

Undergraduate Newsletter
Department of Biology
April 2024 Issue



On behalf of all in Biology, Rachel and Paul wish you the best for the April 2024 year-end period and beyond! The year-end period is undoubtedly a stressful time to finish up the year, so, as always, keep basic stressbusters in mind, especially this year - sleep well, eat well, manage your time appropriately, and talk to others via social media or the like. We are always here if you need to chat about various things. This includes planning your graduation and future endeavours!

We will also take this chance to wish the Class of 2024 all the best the world has to offer, despite the current situation! We will be following your successes and adventures for years to come, so please keep in touch and stay healthy.



We also advise all students to visit the [Faculty of Arts and Science](#) frequently. In particular, the [Important Dates](#) page with updates as information becomes available. Here you will find updates on deadlines, questions regarding summer courses, grades, plan selection etc. Please note this is also the website we use to help answer your questions.

Plan Selection for 1st Year Students (2024)



The plan selection period will open on SOLUS from **May 27 to June 7, 2024**. Check out the [Plan Selection](#) page for details. Please do not hesitate to connect with us for further discussions.

BIOL 404 - Summer 2024

BIOL 404: April 29th to May 10th (the last date to add/drop the course is April 29th at mid-night)
Course details can be found @ <https://130.15.90.125/BioLab/biol404.html>

BIOL 404: Techniques in Molecular Biology (Units: 3.00)

Intensive laboratory work (8h/day) to be carried out over two and a half weeks in May. Practical work includes DNA isolations, DNA cloning, PCR, production of proteins, biochemical and immunological analysis of proteins.

BIOL 418 - Summer 2024

BIOL 418: May 6th to May 17th (the last date to add/drop the course is May 6th at mid-night)

BIOL 418: Fisheries Techniques (Units: 3.00)

This course will introduce students to many "hands-on" techniques currently used in fisheries. This will include fish identification, different capture techniques for fisheries assessment, bioacoustics, environmental monitoring, techniques for ageing fish, diet analysis, fish tracking (biotelemetry approaches), and data management.

Are you going into 4th year in 2024-2025?

BIOL 537 – Honours Thesis Course

Although the first deadline of March 18th has passed, you can still explore BIOL 537 opportunities until the last day to add in September 2024.

BIOL 5XX – Advanced Honours Seminars

The BIOL 5xx Advanced Honours Seminars Application for the 2024-25 academic year and can be found @ <https://biology.queensu.ca/academics/undergraduate/courses/advanced-honours-seminars/>. Application deadline: **May 10, 2024**

More Undergraduate Research Opportunities Through the Research Mentorship Courses BIOL538/539/540

Biology 538 (3.0), 539 (3.0) and 540 (6.0) offer individual students the opportunity to undertake a laboratory research practicum under the supervision of a biology faculty member. In addition to work in the host lab, students typically participate in specialized seminar series or lab-specific journal clubs and conduct research towards both a major paper and a seminar. These mentorships offer flexibility to accommodate both students and faculty. Further details are available @ [Research Mentorship - Queen's Biology Department \(queensu.ca\)](#)

Did you know? ... 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>

Wondering about how many courses you can take from other Faculties and Schools towards your degree plan/program?

A maximum of 6.0 units from courses offered by other Faculties and Schools may be counted towards the Program and/or Plan requirements of any degree in the Faculty of Arts and Science, in addition to any such courses allowed as either Core or Option course requirements. All course codes listed in section 7 of the Academic Programs page are Faculty of Arts and Science courses. <https://www.queensu.ca/academic-calendar/arts-science/academic-programs/>

What is the "APR"?

The APR is the Academic Progress Report. It is a handy tool that reviews your degree requirements, track plan progression, and it tells you what you have satisfied and what you still need to complete for your core degree plan requirements. Click here to Run an APR: <https://www.queensu.ca/artsci/undergrad-students/academic-requirements-reports-in-solus>. Students are expected to run their APR both prior to and after registration. The APR will help to flag potential concerns with respect to your registration and degree requirements.

[Course Mapping Worksheet!](#) This worksheet will help you set up a detailed road map for your courses so you can stay on track to meet your degree requirements.

Need help with your studies?

Please visit Student Academic Success Services (SASS) at <http://sass.queensu.ca/>. SASS offers academic support to students who wish to develop their skills in critical thinking, reading, learning, studying, writing and self management.

Do you need to find a place to study on Campus?

Check out this PDF layout of study spaces in the [Biosciences complex!](#)

Looking for a job?

Wondering about career options or maybe considering Graduate School...then you need to visit: <https://careers.queensu.ca/students>

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

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 (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
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](#)

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