

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

Program Admissions Details:

The application for this program is open from 9/1/2026 to 12/1/2026. 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. We are seeking to recruit and support students who are strongly self-directed, with firm ideas of their research areas of interest. Students in XDBio may carry out their work in labs either at JHU or at the HHMI Janelia campus. We consider the whole candidate in order to assess potential and fit for the program. The program currently has 28 students, with a goal of admitting 10 new students per year. In 2026, the XDBio PhD Program admitted 4 students.

Program Support Details:

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

All students are guaranteed funding for the full term of their Ph.D. Some students apply for individual scholarships and receive 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](#).

Academic History & Prior Research Experience:

Applicants will need to list all colleges and universities they attended. A transcript will need to be uploaded from each school attended. Applicants with prior research experience share information about the experience(s) including the institution and mentor, dates of participation, and any publications resulting from the experience, as part of their CV or in their written statements.

Admissions requirements:

- Applicants are **not** required to take the GRE for this program.
- Applicants must submit a current Curriculum Vitae (C.V.). 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. This can be updated after the application is submitted, as long as the updates are before the graduate program's deadline.
- Applicants must submit three personal statements:
 - o Please describe your personal background and how it has shaped your academic journey or desire to study at Hopkins. We firmly believe that we best promote excellence by recruiting and retaining the best students, independent of their background. Please feel free to include any reflections on your experiences.
 - o 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)

- 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.
- 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). 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 at an 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 [sWES](#).
- International students are not eligible for waivers of the Admissions Application fees.

Admissions fees:

- An admissions 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 program. In cases of financial need, the application fee can be waived. Fee waivers are only available for U.S. citizens. For a complete description of the fee waiver process, please see the *Application Fees and Fee Waiver Instructions* on the [On-Campus Admission](#) website.

Application status website:

- Once their application is submitted, the 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, including when letters of reference have been received. Please note that only complete applications will be reviewed, and the applicant is encouraged to gently remind referees to submit letters of reference.

Admission timeline:

- Review of applications will begin immediately after the application deadline. XDBio will begin reviewing applications when they are received, so submitting your application before the deadline may be helpful.
- The XDBio Program will contact those applicants who will be invited to interview for the program. Interviews may be conducted in-person or possibly by Zoom. We will provide updates regarding

the 2026-2027 interview cycle via our website. You may also contact Leigh Torrence, Administrative Specialist for the XDBio Program (ltorren1@jh.edu) with any questions regarding the interview process.

- Interviews for this program will occur in February 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.
- Orientation will be held on the third week of August 2027. Students will begin their training at this time. The XDBio program generally accepts students only for fall matriculation; exceptions can be made upon application to the XDBio Program Director.

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 [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:

- XDBio contact: bcormack@jhmi.edu
- XDBio contact at Janelia Research Campus: snappe@janelia.hhmi.org
- General questions: GradAdmissions@jhmi.edu
- For more info, please see the Program website: <http://xdbio.jhmi.edu/>
- Admissions info: <http://xdbio.jhmi.edu/admissions/>