



BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES GRADUATE PROGRAM

The Biological Sciences Graduate Program
Application Guide

THE BISI GRADUATE PROGRAM

The BISI program is an interdepartmental, interdisciplinary training program leading to a Ph.D. in Biological Sciences. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact us at:
bisi@umd.edu

Overview of the Graduate Program

The Biological Sciences Graduate Program (BISI) is an interdepartmental umbrella graduate program that was established in 2009 and includes four areas of concentration:

- [Behavior, Ecology, Evolution, and Systematics](#) (BEES)
- [Computational Biology, Bioinformatics, and Genomics](#) (CBBG)
- [Molecular and Cellular Biology](#) (MOCB)
- [Physiological Systems](#) (PSYS)

The program is housed in the College of Computer, Mathematical, and Natural Sciences (CMNS) and serves the Department of Biology (BIOL), Department of Cell Biology & Molecular Genetics (CBMG), and the Department of Entomology (ENTM). Faculty are members of the departments; once a student joins a research lab, they are technically members of their advisor's department while simultaneously being part of the BISI Graduate Program.

Admissions Guidelines & Criteria

During review of your application, we strive to look at the entire application to assess how well your academic background, research experiences, and interests fit with the opportunities provided by our program.

The holistic admissions process for BISI is designed to determine whether the program is a good fit for your background, education, and research interests. In general, successful applicants have:

- Earned a Baccalaureate degree from an accredited college or university with at least a 3.0 grade point average (on a 4.0 scale)
- At least one year of research experience
- TOEFL scores of 100 or greater (international applicants only)
- Strong letters of recommendation from people that can speak of their academic and research strengths

These characteristics describe many successful BISI applicants, however they are not fixed metrics.

Applying to BISI

The Application Deadline is **December 1, 2021**. Below is an overview of the application process:

- Complete the online [Graduate Application](#) (including the [Supplemental Application](#))
- 2 Statements of Purpose
- CV/Resume
- 3 Letters of Recommendation
- Test Scores (*UMD Code: 5814*)
 - TOEFL/IELTS scores*
- Non-refundable application fee (\$75) for each program to which an applicant applies
- Identification of Research Area & Concentration Areas
- Identification of UMD faculty whose research is of interest to you and may become your potential advisors
- Presentations and Publications (BISI does not require that you upload publications, simply listing a citation is adequate.)

*International students only

Information for International Applicants

The University of Maryland is dedicated to maintaining a vibrant international graduate student community. The office of [International Students and Scholars Services \(ISSS\)](#) is a valuable resource of information and assistance for prospective and current international students. International applicants are encouraged to explore the services they offer and contact them with related questions.

The University of Maryland Graduate School offers admission to international students based on academic information; it is not a guarantee of attendance. Admitted international students will then receive instructions about obtaining the appropriate visa to study at the University of Maryland which will require submission of additional documents. Please see the [Graduate Admissions Process for International applicants](#) for more information.

Financial Support: Full support for all students accepted into the BISI program is available through a combination of teaching/research assistantships and fellowships. Support includes tuition remission for up to 10 credits, access to health benefits, and a competitive stipend.

Apply for Funding

You do not need to apply for [university fellowships](#), as all applicants are automatically considered for these fellowships during the admissions process. These are extremely competitive awards and are not available to all admitted students.

Visit the [Office of Student Financial Aid's website](#) for information on other sources of funding and the [Financial Literacy](#) section of this website for guidance on managing your finances.