

Johns Hopkins School of Medicine Graduate Programs – Admissions Information for the MA in the **Medical & Biological Illustration**

Program Admissions Details:

The Medical and Biological Illustration (MBI) graduate program provides broad interdisciplinary education and training in medical illustration. Effective medical illustration can teach a new surgical procedure, explain a newly discovered molecular mechanism, describe how a medical device works, or depict a disease pathway. Through their work, medical illustrators bridge gaps in medical and healthcare communication.

This 22-month program trains artist scientists to create clear accurate visuals to communicate the latest advancements in science and medicine. As part of the Department of Art as Applied to Medicine in the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, students in the **MBI** program have access to the world-renowned Johns Hopkins Medicine.

The integral connection between the **MBI** program and the faculty of the Department allows students to mentor with practicing Certified Medical Illustrators (CMI), to use the most technologically advanced production equipment, and to observe faculty members as active illustrators in the Hopkins community. Student projects in illustration, animation, 3D modeling, interactive design and a research thesis prepare graduates as professionals in the field of visual communication of science and medicine. Students in this program work on the East Baltimore campus.

Program Details:

Application to the **MBI** program occurs one time each year 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 [eMBI Admissions page](#). The Art Portfolio 'program' site opens on November 1st and is due January 10th - [Art Portfolio Submission website](#). The Art Portfolio 'program' site will not re-open until the next year's admissions season.

Following review of all Art Portfolios, select candidates are invited by the **MBI** faculty to complete the Johns Hopkins School of Medicine (SOM) Graduate Program Application. SOM Graduate Program Applications submitted without the separate Art Portfolio website submission will not be considered. In the time before the application is open, applicants may log in and begin their applications. The application can only be submitted in the period when the application is open.

Academic History:

Applicants will need to list all colleges and universities they attended. A transcript will need to be uploaded from each school attended.

Admissions requirements:

- Applicants are **not** required to take the GRE for this program.
- Applicants must submit a one-page personal statement indicating the basis of their interest in graduate study and their career objectives.
- The program requires submissions of an Art Portfolio of the applicant's work. Please see details about this portfolio and the submission website [here](#). SOM Graduate Program Applications without the separate Art Portfolio submission will not be considered.

- Applicants must identify **three** people who are familiar with the applicant's work and provide contact info for these references. The contact info will be entered into the application, and SOM will contact the references and ask them to submit letters of recommendation on behalf of the applicant.

International Students:

- The University will sponsor visas for accepted students.
- 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), or Graduate Record Exam (GRE general). 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](#).
- International students are not eligible for waivers of the Admissions Application fees.

Getting to know you:

- Parts of the Admissions 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.
- Application Fee waivers may be given to applicants based on family income (U.S. citizens only). The term *family* is determined by your definition. Families may involve adoptions, separations, and many other variations.

Admissions fees:

- An admissions fee of \$125 dollars is required and must be submitted using a credit card
- For a complete description of the fee waiver process, please see the *Application Fees and Fee Waiver Instructions* on the [Admission](#) website. Fee waivers are only available for U.S. citizens.

Application status website:

- Once their application is submitted, applicant may follow its progress on the Application Status page. This page can be accessed upon completion of the application. The status page has the most current information.

Admission timeline:

- Review of applications will begin immediately after the application deadline.
- Following the January 10th Portfolio/Profile due date, the Admissions Committee notifies all candidates who qualify for final consideration, provides access to the online SOM application web site, and invites them for 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.
- A class of seven students is selected each year to matriculate in early August.

Applicant survey:

- Applicants will receive a survey during the third week of April where they can provide feedback about their experience with the Admissions process. The survey will also ask questions about disability status of applicants.

Upon acceptance:

- Accepted students will undergo a criminal background check.
- Accepted students must submit official transcripts to the School of Medicine Registrar. 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 Registrar. Detailed instructions will be provided upon acceptance.

Communicating with the program:

- MBI Program contact: MedicalArt@jh.edu
- General questions: GradAdmissions@jhmi.edu
- For more info, please see the Program website: <https://medicalart.johnshopkins.edu/the-first-program-of-its-kind/>; Admissions information is here: <https://medicalart.johnshopkins.edu/admissions-mbi/>
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