

Steps to joining MatSE Materials Science & Engineering



Step 1: Accept your offer

- Accept your offer by **April 30**. To do so, respond to the Graduate College's official notice of admission decision once received. MS students at large are admitted to our MS non thesis, coursework-based program.
- International students should also watch for an email from the Graduate College concerning issuance of a visa document (I-20).
- Got questions? Email matse-grad@illinois.edu.



Step 2: Watch your inbox

- We'll be sending key information for next steps in the process of your journey to MatSE at Illinois. Keep your eyes peeled for pertinent information from MatSE at Illinois, the Graduate College and/or the International Student and Scholar Services (ISSS).
- Get ahead of the game by completing the steps outlined in the [Graduate College's Grad Map](#).



Step 3: Register for classes

- Use our [course guide](#) to discover your research path and get registered for classes.
- Make sure to include required MatSE courses upon registration. Check out our [degree requirements](#).
- More information about course requirements and registration will be provided at New Student Orientation.



Step 4: Attend New Student Orientation

- Come see what the MatSE at Illinois family is all about during New Student Orientation.
- International students will have an [additional orientation with ISSS](#).
- All international students are required to check in with ISSS upon arrival to campus.



Step 5: Connect with your Academic Advisor

- Students admitted to the MS program are assigned an academic advisor at the beginning of the first semester.
- MS students will have the opportunity to meet their academic advisor during New Student Orientation.
- It is recommended that students connect with their academic advisor during each semester.



Students admitted to the MS program are eligible to participate in research experiences on campus

- See page 2 for steps on how to get involved in research.
- Please note our department does not provide funding to students enrolled in the MS program. MS students can independently search and apply for any scholarships, fellowships, or assistantships they might be eligible for.

Your guide to MatSE Research Opportunities

MS students are permitted to participate in unpaid research opportunities by enrolling in MSE 597 Independent Study. Please note MS students intending to participate in research must enroll in MSE 596: Graduate Intro to Research.



Register for and complete [MSE 596: Graduate Intro To Research](#)

This course is REQUIRED for MS students intending to participate in research activities during the duration of their program. Students should complete the required course prior to or concurrent with enrollment in MSE 597: Independent Study. If you have already started research during a semester that MSE 590C: Intro to Graduate Research is not offered, you will need to request approval to enroll and complete MSE 590C.



Contact faculty of interest

MS students interested in pursuing independent study with faculty members should first initiate contact with faculty members via email. MS students are encouraged to explore MatSE at Illinois' research areas to consider the research of our department's faculty members and connect with faculty/research groups of interest.



Interview as many faculty members as possible

As you contact faculty of interest and discuss any option for independent study research opportunities, be sure to ask about your role in the research and the faculty member's expectations.



Register for [MSE 597: Independent Study](#)

Once approved for independent study research with a faculty member, please contact the MatSE Graduate Programs Office for registration assistance. The credit hours registered need be agreed upon by your independent study faculty advisor. May be repeated to a maximum of 4 hours (only 4 hours allowed toward the degree).



Start safety and research training

Safety and research training requirements will be communicated to you by your independent study faculty advisor and/or another member of your independent study research group.

