International Graduate Student Application Instructions

Students are admitted for fall semester only, with an application deadline of January 1. The Graduate Committee in the Department of Biological Sciences reviews applications during January thru March. Offers will be sent out between February and April 15th. Candidates who are offered admission must respond by April 15th.

We recommend that you submit your application well in advance of the January 1 deadline because it takes much longer to process applications from International Students. Applications received after the January 1 deadline cannot be guaranteed financial support.

International and domestic graduate students will receive funding through Teaching, Project or Research Assistantships as well as competitive campus-wide fellowships. Teaching Assistantships (TA) are guaranteed for 3 years for MS students and 5 years for PhD students. Besides the salary, the TA also includes a tuition remission, except for student segregated fees, that includes a bus pass. The TA also includes eligibility to apply for university subsidized health insurance.

All application materials, except Letters of Recommendation and GRE scores, are to be submitted online. There are no hard copies of the application material.

- Please apply online: [http://www.graduateschool.uwm.edu/students/prospective/apply](http://www.graduateschool.uwm.edu/students/prospective/apply) and click on Online Application. A Panther Access to Web Services (PAWS) account and UWM email ID will be set up for you. Check your PAWS account to follow the processing of your application. Before you apply, please go to the [Center for International Education](http://www4.uwm.edu/letsci/biologicalsciences/facultystaff/) and read their application requirements and you will find mailing addresses and contact information for your transcripts.

- In the Reasons Statement portion of the application, concisely describe (i) your academic and scientific background, (ii) specific research area, (iii) reason for pursuing graduate studies, (iv) why you decided to apply to our the Department of Biological Sciences at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, and (v) the names of at least three faculty members with whom you would like to study. You can find a list of faculty and their research interests at [http://www4.uwm.edu/letsci/biologicalsciences/facultystaff/](http://www4.uwm.edu/letsci/biologicalsciences/facultystaff/). You also need to contact these faculty members, email preferred, to see if they are accepting new students.

In addition to the application form, you must submit:

- Official transcripts from all undergraduate and graduate institutions you attended. Official records must be submitted in the native language and must be accompanied by an official English translation. They must be sent directly to the Center for International Education (CIE) at this address:

  **Mailing Address:**
  
  International Admissions  
  Center for International Education  
  University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee  
  PO Box 413  
  Milwaukee, WI 53201-0413  
  USA

  **Courier Address:**
  
  International Admissions  
  Center for International Education  
  University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee  
  2441 E. Hartford Ave., Garland 138  
  Milwaukee, WI 53211  
  USA

Updated 10/14  
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• GRE scores. The UWM code is 1473 and the Department Code is 0203. We like to see GRE scores above the 50th percentile in each portion of the test (Verbal, Quantitative, and Writing). No subject test is needed.

• Letters of recommendation from professors who can provide information on your qualifications. Two letters are required for the MS program; three reference letters for the PhD program. Reference letters should be sent to:

  Graduate Program Director, Department of Biological Sciences  
  University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee  
  PO Box 413  
  Milwaukee, WI 53201  
  USA

• International students need to submit TOEFL/iBT scores except those that have completed a baccalaureate degree from an institution where English is the sole language of instruction. The degree must have been earned within 2 years of your expected enrollment and you must have attended that institution for a minimum of 2 years.

• English proficiency for International Students. UWM requires a minimum TOEFL score of 550, IELTS speaking score of 7.0, or iBT score of 79. The Department of Biological Sciences also requires a minimum score of 23 on the Speak portion of the iBT test.

To see if your application is complete you need to check your PAWS account and contact the Department of Biological Sciences. This is because your application is in two parts. The online application and transcripts go to the Graduate School and you can see if that portion of your application is complete by checking your panther account that was set up when you applied. The second part of your application includes the Letters of Recommendation and GRE scores that are sent to the Department of Biological Sciences. To see if the department has received these components of your application, you need to contact our Program Assistant, at 414-229-5137. You may also email biosci@uwm.edu with a subject line indicating that you are checking the status of your application.

**Checklist:**

- Online application and fee
- Statement portion of application must include names of faculty members with whom you would like to train and you must contact them by email to see if they are accepting students
- Official Transcripts
- GRE scores (see University and Dept. codes above)
- Letters of Recommendation sent to the Department of Biological Sciences
- Submit TOEFL/iBT/IELTS scores and demonstrate English proficiency
- Check both your PAWS account and contact the Graduate Program Assistant in the Department of Biological Sciences to see if all parts of your application are complete.