

PhD Admission Requirements

University degree

A PhD degree is granted by one of the Universities imec is collaborating with (i.e., imec is the laboratory, but the university sets the targets for the degree). If you want to be admitted as a PhD student to a university doctoral school, you should hold a relevant Master's degree with excellent grades equivalent to 120 credits, post bachelor degree (120 credits is equivalent to the ECTS credit system).

As a rule of thumb, a GPA (Grade Point Average) of at least 75% of the scale maximum is required.

For applicants with a Belgian Master's degree, this means you should have obtained at least a distinction / honors (final MS degree end score). For all other applicants, check the table below to see an indication of what your minimum grades should be to enter the selection process.

These thresholds are used as indicative criteria during the selection process. The university doctoral school takes the final admission decision. If you do not meet these criteria, you will not be admitted as a PhD student.

Non - Belgian University/College

	Minimum required MSc score
France	14-15
Germany	1.7 or better
Greece	8
Italy	110/110 Cum laude
Netherlands	8
Poland	14
Spain	7-8 (Notable)
Sweden	A score of 5 is required for most courses
Switzerland	5
United Kingdom	First Class

If the country where you obtained your Master's degree is not included in the list

1. Be sure to include details of your individual course scores, and
2. Provide your class ranking (if available)

Depending on the call details, applicants who have not yet received their Master's degree at the time of the application deadline, can also apply but the expected graduation date should be due no later than 6 months after the application deadline and no final admission decision can be taken until graduation documents are provided and approved by the university doctoral school.

If there is a gap of more than 2 years between your graduation date and your PhD application at imec, you will be required to motivate the reason for this in the application for admission form.

Test scores

Proof of English proficiency

Due to the international character of imec, candidates must have an excellent command of English. You need to prove your English language proficiency by means of an official test (e.g., IELTS, TOEFL, a Cambridge English test, ...) confirming you meet at least B2 level.

Native speakers and applicants with a university degree earned in Australia, English-speaking Canada, Ireland, New Zealand, United Kingdom or the USA are exempted from this requirement.

Applicants who have completed their Master's degree at an institution where all courses are taught in English are exempted from this requirement. However, if this is not clearly indicated on your transcript of examination results or degree itself, we ask you to provide a document from your university that can confirm this. Usually, universities can provide this kind of document/statement easily. It can also be a screenshot of the website of your degree if it is clearly mentioned there.

Additional information

Not meeting all prerequisites

The overall assessment of each applicant is based on **all** the application components in the file and is not based on separate elements. So, applicants who do not fully meet a certain admission prerequisite can enter the selection process but will have to demonstrate excellence in other application criteria and successful evaluation is not guaranteed.

Admission to the doctoral program

As the final admission decision for acceptance as a PhD candidate is with the University Doctoral School, some specific requirements may be imposed by them. IMEC's selection process strives to recommend PhD candidates to the university doctoral school that are fully admitted to the doctoral program. In some cases, a provisional acceptance may be issued by the doctoral school, requiring you to follow an adapted program consisting of attending and passing a limited number of courses.