

Dear BME Open House Guest

My name is Drew Seils. I am a senior Biomedical Engineering undergraduate student here at the University of Connecticut. I am also the President of the UConn student branch of the Biomedical Engineering Society (BMES). I would like to extend my thanks to you for attending our Open House. Some of you will be deciding on where to attend college this year, or the next, and I hope you found this information helpful. UConn's Biomedical Engineering Program is growing continuously and offers a host of new opportunities to undergraduates everyday. The stellar program here is what drew me to UConn from my home in New York.

Starting in your freshman year, you will be learning about the different aspects of Biomedical Engineering in a series of hands-on laboratories. These laboratories expose you to various types of software and hardware used in biomedical industries. You will deal specifically with National Instruments' LabView software and hardware, learning to control system processes with the same software used in industry.

One of the best aspects of the UConn Biomedical Engineering Program is the degree of customizability for your specific interests. Biomedical Engineering is a broad field with a number of possible career paths. The Biomedical Engineering Program here provides six different focuses, or Tracks, for students to choose before their junior year; biosolid biomechanics, biofluid biomechanics, biomaterials, bioinstrumentation, bioinformatics, and biochemical engineering. As seniors, students complete a Senior Design project. This project spans both semesters of your senior year and will usually incorporate most everything you have learned leading up to that point in your academic career. Groups of students work to develop a biomedical device that may be used in real world applications. Developing this project can be some of the best experience you can get for future employment. UConn's Biomedical Engineering Program also boasts numerous award-winning faculty members and an excellent male-to-female ratio.

As previously mentioned, I am the President of the Biomedical Engineering Society here at UConn. This society is open to undergraduates and graduate students who are interested in getting involved in Biomedical Engineering beyond the classroom. We work to organize seminars that present new technologies, research opportunities, and academic planning to students whom are interested. We also offer a mentoring program, where underclassmen can talk to upperclassmen about classes, internships, and life in general. We also encourage students to come to our social nights where we often have food and entertainment with the focus of just having fun and making friends. Our most important event is our annual BME Career Fair which is open to students from all over New England to come and make industry connections with the attending companies.

If you are thinking of studying abroad, then UConn BME can more than accommodate you. There are 17 universities in 16 different countries all over the world that offer courses that follow a similar curriculum as UConn, which enables you to study abroad and not fall behind. The study abroad program also offers summer research opportunities for those of you who would wish to remain at UConn for the regular academic terms.

Undergraduate research at UConn is another opportunity that is never in short supply. The best way to get involved is to email a professor and ask; the more help they

have the better. Undergraduate research can be either funded or for-credit, both of which look great on a resumé.

Outside of engineering, the University of Connecticut is one of the best public universities in the Northeast. UConn's Big East athletic programs have continued to grab top national titles year after year. You are exposed to hundreds of clubs and organizations that can suit all of your interests and hobbies. Intramurals and club sports are also an exciting part of life at UConn. I am also the Vice President of the UConn Cycling club team where I compete against other schools in the region in mountain biking and road cycling events.

Our Student Union has also been an ever growing part of student life here on campus. It offers a number of services to students. There is a food court, convenience store, movie theatre, game room, numerous lounges, and a hair salon. The Student Recreation Facility is located right across the street from the Student Union and gives you a place to exercise and have fun during the day. There are free weights, cardio rooms, an indoor pool, basketball courts, racquetball courts, a climbing wall, an indoor track, and more.

I hope you found this letter helpful in your decision-making process. Feel free to contact me with any questions you might have about UConn or the Biomedical Engineering Program. I hope you enjoy the rest of your term in High School and we hope to see you at UConn in the near future!

Sincerely,

Drew Seils
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