MASTER OF SCIENCE MICROBIOLOGY AND IMMUNOLOGY

Summary

- Degree offered: Master of Science (MSc)
- Registration status option: Full-time
- Language of instruction: English
- Program option (expected duration of the program):
  - with thesis (6 full-time terms; 24 consecutive months)
- Academic units: Faculty of Medicine (http://med.uottawa.ca/en), Department of Biochemistry, Microbiology and Immunology (http://med.uottawa.ca/bmi).

Program Description

The programs refine critical and scholarly skills in fields and areas of specialization and prepare students for a variety of careers in teaching and research both within and outside of academia, including in a governmental, clinical, or industrial setting. Graduates are expected to have acquired autonomy in conducting research, in preparing scholarly publications, through a training that includes course work, research seminars, and independent research leading to a thesis.

The Department is a participating unit in the following collaborative programs: the Bioinformatics program (at the master’s level) and the Pathology and Experimental Medicine program (at the master’s and doctoral levels).

Main Areas of Research

- Microbiology
- Host biology

Other Programs Offered Within the Same Discipline or in a Related Area

- Master of Science Microbiology and Immunology Specialization in Bioinformatics (MSc)
- Master of Science Microbiology and Immunology Specialization in Pathology and Experimental Medicine (MSc)
- Doctorate in Philosophy Microbiology and Immunology (PhD)
- Doctorate in Philosophy Microbiology and Immunology Specialization in Pathology and Experimental Medicine (PhD)

Fees and Funding

- Program fees:
  - To learn about possibilities for financing your graduate studies, consult the Awards and financial support (https://www.uottawa.ca/graduate-studies/students/awards) section.

Notes

- Programs are governed by the general regulations (http://www.uottawa.ca/graduate-studies/students/general-regulations) in effect for graduate studies.
- In accordance with the University of Ottawa regulation, students have the right to complete their assignments, examinations, research papers, and theses in French or in English. Research activities can be conducted either in English, French or both, depending on the language used by the professor and the members of his or her research group.

Program Contact Information

Graduate Studies Office, Faculty of Medicine (https://med.uottawa.ca/graduate-postdoctoral)
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Ottawa, Ontario, Canada
K1N 6N5
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Email: grad.med@uottawa.ca

Twitter | Faculty of Medicine (https://twitter.com/uOttawaMed)
Youtube | Faculty of Medicine (https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCP2nDlrjFEEtyfMiOmle2HA)
Flickr | Faculty of Medicine (https://www.flickr.com/photos/uottawamed)

Admission Requirements

For the most accurate and up to date information on application deadlines, language tests and other admission requirements, please visit the specific requirements (http://www.uottawa.ca/graduate-studies/programs-admission/apply/specific-requirements) webpage.
To be eligible, candidates must:

• Have a bachelor’s degree with a specialization or a major (or equivalent) in biochemistry, biology, or microbiology with a minimum average of 75% (B+).

  Note: International candidates must check the admission equivalencies (https://www.uottawa.ca/graduate-studies/international/study-uottawa/admission-equivalencies) for the diploma they received in their country of origin.

• Demonstrate a good academic performance in previous studies as shown by official transcripts, research reports, abstracts or any other documents demonstrating research skills.

• Identify at least one professor who is willing to supervise your research and thesis.

  • We recommend that you contact potential thesis supervisors as soon as possible.
  • To register, you need to have been accepted by a thesis supervisor.
  • The supervisor’s name is required at the time of application.

Language Requirements
Applicants must be able to understand and fluently speak the language of instruction (French or English) in the program to which they are applying. Proof of linguistic proficiency may be required.

Applicants whose first language is neither French nor English must provide proof of proficiency in the language of instruction.

Note: Candidates are responsible for any fees associated with the language tests.

Notes
• The admission requirements listed above are minimum requirements and do not guarantee admission to the program.

• Admissions are governed by the general regulations (http://www.uottawa.ca/graduate-studies/students/general-regulations) in effect for graduate studies.

Program Requirements
Master’s with Thesis
The Department may require students to take additional courses, depending on their backgrounds.

Students must meet the following requirements:

Compulsory Courses:
MED 8166  Professionalism and Professional Skills  0 Unit
MIC 5100  Pathogen Interactions and Host  3 Units
3 elective course units in microbiology and immunology (MIC) at the graduate level  3 Units

Seminar:
MIC 5366  MSc Seminar  3 Units

Thesis:
THM 7999  Master’s Thesis  0 Unit

Note(s)

1 The seminar course involves the presentation of a seminar and regular attendance at the seminars presented by the Department.
2 Successful presentation and defense of a thesis based on original research carried out under the direct supervision of a faculty member of the Department.
3 Students are responsible for ensuring they have met all of the thesis requirements (http://www.uottawa.ca/graduate-studies/students/theses).

Fast-Track from Master’s to PhD
Students enrolled in the master’s program in Microbiology and Immunology at the University of Ottawa may be eligible to fast-track directly into the doctoral program without writing a master’s thesis. For additional information, please consult the “Admission Requirements” section of the PhD program.

Minimum Requirements
The passing grade in all courses is C+.

Students who fail two courses (equivalent to 6 units), the thesis proposal, or whose research progress is deemed unsatisfactory are required to withdraw.

Research
Research Fields & Facilities
Located in the heart of Canada’s capital, a few steps away from Parliament Hill, the University of Ottawa is among Canada’s top 10 research universities.

uOttawa focuses research strengths and efforts in four Strategic Areas of Development in Research (SADRs):

• Canada and the World
• Health
• e-Society
• Molecular and Environmental Sciences

With cutting-edge research, our graduate students, researchers and educators strongly influence national and international priorities.

Research at the Faculty of Medicine
“The Faculty of Medicine has a long history of conducting both basic and clinical research of the highest quality. Many of our high profile research projects are conducted in partnership with affiliated-teaching hospitals and research institutes. These partnerships lead to biomedical discoveries that have a significant impact on health care. In the process they educate the next generation of Canadian scientists. Our research activity also attracts significant investment, which stimulates the Ottawa economy.”

- Dr. Bernard Jasmin, Vice-Dean, Research

Facilities, Research Centres and Institutes at the Faculty of Medicine
• Centre for Neural Dynamics (http://www.neurodynamic.uottawa.ca)
• University of Ottawa Centre for Neuromuscular Disease (http://med.uottawa.ca/neuromuscular)
Courses

Not all of the listed courses are given each year. The course is offered in the language in which it is described.

**MIC 5100 Pathogen Interactions and Host (3 units)**
This course will examine current issues in microbiology/immunology. Topics to be chosen to allow discussion across the broad areas of virology, immunology and bacteriology. Within each of the modules, the focus will be on host-pathogen interactions at the molecular level, how microorganisms utilize, modify or disrupt host cell functions, including immune cell functions and immune responses, to establish infection and cause diseases, or on immunological diseases which may have an infectious component.

Course Component: Lecture
Prerequisite: At least one undergraduate course in microbiology and/or immunology and one course in molecular biology. Permission of the Department is required.

**MIC 5366 MSc Seminar (3 units)**
Attendance at two half-day symposia with guest speakers, attendance and participation in the annual BMI Student Symposium and BMI Poster Day, attendance at BMI seminars relevant to Microbiology and Immunology. Students must present at least one poster and one oral presentation during the course of their program. Graded S (Satisfactory) or NS (Not satisfactory).

Course Component: Seminar

**MIC 6003 Thesis Research in Microbiology and Immunology III Volet / Course Component: Cours magistral / Lecture**

**MIC 8120 ADVANCED TOPICS IN IMMUNOMETABOLISM (3 units)**
An advanced study of the recent literature dealing with the field of immunometabolism, with a focus on both immunometabolic pathways and the specialized techniques that allow for understanding chronic inflammatory/metabolic diseases, such as cancer, type 2 diabetes, obesity, atherosclerosis, neurodegeneration, etc.

Course Component: Lecture
MIC 8134 Structure and Expression of Eukaryotic and Prokaryotic Genomes (3 units)
Sequencing of eukaryote and prokaryote genomes with emphasis on recent technologies, sequence alignments and databases and assembly of genomes from massively parallel sequencing data. Focus on mapping studies, including linkage disequilibrium-based genome-wide association study (GWAS), to characterize functional variants associated with complex traits. Analysis and structure of microbial metagenomes from environmental and human habitats, including structure-function analysis of microbial communities, microbiota-human disease correlations, and molecular phylogeny. Genome expression, including measures of RNA transcripts and proteins and statistical analysis of data. Combination of various omics data to understand gene-environment interactions.

Course Component: Lecture

MIC 8236 Advanced Topics in Virology (3 units)
An in-depth presentation of current topics in virological research. Topics will vary from year to year. To be offered every alternate year subject to sufficient demand.

Course Component: Lecture

MIC 8238 Advanced Topics in Bacteriology - Mechanisms of Pathogenesis (3 units)
Recent advances and current topics in selected areas of bacteriology with emphasis on mechanisms of pathogenesis. Students present and discuss journal articles. Offered every alternate year subject to sufficient demand.

Course Component: Lecture

MIC 8241S Seminars II (2 crédits / 2 units)
Every graduate student will be required to attend the weekly departmental seminars. Compulsory for all graduate students.

Volet / Course Component: Cours magistral / Lecture

MIC 8243S Seminars III (2 crédits / 2 units)
Every graduate student will be required to attend the weekly departmental seminars. Compulsory for all graduate students.

Volet / Course Component: Cours magistral / Lecture

MIC 8243S Seminars IV (2 crédits / 2 units)
Every graduate student will be required to attend the weekly departmental seminars. Compulsory for all graduate students.

Volet / Course Component: Cours magistral / Lecture

MIC 8244S Seminars V (2 crédits / 2 units)
Every graduate student will be required to attend the weekly departmental seminars. Compulsory for all graduate students.

Volet / Course Component: Cours magistral / Lecture

MIC 8366 PhD Seminar (3 units)
Attendance at two half-day symposia with guest speakers, attendance and participation in the annual BMI Student Symposium and BMI Poster Day, attendance at BMI seminars relevant to Microbiology and immunology. Students will present a poster in their first and every alternate year, and an oral presentation the second and every alternate year until they have permission to write their thesis. Graded S (Satisfactory) / NS (Not satisfactory).

Course Component: Seminar

MIC 8500 Special Topics in Health-Related Environmental Microbiology (3 crédits)
Recent advances and current topics in selected areas of health-related environmental microbiology. Topics reflect student interest. Offered in alternate years subject to sufficient demand.

Volet: Cours magistral
Prerequisite: MIC 5500 or equivalent.

MIC 8534 Structure et expression des génomes procaryotes et eucaryotes (3 crédits)
Le séquençage des génomes eucaryotes et procaryotes, avec un accent particulier sur les technologies récentes, l'alignement des séquences et les bases de données, et l'assemblage des génomes à partir de données générées par séquençage haut débit. Les études de cartographie comparée incluant les études d'associations pangénomiques basées sur le déséquilibre de liaison pour caractériser les variantes fonctionnelles associées aux traits complexes. L'analyse et la structure de métagénomes microbiens issus d'habitats humains et environnementaux incluant l'analyse structure-fonction des communautés microbiennes, les corrélations entre les maladies humaines et le microbiome ainsi que la phylogénie moléculaire. L'expression génique incluant les mesures de transcriptomes et de protéomes ainsi que l'analyse statistique des données. La combinaison des différentes données omiques pour comprendre les interactions gène-environnement.

Volet: Cours magistral

MIC 8700 Biology and Pathogenesis of HIV Infection (3 crédits)
Biology and pathogenesis of Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) infection. Genetics, replication, structure, regulation of gene expression, immunopathogenesis, antiviral therapy and vaccine development. Offered in alternate years subject to sufficient demand.

Volet: Séminaire

MIC 9998 Examen de synthèse / Comprehensive Examination

Volet / Course Component: Recherche / Research