

## FAQ:

### Financial questions

**1. What are the funding opportunities for new graduate students? (such as RA/TA availability)**

All students accepted into our graduate program are financially supported by either a graduate research assistantship (RA) or a teaching assistantship (TA), and retain this support when they maintain adequate progress in their graduate studies. The stipend is \$1,550 a month, which is sufficient to cover all normal costs of living, housing, and study.

**2. What is the cost of living like in Stillwater, OK? (such as rent and utilities)**

Compared to the rest of the country, Stillwater's cost of living is 14.10% Lower than the U.S. average. The following websites may be useful:

<http://www.stillwaterchamber.org/general.asp?id=418>

<http://www.payscale.com/cost-of-living-calculator/Oklahoma-Stillwater/California-San-Diego>

**3. What is provided with the health insurance and do I have to pay for the insurance?**

The insurance is provided as a benefit and you do not need to pay for it. Further information can be found at <http://www.okstate.edu/UHS/uhshealthhist.htm> under GATA/RA insurance.

**4. For international students: When do I need to provide information for the financial statement/sponsors information?**

This is related to obtaining a visa from the USA Immigration and Naturalization Service after being admitted to the graduate program. Therefore, there is no need to arrange this information when submitting your application.

### Getting Information

**5. Where can I find contact information for current graduate students?**

The information can be found on our website <http://microbiology.okstate.edu/> under individual faculty member's names. For example, for Dr. Burnap's group: <http://microbiology.okstate.edu/faculty/burnap/>

**6. Where can I find information on faculty's research?**

At the departmental website:

[http://microbiology.okstate.edu/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=20](http://microbiology.okstate.edu/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=20)

You can also search faculty members individually using Pubmed <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed> or ISI Web of Knowledge <http://apps.isiknowledge.com> databases.

**7. Where to look for information regarding application procedures?**

Visit OSU Graduate College website <http://gradcollege.okstate.edu/> or use the link to Graduate Programs from our departmental site <http://microbiology.okstate.edu/>.

**8. Where to look for a campus and Stillwater map?**

You can find general information about Stillwater and map at: <http://stillwater.org/>  
OSU campus map is at: <http://osu.okstate.edu/welcome/campusmap.pdf>

## School requirements

### ***9. How many credit hours are required to graduate with a masters or PhD?***

See <http://microbiology.okstate.edu/images/stories/graduate%20student%20handbook.pdf> for the details about credit hour requirements in our graduate program

### ***10. Do I need to identify an advisor before being accepted to the program?***

It is not needed to identify a graduate student advisor before applying to our graduate program. Almost all students accepted into our program identify their research mentor during the first semester in our graduate program

### ***11. What GRE and TOEFL scores and GPA are required?***

There is no minimum GRE score requirement. In recent years, competitive GRE scores are typically in the range verbal and quantitative GRE scores of approximately 500 and 740, so 1240 combined. However, our department does not have a minimum GRE requirement. Weaker GRE scores can be made up by strengths in other areas.

There is no minimum TOEFL score. A score above 20 for the speaking part of the TOEFL is advantageous.

The OSU university code of OSU for TOEFL and GRE scores is 6546. A departmental code is not needed.

Competitive GPAs tend to be in at or above 3.5 out of 4. Note: it is not a problem if your transcript does not use this grading format.

### ***12. What if my English needs improvement?***

You can take English classes at OSU, but if your English is below the TOEFL requirements, you will not be eligible for TA.

### ***13. Do I need any immunizations or immunization records?***

Yes, you can find all the necessary information here: <http://www.okstate.edu/UHS/uhshealthhist.htm>

## About the application process

### ***14. When is the application deadline for graduate school at the department?***

To ensure full consideration applications need to be completed by the following deadline: February 15, 2011.

### ***15. What documents do I need to prepare and submit to apply?***

- \* GRE scores
- \* Complete transcripts for your undergraduate degree, including your grade point average (GPA)
- \* Transcripts for any other degrees that you have
- \* Three letters of recommendation (note: there is no special form for these letters)
- \* Personal statement
- \* Information on any published papers on which you are a co-author.
- \* For international students: TOEFL score
- \* Note: you will need to pay the fee (as of November 2009: \$40 for domestic students, \$75 for international students) to the OSU Graduate College in order for your application to be processed and forwarded to our department.

***16. How do I apply?***

All applications to our graduate program need to proceed through the graduate program application web site of the OSU Graduate College: <http://gradcollege.okstate.edu/>

***17. Where should I send my recommendation letters and GRE scores, graduate school or department?***

The department prefers letters of recommendation in sealed envelopes, preferably sent to OSU by the referees:

Note: there is no required form or format for the recommendation letters.

***18. Where do I mail my application documents such as transcripts and letters of recommendation?***

All documentation should be mailed to the OSU graduate college:

OSU Graduate College  
202 Whitehurst  
Stillwater, OK 74078-1019  
USA

***19. Will you accept an electronic form of recommendation letter, if the recommender is not available to meet in person now?***

Yes, but the letter should be signed and sent by the referees in a pdf format to Dr. Wouter Hoff (wouter.hoff@okstate.edu). Normally, department prefers letters of recommendation to be sent to the above address in sealed envelopes.

***20. Do you take admission only in fall?***

Yes, at the moment we only admit student in fall.

***21. Is there any interview before final decision regarding application status?***

Yes, graduate committee may set up a phone interview with you. Normally, 2-3 faculty members gather to talk to you over the phone. Usually, it takes about 20-30 minutes. Most discussion is about what you wrote in your personal statement and resume. This is a great chance for you to learn about our program, so please prepare your questions.

***22. What is the fee for submitting an application and can this fee be waived?***

You will need to pay the fee (as of November 2009: \$40 for domestic students, \$75 for international students) to the OSU Graduate College in order for your application to be processed and forwarded to our department. The fee cannot be waived.

***23. Who is the graduate student coordinator if I have additional questions or experience problems?***

Dr. Mostafa Elshahed is Graduate Program Coordinator. E-mail: mostafa@okstate.edu

**About the School**

***24. What is the new graduate student's first semester typically like (i.e. are there lab rotations)?***

During the first semester, students are expected to enroll for MICR5052 Techniques in Molecular Biology class, which is a lab rotation and allows learning molecular biology techniques commonly used at the department and getting acquainted with all the faculty members and their labs. In addition, students usually enroll for Journal Club, Departmental Seminar, and Professional Transitions classes.

**25. How many students are in the department and what is the graduation rate and average time for graduation?**

Currently we have 24 students. On average, it takes 3 and 5 years to complete Master and PhD program, respectively. The graduation rate varies, but usually 3-4 students graduate yearly.

**26. What recreational places are available on campus and Stillwater?**

<http://union.okstate.edu/iss/NewStudents/OSUInformation.htm>

<http://campusrec.okstate.edu/>

<http://stillwater.org/community.php>

**27. How many graduate students are typically admitted each year?**

Our program typically admits 3 or 4 PhD students per year and 1 or 2 MS students per year.

**Useful links:**

<http://union.okstate.edu/iss/NewStudents/General.htm>

<http://stillwater.org/>

<http://www.travelok.com/>

<http://www.stateparks.com/ok.html>

**For additional information and questions, please contact:**

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