

Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine Graduate Programs - Admissions Information for the PhD in Cross Disciplinary Graduate Program in Biomedical Sciences (XDBio)

Program Overview:

In 2026, the Cross Disciplinary Graduate Program in Biomedical Sciences admitted 4 students from a pool of 214 applicants. As of September, 2026, the total number of students in the program is 27. The average time to degree is 4.89 years. Students in this program primarily work on campus (JHU SOM, JHU Homewood and HHMI Janelia research campus labs).

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](#).

Application Instructions:

The application for XDBio is open from 9/8/2026 to 12/1/2026. Applications may only be submitted during the application period. All components of the application must be received before the deadline for consideration for admission.

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 XDBio program. Applicants may submit scores if they wish, but applications will be fully considered without GRE scores. 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. This should include complete details of post-secondary educational background, as well as employment and research experience. Please include any publications from your research as well as honors, scholarships, fellowships, election to honor societies, etc. you have received. 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 three personal statements.

- 1) Please describe how a formative experience has shaped your interest in pursuing graduate studies and/or a specific career path. This experience could include—but is not limited to—a life event, academic course, book, or mentor. We encourage you to reflect on how this experience cultivated your curiosity, passion, or motivation to pursue your chosen field (1 page).
- 2) Describe at least one research project you've participated in in the past. For each project, please explain the broader scientific goal(s) behind each research project, detail your specific contributions, and discuss potential future directions the project could take. (1-2 pages)
- 3) Please address your PhD training goals and vision, as well as your long-term career goals. How are these supported by the structure of XDBio over more traditional PhD programs? Please also indicate faculty (at JHU and/or Janelia Research Campus) who you would be interested in for rotation or thesis work and, in a few sentences for each, indicate why.

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.
- The XDBio Program will contact those applicants who will be invited to interview for the program. Interviews will be conducted in-person or possibly by Zoom in February 2027. The program will reimburse applicants for travel expenses and accommodation during the interview.

- 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 XDBio 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:

- XDBio contact: bcormack@jhmi.edu; snappe@janelia.hhmi.org
- General questions: GradAdmissions@jhmi.edu
- For more information, please see the XDBio website: <https://xdbio.jhmi.edu/>
- Admissions information: <https://xdbio.jhmi.edu/admissions/>