

Rules for Admittance Exams – 2st semester, 2024
Interunit Graduate Program in Bioinformatics of the
University of São Paulo

The President of the Graduate Program Committee for the Interunit Graduate Program in Bioinformatics of the University of São Paulo determines that the enrollment for the admittance exams for candidates to the Masters, PhD, and Direct PhD courses of the Interunit Graduate Program in Bioinformatics are open on the date of the publication of this document.

1. Enrollment

Application period: April 1, 2024, to June 01, 2024, at 11:55 PM (Brasília time).

Applications submitted after this period will not be accepted.

Application form available: <https://www.ime.usp.br/pos-bioinformatica/ingresso>

For enrollment, you must:

1. Use your full name exactly as it appears on your ID document.
2. Attach the following documents in PDF format to the electronic form:
 - a) For Doctorate candidates: copy of undergraduate transcript; graduate transcript;
 - b) Curriculum Vitae or Lattes CV;
 - c) Letter of interest describing why you want to join the Interdepartmental Program in Bioinformatics at USP and your areas of interest. The letter should be one page long and contain between 250 and 500 words;
 - d) Research project (only for Direct PhD candidates).

Candidates are responsible for the accuracy of the information provided at the time of application. If the documentation is complete and correct, confirmation will be posted on the bioinformatics program's website, with the candidate's full name next to the word CONFIRMED; otherwise, the program office will contact the candidate via the provided Gmail email to request the missing documentation.

1.1. Candidates with special needs

Candidates with specific accessibility needs that require special arrangements in order to take the entrance exam should inform us through the bioinformatica@usp.br e-mail address, before the end of the enrollment period, detailing the conditions required to enable participation in the exam.

2. Exam

The exam will be conducted exclusively online on **June 24, 2024 (Monday), starting at 08:30 AM (Brasília time), with a maximum duration of 3 hours.** There will be a

15-minute grace period for the candidate to start the exam. The procedure for taking the online exam will be sent to the registered email at least 48 hours in advance. It is the candidate's responsibility to have access to a computer with a camera and internet during the exam. Candidates are not allowed to leave the front of their equipment or consult people or any type of bibliographic material, media, and/or personal notes under penalty of disqualification and elimination from the selection process. The candidate must keep the camera on during the entire exam, under penalty of disqualification.

The exam covers general knowledge in Molecular Biology, Mathematics/Statistics, and Computing (content available at: [<https://bit.ly/3kCT1NT>])(<https://bit.ly/3kCT1NT>)), at the undergraduate level. The exam will consist of 60 multiple-choice questions, divided equally among the 3 areas mentioned above. The candidate must answer a total of 20 questions, with at least 14 questions from one single area of knowledge (the other six questions can be from the same area as the 14 or a combination of questions from the other areas, at the candidate's discretion). Candidates are not allowed to answer more than 20 questions.

2.1. Admittance exam waiver

Candidates who pass one of the following exams will be exempt from the selection exam but must still apply and attach the required documents showing the score obtained:

- GRE subject test in one of the following areas: Biology (minimum score 730); Chemistry (minimum score 750); Mathematics (minimum score 740); Physics (minimum score 790). GRE scores are valid for 3 years from the test date.
- POSCOMP exam taken on or after 2020 with a 2-year validity.
- Entrance exam from the selection process held in the 1st semester of 2020 or later.

3. Approval Criteria

Candidates who score equal to or above the minimum score indicated in one of the exams specified in item 2.1 above or achieve a minimum score of 6.0 on the current selection exam will be considered approved for the Master's or Doctorate courses. For Direct Doctorate approval, in addition to achieving a minimum score on one of the accepted exams, candidates' research projects will be evaluated by a panel appointed by the Graduate Committee of the Program, in an eliminatory manner, with the evaluation format and schedule defined after the first phase of the entrance exam.

4. Publication of results, exam review, and appeal

The list of approved candidates will be announced by **July 01, 2024**, on the program's website. Answers to questions and scores will not be disclosed. After the announcement of results, candidates who wish to request a review of their exams must do so via the program's email bioinformatica@usp.br within 3 days after the results are announced. After the review, candidates may file an appeal requesting a change in score within 3 days after the review. The appeal must specify the question(s) for which the score should be changed and provide relevant arguments. The candidate will

receive a response to their appeal by email within 10 business days after the appeal is received.

5. Enrollment procedure

To enroll in the Graduate Program, approved candidates must provide a letter of acceptance from an accredited advisor in the program, in addition to presenting all the documentation required by the Interdepartmental Graduate Program in Bioinformatics - USP for enrollment <https://www.ime.usp.br/pos-bioinformatica/ingresso/>. A list of advisors and their email addresses is available on the program's website. It is the approved candidate's responsibility to contact the advisors directly to establish possible guidance and ensure a letter of acceptance from the advisor.

Approved candidates have 48 months from the publication of the list of approved candidates to enroll.

6. Contact Information:

The administrative office of the Interunit Graduate Program in Bioinformatics is located at

the Institute of Chemistry USP, at Av. Prof. Lineu Prestes 748 Bloco 6 superior – Cidade Universitária, CEP – 05508-000 – São Paulo – SP – Brazil.

E-mail: bioinformatica@usp.br