PROGRAMA DE PÓS-GRADUAÇÃO EM BOTÂNICA
DO INSTITUTO DE BIOCIÊNCIAS DA UNIVERSIDADE DE SÃO PAULO

Information for the admissions exam for the master's, doctorate (with previous master's) and direct doctorate (without previous master's) courses of the Graduate Program in Biological Sciences (Botany) at the University of São Paulo

Applications will be accepted by e-mail (ccpbotanica@ib.usp.br) from **August 15, 2025,** until 11:59 p.m. (Brasilia Standard Time) on **August 31, 2025**. Further information can be obtained by phone (+55 11) 3091-7547, by e-mail (ccpbotanica@ib.usp.br) or at http://posbotanica.ib.usp.br/en/admission.html.

The program offers 20 positions for the master's and 20 positions for the doctorate and direct doctorate courses, of which 20% of the vacancies offered for each course will be reserved for minority candidates who declare themselves black, brown (in Portuguese, "pardo") or indigenous. The admission process is eliminatory and qualifying in nature; there is no obligation to fill the total number of available vacancies. For the direct doctorate or master's courses, candidates should have an undergraduate degree or should be enrolled in the last semester of the undergraduate course, whereas for the doctorate course, candidates should have a master's degree or should have completed at least 18 months of the master's course. The accepted undergraduate degrees are bachelor, Brazilian "licenciatura" or the graduate professional (Brazilian "tecnólogo"), the latter with a minimum course load of 2,200 hours.

For the admissions application, candidates should present by the deadline the following documents:

i. Application form available at http://posbotanica.ib.usp.br/en/admission.html;
ii. Academic transcript of the undergraduate and master's degree in the case of application for doctorate;
iii. Declaration of probable graduation completion (issued by an academic secretariat) in the case of enrolment of graduates for master's degree or direct doctorate;
iv. Copy of the RG (identity card), CPF (tax number card) or passport (for non-Brazilians);
v. Self-declaration of black, brown or indigenous ethnicity if opting for the affirmative action. Self-declaration forms are available at https://posbotanica.ib.usp.br/pt/ingresso/editais-e-formularios.html;
vi. Self-declaration of black, brown or indigenous ethnicity if opting for the affirmative action. Self-declaration forms are available at https://posbotanica.ib.usp.br/pt/ingresso/editais-e-formularios.html;
vii. Copy of the certificate of English proficiency;
viii. Research project;
ix. Link to the Curriculum Lattes (http://lattes.cnpq.br/) (Note: the CV Lattes version available on **September 01, 2025,** will be considered for the ranking of scholarships). Alternatively, non-Brazilian candidates can submit a curriculum vitae in another format;
x. For candidates applying for direct doctorate, a certificate of completion of a bachelor's scientific project (in Portuguese, "Iniciação Científica");

NOTE: Documents in languages other than Portuguese, English or Spanish must be translated into Portuguese or English (with certification).

For enrollment, the acceptance and signature of a program advisor are required (List of advisors available at https://posbotanica.ib.usp.br/pt/institucional/docentes.html). Therefore, candidates are advised to contact potential advisors in advance to confirm availability for supervision.

I) Certificate of English proficiency

Native English speakers are exempt from presenting a certificate of English proficiency.

The following certificates of English proficiency will be accepted, with the corresponding minimum score indicated in parentheses:

Master's: IELTS (5.0), ESLAT (5.0), TOEFL IBT (62 points), TOEFL ITP (500 points), TOEIC (600 points), Proficiency Exams from the Instituto Educacional União Cultural (5.0), Centro Interdepartamental de Línguas da USP (5.0), Language Proficiency Exam from FUVEST (7.0), Duolingo English Test (90 points) and the proficiency exams from the University of Cambridge applied by Cultura Inglesa (B1 or higher);

Doctorate and Direct Doctorate: IELTS (6.0), ESLAT (6.0), TOEFL IBT (82 points), TOEFL ITP (550 points), TOEIC (700 points), Proficiency Exams from the Instituto Educacional União Cultural (7.0), Centro Interdepartamental de Línguas da USP (7.0), Language Proficiency Exam from FUVEST (7.0), Duolingo English Test (115 points) and the proficiency exams from the University of Cambridge applied by Cultura Inglesa (B1 or higher).

II) Verification of ethnic-racial self-declaration – Affirmative action

To be entitled to affirmative action, candidates who declare themselves black, brown or indigenous must possess, in the case of black and brown people, phenotypic traits that characterize them as black or brown, and, in the case of indigenous people who are not civilly registered as indigenous people, it is mandatory to present the Certificate of Administrative Registration issued by FUNAI (RANI) or the RANI of their parents; or a declaration of belonging to an indigenous community signed by three notable members of the community (leaders, teachers, among others); or a testimonial by the candidate in writing or by video highlighting aspects of his or her life trajectory; or declaration of civil society association, with public recognition, proving membership in an indigenous group. In the case of self-declared black and brown candidates, the Hetero-Identification Committee will evaluate the validity of the self-declaration based solely and exclusively on the phenotypic criterion. The Hetero-Identification Committee reserves the right to additionally request an online interview with candidates in order to complement the verification of the validity of the self-declaration provided at the time of registration. The result of the hetero-identification analysis will be published by 6 p.m. (Brasilia Standard Time) on **September 18, 2025** on the program's website (available at https://posbotanica.ib.usp.br/pt/resultado-

ingresso/ingresso.html). Candidates who do not obtain confirmation of their self-declaration will have their registration transferred to the vacancies allocated to the broad competition.

III) Exams

The admission process consists of a research project assessment and an interview, both eliminatory. The tests will be held virtually.

The **evaluation of the research project** will be carried out by the Admissions Committee without the presence of the candidate. Master's and doctoral candidates who obtain a grade greater than or equal to seven (7.0) will be approved. The grades will be published by 5 p.m. (Brasilia Standard Time) on **September 18, 2025,** on the program page (available at https://posbotanica.ib.usp.br/pt/resultado-ingresso/ingresso.html). The project must be original and authored by the candidate. If it is found that the project was prepared by third parties or generated by Artificial Intelligence, it will be summarily rejected.

Only candidates approved in the Research Project Assessment stage will be interviewed. The committee will schedule a time for each candidate to be interviewed. The interview schedule will be made available on the program page, along with the results of the first stage of the admission exam.

The **interviews** will be held from **October 06 to 07, 2025**, starting at 8:30 a.m. (Brasilia Standard Time).

The candidate must be available on the date and time indicated for the exam, in a virtual environment compatible with the Google Meet platform or an equivalent proposed by the committee. Failure to satisfy these requirements will be considered an absence in the exam. Thus, each candidate must be available to the committee during the entire period prior to his/her interview. Failure by the candidate to attend the interview at the scheduled time and date will be considered as absence of the candidate in the exam. Any connection failures on the part of the Admissions Committee that prevent successful completion of the interview will be discussed by the Program Coordinating Committee (CCP).

The candidate must present the research project orally with a maximum duration of 10 minutes. Sharing images/slides to illustrate the presentation is allowed. During the interview, the committee will evaluate the candidate in terms of the quality of the project: theoretical contextualization and bibliographical review, definition of objectives and their relevance, intended contribution and degree of innovation, adequacy of the proposed methods to the proposed questions, feasibility of the proposed schedule within the foreseen deadline, suitability of the project to the proposed level and to the area of research of the Graduate Program, security and clarity in the presentation and theoretical-conceptual knowledge. Candidates for master's and doctorate with a score greater than or equal to seven (7.0) will be considered approved. The final result of the Admission Exam will be published by 6 p.m. (Brasilia Standard Time) on the last day of the interview on the Program page (available at https://posbotanica.ib.usp.br/pt/resultado-ingresso/ingresso.html). The results of the exam will be valid for 24 months.

IV) Appeals

Appeals of the result of the ethnic-racial self-declaration verification must be submitted to the Program Coordinating Committee (CCP) by e-mail (ccpbotanica@ib.usp.br) or by a letter of justification within a period of up to ten (10) calendar days after the result of the Hetero-Identification Committee is announced on the program page. Likewise, appeals of the result of the admission exam (research project evaluation or interview) must be presented to the CCP by a letter of justification within a period of up to ten (10) calendar days after publication of the respective result (research project evaluation or interview).

IV) Changing from master's to direct doctorate

Master's students already enrolled in the program can request a transfer to the direct doctorate when the following conditions are met:

i. within the same research field;
ii. up to 18 months after admission to the master's course;
iii. prior authorization by the Program Coordinating Committee (CCP).

The request must be justified by the supervisor and presented together with a new project suitable for a doctorate degree. The request must be submitted to the CCP prior to the registration period for the subsequent admission exam. If the CCP agrees to the level transfer, the request will be forwarded to the admissions committee designated for the exam.

After the CCP's approval, the student must apply for the admission process by submitting the following documents:

i. Application form (available at http://posbotanica.ib.usp.br/en/admission.html);
ii. A new research project suitable for a doctorate degree;
iii. Certificate of English proficiency (with a score corresponding to doctorate);

The candidate will be required to a take a new admission exam, including the research project assessment and interview.

VI) Research Project

The research project must include abstract, introduction, objectives, material and methods, work plan (timetable), references and feasibility (i.e. technical, financial, logistical). The project can be written in Portuguese or English and have a maximum of twenty (20) pages (excepting references).

VII) Enrolment

At the time of enrolment, candidates approved for the master's or direct doctorate courses must submit an undergraduate diploma or degree certificate. Similarly, candidates approved for the doctorate course must

present a master's diploma or a certificate of completion equivalent to a master's degree in which it is stated that there are no pending issues with the university of origin.