

GBS International Student Webinar

Graduate Biomedical Student Outreach (GBSO)
Graduate Biomedical Sciences (GBS)
Graduate School

Student Organizations

- **GBSO:** [Graduate Biomedical Student Outreach](#)
- **ISSA:** [International Student and Scholar Association](#)
- **GSG:** [Graduate Student Government](#)
- **GCAT:** [Graduate Career Awareness and Trends](#)
- [Asian American Organization](#)
- [Association of Bangladeshis at UAB](#)
- [Association of Indian Students](#)
- [Chinese Society](#)
- [Filipino Student Association](#)
- [Indian Cultural Association](#)
- [Muslim Students' Association](#)
- [Nepalese Student Association](#)
- [Spanish And Latino Student Association](#)
- [Taiwanese Student Association](#)

Find more on [Engage!](#)

Campus Safety



B-Alert: Emergency Notification System

Late Night On-Demand Van/Escort Service

- 9:00pm – 5:30am daily
- (205)934-8772

490+ Help Phones

UAB Police

- Emergency: 911 or (205) 934-3535
- Non-Emergency: (205) 934-4434
 - Escort Program
 - Car Issues

Housing

Resources

- [UAB Off-Campus Housing](#)
- [Rent Monster](#) (can do Skype tours)

Neighborhoods near UAB

- Highlands
- Southside
- Glen Iris
- Five Points South
- Downtown

When is a good time to look for an apartment?

- If you can visit Birmingham, look one month out.
- If you cannot visit Birmingham, seek temporary housing (e.g. [AirBnB](#)) or contact [Rent Monster](#) for Skype tours.

What to Pack

- Bring only clothes and few basic essential things.
- Birmingham has abundant food options and grocery/pharmacy stores are in walking distance of campus.
- Read customs and border control guidelines.

Transportation

Airplane

- Birmingham-Shuttlesworth International Airport

Shuttle from Atlanta

- [Groome Transportation](#)

Bus

- [Blazer Express Campus Bus Service](#)
- [MAX Transit City Bus Service](#)
- [Greyhound](#) to neighboring cities

Car

- [Uber](#) & [Lyft](#)
- [Yellow Cab](#) & [Silver Cab](#)
- [Zipcar](#)

Bike

- [Zyp Bikeshare](#)
- Buy your own

Health Insurance & Immunizations

UAB Student Health & Wellness Immunization Form
Clinical Domestic Students

NAME: _____ DATE OF BIRTH: (mm/dd/yyyy): _____
ADDRESS: _____ PHONE: _____
PROGRAM OF STUDY: _____ BLAZERID: _____@UAB.EDU

IMMUNIZATION HISTORY MUST BE COMPLETED AND SIGNED BY A HEALTH CARE PROVIDER

**Copies of your original immunization records are acceptable in place of this form. Please submit completed form or immunization records directly to your UAB SHELW Patient Portal.*

1. **MMR: Measles, Mumps, and Rubella:** All students must satisfy this requirement, either by two vaccine doses against each of the three diseases or laboratory evidence of immunity to all three diseases.

EITHER

Two doses of MMR vaccine: _____ Date: ____/____/____
_____ Date: ____/____/____

OR

Two doses of each vaccine component:

Measles: _____ Date: ____/____/____ Date: ____/____/____
Mumps: _____ Date: ____/____/____ Date: ____/____/____
Rubella: _____ Date: ____/____/____ Date: ____/____/____

OR

Laboratory evidence of immunity to all three diseases:

Measles: _____ Date: ____/____/____ Result: _____
Mumps: _____ Date: ____/____/____ Result: _____
Rubella: _____ Date: ____/____/____ Result: _____

**If any laboratory titers are non-immune, 2 repeat vaccines are required. Date: ____/____/____ Date: ____/____/____*

2. **Tdap-Tetanus, Diphtheria, Acellular Pertussis:** All students must have had one dose of the adult Tdap given 2006 or later. If the last adult Tdap is greater than 10 years old, a Td booster is required.

Tdap Date: ____/____/____
Td Date: ____/____/____

3. **Hepatitis B Series:** All students must have a series of three Hepatitis B vaccinations (initial dose, dose two at 1 month, dose three at 6 months). A post-vaccine surface antibody titer (to demonstrate immunity) is required one month after 3rd vaccine dose.

Dose 1 Date: ____/____/____ Dose 2 Date: ____/____/____ Dose 3 Date: ____/____/____
Hep B surface antibody titer: _____ Reactive: _____ Non-Reactive: _____ Date: ____/____/____

**If Hep B surface antibody is non-reactive, repeat series and post-vaccine surface antibody titer are required.*

Dose 1 Date: ____/____/____ Dose 2 Date: ____/____/____ Dose 3 Date: ____/____/____
Hep B surface antibody titer: _____ Reactive: _____ Non-Reactive: _____ Date: ____/____/____

**If repeat Hep B surface antibody is non-reactive, Hep B surface antigen is required to rule out acute or chronic Hep B infection.*

Hep B surface antigen titer: _____ Positive: _____ Negative: _____ Date: ____/____/____

***If Hep B surface antigen is positive, visit with SHELW provider is required for additional testing. If negative, student will be considered a non-responder.*

4. **Varicella (chickenpox or shingles):** All students must have documented history of Varicella, a positive Varicella antibody titer, or two doses of Varicella vaccines given at least 28 days apart.

EITHER

History of Varicella (chickenpox or shingles): Yes: _____ No: _____ Date: ____/____/____
OR

- **Immunization Requirements**
 - Fill up the immunization form and bring your original or copies of immunizations received since birth.
 - Get the TB test done in the US, not in your home country.
- **UAB Student Health Services**
 - [Immunization Information](#)
 - [Student Health Main Page](#)
- **GBS pays for health insurance**
 - [Student Health Insurance Plan](#)
 - Eye and dental insurance are not included in this.

Finances

Stipend

- Direct-deposited monthly

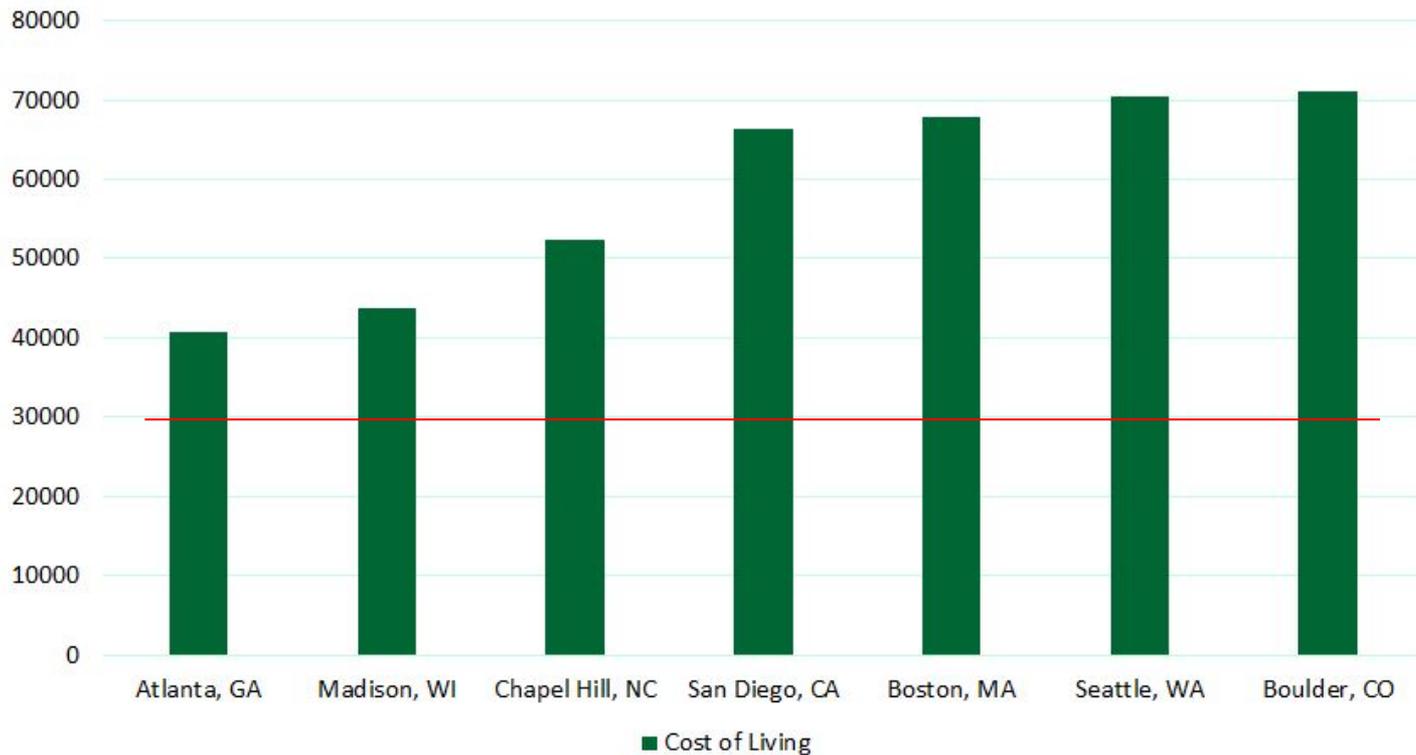
\$500 relocation allowance

- Received during early fall semester

Is the stipend taxed for graduate students?

- Yes, taxes are automatically deducted for international students
- Annual taxes vary by state
- [ISSS offers tax assistance](#)

Value of UAB Stipend in Other Cities



Example of Estimated Monthly Expenses

Rent (1br/1ba)	\$750 - \$1,000
Renter's Insurance	\$20
Water	\$60
Internet	\$50
Electricity	\$40 - \$120
Phone	\$75
Groceries	\$250

Other Expenses to Consider:

- Security Deposit for Housing
- Car payment
- Car insurance
- Parking
- Gas

Total	\$1,245 - \$1,575
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Documentation

Documents to Carry

- Passport/VISA
- I-20
- Acceptance/appointment letter from UAB
- Anything you submitted for admission, such as:
 - Degrees/transcripts from previous education
 - Original TOEFL and GRE score card
- International driver's license (if you have one)
- Documents showing ties to your home country
- Any other important documents you think you would need.

Visa/Immigration Control Desk Interview

- The officers may ask you specific details of your program and research. If you have all the above documents, it should be alright.

Lab Rotations

Tips on setting up rotations

- Can be with any faculty
- Rotations in competitive labs can fill quickly
- Rotations do not need to be secured before arriving on campus
- Once the first lab rotation is selected, submit a [Lab Rotation Verification Form](#).

International Student Handbook

The [International Student Handbook](#) offers information on:

- Banking
- Grocery Stores
- Applying for an Alabama Drivers License
- Buying a Car
- Mail & Shipping
- & more

Q&A

Q & A

Do I have to buy the paper books for the courses?

- No, they are not required but they can be helpful if you want to dive deeper into that topic. E-books are also available for course material. As you will notice when you start classes, course instructors use multiple resources which will be accessible.

What options are there for conference travel?

- Conference travel is dependent on your mentor. There are opportunities to apply for travel grants, such as the [GBSO Travel Award](#) and the [GSG Travel Grant](#). You can also apply for private foundation funding. Most of the time, the conference itself has highly competitive travel awards you can apply for as well.

About how much is transportation from the Birmingham airport to the university?

- An Uber ride from the airport averages around \$18. A Yellow/Silver Cab ride averages around \$25.

Q & A

How do the rotations at HudsonAlpha work?

- If you want to do a rotation at [HudsonAlpha](#), let the GBS office know. We recommend rotating in the summer since HudsonAlpha is in Huntsville, Alabama (about 1.5 hours away). Students typically get temporary housing to live in Huntsville during their rotation. Fall rotation at HudsonAlpha is not advisable because there are GBS core courses that you need to attend in person. You can also look into [Southern Research](#) (located in Birmingham) for rotations/collaborations beyond UAB.

If we did not interview on-campus, is there an opportunity later to tour campus?

- Campus tours will be offered at orientation. If you would like a tour before then, contact the GBS office or your student mentor.

Are there opportunities to improve English language skills?

- [Learning Resource Center](#)
- [UAB English Language Programs](#)
- [Community English Classes](#)

Q & A

Are we eligible for summer internships?

- GBS coursework/lab work continues through the summer. You are required to take 9 credits in each fall, spring, and summer semester. You will be either conducting research in your lab or rotating in different labs through summer.

Is it possible to join rotations early, prior to the August 14th start date?

- Students who want to complete a rotation prior to courses starting may request to do a summer rotation, which is June 10 - August 9, 2019. Contact the GBS office for permission. The fall rotation is August 19 - October 18, 2019. International students would need an I-20 with a June start date to do a summer rotation, so contact GBS office early if you want to do a rotation in summer.

How early can we enter the US?

- According to USCIS, you can't enter the country more than 30 days prior to your program start date (as mentioned on your I-20).

Q & A

Is it compulsory to rotate in three labs or can we decide in advance and just rotate in one?

- GBS requires a minimum of three rotations unless you have extensive prior research experience, in which case you may request to waive one rotation (so you would still do two rotations).

How is the security status around campus and in the living areas for graduate students?

- UAB has a safe campus area with surveillance and [help phones](#) everywhere. If you feel threatened or need help, UAB help phones can connect you immediately with UAB police. In addition, there is an [escort service](#) offered after hours (9:00pm-5:30am). They can drive you to your car or home in about a one-mile radius of the campus. Also, make sure you are signed up for [B-alert system](#). It sends alerts related to any threats, emergencies, as well as severe weather warnings in/around the campus with safety guidelines.

Q & A

Do you need a personal bank statement for the VISA even though you have letter of support from UAB?

- The Consulate Visa interview questions and requirements vary for different countries and US consulates. In addition to your I-20, it is recommended to bring your acceptance/appointment letter from UAB, degrees/transcripts from previous education, TOEFL and GRE score cards, etc., during interviews as well as when traveling to the US. It is also important to show some documents explaining your intentions to return to your home country. For more information, please email the [International office](#) and go through the [USCIS](#) website.

Can credits be transferred from a master's degree?

- UAB does not allow credits awarded for a prior degree to be used towards another degree. However, students entering with a master's degree have a lower minimum course credit requirement than students entering with a bachelor's degree. See the [Graduate School handbook](#) for details.

Contact Information

Graduation Biomedical Student Outreach (GBSO)

gbso@uab.edu

GBS Staff

grad-gbs@uab.edu

International Graduate Mentor Program

Stay in touch with your mentors!