

QBS PhD Program FAQ'S

Application Essay: The Personal Essay constitutes the Application Essay. Please note that in the application portal, the Personal Essay should be uploaded in the "Quantitative Biomedical Sciences" section of the application, not in the section titled "Application Essay."

GRE Scores: GRE scores are optional for the Fall 2021 QBS admissions cycle. If you would like your GRE scores considered with your application, please include unofficial score reports with your application. If admission is granted and you chose to submit GRE scores, official test scores will be required from Educational Testing Services for verification purposes.

If my school does not have official class rank but I know mine. Is that relevant or I just don't declare
This is fine note in the application with explanation possible on your CV/Resume

Hi How many admitted phd students last year are international students?

This tends to be around 50% typically, last year 60% of offers for acceptance were international, current PhD class is 33% international.

Hi. For the IELTS, do you accept a TRF copy or must come directly from the administering body.
TRF form is acceptable for application, but official documents are required if an offer is made.

When I did my MS I was working full time and doing coursework for most of the time, and while I did well, I couldn't help but wonder if I could have been a better worker or student if I was doing them at separate times. Do students report a conflict between doing well in class and making the most of a rotation?

Students do say this can be challenging, but students need to make adjustments and need to communicate if having difficulty balancing course work and rotations. Faculty are well aware students have a heavier course load in their first year and schedules, courses, and expectations in lab should be discussed before the rotation.

Is it possible to do the 3 rotations with the same supervisor?

No. Should be an opportunity to experience your research interest, but possibly others that you may not have originally considered. Make each rotation meaningful and chose labs you are genuinely interested in and could carry out a dissertation project. This provides an additional safety net when determining an advisor after 3 rotations.

When in the summer does the PhD start? You stated a few weeks before fall semester starts.

We ask students to "arrive" about a month prior. Orientation, programming bootcamp, QBS 110, and mandatory ethics courses take place during this time as well as other mandatory Dartmouth Grad school orientations.

If we come from a MS in Biostats/Bioinfo, can we transfer the credits for overlapped courses?

No, currently students cannot test out or transfer of credits. QBS 100 is the only course students can possible place out of.

Is it important you correspond with a potential supervisor before application?

We do not require students to secure an advisor prior to application or matriculation. However, any type of faculty interaction is strongly encouraged and largely welcomed by our faculty. This shows genuine motivation to discover more about the QBS program and also helps the student determine if specific faculty may be accepting students that next year.

Hi! I am self-reporting my GRE scores. Do I need to send them in by the application deadline?

Yes, this needs to be self-reported in application. Official scores needed if offer is made. If you take a GRE after the deadline and are offered an interview, you may send these as supplement information for your interviewers to review.

Can I still apply to the PhD program if I do not have research experience? Yes. It is understood that there may not be much opportunity during undergrad for research at some institutions.

If a PhD candidate doesn't get an offer for PhD, will they be considered for the MS?

Yes, it is possible, if applicant looks like a fit for the MS program and meets the pre-requisites. You can also apply to both.

Does QBS PhD offer tracks similar to QBS Masters? I am interested in Biomedical Informatics

No. Students graduate with a QBS degree, but can do rotations and dissertation work with faculty that cater to their specific interests as well as take advanced electives. You are cross trained in all disciplines, but can also market yourself for a specific discipline when applying for positions.

Do students who enter with an MS tend to finish the program sooner?

No. All core course work is still required. A student with a specific MS may join a lab with more experience in their background, but this does not predict the timeline of their project and publications.

These questions did not get answered:

I correspond with a faculty and she thinks I'll be a fit to the program, do you think that will influence the admission decision?

While we welcome to hear about positive interactions from faculty, we still review the whole application in light of this interaction and where it may place among other applicants. Therefore we cannot definitively say that it will or will not influence a decision.

Is there an option to do research rotations outside of Dartmouth?

QBS Rotations must be with QBS faculty. Collaborations and external committee members outside of Dartmouth are a possibility.

For all accepted PhD students, is the tuition covered completely?

This is correct, and each student receives a monthly stipend and healthcare benefits. Smaller out of pocket fees may be required.

Is it possible to work remotely (part time) and do the full time PhD?

Currently there are restrictions on this, especially if your PI is funded by specific grants. Permission for additional employment must be proposed to and approved by the Dean. Please read the policy here: <https://graduate.dartmouth.edu/policy/employment-policy>

I believe you mentioned the average graduation time was 5 years, though the website says 4. I was wondering which figure is most up-to-date?

The average may have been closer to 4 when this figure was added to the website, but currently the average is 4.4 years with a range of 3 – 6.5 years.