

Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine Graduate Programs - Admissions Information for the PhD in Pathobiology

Program Overview:

Historically, the Pathobiology Program has an average annual enrollment of 6 students with a range of 5-9. In 2026, the Pathobiology PhD Program admitted 5 from a pool of 200 applicants. As of August 2026, the total number of students in the program is 38. The average time to degree is 5.6 years and the range in time to degree is 3.75-7.8 years. Students in this program primarily work at the East Baltimore Campus.

JHU School of Medicine PhD students receive guaranteed financial support, subject to the terms of the Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA) for the JHU PhD Union. For the 2026–2027 academic year, the minimum rate of pay is \$52,000. Tuition is covered, and eligible PhD students receive student health benefits. For additional information about compensation, tuition, health care, leave, and other benefits, please consult the [CBA](#).

Stipends are subject to federal, state, and local taxes. Students from Maryland with student loans may receive State tax benefits. Additional information regarding financial aid and student financial resources is available on the [Financial Aid](#) website.

Applicants are encouraged, but not required, to explore external funding opportunities before beginning their training.

The University does not provide graduate student housing. Information and resources related to off-campus housing are available through the [Housing Office](#).

Additional Educational/Training Opportunities:

The Pathobiology Program fully embraces diverse career opportunities. One mechanism is through our Translational Research courses that acquaint PhD students with approaches that are used **clinically**. Students broaden their education and possibly identify career interests by carrying out patient-related activities through rotations in areas such as surgical pathology; clinical chemistry; hematology; the blood bank; medical microbiology; and diagnostic immunology. We are one of the few programs in the country to offer this opportunity. The Pathobiology Program also has rich opportunities to develop teaching and public speaking skills through teaching assistantships and student presentations.

Application Instructions:

The application for Pathobiology is open from September 8, 2026, to December 3, 2026. Applications may only be submitted during the application period. All components of

the application must be received before the deadline for consideration for admission.

On the application, applicants are asked to indicate the research area(s) of interest from this list:

- Immunopathology
- Microbiology & Infectious Disease
- Neoplasia
- Neuropathology
- Skeletal Biology
- Vascular Biology & Hemostasis

Admissions Requirements and Application Materials:

- **Academic History & Prior Research Experience:**
 - Applicants must list all colleges and universities they have attended and upload a transcript from each institution.
 - Applicants with prior research experience should provide information about that experience, including the institution, research mentor or supervisor, dates of participation, and any publications or other research products resulting from the experience, as applicable.

- **GRE:** GRE scores are optional for applicants to the Pathobiology Program. Applicants may submit scores if they wish, but applications will be fully considered without GRE scores. The absence of GRE scores will not disadvantage an applicant in the admissions process.

Note: If you wish to submit official GRE scores, use Institution Code 5316 for applications to the Johns Hopkins School of Medicine graduate programs.

- **Curriculum Vitae (CV):** Applicants must submit a CV. The CV may be updated after the application is submitted, provided that any updates are submitted before the graduate program's application deadline.
- **Personal Statement:** Applicants must submit a **two-page maximum personal statement:** *one page on research/career goals* and a *second page describing a formative experience*, combined into a single two-page document. Applicants should include a discussion of any research experience they have had.
- **Letters of Recommendation:** Applicants must identify three (3) individuals who are familiar with the applicant's academic, research, professional, 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.

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. The application fee allows an applicant to apply for up to four (4) programs in the School of Medicine.
- U.S. citizens and U.S. permanent residents who meet the School of Medicine's published eligibility requirements may be eligible for an application fee waiver. 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 and Fee Waivers* section of the [On-Campus Programs](#) webpage.

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.
- Pathobiology will contact strong applicants about interviews in mid-to-late December. For the upcoming 2026 recruitment season, interviews will be conducted over Zoom (or similar service), occurring the weekend of January 14th – 16th, 2027
- 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 in late August. Orientation will be held in late August, on or shortly after the matriculation date. Students will begin their training at this time. The Pathobiology PhD 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:

- Pathobiology contact: Stacey R. March, Sr. Academic Program Coordinator, smorgan9@jhmi.edu
- General questions: GradAdmissions@jhmi.edu
- For more information, please see the Pathobiology website: [Pathobiology PhD Program](#)
[| Johns Hopkins Pathology](#)

- Admissions information: [Applying | Johns Hopkins Pathobiology](#)