Welcome!

We're delighted that you have decided to accept our offer to join the MSSS program! You do not need to give any other formal reply nor are you required to pay an admission deposit. Your email to us secures your spot. The rest of this letter is devoted to answering the typical questions many first-year students have.

1. How will I know what courses to register for? When will I register?

   This summer, we’ll send you an email regarding our departmental orientation session which will be held early in the week of August 16th, the week before classes begin. At this session you’ll have the opportunity to learn more about our Fall 2021 classes and talk with our faculty about your fall schedule. By the end of this session you’ll be ready to register for the fall. Our support staff will be available to help you with that process if you need it.

2. How long does it take to complete the program?

   The MSSS consists of 31 total credit hours and takes two years to complete. Some of our courses must be taken in sequence so it is difficult to make it any shorter than that.

3. How much does tuition cost?

   One graduate credit hour for a non-resident (as of Fall 2020) is $1,330.51. Based on these rates, the cost for 31-credit-hours is $41,245.81. The mandatory fees (technology, transportation, student health, activity, repair & rehab) total $703.19 per semester. You can find current tuition rates [here](#).

4. Is there funding available to me?

   As stated in our offer letter to you, we are unable to guarantee funding for our MSSS students. However, there are opportunities for different sources of funding on campus. Below are two websites that will give you an idea of some of the jobs that exist on campus.

   [IU GradGrants Center](#)
   [Residential Programs and Services Employment](#)
We are sometimes able to hire our MSSS students as teaching assistants. Unfortunately, we usually don't know until late in the summer if there will be funds available for this.

There are a number of factors that we consider when placing students that affect your chance of being assigned as a TA. Course enrollments, meeting times, course content, and English proficiency are just a few.

There is also the possibility of working as a research assistant for faculty both within and outside the department. However, these jobs are harder to come by, particularly for first-year students.

Over the last several years, we’ve hired approximately 75% of our master’s students as TAs for at least one of their 4 semesters in the program. TAs are generally hired to work 10-20 hours per week at a rate of $25.00 per hour. TAs also receive a partial fee remission for the semester, which will cover up to 9 credit hours per semester.

5. What are the housing options in Bloomington?

Indiana University has a variety of housing options available. The Residential Programs and Services website has information about on-campus housing.

There are many off-campus options, as well. The Office of International Services Housing website has really good information for both international AND domestic students.

6. I am an international student. How do I find out information about my application and other things relevant to an international applicant?

Once we tell the Office of International Services (OIS) that we have admitted you they take over from there. From that point on you will need to communicate with them about your application, visa requirements, international student orientation, etc. By now, you should have received information from them about how to log in to Atlas. You can use your 10-digit ID number to access your records in Atlas. There is a lot of important information there and it changes as documents are submitted and approved. You should check your Atlas account frequently! You can also contact OIS with questions by emailing newtoiu@iu.edu. The Office of International Services After Admission page has information about supporting documents required of every international applicant.

If you have additional questions please don't hesitate to contact us. We hope to see you here in the fall!

Sincerely,

Kelly Hanna
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