Hello! Thanks for your interest in the Master of Science in Reproductive Science and Medicine (MS-RSM) at Northwestern University! We are excited that you want to learn more about our program, The Graduate School (TGS), and Northwestern University. Below are frequently asked questions and answers to assist you with your application. Please contact us if you have questions not on this list or you would like more information: repro-masters@northwestern.edu.

1) How do I apply to the program? What is required for a complete application?
   a. Applications to the MS-RSM are submitted online through Northwestern University’s application system. To start an application visit this webpage: http://www.tgs.northwestern.edu/admission/index.html.
   b. The MS-RSM program requires the following for a complete application:
      i. Previous academic transcripts
      ii. Personal statement
      iii. CV/resume
      iv. 2 letters of recommendation
   c. Submitting an online application requires a non-refundable fee of $95.

2) Are international students eligible to apply?
   a. Yes, the MS-RSM encourages international students to apply.
   b. International students are required to demonstrate proficient English language skills. Applicants must take either the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) or International English Language Testing System (IELTS) exams. Scores must be from exams taken within 2 years of the intended quarter of entry at Northwestern.
   c. Minimum TOEFL scores: 80 (internet based), 213 (computer based), 550 (paper based)
   d. Minimum IELTS score: 7
   e. Applicants who earned undergraduate or graduate degrees from institutions where the primary language of instruction is English, are waived from taking the TOEFL or IELTS exams.
   f. International applicants are responsible for arranging English language exams and submitting scores to Northwestern. Please see instructions on submitting scores to Northwestern: http://www.tgs.northwestern.edu/admission/application-requirements/test-scores.html.
   g. Information about student visas and transitioning to the U.S. is on the International Office website. The International Office is a great resource for international applicants: http://www.northwestern.edu/international/.

3) What are the application deadlines?
   a. The MS-RSM program has an early decision application and final application deadline.
   b. For students matriculating Fall 2017, early decision applications are due January 20, 2017. The final application deadline is May 15, 2017. The program expects to fill half the available slots from the early decision and the remaining students from
the final deadline. The program only admits students for matriculation during fall quarters.

4) **What are the program’s selection criteria for admittance?**
   a. Undergraduate major: Applicants should have an undergraduate degree or post-baccalaureate degree in Biology, Life Sciences, or related field from an accredited college or university. Applicants with nursing or medical degrees are also encouraged to apply. The program should not be a student’s initial exposure to biology.
   b. Undergraduate GPA: Applicants should have an undergraduate GPA of 3.0. The program assesses each applicant individually and rigorous science coursework will be considered for students who do not meet this criterion.
   c. Research experience. Previous research experience is not required, but is viewed favorably. Applicants are encouraged to discuss research experience in their personal statements and include it on their CV/resume.

5) **How does the interview process work?**
   a. Applications are reviewed by the program after the application deadlines on January 20, 2017 and May 15, 2017.
   b. The program will contact qualified applicants for in-person or videoconferenced interviews. In-person and videoconferenced interviews are evaluated equally. Students who are local to the Chicago area will be extended an invitation to interview in-person based on their location. These applicants may choose to videoconference their interview.
   c. Interviews last approximately an hour and are conducted by the Director of Graduate Studies, Dr. Beth Sefton. Applicants will be asked about their interest in reproductive science, reason for applying to the MS-RSM at Northwestern, and what they hope to gain from the program.
   d. Admissions decisions are based upon the submitted application including letters of recommendation and the interview.

6) **How much does the program cost?**
   a. Tuition, fees, and cost of attendance are determined by The Graduate School of Northwestern University.
   b. Tuition for the 2016-2017 academic year is $16,808 per quarter. The MS-RSM program is 6 quarters of full time study and an estimated cost is $101,000.
   c. Detailed information about tuition and fees is on the Student Financial Services website: [http://www.northwestern.edu/sfs/tuition/graduate/the-graduate-school.html](http://www.northwestern.edu/sfs/tuition/graduate/the-graduate-school.html).

7) **Is financial aid available? What about for international students?**
   a. Financial aid is available in the form of loans and external scholarships.
   b. U.S citizens and permanent residents are eligible for federal student loans.
   c. Students who are not U.S citizens or permanent residents (international students) are eligible for private loans.
   d. Fellowships or scholarships through external organizations may be available. Each applicant is encouraged to research methods to fund their academic experience. A great place to start is the Northwestern Office of Fellowships: [http://www.northwestern.edu/fellowships/](http://www.northwestern.edu/fellowships/).
   e. The MS-RSM program does not offer scholarships, fellowships, teaching assistantships, or research assistantships.
8) Where is the program located?
   a. The MS-RSM program is primarily located on the Chicago campus of Northwestern University.
   b. Research opportunities, classes, and events will occur on the Evanston, Chicago, and Stanley Manne Children’s Research Institute, located in the Chicago neighborhood of Lincoln Park. Shuttles connect campuses for easy transit among locations.

9) What classes will I take as part of the MS-RSM program?
   a. All students in the MS-RSM program take a series of core courses and have the option to take electives.
   b. Core courses in the program are:
      i. REPR_SCI 406: Human Reproductive Development
      ii. REPR_SCI 440: Reproductive Technologies Laboratory
      iii. REPR_SCI 450: Presentations in Reproductive Science and Medicine
      iv. REPR_SCI 420: Human Reproductive Health and Disease
      v. REPR_SCI 411: Reproductive Endocrinology and Fertility Management
      vi. REPR_SCI 590: Research in Reproductive Science and Medicine
      vii. REPR_SCI 591: Thesis Research in Reproductive Science and Medicine
      viii. Responsible Conduct of Research/Ethics
   c. Students can take electives from a variety of programs and disciplines to complete the MS degree. Below is a sampling of disciplines that students can complete elective coursework:
      i. Life Sciences
      ii. Anthropology
      iii. Medical Humanities and Bioethics
      iv. Clinical Investigation
      v. Gender Studies
      vi. Public health
      vii. Epidemiology

10) Which faculty can I work with for my thesis research?
    a. Students can complete thesis research with a wide variety of faculty from Northwestern University. Students identify thesis advisors during their second quarter in the program. Projects can be basic, translational, or clinical in focus and can cover any aspect of reproductive science.
    b. Program leadership organizes faculty research talks for students during the first quarter. Presenting faculty are able to accept students into their research groups and students may contact any faculty whose research interests them.
    c. For the 2016-2017 academic year, approximately 25 faculty are able to accept students and the program anticipates similar numbers for 2017-2018. Faculty come from multiple departments including, Obstetrics and Gynecology, Pediatrics,
Endocrinology, Molecular Biosciences, Biomedical Engineering, Pathology, Urology, Medicine, and Chemistry.

11) Does the program offer professional development?
   a. Yes, the MS-RSM program includes scientific and professional development training. All students are required to take a scientific and professional development course during their first quarter. The class focuses on reading scientific manuscripts, literature searches and indexing citations, effective presentations, and designing scientific posters.
   b. Students may continue taking professional development through the MS-RSM after the first quarter. Classes focus on writing scientific manuscripts, research proposals, and career development.
   c. Professional development is also available through the Center for Reproductive Science and the Northwestern Career Advancement Office: http://www.northwestern.edu/careers/.

12) Does the program or Northwestern University offer graduate student housing?
   a. Northwestern University offers limited graduate student housing on the Evanston campus. The MS-RSM program does not offer or provide housing to students.
   b. Admitted applicants who intend to enroll should anticipate finding an apartment in the Chicago area.
   c. Details about graduate student housing is here: http://www.northwestern.edu/living/housing-options/graduate-housing/index.html.

13) How do I find an apartment in Chicago?
   a. There are many ways to find an apartment in Chicago. Northwestern University has compiled frequently asked questions about housing near the Chicago campus: http://www.feinberg.northwestern.edu/education/current-students/campus-services/housing/faqs.html.
   b. Several apartment location and real estate services exist in Chicago to assist people with finding an apartment. These services are especially helpful to people unfamiliar with the city or have a short timeline. However, there are advantages and disadvantages to using these services, which should be understood before signing a lease. Northwestern University has compiled pros and cons for using these services: http://www.feinberg.northwestern.edu/education/current-students/campus-services/housing/tips-for-apartment-finder-services.html.
   c. List of apartment finder and realty services: http://www.feinberg.northwestern.edu/education/current-students/campus-services/housing/apartment-realty-services.html.

Additional Resources (continued on the next page)

Center for Reproductive Science
http://www.crs.northwestern.edu/.
Master of Science in Reproductive Science and Medicine (MS-RSM)
https://www.woodruflab.org/ms-rsm.

Northwestern University Homepage
http://www.northwestern.edu/.

The Graduate School (TGS) Homepage
http://www.tgs.northwestern.edu/.

TGS Resources for New Students
This webpage lists many important and engaging resources for new students.
http://www.tgs.northwestern.edu/campus-life/resources-for-new-students.html.

TGS and University Resources for Students who are Parents
TGS, Northwestern University, and the MS-RSM program support applicants and students who are parents. TGS and Northwestern University offer a variety of services and resources for students who are parents. Please visit the below websites for more information.

http://www.tgs.northwestern.edu/campus-life/child-and-family-resources/.

http://www.northwestern.edu/hr/work-life/childcare/index.html.