

Undergraduate Newsletter
Department of Biology
December 2020 Issue

On behalf of all in Biology, we wish you the best for the end of Fall term, the December 2020 exam period, and beyond! December is undoubtedly a stressful time in any given year, so keep basic stress busters in mind - sleep well, eat well, manage your time appropriately, and talk to others. We are always here if you need to chat about various things.

This year-end December issue is also a forward-looking issue with many career-building endeavours to consider for 2021. Check them out and let us know if you need guidance or further information.

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 \$18,000. 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) by **Feb. 12, 2021**.

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**. **The 2021 process will begin mid-December to early January**. 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 normally be supervised by a biology faculty member who holds an NSERC grant, either at the time of application or when the student holds the award.

Are you going into 4th year 2021-22. Wondering about BIOL 537 and BIOL 500 courses?

We are in the process of setting up an information session in the new year. Details will follow in the next newsletter and will also be sent out to all BIOL 3rd year students via an e-mail. *Tentative* date is February 3, 2021 by Zoom but we will confirm in January.

Did you know?

In order to encourage students to explore subject matter outside their program of study and to promote interdisciplinary study, all upper-year Arts and Science students will be permitted to designate up to 6.0 units of degree-credit courses for pass/fail grading, thereby minimizing any risk to the students' GPA. Such courses designated for pass/fail grading will be referred to as **Personal Interest Credits (PICs)**.

<https://www.queensu.ca/artsci/students-at-queens/the-personal-interest-credit>

Planning to graduate SPRING 2021 – check your degree plan status, add courses if need, last date to add a winter term course is: Friday, January 22, 2021 (<https://www.queensu.ca/artsci/important-dates>)

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

BIOL 102: biol102@queensu.ca

BIOL 103: biol103@queensu.ca

BIOL 200: biol200@queensu.ca

BIOL 205: biol205@queensu.ca

BIOL 206: biol206@queensu.ca

BIOL 212: biol212@queensu.ca

BIOL 300: 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](#)

[Student Academic Success Services](#)

QUBS Quick Links

Website: <https://qubs.ca>

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

Twitter: 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

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