

Johns Hopkins School of Medicine Graduate Programs – Admissions Information for the PhD in **Pathobiology**

Program Admissions Details:

In 2026, the Pathobiology PhD Program admitted 5 students out of a pool of 200 applicants. In August 2026, the total number of students in the program was 43. The average time to degree for this program is 5.6 years. Students in this program work on the East Baltimore campus.

Students in this program are paid a stipend to support their living expenses (the 2026-2027 stipend is \$52,000). Tuition costs for SOM courses are covered by the School for students in this Program (i.e., not paid by the student). Standard medical, dental and vision benefits for the student are covered. Benefits for the student's immediate family are available at additional cost to the student. Student stipends are subject to taxes. Students from Maryland with student loans may receive State tax benefits. More information is available on our [Financial Aid page](#). The University does not provide housing, though the [housing office](#) will provide advice.

Some students in this program are covered by Federal training grants. Others applied for individual scholarships and received funding. Applicants are encouraged (but not required) to apply for funding before beginning their training. Information about funding opportunities for U.S. students (including NSF GFRP and F31 grants) can be found [here](#).

The Vivien Thomas Scholars Initiative (VTSI) is an endowed fellowship program at Johns Hopkins for PhD students in STEM fields. It provides full tuition, stipend, and benefits while also providing targeted mentoring, networking, community, and professional development opportunities. Students who have attended eligible institutions, including historically Black colleges and universities (HBCUs), community colleges, and regional institutions in Maryland, Virginia, and the District of Columbia for undergraduate study, are eligible to apply. More information about the VTSI program is available at this link: <https://provost.jhu.edu/about/vivien-thomas-scholars-initiative/>. To be considered for the VTSI, all components of the PhD program application, including the VTSI supplemental components, must be completed by **December 1, 2026**. All supplementary application material, including letters of recommendation, must also be received by December 1.

Program Details:

The Graduate Program in Pathobiology holds its recruitment in mid-January. The application for this program is open from 9/1/2026 to 12/3/2026. Applicants may begin the application process and submit anytime during this period. It is beneficial to begin the process early to ensure timely submission of Letters of Recommendation. The application and related materials can only be submitted during the period when the application is open.

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

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

Academic History & Prior Research Experience:

Applicants will need to list all colleges and universities they have attended. An unofficial transcript will need to be uploaded from each school attended. Applicants with prior research experience share information about this including the institution and mentor, dates of participation, and any publications resulting from the experience.

Admissions requirements:

- Our program requires applicants to submit a **Curriculum Vitae** (C.V.). This can be updated after the application is submitted, provided the updates are completed before the graduate program's deadline.
- 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.
- Applicants must identify **three people** who are familiar with the applicant's work and provide contact information 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.
- Applicants are NOT required to take the GRE for this program. Our program does not require the GRE General or Subject Tests, however if taken, applicants are able to submit their scores. Applicants wishing to submit scores should request that they be sent directly to the University, using the GRE Institution Code: 5316. Submitted scores from the GRE must be received before the Admissions application deadline for this program (12/3/2026). 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 contact the College Board and have their scores sent to the Institution code: 5316. Again, applicants are NOT required to take the GRE for this program.

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). When taking the exam, applicants should request official scores to 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 English-speaking institution, or is currently enrolled and will receive a degree from a university within the U.S. or English-speaking institution prior to matriculation at JHU-SOM.
- All transcripts, letters of recommendation, and other required documents of the Admissions application must be in English. The approved transcript service for use by international students is [WES](#).

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. These requests will be made within the application.

Admissions fees:

- An admissions fee of \$125 dollars is required and must be submitted using a credit card. *You may apply to **up to four** School of Medicine programs with no additional fee.*
- Application fee waivers are available to prospective students who meet eligibility criteria [found here](#). U.S or Permanent Resident applicants will be prompted in the application to provide supporting information. If you are an international applicant, email the Office of Graduate Biomedical Education (OGBE) at Gradadmissions@jhmi.edu with your supporting information to receive the waiver. All documents will be reviewed and verified. You may contact the OGBE with any questions.

Application status website:

- Once their application is submitted, applicants 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 *occurs before and after* the application deadline. *The Graduate Program in Pathobiology* reviews applications as they are received, submitting your application before the deadline is encouraged and will aid in our overall review process.
- Pathobiology will contact strong applicants about interviews in mid-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 emailed via the application portal. Applicants selected for acceptance must choose to accept or reject the offer by April 15, 2027. On April 15, all accepted offers become binding.
- Orientation will be held at the end of August 2027 (TBD). Students will begin their training at this time. The Pathobiology program only accepts students for fall matriculation.

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 the 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 [sWES](#). 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:

- Pathobiology contact – Stacey R. March: smorgan9@jhmi.edu
- General questions: GradAdmissions@jhmi.edu
- For more info, please see the Program website: [Pathobiology PhD Program | Johns Hopkins Pathology \(jhu.edu\)](#)
- Admissions info: [Applying | Johns Hopkins Pathology \(jhu.edu\)](#)