

MBS International Applicants Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

How do I apply to the MBS program?

If you meet the minimum requirements (see MBS website) then, you can apply for direct entry using the following link: <https://www.uab.edu/gradadmissions/apply/international-applicants>

If you don't meet the minimum requirements, then you can apply via INTO UAB using the following link: <https://www.uab.edu/global/students/international-students/prospective-students>. INTO UAB provides English language training and pathway programs for international students who may not meet the requirement for direct entry.

INTO UAB has three entry options:

Graduate – Direct Entry - To qualify for UAB graduate programs directly, eligible applicants must have a 4-year undergraduate degree with minimum 3.0 GPA, English proficiency scores of 80 TOEFL / 6.5 IELTS, and GRE/GMAT scores if requested by the desired department.

Integrated Master's Program - Integrated Masters Programs (IMP) provide comprehensive support and services in the first term of select graduate programs. IMP students are full degree-seeking students who are issued a Direct Entry I-20. To qualify for IMP, applicants must meet the English language requirements for direct entry and have a minimum GPA of 2.5.

Graduate Pathway - Graduate Pathway programs are the most supported and non-competitive route to a graduate program in the US. Completing a pathway successfully assures admission to the desired degree program and waives the GRE/GMAT requirement. At the minimum, applicants must have a 2.5 GPA and 65 TOEFL or 5.5 IELTS.

What are the differences between Plan I and Plan II?

The **Plan I** track is a 45-hour, six-semester plan of study for students interested in research-focused careers and/or admission to PhD programs. The **Plan I** MS in MBS thesis degree at UAB can be completed over the course of six semesters if full-time, including two required summer semesters. Plan I students will complete a rigorous, mentored research project in addition to a curriculum of required core and elective classes in biomedical science. Successful completion of the Plan I MS in MBS degree requires passing 45 credit hours (30 hours = coursework; 15 hours = supervised research) and maintaining a minimum 3.0 GPA.

The **Plan II** non-thesis track is a 30 hour, three-semester plan of study intended primarily for students interested in professional school or other non-research-focused careers. The **Plan II** MS in MBS non-thesis degree at UAB can be completed over the course of three semesters if full-time, including one required summer semester. Plan I students will complete a curriculum of required core and elective classes in biomedical science. Successful completion of the Plan II MS in MBS degree requires passing 30 credit hours of coursework and maintaining a minimum 3.0 GPA.

Is there an application fee for the MBS program?

Yes, it is \$60.

Is there an application fee waiver for the MBS Program?

MBS Program does not provide an application fee waiver.

What are application deadlines for MS MBS?

MBS Program admits Fall and Spring semesters. The Fall semester application deadline is August 1st. The Spring semester application deadline is December 1st.

Are there scholarships available for the MBS program?

The MBS program offers a limited number of competitive, partial academic scholarships for newly admitted MBS students who demonstrate academic excellence prior to joining our program. Scholarship recipients will receive \$1,500 for the cost of tuition for their first semester's coursework, for up to three consecutive semesters. Receipt of funds toward their second and third semester coursework will require good academic standing (maintaining a minimum 3.0 Graduate GPA at the end of their first and second semesters, respectively). Students must maintain full-time status for the duration of their award.

To be eligible to apply, students must have a minimum 3.5 overall GPA in undergraduate and graduate coursework prior to joining MBS. GPAs will be calculated using converted values obtained from transcript evaluations.

Are there teacher assistant or graduate assistantships?

Our program does not offer research/teaching assistantships. All Plan I admitted international students to UAB do have the option to work part time on campus through a "Student Assistant" position, but this is not regulated through MBS. Typically, the work is in a laboratory setting, up to 20 hours a week. We do not guarantee Student Assistantships, and our Mentors are not obligated to provide them, but they are available if you are able to find one.

Can I work while in MS MBS?

As a holder of a F-1 student visa, you are only **allowed** to work on-campus via "Student Assistant" position, up to 20 hours/week (see above for more information).

I was admitted to the MBS program, but I am unable to start that semester, what should I do?

You have the option to defer your admission to a later semester. Please email msmbs@uab.edu with that request.

Am I required to attend International New Student Orientation?

Attendance is **mandatory**. It is always scheduled the week before classes start.

How many classes am I required to take each semester?

As an international student you are required to be registered for at least nine credit hrs. per semester. Typically, nine credit hours is equal to at least three classes each semester. However, there are some exceptions. You are allowed to take a reduced courseload some semesters, but this requires advance permission from UAB's Office of International Student and Scholar Services.

How much is the tuition to complete an MS in MBS?

Please see the following link for additional information re: tuition costs:
<https://www.intostudy.com/en/uab/costs>