

English Language Requirements for International Graduate Students

Your success in our graduate program will require the development of fluent English communication skills. As a first year graduate student, your English will be put to immediate use in classes, seminars, and interactions with students and faculty. Financial support for your first year of education at Maryland has been offered to you in the form of a Graduate Assistantship (GA). Your specific GA, and the corresponding stipend level, will depend upon demonstrable English communication skills.

International graduate students who wish to receive financial support must undergo an English examination, administered by the University through the Maryland English Institute (M.E.I.), prior to their first semester of study. This examination tests your listening comprehension, oral and written communication. The results of this test will determine the GA assignments for which you are eligible. If you succeed in passing this exam in August you will be able to take the regular academic schedule of three Chemistry/Biochemistry graduate courses during your first semester.

If you do not pass this examination on your first try, you will receive an assignment that requires less direct communication with undergraduate students. To improve your English communication skills, you will be required to take an English class, administered by M.E.I. Enrolling in this English class will reduce the number of graduate chemistry/biochemistry classes that you can take, but will prepare you to retake the M.E.I. English examination at the end of your first semester. Once you pass the M.E.I. exam, you will be eligible for a regular teaching assistantship.

Virtually all international graduate students successfully pass the M.E.I. examination within their first semester of enrollment. The Department may not provide financial support in the second semester of enrollment if a student has not earned at least a conditional pass on the M.E.I. examination before the start of the second semester. The Department may not provide financial support in any given semester of enrollment after the second semester of enrollment if a student has not earned a full pass on the M.E.I. examination prior to the start of the given semester.