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

Program Admissions Details:
Note: up-to-date admissions requirements are maintained on the [Biomedical Engineering website](#), and applications are submitted through the [School of Medicine's application system](#).

In 2020, the BME Program admitted 56 students out of a pool of 533 applicants. More information about the applicant pool can be found here. In August 2020, the total number of students in the program was 266. Students in this program work on the East Baltimore campus, the Homewood campus, the Bayview campus and at the Applied Physics Lab.

Students in this program are paid a stipend to support their living expenses (the 2020-2021 stipend is $34,223). Tuition costs for SOM courses are covered by the School for students in this Program (i.e., not paid by the student). Standard medical and dental 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 here on our Financial Aid page. The University does not provide housing, though the housing office will provide advice.

All accepted matriculating students receive full funding (including tuition waiver, stipend, and health insurance) during their time in the program. Applicants are encouraged (but not required) to apply for external funding before and during their training. Information about funding opportunities for U.S. students (including NSF GFRP and F31 grants) can be found here.

Program Details:
The application for this program is open from 9/1/2020 to 12/1/2020. 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.

On the application, Applicants are asked to indicate one or two research area(s) of interest from this list below. These areas are described in detail here.
- Biomedical Data Science
- Biomedical Imaging & Instrumentation
- Computational Medicine
- Genomics & Systems Biology
- Immunoengineering
- Neuroengineering
- Translational Cell & Tissue Engineering

Our BME program offers students the strengths of one of the best medical schools in the world, combined with exceptional engineering education and training opportunities. If you wish to combine engineering with cutting edge research in medicine, this may be the program for you.

Our students have the option of taking many of the same courses as the medical students,

including human anatomy, molecular and cellular biology, immunology, and pharmacology. Our students also take advanced engineering courses. Our admitted students come from many backgrounds and majors, and not all were undergraduate engineering majors. However, all have demonstrated a strong quantitative training, as well as sufficient background in biology (typically at least two introductory courses). Depending on their preferred research focus area, relevant preparation for that focus area should be evident in their application.

The admissions are reviewed by research focus area committees, so every application is reviewed by faculty members interested in the same research areas as the applicant. The applicant should specify which area(s) they are interested in, and we encourage applicants to use part of their personal statement to write about the kind of research they are considering. The faculty in each area review and rank the applicants; the final pool of applicants is reviewed and approved by the whole program faculty. We use a holistic review process; for example, the median GPA is typically ~3.8, but we have no minimum GPA or GRE thresholds for review. Don't think that a bad grade or a tough semester stands in your way. We review the whole application and evaluate the potential of the person that wrote it, not just a set of numerical metrics.

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 this including the institution and mentor, dates of participation, and any publications resulting from the experience.

Admissions requirements:
- Official transcripts from each college or university attended. We no longer require applicants to submit official transcripts to OGSA via mail or electronically. Applicants may upload transcripts to the online application for review. Applicants who receive an offer or accept an offer of admission are required to submit official transcripts to OGSA via mail or electronically to GradAdmissions@jhmi.edu

- Previously, we have required official Graduate Record Examination (GRE) scores or MCAT scores, which can be arranged through the Office of Graduate Affairs. As of July 2020, we are actively reviewing this and you should look to the most up-to-date information on the BME website. The GRE code for applying to graduate programs at the Johns Hopkins School of Medicine is 5316. The BME PhD program does not rely heavily on the GRE exam in making admissions decisions. Research experience, course grades, and recommendations carry more weight.

- Applicants must submit a one page personal statement indicating the basis of their interest in graduate study and their career objectives. 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 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.

- A CV - this is your opportunity to list all relevant experiences and achievements

Applicants for admission must fulfill the following course prerequisites:

- One year of college-level biology (may include quantitative biology or physiology)
- One semester of organic chemistry is required for students interested in the Immunoengineering or Translational Cell & Tissue Engineering research areas
- Sufficient mathematical training, typically including differential equations or other relevant mathematical preparation

If you are interested in applying and do not yet have the prerequisite courses, you may want to submit your application with an explanatory note indicating that, if accepted, you will make arrangements to take the prerequisites before matriculation. In the past, applicants have taken the prerequisites at their present schools, local community colleges, etc. Courses taken at any accredited college or university are acceptable.

Each applicant must have received a BA or BS degree or its equivalent prior to matriculation. A Master's degree is not required for admission to our 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 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 $115 dollars is required and must be submitted using a credit card. In some cases, this fee will cover applications to more than one program.
- For a complete description of the fee waiver process, please see the *Application Fees and Fee Waiver Instructions* on the On-Campus 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:
- The PhD program admissions committee will not consider any application until it is complete. Applicants may check the status of their application by logging into their online account.
- The BME program will contact strong applicants about interviews by the third Monday in January or earlier if feasible. In some cases, interviews may be conducted over Skype (or similar services).
- 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, 2021. Students will begin their training at this time.

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 disability status of applicants.

Upon acceptance:
- Accepted students will undergo a criminal background check except the international students who never studied in the US. Those students' criminal background check will be part of the visa application process.
- 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:
- BME contact: hlan1@jhmi.edu
- General questions: GradAdmissions@jhmi.edu

- For more info, please see the BME website: https://www.bme.jhu.edu/graduate/phd/prospective-students/
- Admissions info: https://www.bme.jhu.edu/graduate/phd/apply/