



COMMON APPLICANT QUESTIONS

Thank you for your interest in the USF Molecular Biosciences Graduate program. Our graduate program is highly interdisciplinary and offers exceptional training across several disciplines to prepare applicants for a wide range of scientific careers in industry, academia, and government. Nearly all our research faculty are funded by the National Institutes of Health and perform state of the art biomedical research. We offer highly competitive assistantships with tuition waivers all within the beautiful setting of Tampa.

Below are some of the most common questions typically asked by initial applicants considering the Molecular Bioscience Graduate Program at USF:

1. Can the graduate application fee be waived?

Unfortunately, no. All applicants are required to submit an application fee of \$30.00 USD for graduate admission to the University of South Florida. Students may apply for multiple majors, with only one application fee being required per 12-month period from the date of initial application. If you attended USF as a former degree seeking student or non-degree student then you will also be required to submit the application fee.

However, if you participated in one of the following programs then use the Application Fee Waiver form to be considered for the waiver. If any of these do not apply then you are not eligible for an application fee waiver.

- ***APS Bridge Program (American Physical Society Bridge Program)***
- ***RISE Program (Research Internship in Science Education)***
- ***MARC USTAR Program, (Maximizing Access to Research Careers Undergraduate Student Training in Academic Research)***
- ***Leadership Alliance Consortium***
- ***FAMU Graduate Feeder Scholars Program (Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University)***
- ***McNair Scholarship Program (Ronald E. McNair Scholars Program)***
- ***FLGSAMP Program (Florida-Georgia Louis Stokes Alliance for Minority Participation)***
- ***Education USA Opportunity Funds Program***
- ***National Gem Consortium***

2. Is the GRE required? And is my application competitive?

No, the GRE is optional. However, for international applicants it is recommended. Applicants with minimal research experience would highly benefit from submitting competitive GRE scores.

All applications are considered holistically and not determined in most cases by one specific attribute such as GPA or GRE scores. The only way to be fully considered is to apply by the priority deadline.

7. What is the current stipend amount for assistantships?

For 2023-2024, the yearly stipend amount is \$20,591.84 for Thesis MS, and \$29,375.20 for Ph.D. This is provided with teaching or research assistantship. Please keep in mind that these stipends amount can change annually.

8. Is health insurance provided?

Yes, all graduate assistants in the program are eligible for health insurance that is primarily paid for by USF. The 2020-2021 individual annual premium is \$2,915.00. USF will pay up to \$2,756.00 of the