial resources is available on the Financial Aid website.

Note: "The University does not provide graduate student housing. Information and resources related to off-campus housing are available through the Housing Office."

Application Instructions:

Application to the MBI program occurs once each year for Fall entry and begins with the submission of an Art Portfolio, due January 10th of the admissions year. Information on the Art Portfolio requirements is available on the MBI Admissions page. The Art Portfolio program site opens on November 1st and is due January 10th. The portfolio site will not reopen until next year's admissions season.

Following review of all Art Portfolios, MBI faculty invite select candidates to complete the SOM Graduate Program Application and to interview with the Director and Faculty. These applications are due before the interview date typically scheduled in February and March. SOM Applications submitted without an Art Portfolio submission will not be considered.

Admissions Requirements and Application Materials:

- **Academic History:** Applicants must list all colleges and universities they have attended and upload a transcript from each institution.
- **Minimum qualifications:** Applicants must meet the following minimum qualifications for consideration for admission. However, meeting these minimum qualifications does not guarantee admission to the program.
    - Bachelor's Degree (BS, BA, BFA, or similar) with high academic standing in all coursework
    - Science Coursework: General Chemistry, Vertebrate Anatomy (with mammalian (cat) dissection lab), Vertebrate Physiology (including organ systems), and one of five Upper-Level Biological Sciences (Cell Biology, Developmental Biology (Embryology), Histology, Molecular Biology, or Immunology

    - Art Portfolio demonstrating ability to realistically render directly observed subject matter in the following Categories: General Drawing, Figure Drawing, Color Media, Graphic Design, Digital Medial and Sketchbook Pages
    - Excellent Written and Verbal Communication Skills
- **Standardized Testing:** Applicants are not required to take the GRE for this program. GRE scores will not be considered in the admissions process, even if submitted.
- **Curriculum Vitae/Resume:** Applicants must submit a CV or resume. The CV/resume may be updated after the application is submitted, provided that any updates are submitted before the program's application deadline.
- **Personal Statement:** Submit a statement of interest in the MBI program.
- **Letters of Recommendation:** Applicants must identify **three** (3) individuals, including one science instructor and one art instructor, who are familiar with the applicant's academic, professional, research, clinical, or other relevant work and provide contact information for these references. The School of Medicine will contact the identified references and request that they submit letters of recommendation on behalf of the applicant.
- **Art Portfolio:** The Committee is looking for excellent draftsmanship, good sense of realistic proportions, understanding light on form, ability to render various textures convincingly and ability to focus the viewer's eye within a drawing. Realistic rendering of directly observed subject matter including life drawing, still life, landscape and portraits is encouraged. The faculty strongly encourage creating art while directly observing the subject and to avoid photo reference.

International Students:

- The University will sponsor visas for accepted students. However, JHU's willingness to sponsor or support a visa application does not guarantee that a visa will be approved or issued.
- International students whose native language is not English are required to complete the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) or International English Language Testing System (IELTS). When taking the exam, applicants should request official scores be reported to Institution Code 5316 (the Department Code is not necessary). To report official IELTS test scores, please include the Test Report Form (TRF) verification number on the application. Scores must be received before the application deadline.
- The TOEFL requirement will be waived if the applicant has completed their degree in a U.S. institution, or is currently enrolled and will receive a degree from a university within the U.S. prior to matriculation at JHU SOM.
- All transcripts, letters of recommendation, and parts of the admissions application must be in English. The approved transcript service for use by international students is WES.

- Applicants who are not U.S. citizens or U.S. permanent residents should consult the *Application Fees and Fee Waivers* section on the On-Campus Programs website for information about application fees and eligibility for fee waivers.

Additional Application Information:

Parts of the admissions application collect demographic and other information. Race, ethnicity, national origin, gender, and other legally protected characteristics are not considered in the selection of candidates for admission to the training program.

Admissions Fees:

- An application fee of $125 is required and must be submitted using a credit card.
- Application fee waivers are available to applicants who meet the School of Medicine's published eligibility requirements. Eligibility for a fee waiver is separate from the academic admissions process and does not affect an applicant's consideration for admission. For a complete description of eligibility requirements and the fee waiver process, please see the *Application Fees Waivers* section on the On-Campus Programs website.

Application Status:

- Once an application has been submitted, the applicant may follow its progress through the Application Status Page. The page can be accessed after submission of the application and contains the most current information regarding application status and outstanding materials.

Admissions Timelines:

- Applicants are encouraged to submit their applications as early as possible. Admissions decisions are generally not based on when an application is submitted within the application period; however, applying early allows additional time for application processing as well as for academic, financial, and enrollment planning.
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  Following review of all Art Portfolios, MBI faculty invite select candidates to complete the SOM Graduate Program Application and to virtually interview with the Director and Faculty. These applications are due before the interview date typically scheduled in February and March. SOM Applications submitted without an Art Portfolio submission will not be considered. Offers of enrollment are sent after all interviews are completed.
- Letters describing acceptance, wait list status, or rejection will be sent by email. This information will also be available on the Application status website. Applicants selected

for acceptance must choose to accept or reject the offer by April 15. On April 15, all accepted offers become binding.

- Incoming students will matriculate the first weekday in August with a full day of program Orientation; program coursework begins the next weekday. The Clinical Anaplastology program only accepts students for Fall matriculation.

Applicant Survey:

- Applicants will receive a survey after the admissions process has concluded requesting feedback regarding their experience with the admissions process. The survey will also ask questions about the disability status of applicants.
- Participation in the survey is voluntary, and survey responses are not used in admissions decisions and have no effect on an applicant's admission status or any offer of admission.

Upon Acceptance:

- Individuals who accept an offer of admission will undergo a criminal background check.
- Accepted students must submit official transcripts to the School of Medicine Registrar. Official transcripts may be submitted electronically through a transcript service approved by the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine Registrar. The approved transcript service for international students is WES. Transcripts may also be mailed directly to the School of Medicine Registrar by the issuing institution. Detailed instructions will be provided upon acceptance.

Communicating with the Program:

- Medical and Biological Illustration Program contact: medicalart@jh.edu
- General questions: GradAdmissions@jhmi.edu
- For more information, please see the Medical and Biological Illustration program website: https://medicalart.johnshopkins.edu/admissions/
- Admissions information: https://medicalart.johnshopkins.edu/admissions-mbi/