

## THESIS WORK DURING UIC EXCHANGE PROGRAM

Application modalities are the one requested for the UIC exchange program:

- average marks equal or higher than 24,
- IELTS grade equal or higher than 6.5, with a minimum recommended score of 6 for each skill,
- Compulsory exams to do in Milano before leaving.

If you are admitted, all the VISA documentation will arrive by mail at the Politecnico di Milano, and you just have to follow the procedures which are clear and well managed by the Politecnico.

The thesis work starts as soon as you arrive in Chicago, while doing some course during the fall semester. Since it is not really easy to try to deal with all the things you need to do, it could be possible to extend your visit also for the spring semester, BUT, you would need to pay fees also for the spring semester if nobody sponsors you.

The sponsor opportunity depends on two main factors:

- The advisor: if your advisor laboratory has money availability on your topic thanks to grant prize, then it could be possible he/she asked you to stay; in the majority of this case you will receive a scholarship and also a salary that could allow you to be almost independent.
- The department: there is the possibility that the department of bioengineering itself provide Tuition Waiver, that means you do not have to pay fees, but you will not receive any salary.

In both cases however, you will have some international and general fees to pay.

### What to do if you stay more than one semester

First, you have to register as a full student (12 hours) for the spring semester; if you decide to follow some course, put them in the registration page, otherwise, just put independent study hours until you reach the minimum amount of hours requested to be considered a full student at UIC.

After this step, you are able to request extension of your VISA permission to the Office of International Student(OIS) (it is just a sign, whose validation is 6 months; you will have your first sign in May/June, before leaving for the States; so you need another one in December if you need to stay there also the spring semester).

### What to do if you will earn a salary

If you receive a scholarship from your advisor, you will probably obtain a TA (Teaching assistantship), a RA(Research Assistantship) or a salary as Graduate Fellow.

In all these cases, you are considered a **full employee of UIC**, thus, you need a Social Security Number (SSN) and an American Banking account.

To obtain a SSN you have to ask your employer (generally your advisor) a letter of employment and request a SSN letter request to the OIS; then you have to follow the instructions at the following webpage:

<https://www.ois.uic.edu/cms/One.aspx?portalId=1581&pageId=189762#obtain>

It will need approximately one month to do everything and have your SSN.

### **Remember**

Exchange programme rules establish you need to do two different thesis manuscripts in order to graduate in both universities, thus generally, your work on UIC will be just a part of your entire work, that will be then present in Milano.

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