

Biochemical Sciences Graduate Program, UNAM General Overview

The Biochemical Sciences Graduate Program (Posgrado en Ciencias Bioquímicas; PCBQ) of the National Autonomous University of Mexico (Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México, UNAM), is hosted in part by the Institute of Biotechnology (Instituto de Biotecnología; IBT), at the Cuernavaca campus, 60 kilometers south of Mexico City.

The Program provides the opportunity for training in a wide variety of cutting-edge areas of the biological sciences, as depicted by the latest publications of the professors-academic leaders. Such publications can be found at: www.ibt.unam.mx, under Investigación > Organización > Grupos de Investigación. The research departments are:

- Cellular Engineering and Biocatalysis
- Plant Molecular Biology
- Genetics of Development and Molecular Physiology
- Molecular Microbiology
- Molecular Medicine and Bioprocesses

Important.- It is advisable that you identify early a professor with whom you are interested in working with, and contacting him/her by e-mail so that the professor might also assist you in the informative and registration procedures .

UNAM has two semesters, one starting in August and the other one in January. The nomenclature is as follows, for instance: August 2019 (2020-1); January 2020 (2020-2).

Instructions for applying (registering) to the Biochemical Sciences Graduate Program, UNAM

1.-Check the dates in the admission announcement (published in the web page of the program (<http://www.mdcbq.posgrado.unam.mx/index.php>) under the “Avisos” (Announcements) section as

- Convocatoria para ingreso al doctorado (Entrance for the PhD program)
- Convocatoria para ingreso a la maestría (Entrance for the MSc program)

2.-You will need to register seven months ahead of time: for example, in January to begin next August, or in June to begin next January. There are around ten days open for registration in each instance.

3.-The selection process to enter the Program follows four stages.

STAGE 1. Online registration and uploading of documents (PDF format) through the web page of Dirección General de Administración Escolar (General Office for Student Administration; DGAE): <https://posgrado.dgae.unam.mx/ingreso/>

STAGE 2. The selection process includes a written exam for the MSc Program; and for PhD program it includes both a written exam and an oral defense of the doctoral project.

The written exam includes the following areas of knowledge: biochemistry (obligatory); and any four to select from: molecular biology, cellular biology, microbiology, neurobiology, immunology, chemistry, biochemical engineering, physical chemistry, and mathematics. It also comprises an abilities exam: abstract reasoning, reading comprehension, and verbal abilities, among others.

The exams take place at the nearest Mexican Embassy; or in Mexico City or Cuernavaca.

STAGE 3. Publication of admission results.

STAGE 4. Physical document presentation to DGAE during the first semester of study.

Details regarding uploading and physical document presentation

- a) Enter the DGAE web page <https://posgrado.dgae.unam.mx/registro> and register. You will need scanned documents (PDF format) to upload in the system. Please make sure the documents are properly scanned (not too dark) and that they are legible. Size cannot exceed 8 MB. Please make sure you upload the documents in the proper section. Required documentation includes:

-Birth certificate: in case you are not Mexican, you will need a legal certification (apostilled) and translation to Spanish.

-Official ID: Passport or FM migratory form

- For the MSc program: undergraduate studies certificate, including grades and diploma, apostilled, and translation of all documents to Spanish. Before applying to this program, make sure you request from Dirección General de Incorporación y Revalidación de Estudios (DGIRE), UNAM (<http://www.dgire.unam.mx>), in Revalidación y Equivalencia, a document stating grade equivalence, in case the grades in your certificate are not in a 1-10 scale. A minimum grade point average of 8 is required to enter the program.

-For the PhD program: MSc certificate, including grades and MSc diploma, apostilled, and translation of all documents to Spanish. Before applying to this program, make sure you request from Dirección General de Incorporación y Revalidación de Estudios (DGIRE), UNAM (<http://www.dgire.unam.mx>), in Revalidación y Equivalencia, a document stating grade equivalence, in case the grades in your certificate are not in a 1-10 scale. A minimum grade point average of 8 is required to enter the program.

-In the Información básica (personal information) section, upload a recent photo, in color and with a white background, not exceeding 2 MB. This is essential for concluding the registration.

- b) Please make sure you press Enviar solicitud (send application) and print your receipt.

- c) Be prepared to present original documents during the first semester of study.

Supplementary Registration in the Biochemical Sciences Graduate Program web page

- 1) Please note this supplementary registration at:
<http://www.mdc bq.posgrado.unam.mx/admision.php>, under Registro Complementario (MDCBQ).
- 2) This supplementary registration is required after publication of the accepted list by DGAE.
- 3) Only general information of the student is required at this stage; and important information is provided regarding the registration procedure.
- 4) Please consult your selected professor for assistance, if needed.