

Johns Hopkins School of Medicine Graduate Programs – Admissions Information for the PhD in **Biomedical Engineering (BME)**

Program Overview:

During the 2025-26 admissions cycle, the BME program enrolled 20 students from a pool of 1,046 applicants. In 2025, there were 256 total students enrolled in the program. More information about the BME PhD student body can be found [here](#). Students in this program work on the East Baltimore, Homewood, and Bayview campuses, as well as the Applied Physics Lab.

Students in this program are paid a stipend to support their living expenses (the 2026-27 stipend is \$52,000). Students also receive financial aid in the form of tuition scholarship, health insurance, and dental insurance. Student stipends are subject to taxes. Students from Maryland with student loans may be eligible for a credit on their state taxes. More information is available on the School of Medicine [Financial Aid page](#). The University does not provide housing, though the [housing office](#) will provide advice and resources to help you find off-campus housing.

Some students in this program are supported by training grants, fellowships, or other funding sources. Others apply for individual scholarships or funding opportunities. Applicants are encouraged (but not required) to apply for funding before beginning their training. Information about funding opportunities for graduate students (including NSF GRFP and NIH F31 grants) can be found [here](#).

Program Prerequisites and Application Instructions:

Before applying, all applicants should review the program prerequisites and application instructions found [here](#). The information on this website is updated in August prior to (or during, as needed) each application cycle and, in the case of any discrepancies, supersedes the information found in this document. Additional details on the application requirements and review process can be found below.

The Online Application:

For matriculation in fall 2027, the application for the BME PhD program will be open from September 1, 2026 to December 3, 2026. Before the application is open, applicants may log in and begin their applications. The application can only be submitted while the application is open during the period stated above. ***The application deadline is December 3, 2026 at 11:59 pm ET. All application components, including recommendations and test scores (if required, see below), must be received before the deadline for consideration.*** More information about specific sections of the online application can be found below:

BME Additional Information:

- Faculty of interest. Applicants are asked to identify faculty with whom they are interested in working. Although students in the BME PhD program may work with faculty from other departments, applicants are encouraged to review and choose from the list of participating BME PhD program faculty that can be found [here](#). Though the faculty listed here are participating in this year's PhD admissions process, they may not be actively recruiting students for their labs. Applicants are strongly encouraged to contact faculty of interest before or during the application period to discuss potential opportunities in those labs and whether their research is a good fit.

Important note: Applicants should choose their faculty of interest carefully. The faculty indicated here will likely be the first to review the application, so applicants should choose faculty whose current research directions align with their interests and goals for graduate school. **Applicants should review the faculty [listed on this page](#) to identify potential mentors by research topic.** More information about the application review and admissions process can be found below.

- Research areas of interest. On the application, applicants are asked to indicate two research areas of interest from this list below. These areas are described in detail [here](#).
 - Biomedical Data Science
 - Computational Medicine
 - Genomics & Systems Biology
 - Imaging & Medical Devices
 - Immunoengineering
 - Neuroengineering
 - Translational Cell & Tissue Engineering

Important note: Applicants should choose their research areas carefully based on their interests for graduate school. **We strongly encourage all applicants to review the descriptions of each research area [on this page](#)** to better understand what research in that area looks like at Hopkins BME. Applicants should choose research areas that align with their faculty of interest to ensure that their application will be reviewed by the most appropriate committee. More information about the application review and admissions process can be found below.

- Research keywords. Applicants should list up to two keywords describing specific interests that they would like to pursue for their thesis research. Examples of keywords can be found by consulting the research area descriptions and faculty profiles found [here](#).
- Relevant coursework. Applicants should describe up to three fundamental courses that they took as an undergraduate (or master's) student in the following areas: mathematics, life sciences, other science and engineering, and computational or data science. Applicants should include the grades that they received for each course listed, converted to an A-F scale, or indicate that it is planned or in progress. Applicants should also identify the names or topics of courses they would be interested in taking as a Johns Hopkins graduate student. To learn more about our program's course prerequisites, please [visit this page](#).
- Research output. Applicants with prior research experience should share high-level information about any publications or other research output resulting from the experience. Applicants should indicate the **type of research output** (e.g., journal article, abstract, poster, conference presentation, etc.) rather than a detailed description of the work they did. Responses in this section of the application should be limited to 200 characters. Details about any research deliverables should be included in the applicant's CV.

Academic History & Prior Research Experience:

- Academic history. Applicants must list all colleges and universities they attended and **upload a transcript from each school**. If the applicant is actively enrolled in an academic program at the time of application, the transcript should include any completed coursework. Applicants may submit unofficial transcripts with their online application; if admitted to the program, students must provide official transcripts prior to matriculation (see below).
- Research experience. Applicants with prior research experience should share information about this, including the institution, mentor, and dates of participation.

Test Scores:

- GREs. Applicants are **strongly encouraged** to take the GRE for fall 2027 admissions (December 3, 2026, application deadline) for both, rotation and direct match offers. Admissions committees will review GRE scores as part of the holistic review process. If an applicant does not submit GRE scores, they may still submit their application for consideration; however, **some faculty, particularly those that emphasize quantitative skills in their research, may consider the GRE as an admissions requirement**. Please contact potential faculty of interest to learn more about their expectations for GRE scores.
- TOEFL/IELTS. If English is not their native language, applicants must submit results from the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) or International English Language Testing System (IELTS). There is no minimum TOEFL/IELTS test score required for consideration. Please see the additional notes for international students below.

When submitting test scores, applicants should complete any exams in sufficient time for the reports to reach us by the deadline. Test scores must be sent to Institution Code 5316 (the department code is not needed) and received by the application deadline to be evaluated by the admissions committee. If scores were not directed to Johns Hopkins University or Johns Hopkins School of Medicine at the time the test was taken, the applicant should have their scores resent to the correct Institution Code, 5316.

Supporting Materials:

- Statement on basis of interest. Applicants must submit a statement (maximum of one page, single-sided; Arial, 11-pt font; uploaded as a PDF) indicating the basis of their interest in graduate study and their career objectives. Applicants should include a discussion of:
 - Why they chose the Hopkins BME PhD program
 - Prior research experience, including the overall field, any unique or specialized skills they developed, and their major contribution(s) to the project(s)
 - Research interests and goals for graduate school, including the type of research they want to do and the type of courses they are interested in taking
 - Which faculty they most want to work with for their thesis research and why, including how they envision contributing to those labs
 - Goals or career plans following graduate school

- Personal statement (optional). Applicants may provide an additional, **optional** personal statement (maximum of one page, single-sided; Arial, 11-pt font) that describes how a formative experience has shaped their 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 applicants to reflect on how this experience cultivated their curiosity, passion, or motivation to pursue their chosen field.

This personal statement is **optional**. If applicants choose to submit a personal statement, they should upload a single PDF document that includes both the basis of interest statement and the personal statement (two pages maximum, one single-sided page per statement).

- Curriculum Vitae (CV). Applicants must submit a CV summarizing their academic, professional, and research experience. This can include any honors or awards, or details of the applicant's work that are not mentioned in the basis of interest statement. Applicants may upload new versions of their CV until the application deadline, after which no changes can be accepted.

Recommendations:

Applicants must identify **three** people who are familiar with the applicant's work and provide their contact information. Once applicants have entered this contact information into the application, the School of Medicine will contact the recommenders and ask them to submit letters of recommendation on behalf of the applicant. **Letters of recommendation must be received by the application due date**; applicants are encouraged to remind the recommenders to submit their letters as needed.

Getting to Know You:

- Personal information. Parts of the online application collect information for mandatory reporting. These parts may ask applicants to select a pre-set category for gender, race, or ethnicity. Other sections of the application allow applicants to share more details about how they choose to describe themselves. *In accordance with applicable laws, gender, race, and ethnicity will not be considered for admissions decisions*, and these components of the application will not be shared with the admissions committee, program faculty, or program staff during the admissions cycle.
- Definitions. Application fee waivers may be given to applicants based on family income or other criteria (see below). The term '*family*' is determined by the applicant's definition. Families may involve adoptions, separations, and many other variations.

Application Fees:

- Application fee. An application fee of \$125 dollars is required and must be submitted using a credit card. In some cases, this fee will cover applications to more than one School of Medicine program.

- Fee waivers. Fee waivers may be available through the School of Medicine. For a complete description of the fee waiver process and eligibility, please see the Application Fees and Fee Waiver Instructions on the [On-Campus Programs Admissions website](#). The BME program is unable to offer additional fee waivers at this time.

Notes for International Students:

- Visas. The University will sponsor visas for accepted students. More information will be provided by the [Office of International Services](#) upon acceptance into the program.
- TOEFL/IELTS requirements. 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 by the application deadline. There is no minimum TOEFL/IELTS test score required for consideration.
- TOEFL/IELTS waivers. The TOEFL/IELTS requirement will be waived if the applicant received or will receive a degree from an institution within the United States, or from an institution that uses English as the primary language of instruction, prior to matriculation at Johns Hopkins.
- Application materials. All transcripts, letters of recommendation, and parts of the application must be completed in English. The approved transcript service for use by international students is [sWES](#).
- Fee waivers. International applicants who are interested in application fee waivers should check whether they meet the eligibility requirements set by the School of Medicine's Admissions Office (see above). The BME program is unable to offer additional fee waivers at this time.

Application Status Website:

Once their application is submitted, applicants can check its status by logging into the online application system. The Application Status page can be accessed upon completion of the application and has the most current information available. Applicants should allow some time for updates to be processed within the online application system and reflected on the Application Status page. It can take 30 minutes, or longer, for updates to appear, especially during times of peak traffic.

Admissions Timeline:

- Application review. Review of submitted applications will begin immediately after the application deadline. Admissions committees, made up of participating program faculty, review applications based on the faculty and research areas of interest noted within the application's BME Additional Information section (see above), with oversight from the admissions committee leaders and program directors. Applicants should choose their faculty of interest carefully to

ensure that their applications are reviewed by the most appropriate committee. More information on the admissions committees, or choosing faculty and research areas of interest, can be found [here](#).

Applications are reviewed holistically and evaluated based on the candidate's academic preparation, motivation and aptitude for independent research, overall fit with program research and goals, and other notable characteristics, such as leadership, resiliency, professionalism, maturity, etc. Program prerequisites and attributes of successful candidates can be found [here](#).

- Interviews. The BME program will contact selected applicants about interviews via email in mid- to late-January. Applicants must complete the interview process to be considered for admission, and final admissions decisions will be made from the pool of interviewed applicants. We anticipate that interviews will be conducted both virtually and on-campus for the fall 2027 admissions cycle. Prior to the interview period, applicants will be encouraged to attend a virtual interview kick-off event, where they can learn more about the admissions process and get tips for a successful interview experience from current PhD students and staff. More information about the kick-off events will be included in the interview notification email.
- Campus visits. Shortlisted applicants will be invited to an in-person campus visit in mid-March, conditions permitting, to meet current faculty and graduate students, as well as learn more about the program and the Hopkins BME environment.
- Admissions decisions. Decision notification letters describing acceptance, waitlist status, or rejection will be sent via email by mid- to late-March, or earlier if feasible. This information will also be available on the Application Status page in the online application system. Applicants who receive an offer of admission must choose to accept or reject the offer by April 15. On April 15, all accepted offers become binding.
- Matriculation. Incoming students who are accepted as part of the 2026-27 admissions cycle will matriculate in late August 2027. Orientation for admitted students will be held in August 2027, on or shortly after the matriculation date.

Applicant Survey:

Applicants will receive a survey during the third week of April (after April 15) where they can provide feedback about their experience with the admissions process. The survey will also ask questions about applicant disability status.

Upon Acceptance:

- Background check. Admitted students will undergo a criminal background check prior to matriculation.
- Official transcripts. Admitted students must also submit official transcripts to the School of Medicine. This may be in the form of a digital transcript, which is submitted through a transcript

service approved by the Johns Hopkins School of Medicine Registrar. The approved transcript service for international students is [WES](#). Transcripts may also be mailed directly from the accepted student's school to the School of Medicine. Detailed instructions will be provided once the offer of admission has been accepted.

Communicating with the Program:

- BME-specific questions: JHU-BME-Graduate@jhu.edu
- General questions (School of Medicine): GradAdmissions@jhmi.edu
- For more information on the PhD program, please see the BME website:
<https://www.bme.jhu.edu/academics/prospective-students/graduate-program-overview/ph-d-program/>
- For more information on the admissions process or requirements, please visit:
<https://www.bme.jhu.edu/academics/graduate/phd-program/apply-to-the-phd-program/>