

**Undergraduate Newsletter  
Department of Biology  
January 2021 Issue**

***Welcome back and all the best for 2021! We trust that you are recharged and ready for new endeavours.***

***This January issue starts off the winter term with important reminders and career-building opportunities. There will be more in the coming months, so keep this newsletter in mind. As always, we are here to help, so please let us know.***

**Don't forget...** January 22, 2021 is the last date to add a winter term course and the last date to drop courses without financial penalty, the complete list of important dates can be found at: <https://www.queensu.ca/artsci/important-dates>.

**Are you planning to graduate spring 2021?**

Don't forget to check your degree plan status and add courses if needed. The last date to add a winter term course is: January 22, 2021 (<https://www.queensu.ca/artsci/important-dates>). You also need to be aware of the GPA requirements for graduation, please see Academic Regulation 16: Requirements for Graduation - pages 33 and 34 ([https://www.queensu.ca/artsci/sites/default/files/academic\\_regulations\\_19\\_final\\_ks\\_revised\\_dec\\_2020.pdf](https://www.queensu.ca/artsci/sites/default/files/academic_regulations_19_final_ks_revised_dec_2020.pdf))

**Summer Research Award Opportunity**

NSERC Undergraduate Summer Research Awards (USRA): Canada's Natural Science and Engineering Research Council (NSERC) underwrites these prestigious awards to stimulate student interest in research and to help cultivate tomorrow's scientists. USRAs involve independent research and are taken up in NSERC-funded laboratories. The awarding of USRAs is carried out internally through Queen's Biology. Requirements can be found at: <https://biology.queensu.ca/academics/undergraduate/awards-opportunities/undergraduate-summer-research-awards-usra-nserc/>

**Process:** The selection process normally involves a combination of GPA **and a statement on your interest in research**. You are welcome to discuss possible opportunities for supervision of summer research projects with Biology faculty members ahead of time and you should be aware that faculty members are under no obligation to make any promises to students until students have been nominated. Do not fill out the official NSERC application form until you are asked to complete it (you will only be asked if your application is successful - nominations will be made early to mid-February. You will find a listing of biology faculty and their research interests at <https://biology.queensu.ca/people/department/professors/>

**Supervisor Eligibility:** The holder of a USRA must be supervised by a biology faculty member. Supervisors are no longer required to hold an active grant when applying to supervise a USRA student. There is no restriction on who can supervisor a USRA student, provided the university deems the faculty member eligible to supervise students and providing they can support their portion of the student award.

**Application deadline:** Completed Internal Application Forms (Part 1) must be submitted electronically to [ug.biology@queensu.ca](mailto:ug.biology@queensu.ca) by 3:00 pm, **January 15, 2021**. Successful candidates will be notified during the first week of February (2021). At the February stage, successful candidates will need to secure a supervisor and complete Part 2 of the Internal Application Form (which will be sent out with nomination letters) and the official NSERC application form by 3:00 pm March 2, 2021.

**Are you going into 4<sup>th</sup> year 2020-21? Wondering about BIOL 537 and BIOL 5XX courses?**

We are in the process of setting up an information session. Details will follow in an e-mail to all BIOL 3<sup>rd</sup> year students. **Save the date - February 3, 2021, from 5:30 pm to 7:30 pm by Zoom.**

**The Gray Family Student Initiatives Fund (GFSIF)**

This Fund was established through a gift to Queen's University by Gordon Gray, BCom'50 in January 2004. The GFSIF was established to "provide annual support to any Arts and Science student, or group of students, who would like to write a report, attend a conference, do non-profit work, or other initiatives in the area of preservation of wildlife species.". The grant guidelines stipulate that "Grants are meant to enable students to participate in non-credit opportunities that will provide them with meaningful lessons realized by working with others in helping conserve wildlife.".

In the upcoming fiscal year (May 2021 to April 2022) the amount available from this endowed account is \$16,000. We invite undergraduate students to apply to the GFSIF by submitting an application (up to two pages) with the following information: i) a description of their initiative; ii) how their initiative speaks to the intent of the grant; and iii) a budget outlining the amount requested. An awards committee, with representation from at least three departments/schools within the Faculty of Arts and Science, will rank the proposals and suggest fund allocations, which will then be forward to the Dean of Arts and Science for approval. Once approved by the Dean, the successful applicants will be notified in early March.

Please submit complete applications as a single PDF file to Brian Cumming, Department Head - Biology ([cummingb@queensu.ca](mailto:cummingb@queensu.ca)) by **February 12, 2021**.

**Wondering how to contact your course program associate regarding work associated with the lab component of core courses?**

BIOL 102: [biol102@queensu.ca](mailto:biol102@queensu.ca)

BIOL 103: [biol103@queensu.ca](mailto:biol103@queensu.ca)

BIOL 200: [biol200@queensu.ca](mailto:biol200@queensu.ca)

BIOL 205: [biol205@queensu.ca](mailto:biol205@queensu.ca)

BIOL 206: [biol206@queensu.ca](mailto:biol206@queensu.ca)

BIOL 212: [biol212@queensu.ca](mailto:biol212@queensu.ca)

BIOL 300: [biol300@queensu.ca](mailto:biol300@queensu.ca)

**Important Links**

Updates on Fall 2020 and Winter 2021 <https://www.queensu.ca/artsci/fall2020>

Updates on COVID-19: <https://www.queensu.ca/covidinfo/>

## REMINDERS!

### **Biology Degree Plans**

Review your degree plan requirements and make sure you are selecting courses you need. Degree plan requirements can be found at: <http://www.queensu.ca/artsci>.

### **Biological Foundations List - IMPORTANT!**

It is very important to keep this GPA requirement in mind throughout your program, starting with first year. To be admitted to 400 and 500 level Biology courses, you will need a minimum GPA of 2.0 in any previously taken courses from Biological Foundations list.

The Biological Foundations List is BIOL 102, 103, 200, 212, (201, 202), 205, 206, 300, 330, 334, 339, and 341 (BIOL 302, 303).

To be admitted to BIOL 400 and 500 level Biology courses you will need a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.0 in any previously taken courses from this list.

## Helpful Links

[Information on Applying for a Course Prerequisite Waiver](#)

[Arts and Science Academic Deadlines](#)

[Arts and Science Calendar](#)

[Frequently Asked Questions](#)

### **QUBS Quick Links**

Website: <https://qubs.ca>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/QUBioStation>

Twitter: [https://twitter.com/QUBS\\_Director](https://twitter.com/QUBS_Director)

Flickr: <http://www.flickr.com/photos/qubsoutreach>

YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/user/QUBScam>

Looking for a job? [Quick Link](#)

Looking for study and travel opportunities? [Quick Link](#)

BIOLOGY Undergraduate Office (normal non-COVID-19 operations)

Mon to Friday 8:30 to noon and 1:00 to 3:00pm

Rm. 3109d, BIOSC Complex

613-533-6344

[ug.biology@queensu.ca](mailto:ug.biology@queensu.ca)

NOTE: Use email to correspond during COVID-19 as we are working remotely.