

## Frequently Asked Questions

### What are your minimum requirements for MS-BATS?

- Complete the online application  
[https://apps.grad.uci.edu/ogsa/index.cfm?action=log\\_in&CFID=6673596&CFTOKEN=81298581](https://apps.grad.uci.edu/ogsa/index.cfm?action=log_in&CFID=6673596&CFTOKEN=81298581)
- 3.0 GPA minimum cumulative
- 3 letters of professional reference accompanied by the waiver access
- 1 set of original transcripts from all undergraduate and post graduate institutions
- Proof of degree
- GRE test scores that are less than 6 years old
- MCAT test scores if GREs are not available

Applicants who completed their undergraduate/graduate/medical degree(s) outside of the United States must also submit TOEFL or IELTS scores unless the entire degree was completed in a country in which English is the dominant and primary language AND the language of instruction was English.

### Do you accept photocopies of transcripts?

No. One set of original sealed transcripts should be sent from your undergraduate and post graduate institutions and mailed directly to the MS-BATS office. We will also accept electronic transcripts only if sent from your undergraduate and post graduate institution.

### What are the minimum scores necessary for my GRE General Test and Subject Test?

There are NO minimum GRE, MCAT or related scores that represent a 'cut-off' whereby an applicant would automatically be denied admission by the Admission Committee. Also, the GRE scores of other applicants applying for the same enrollment date as you can vary from year to year. Scores need to be competitive with others in your applicant cohort, but all scores are considered by the Admission Committee. Application files are evaluated by our faculty with a holistic review and assessment approach.

A GRE subject test is NOT required for application. However, if you have a level of proficiency in a particular subject that you would like to demonstrate via GRE Subject Test(s), then your score will certainly be considered as part of your application file.

### What if my GPA is below 3.0?

The University of California requires that applicants to our graduate degree program have a minimum 3.0 cumulative GPA upon completing their undergraduate degree. If a student subsequently completes graduate level work with a higher GPA, exceptions may be considered on a case-by-case basis. Please e-mail Thuy Pham [tthp@uci.edu](mailto:tthp@uci.edu) describing your situation.

### How should letters of recommendation be sent?

Letters of recommendation should be submitted online by your referee. During the online application process, you will have an option to submit an electronic request to your referee. This is the preferred method of obtaining a letter of recommendation.

### My referee is unable to submit a letter online. May letters be mailed to UCI?

Yes. We will accept hard copies so long as the letter is on an institutional letterhead, signed and sent in a sealed envelope. Letters may be sent to the program office:

MS-BATS Program  
University of California, Irvine  
Attn: Thuy Pham  
100 Theory, Suite 110  
Irvine, CA 92697-5800

Specific guidelines regarding letters of recommendation may be found at <http://www.grad.uci.edu/admissions/applying-to-uci/letters-recommendation.html>.

**May I submit more than 3 letters of recommendation?**

Yes.

**May I use the letters of recommendation from my medical school application as part of the 3 required?**

No. Letters of recommendation should be written specifically for the MS-BATS program. If you would like to include general letters of recommendation or copies of those from your medical school application *in addition to the 3 required*, they may be submitted as supplemental information and mailed to the MS-BATS office address at 100 Theory, Ste. 110; Irvine, CA 92697-5800.

**Should I sign the LOR waiver section? Do I have the choice of not signing the waiver?**

Please review [Letters of Recommendation](#) page located on the UCI Graduate Division website for the university's official guidance which provides more detail. The waiver addressing your individual rights when making a personal choice as to whether you do or do not wish to waive your legal right to view a particular LOR after it is submitted by your LOR writer. The choice is solely yours to decide. When an Admission Committee receives a LOR where the applicant has specifically waived their right to review a LOR, and the LOR writer was informed of this decision, then the committee can be reasonably certain that the writer felt free to express whatever they deemed pertinent to the Admission Committee's confidential deliberations.

**IMPORTANT:** Regardless of whether you waive your right of access to a particular letter of recommendation or not, YOU MUST ALWAYS SIGN, and forward the 2-page LOR form to your letter writers who will complete their part and forward all documents directly to us.

**Once I submit my documents to the program, is it possible to have my original documents back?**

It is the policy of UCI Graduate Division not to return original documents unless they cannot be replaced. In this situation, we will accept notarized copies of the original documents. Applicants should keep the originals and submit the notarized copies to the MS-BATS program. Please keep in mind that this happens very rarely and typically with international students who cannot obtain original documents due to political unrest within their home country. We do not allow this out of convenience or so that applicants can avoid paying institutional fees. A full explanation as to why originals cannot be submitted should be attached to your notarized copies.

**I am an international student. Where may I find TOEFL and IELTS requirements?**

TOEFL/IELTS minimum requirements are detailed at this site:  
<http://www.grad.uci.edu/admissions/applying-to-uci/english-proficiency.html>

**What is UCI's School Code or Office of Postsecondary Education (OPE) number?**

Number used to identify UCI in dealings with the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Postsecondary Education: 00131400

**How can I learn more about graduate student financial support matters?**

The [UCI Graduate Division](#) provides an excellent primer on [Financing Your Graduate Education](#) for those applicants new to graduate education or those just needing a refresher course.

**I have been awarded a fellowship to support my enrollment at your institution in biomedical & translational science. Should I list this fellowship somewhere on the application?**

YES, an applicant should disclose any special financial arrangements they have made in preparation for their graduate studies here at UC Irvine; i.e., a non-UC Irvine fellowship/scholarship they have already been awarded or expecting to be awarded, their participation in any programs sponsored by their home country, or otherwise, that can provide all or part of the funds they will need to study and live here, any pre-arranged housing plans while living near UC Irvine or other matters related to your education tenure at UC Irvine. Depending upon the nature of any support you may receive, you can describe it in your "Statement of Purpose" or your "Personal History" sections of the application.

**What is the difference between "The Statement of Purpose" and "Personal History"?**

The "Statement of Purpose" is required for ALL applicants and should focus on your academic/research background and interests. The "Personal History Statement" is required only for US citizens and legal permanent residents of the US. This essay should focus on your personal background and is especially important for applicants applying for Diversity fellowships.

**In lieu of GREs, I will be submitting my MCAT scores. However, the online application does not have a section for this. How do I report my MCAT scores?**

Leave the GRE section blank. MCAT score reports must be downloaded by the MS-BATS Program Officer. Please send an e-mail to Ms. Thuy Pham at [ttp@uci.edu](mailto:ttp@uci.edu) informing her that you will submit your MCAT scores for your application. You'll need to include your AAMC ID number and verification code.

**I received my undergraduate degree from UC Irvine. Do I still need to request a transcript from UCI?**

Yes. The MS-BATS program cannot access student transcripts so we will need this to complete your application.

**I am a medical student at UCI. Do I need to request a transcript of my records?**

Yes. Contact the Registrar at the UCI School of Medicine, Medical Education Office, and submit a request to have your transcripts sent directly to the MS-BATS program office.

**I've missed the application deadline. Is it possible to still apply for the upcoming Fall class?**

Please contact Ms. Thuy Pham about your circumstances. This will be determined on a case-by-case basis and there is no guarantee approval will be granted.

**I've been accepted into the program, I completed my SIR form and I registered my UCI net ID but I still cannot access UCI systems such as housing. What's wrong?**

Although you have completed your SIR form and activated your UCI net ID, you will not have access to many of the systems until you are officially admitted as a student. This can be a lengthy process handled by the Graduate Division Admissions office. Masters students typically are not formally admitted until July/August. Until then, the only systems that will recognize your UCI net ID are the Registrar's Office and Financial Aid.

**Once I'm accepted into the program, am I guaranteed a spot for campus housing?**

No. Masters students are not guaranteed housing so we encourage new students to sign up as soon as possible. There are many availabilities at Palo Verde, Verano Place, Vista del Campo, Vista del Norte and Puerto del Sol. Additionally, off-campus housing is also available to UCI students. Please see <http://www.housing.uci.edu/> and <https://offcampus.housing.uci.edu/> to apply online using your UCI net ID.

**I have been accepted into other UCI programs including MS-BATS but can't decide which one to choose. May I complete an SIR form for each program while I decide?**

Yes, you may submit multiple SIR forms, but keep in mind that this will cause delays with admissions which will also delay housing requests and other UCI systems access. It will also be your responsibility to follow up with Graduate Division to retract SIR forms for programs that you've decided not to accept.

**I am an international student and need an I-20. Where do I start?**

After the MS-BATS program and Graduate Division offers you admission, the first step is to complete your Statement of Intent (SIR) form online and ensure that you have fulfilled your English language requirement. You will then be sent a ***New Graduate Student Request*** form to complete which will require copies of your passport, visa, documentation of your financial support and other documentation depending on your specific situation. This packet along with the required documents should be returned as soon as possible by e-mail to [ttp@uci.edu](mailto:ttp@uci.edu). Processing time may take several weeks. Once the International Center mails the visa document, you would then apply for a visa in your home country.

**I've graduate with a BA/BS degree. May I be considered for the accelerated program?**

While the accelerated program was designed for faculty and 3<sup>rd</sup> year medical students, we have accepted applicants with a BA or BS degree. However, to be considered applicants must show at least 2 full years of clinical research experience, have already selected a mentor with whom they will work and either already be working on a research project or have IRB approval to start a research project immediately.