

## Civil Engineering Online Information Sessions – Fall 2018

### Questions & Answers

#### When will the Structural Materials at High Temperature Lab be ready to use?

*The first phase of lab development is already underway. We installed the furnace for testing metallic materials at high temperature and expect to have it up and running by spring 2019. Phase two of the lab development project will take place during the 2019-2020 academic year.*

#### I am interested in research in structural engineering, especially something related to cyber-infrastructure like Structural Health Monitoring.

*While we might not have research in every specific area at any given time, it doesn't mean that area is out of our reach. Research also evolves over time, so we want to make sure we are at the forefront of knowledge. In this particular case, the department is interested in this area, as it is at the intersection of our Structures and Systems research thrusts.*

#### Are you planning to add new research activities for the coming academic year?

*We always have new research projects in mind that get added as we get funding. In addition, one of our best sources of research ideas is our PhD students themselves!*

#### I am working on shake table tests for self-centering reinforced concrete frames and design of infill wall for these frames, however, I'm interested in systems. Can I apply to work with systems faculty?

*Yes! Students have come to work with our systems faculty who no, or little experience in the systems engineering field. One of our current students in systems has a background in electrical engineering. If you have a strong math-- and particularly applied math--background, we welcome your application. You are also welcome to email [Prof. Sauleh Siddiqui](#) to discuss your particular research interests.*

#### What sort of experimental research is taking place in your department?

*At least one-third of our faculty are engaged in experimental work, and almost all use experiments to validate theory. Our laboratory facilities are comparable to any other top-ranked institution. In addition, due to our proximity and extensive external collaborations, we have access to a number of larger facilities at other institutions and organizations, including the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST).*

#### Do masters students have opportunities for research assistantships?

*Yes, master's students have opportunities to do research assistantships. While we cannot guarantee a paid position for all our master's admits, there is always research to get involved in.*

#### How much do GRE and TOEFL score matters for graduate program application?

*GRE and Toefl/IELTS scores are part of the review process. While the University has minimum recommended scores, we take into consideration your transcripts, your references and even your Statement of Purpose.*

#### What GRE scores do you need?

*The scores we require are the Quantitative, Verbal and Analytical Writing.*

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What if I cannot receive my GRE writing score before application deadline? Is it ok if I hand in my Verbal & Quantitative scores first?

*Yes, submit the test scores you have through the application system. If your application is under serious consideration, we can contact you for the remainder of your scores and/or your "official" scores at a later date.*

Can I request a waiver of the Toefl requirement if I already got a degree in the US?

*Applicants who receive a degree from a 2- or 4-year college in the United States are qualified to receive a Toefl waiver. To request a waiver of the Toefl requirement, please email Graduate Admissions at [lisajia@jhu.edu](mailto:lisajia@jhu.edu).*

What funding does the department offer to graduate students?

*All of our doctoral students are fully funded (tuition, health and stipend) and currently all of our master's students are partially funded.*

If the PhD student doesn't join a research group, how are they funded?

*The first 2 semesters, new doctoral students are covered by a department fellowship. However, during your first semester, you will meet with faculty and make your 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> choices for permanent advisor. In at least 75% of all cases, new students are paired with their first choice for advisor. On occasion, new students are paired with their second choice. All doctoral students must have an advisor, through whom they receive their continued funding for subsequent years.*

How much does it cost to live in Baltimore?

*Johns Hopkins has a wonderful website that gives you some of the great housing options in the area. You can check out the rooms and the costs involved here: <https://offcampushousing.jhu.edu/>.*

Are there RA/TA opportunities within in the department?

*There are often RA and TA opportunities. Most of our doctoral students carry out TA functions as part of their graduate program. Civil Engineering instructors often require one or more TAs for their larger undergraduate courses. In addition, faculty welcome master's students participating in research projects.*

When will admitted students know what their funding is?

*All admitted students are advised of their funding package at the time offers are made.*

I am currently pursuing my master's. If I get the admission and my master's thesis review is delayed, is it possible to defer my admission?

*Deferral of admission is possible and is considered on a case-by-case basis. If you are admitted to our program and you need to request a deferral, please contact us at [civil-admissions@jhu.edu](mailto:civil-admissions@jhu.edu).*

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Of the eight required courses for the Ph.D. program how many of them can be taken from a different Department of the Whiting School of Engineering?

*Because our faculty collaborate with other departments and JHU schools, our research overlaps quite a bit allowing a great deal of flexibility in the course requirements. Doctoral students can work out a program of courses that best their research interests and doctoral thesis. After completing the 8 course requirements, many of our students continue taking courses simply because they love learning. For the MSE program, at least 4 of the 8 courses are required to be from the Civil Engineering Department (either the daytime program EN.560.XXX or the evening studies/online program EN.565.XXX).*

I have been out of school for some years now. Can I submit professional references?

*If you can reach out to a former instructor or advisor to obtain at least one academic reference, that would be very beneficial. However, if you have only professional references, we will certainly review those.*

Can the application fee be waived?

*Our application fee is only \$25 and this very minimal fee covers the administrative costs associated with processing applications in the Graduate Admissions Office. In most cases, the answer is “No”. However there are a few instances when the application fee can be waived:*

- 1. The application fee may be waived for applicants with documented (must be uploaded within the application) registration/participation in one of the following programs: GEM, Department Request, SACNAS, MMUF, POSSE, JHU Grad Student, McNair, ABRCMS, Vietnam Education Foundation, IRT, Graduate Horizons, Choctaw/Chickasaw Scholarship Advisement Program, Baltimore Scholars Program, Leadership Alliance, UMBC Meyerhoff Program, LSAMP, Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellowship Program, Project 1000, MARC and University of Puerto Rico Students.*
- 2. To request a waiver based on financial hardship please select the option on the application and upload one of the following: FAFSA SAR Report, a letter from a college/university financial aid office, unemployment verification. Do not send tax returns. All documents will be reviewed and verified for satisfactory evidence. If the uploaded document is not accepted you will be contacted to resubmit or to pay the application fee. For further information please complete the [Contact Form](#). If you are requesting an application fee waiver, please contact the Graduate Admissions Office (using the Contact Form above). Do not contact the Department of Civil Engineering.*

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#### How long should my CV be?

*There is no minimum or maximum size for the CV or for the Statement of Purpose. Relevant undergraduate and graduate studies and any work experience you may have are important.*

#### Are extra-curricular activities important to mention in CV?

*We certainly appreciate seeing an applicant's extra-curricular activities. It helps us to get a sense of the overall picture of the person. However, this isn't required and leaving extra-curricular activities off your CV won't disqualify you for admission. Our department is small and interestingly enough, we have several faculty and students who are avid runners - if that happens to be your thing!*

#### I don't have publications but have lab experience, can I still apply for PhD?

*Absolutely!*