

## Wood, Brandy S

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**From:** Brutkiewicz, Randy R  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 04, 2016 1:56 PM  
**To:** Brutkiewicz, Randy R  
**Subject:** From Randy's Desk - Ph.D. Graduate Student # Determination

Dear Colleagues,

In this month's note from my desk, I would like to explain how we come up with the number of Ph.D. graduate students we bring in each year through the IBMG program. As you know, the IBMG Program is an umbrella program, giving students flexibility in terms of the Ph.D. program they ultimately choose, through the variety of outstanding laboratories available to them for their dissertation research.

In December, the IBMG Admissions Committee members (all Ph.D. programs are represented) are asked to poll their respective faculty to determine—as closely as possible—the number of students PIs can take into their laboratories for the upcoming year. This gives us an estimate of the number of offers we can make. To come up with this number, we have to consider both the spirit of the IBMG Program (i.e., flexibility and choice among research laboratories and programs), as well as our acceptance rate.

The IBMG Program is touted to prospective students and participating faculty as a way to find the right laboratory fit. If there are 30 openings available, enrolling 30 students would not necessarily allow the needed flexibility to ensure students (and PIs) can find the best possible fit. Thus, it makes sense to have more laboratories on the Open Lab List than we have matriculating students.

In terms of offers, nationally (as well as at the IUSM), about 50% (40 – 60%) of the applicants made offers accept them in any given year. Thus, if we have 30 open slots (but realistically wanted about 25 students to matriculate in order to retain student/PI flexibility), and we knew exactly half of those given offers would accept, we could make 50 offers. However, we have to protect ourselves in the event more than half would accept their offers (and this has happened before...). Thus, in this case, the plan would be to make approximately 43 offers (note that 60% of 43 is 26). A horrible scenario is if more students accept their offers than we have slots for. That would be a “train wreck”.

We do prepare a waiting list in case we don't get the number of students accepting our offer that we would like; we would then tap into it. Again, we cannot bring in more students than the number of open slots we intend to try to fill. We (the IBMG Admissions Committee and me) work together on this.

In terms of the Graduate Division's budget for IBMG students, we make a request in February for the next fiscal year's budget that calculates the cost of students if all of the intended slots were filled for the coming fall semester. We also have to take into account how many students will be in-state vs. out-of-state residents (we use the Program's historical percentages). FYI, we pay the difference between in-state and out-of-state tuition for non-Indiana residents (including internationals) for the entire time your non-resident IBMG Ph.D. students are in your laboratory. All of that goes into our annual budget request.

That's all there is to it; there's no magic or smoke and mirrors.

Please note that, in order to be more accessible to you, I have modified the days and times I am in the Graduate Division office (MS207). Now, I am in the office every morning (until after lunch) Monday through Thursday; on Fridays, I am in the office after lunchtime. Please feel free to drop in to talk; it is always appreciated.

Thank you for all you do for our trainees.

Sincerely,  
Randy

**Randy R. Brutkiewicz, Ph.D.**

Associate Dean for Research and Graduate Studies  
Professor of Microbiology and Immunology  
Director, NIH Bridges to the Doctorate Program

**Indiana University**

**School of Medicine-Indianapolis**

635 North Barnhill Drive

MS 207

Indianapolis, IN 46202-5120

317.274.3441

[rbrutkie@iu.edu](mailto:rbrutkie@iu.edu)



**Indiana University**