Application Overview: BISI Ph.D. Application

To apply to the Biological Sciences Graduate Program **Doctoral Degree**, you must complete and submit the University of Maryland online Graduate School application. The application is divided into 9 sections: **Demographics, Contact Information, Educational Intent, Previous Education, Personal Information, Publications / Presentations, Faculty of Interest, Upload Requirements, and Recommendations.**

- **Demographics and Contact Information:**

  - Please complete all required items and as much of the optional information as you are willing.
  - The email address you provide in your application is the primary way we will communicate with you if you are chosen to attend recruitment, please make sure it is accurate.

- **Educational Intent:**

  - College/ School is Computer, Mathematical and Natural Sciences

  - Program is Biological Sciences (BISI)

  - **Area of Interest 1:** Please indicate the concentration area you are most interested in

  - **Areas of interest 2 and 3** are for indicating additional topics of interest.
  - **Testing Identification Number** – Please make sure to include your GRE registration number(s). If your scores are not going to be available prior to December 1st, please email your unofficial scores to **BISI@umd.edu** as soon as you receive them. This way they can be included in your application until the official scores arrive.

- **Previous Education:**
  - For each institution you have attended BISI requires that you provide your **Institution GPA** and upload a **PDF** of your **Unofficial Transcript.** Transcripts should not be sent to the office.

- **Personal Information:**

  - Please complete all required items and as much of the optional information as you are willing.
  - The BISI Ph.D. program offers funding for up to five years, so you are not required to complete the **Graduate Funding** section.
  - When describing your **research experience** please provide the total number of months you worked in research, regardless of if that was full or part time work. You can provide additional information about the type of work you did in your essay responses.

- **Publications/Presentations:**
  - In order to list publications or presentations respond Yes to the question "I have authored publications(s).

- **Faculty of Interest:**

  - List at least 3 faculty members whose research interests you. It's important not to leave this section blank.
  - Applicants should connect with potential faculty advisors prior to applying and list faculty you wish to work with in this section.

- **Upload Requirements:** Submit all documents in **PDF**

  - **Statement of Purpose – Graduate School Essay Question**

    - Write a brief (1000 -2000 word) statement addressing the following two questions:
    - **What are your reasons for undertaking graduate study at the University of Maryland, College Park?** Indicate, if appropriate any specific areas of research interest. You may wish to discuss past work in your intended field or allied fields, your plans for a professional career, or how you developed your interest in or knowledge of your chosen subject.
    - **What life experiences have prepared you to pursue a graduate degree at a large and diverse institution such as the University of Maryland?** Among the items you might care to include would be your financial, community and family background, or whether you are the first person in your family to pursue higher education or any other factors that you believe would contribute to the diversity of our academic community. You may also wish to give the graduate admissions committee some examples of your determination to pursue your goals, your initiative and ability to develop ideas, and/or your capacity for working through problems independently.

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- o **Resume/CV**

- o **Supplementary Application – Biological Sciences (BISI) Essay Question**
    - In addition to your statement of purpose, BISI requires a second brief statement expanding upon your research interests and experiences addressing the following questions:
    - **What current research being done by faculty at the University of Maryland-College Park are you excited by and why?**

    - **What were your past research experiences?**
    - **Please tell us about a research challenge that you have faced and what was your approach toward addressing it.**

- o Do not upload anything in **Supplementary Application 2**

- o You can upload a **Writing Sample** as a **PDF,** but it is not required.
    - If you listed a publication or a presentation you want to share please upload it as a **PDF**.

    - Other scholarly works related to the Biological Sciences are also acceptable.

- o Do not upload anything in the **Description of Research/ Work Experience**. Please include anything you wish to say about your experience in the **Statement of Purpose** or **Supplementary Application Essay**.

- **Recommendations**

    - o Add 3 **Recommendation Providers** including their email addresses.
    - o An email will be sent to the recommendation provider with instructions on how to proceed with the online recommendation process.
    - o If you would like to send a reminder later on, log in to the application, check the box next to their name, and click on the "resend" button. This will automatically generate a reminder email.

- **Check Your Application for Errors**

    - o Before submitting please make sure all information is complete and accurate