

FAQ's for the Accelerated Program

1. Will projects or courses from 5th yr continue into the masters?

No, you'll need to have completed your undergraduate requirements completely before you will be cleared to graduate.

2. Would HESE student be able acquire sufficient background knowledge to partake in this program?

Yes. We have had a great number of students over the years with biological sciences based backgrounds.

3. Can your supervisor not be from McMaster?

No.

4. If we choose to take a year off for Co-op, how does that impact the timeline of the accelerated masters program? Would we still have to find a supervisor the summer after 3rd year if we plan on going on Co-op in 4th year?

You could wait until your return to the start of your 4th year before you start your search. You have to have a supervisor prior to starting your Master's, it doesn't really matter when you start your search.

5. What is the difference between the application/expectations for the PhD and the M.Sc programs? The application process is the same for both programs.

The requirements/milestones differ between the 2 programs. See the [BME Graduate Students Requirements/Milestones Checklist](#) found on our Resources page.

6. Would it be possible to complete part of the masters in an industry position/job?

No, you are required to take courses and do research during the 12 months.

7. Which professors can we ask to be our supervisors? Can they be part of our Stream department (i.e. Chemical Eng)?

A good number of the faculty members in the Faculty of Engineering are currently Associate Members of BME. Furthermore, there are also members of the Faculty of Health Sciences and Faculty of Sciences who are also members and are eligible to supervise you as a graduate student in BME (check our faculty website for current membership). You are welcome to approach any faculty member in Engineering, FHS or anywhere on campus. If they agree to supervising a project with you, we will invite them to become an Associate Member of the School, if they are not members already. They are required to be a part of the School in order to supervise graduate students.

8. By when do we have to find a supervisor by and do they have to be in the school of biomedical engineering?

You need to have a supervisor in place before you begin your first summer of research. As mentioned above, if they are not associate members of BME we will invited them to be.

9. There is a direct Ph.D. route for students who had an average higher than an 11.

Yes the Direct Entry to the PhD. requires a minimum of an 11 in your last 2 years.

10. Is it possible to choose the Master's route first and then if I change my mind, switch into the Ph.D. program or if I choose Master's then I would have to do the normal Ph.D. route?

The option to transfer to a PhD is not possible in the accelerated program. In our regular Master's program, a student needs to have completed a minimum of 12 months (full time) before they can request a transfer to PhD. This minimum has been set by the School of Graduate Studies.

11. I want to know about admission after working for a couple of years after the B.Eng.BME degree.

Yes, you are welcome to apply to the accelerated program if you have one of the requisite 600 level courses and one research semester completed, and you will be doing the accelerated MASc with the faculty member who supervised you for that summer of research. If you do not have these you are welcome to apply for the regular MASc.

12. Is it just IBEHS 4F04 and IBEHS 4QZ3 that we have to take at the 600 level?

It is either 4F04 or 4Qz3 that are required, not both. Grad studies only permits one 600 level course in the MASc or PhD programs

13. What happens if we decide later on that we don't want to do it anymore? Will we be penalized in any way? No

14. How many students will be accepted every year for this accelerated masters BME program?

It varies. Some years we've taken as many as 20 - 25 new students, other years less. It depends somewhat on the number of professors looking for students and who has the funding to accept students. Acceptance into any research-based graduate program at any university always depends on these factors.

15. Are there specific grade requirements as well?

For the Master's a minimum of a B+ average in both the 4th & 5th year. That is the same requirement as our regular Master's program. The Direct Entry to the PhD. is an A- in the last two years.

16. What is the application process?

The application process is clearly laid out on our web site - [How to Apply](#)

17. When is the last day to make the decision? - Are we able to opt out after choosing the program? What are the consequences?

We can make an offer just prior to a term start date, however, offers usually go out to students well before that. If you decide not to enter the graduate program after you have met the requirements, there is no penalty. If you apply however, you will be required to pay the application fee to the School of Graduate Studies and it is non-refundable.

18. What kind of research will grad students be conducting? Which professors can we work with and where can we find their research?

The research project is decided on by the supervisor and it varies. Look at the individual web sites of our Associate Members to see the types of research current being worked on. <https://www.eng.mcmaster.ca/msbe/people/faculty> For faculty members, who are not currently Associate Members, it will be the research areas that they are currently working on. They too will have a profile on McMaster's web site.

19. When and how do we apply for the program?

The deadline dates to apply for the various intakes are available on the [How to Apply](#) page. The next intake for September 1, 2021 application portal will open on October 1, 2020.

20. How do we find a supervisor and can the research involved count towards the 12 months required for the co-op undergraduate program?

We have created a web page with '[Tips to Finding a Supervisor](#)'. As a graduate student you would start a new research project. Early in the planning of the accelerated program we explored the idea of the undergraduate research term being counted as a co-op term. However, this absolutely is not possible.

21. Is there any estimate of tuition costs for a BME masters?

[Tuition Fees](#) are available on the Office of the Registrar's web site. It varies for Canadian and Visa students. Currently fees for a 1 year Master program for Canadian students is \$6307.20 per year, or \$2102.40 per term. It should be noted, however, that you are paid when doing a research-based graduate degree. The pay comes primarily from the faculty, TAing and your research supervisor. This base annual salary for a BME MASc Canadian student is \$23,000., while a PhD Canadian base student salary is \$26,000.XXX.

22. If we are planning to do a 16 month co-op at the end of Fourth year, is it possible to do the research term after? (possibly after 5th year?)

Unfortunately, you cannot do your 1st research term after you've completed your 5th year, it must be done in the summer of your 4th year. You would start your 2nd research work term in May, once you've been admitted into the graduate program.

23. Do research terms only have to be done under the supervision of staff members who are part of the School of Biomedical Engineering?

You are welcome to approach any faculty member in Engineering, FHS or anywhere on campus. If they agree to supervising a project with you, we will invite them to become an Associate Member of the School. They are required to be a part of the School in order to supervise graduate students.

24. When should we start preparing for it?

At the end of your 3rd year, you are to email the instructor of IBHS 4F04 and indicate that you want to take that course at the 600 level. This is the required course you need to take in order to be eligible for the Accelerated Master's. You are also asked to complete the 'Intent to Apply to the BME Accelerated' form that IBEHS has available.

25. Can we be co supervised with a lab outside of McMaster?

No. Professors who supervise students must be at McMaster. Sometimes, however, a faculty member sometimes gets a student to do some research at a lab at another university. That requires a formal agreement that must be in place between university faculty members but does not mean this is co-supervision. The faculty member at a different university can apply to be an "Adjunct Member" of McMaster BME and can act as a member of the grad student advisory committee. However, If this question refers to some of the McMaster affiliated teaching hospitals within the city then as long as they have a McMaster faculty appointment (not an adjunct appointment) then that is fine. All academic physicians and scientists at McMaster affiliated teaching hospitals do have McMaster faculty appointments. But a professor outside, like at Toronto, Brock, Waterloo, etc. is not acceptable.

Questions about accelerated BME program.

September 17, 2020