

**University of Missouri-St. Louis**  
**Department of Physics & Astronomy**  
**Graduate Admissions**  
**Frequently Asked Questions**

**Q: Are you accepting applications for the Spring 2018 or Fall 2018 semester?**

A: Yes, but we will not be able to offer applicants financial aid in the form of a teaching or research assistantship in Spring 2018. Students admitted to our program will need to have their own financial support. We will have only 1 or 2 assistantships available for Fall 2018.

**Q: How do I get information about the UMSL Physics & Astronomy Department?**

A: You can learn more about us by visiting [www.umsl.edu/~physics](http://www.umsl.edu/~physics). You can download our departmental brochure <http://www.umsl.edu/~physics/files/pdfs/program.pdf> . If you email your mailing address to [bwilking@umsl.edu](mailto:bwilking@umsl.edu), hardcopy materials will be sent to you.

**Q: What research areas are available?**

A: We have active PhD and MS programs which include research opportunities in astrophysics, biophysics, and materials science. Faculty research interests are described at <http://www.umsl.edu/~physics/About%20the%20Department/phyres2017a.pdf> .

**Q: What are the deadlines for admission?**

A: There is no formal deadline, although we do fill up in the spring for fall admission. To get the best consideration for admission and financial aid in the fall, apply before April 1. For self-supporting MS students, submit your application before June 1 for fall admission, Nov. 1 for spring admission.

**Q: Can I apply to your program by just sending you my CV and scores in an email?**

A: No. You must apply formally to the university to be considered. You can either request hard copy materials from [bwilking@umsl.edu](mailto:bwilking@umsl.edu) or apply online. International students can apply at <http://www.umsl.edu/~intelstu/prospectivestudents/admissions.html> .

**Q: Where can I get application forms?**

A: You may apply online at <http://www.umsl.edu/gradschool/prospective/how-to-apply.html> .

**Q: What are the application materials?**

A: These are listed by the on-line submission system.

For U.S. students see:

<http://www.umsl.edu/gradschool/prospective/how-to-apply.html>

For international students see:

<http://www.umsl.edu/~intelstu/prospectivestudents/admissions.html>

**Q: Can the application fee (\$50 for US Students, \$40 for international students) be waived?**

A. No. Only paid applications will be considered.

**Q: Are GRE scores required?**

A. GRE General scores are required for admission to the MS and PhD programs. The University will require official copies to be sent to them before you can be admitted. Minimum scores on

the Quantitative section of 148, and the Analytical/Writing section of 3.0 are required before applications to the Ph.D. program will be considered.

**Q: What are the institutional and departmental codes for reporting scores?**

A: Institutional is 6889; Departmental is 0808.

**Q: I have old GRE scores? Are they still acceptable?**

A: ETS will not send GRE scores to the University that are more than 5 years old.

**Q: Do I have to take the TOEFL/TWE/IELTS?**

A: All international students are required to take one of these tests, and there are University standards for admission. Exceptions can be found at:  
<http://www.umsl.edu/~intelstu/prospectivestudents/englishrequirements.html>

**Q: What is the minimum acceptable TOEFL/IELTS score?**

A: See: <http://www.umsl.edu/~intelstu/prospectivestudents/grad.html>

It is recommended that for admission to our University, students have a TOEFL score of at least 550 pBT/79 iBT or an IELTS score of 6.5.

Teaching assistants are required to have a good command of English. Minimum scores for teaching assistants in physics are 570 pBT/88 iBT. Students submitting only IELTS scores are reviewed on a case by case basis.

**Q: What is the minimum acceptable GPA?**

A: The Graduate School requires an undergraduate GPA of 2.75 or better for admission into the MS program. For PhD students, we are looking for 3.0 or better. Depending on the competitiveness of other applications at the time you apply, this cutoff could be higher.

**Q: Can letters of recommendation be sent electronically? Are the recommendation forms required?**

A: Yes, they can. Once you have applied and received your UMSL SSO ID, you can send out requests for your letters to be sent to the Department.

**Q: What is the minimum number of letters of recommendation required for application?**

A: At least two.

**Q: Do you need CV and Personal Statement?**

A: A personal statement is very helpful, especially your research interests. You may send a CV in addition to your application if you wish.

**Q: I cannot afford graduate school. Is there financial support available?**

A: Yes, students can apply to be supported as either teaching assistants or research assistants.  
<http://www.umsl.edu/gradschool/prospective/funding-graduate-school.html>

**Q: What is the amount of the stipend? Does this include tuition, fees, and health insurance?**

A. Stipends for graduate teaching assistants are at least \$14,500 for nine months. Students doing teaching or research in the summer make at least an additional \$2500-\$3500. Tuition and fees are paid, but students are responsible for health insurance.

**Q: What health insurance is available?**

A. A typical optional plan is currently offered through  
<http://www.umsl.edu/services/health/Info%20to%20Know/ins-fees.html>

Plans *are no longer subsidized* by the Graduate School for full-time graduate teaching and research assistantships.

Additional information on the healthcare program can be found at:

<https://www.aetnastudenthealth.com/students/student-connection.aspx?GroupID=890440>

**Q: I am a married international student and would like my spouse to join me in the US.**

A: The University can issue a dependent I-20 for a spouse. A copy of the marriage certificate will be needed, and the student will need to show \$4,000 in additional financial support before an I-20 can be issued for the spouse. The University is not required to supply the additional financial support needed for dependents.

**Q: I have a day job; can I pursue an MS degree at night?**

A: Yes. Most of our graduate courses are offered in the late afternoon/evening.

**Q: Can I send photocopies of my transcripts or test scores?**

A: While the Department commonly looks at copies in an initial evaluation, the University requires official copies of such documents prior to admission.

Mail paper materials to:

Director of Graduate Admissions  
Department of Physics & Astronomy  
University of Missouri-St. Louis  
One University Boulevard  
St. Louis, MO 63121

Where to apply online

<http://www.umsl.edu/divisions/graduate/prospective/apply-online.html>

International Student Services

<http://www.umsl.edu/~intelstu/>