

**Undergraduate Newsletter**  
**Department of Biology**  
**April 2025 Issue**



On behalf of all in Biology, Rachel and Paul wish you the best for the April 2025 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. 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 2025' all the best the world has to offer. We will be following your successes and adventures for years to come.*





We advise students to visit the [Important Dates](#) page on the FAS website as you will find updates on deadlines, questions regarding summer courses, grades, plan selection etc.

Biology in the Modular World - Info Session **Audio Recording** →

<https://queensu.ca.panopto.com/Panopto/Pages/Viewer.aspx?id=62867a6f-92ba-4dfd-aeb8-b2a70124773c>

### **Plan Selection for 1<sup>st</sup> Year Students (2025)**

Takes place in two stages:

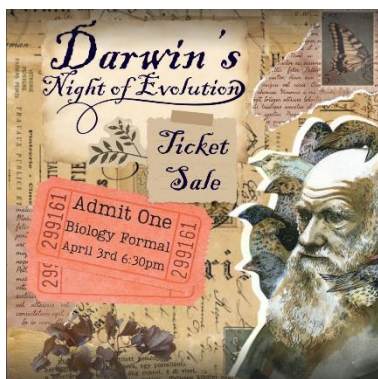
- Stage 1 will run from May 21 to 27 for students requesting specialization plans only.
- Stage 2 will run from June 2 to 9 for students requesting majors and minors.

Students who want to combine a specialization with a minor will participate in both Stage 1 and Stage 2. For more information, please visit <https://www.queensu.ca/artsci/undergraduate/first-year-students/plan-selection>.

### **Change of Plan Period (2025)**

- May 21 to June 9

For more information, please visit <https://www.queensu.ca/artsci/undergraduate/current-students/change-of-plan>



### **Darwin's Night of Evolution – Biology Formal 2025**

Hey Biology, Biotech, and Biopsych students! It's time to grab your ticket for the biggest Bio event of the year!

Join us on April 3rd for Darwin's Night of Evolution, a night to celebrate all your hard work with food, drinks, awards, professional photography, and unforgettable memories with your bio besties!

Location: BioSci Atrium

Time: 6:30 PM – 10:00 PM

Tickets: \$50 (includes entry, a free drink, a light buffet dinner, and pro photography!)

TICKETS ARE SELLING FAST! Secure yours now:

<https://theasusstore.com/products/biology-formal-ticket>

Need financial assistance? We've got you covered—apply using the form in our Instagram bio! All programs are welcome, if you have your own ticket! Our main man Darwin will be there—will you?

### **BIOL 404 - Summer 2025**

BIOL 404: May 5<sup>th</sup> to May 16<sup>th</sup> (the last date to add/drop the course is May 6<sup>th</sup> 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 2025**

BIOL 418: May 5<sup>th</sup> to May 16<sup>th</sup> (the last date to add/drop the course is May 6<sup>th</sup> 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 4<sup>th</sup> year in 2025-2026?**

### **BIOL 537 – Honours Thesis Course**

Although the first deadline of March 17<sup>th</sup> has passed, you can still explore BIOL 537 opportunities until the last day to add in September 2025.

### **BIOL 5XX – Advanced Honours Seminars**

The BIOL 5xx Advanced Honours Seminars Application for 2025-26 can be found @

<https://biology.queensu.ca/academics/undergraduate/courses/advanced-honours-seminars/>.

Application deadline: **May 9, 2025**

### **Undergraduate Research Opportunities Through the Research Mentorship 538/539/540**

Biology 538 (3.0 unit), 539 (3.0 unit) and 540 (6.0 units [a full-year two-term research mentorship]) offer individual students the opportunity to undertake a laboratory research practicum under the supervision of a biology faculty member. In addition to volunteer work in the host lab, students will normally attend BIOL537 seminars (Fall and/or Winter) and conduct

research to present both as a major paper and seminar. Though the lab practicum may be conducted in the Spring, Summer, Fall, or Winter terms, students must formally obtain approval for the course prior to commencing the lab work. Registration is subject to availability of a supervisor and approval by the Undergraduate Chair in Biology. <https://biology.queensu.ca/current-students/undergraduate-students/courses/research-mentorship>

**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>

### **How many courses can count towards your degree plan from other Faculties?**

A maximum of 6.00 units from courses offered by other Faculties and Schools may be counted toward the program and/or Plan requirements. This includes courses in BMED, COMM, GLPH, HSCI, LAW, NURS, and courses offered by Smith Engineering. <https://www.queensu.ca/academic-calendar/arts-science/courses-instruction-other-faculties-schools/>

### **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.

### **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.

### **Looking for a job?**

Wondering about career options or maybe considering Graduate School, then visit:

<https://careers.queensu.ca/>

**Looking for study and travel opportunities** → <https://www.queensu.ca/ipo/>

### **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)

### **REMINDERS!**

*Biology Degree Plans*

Review your degree plan requirements and make sure you are selecting courses you need. Degree plan requirements can be found @ <https://www.queensu.ca/academic-calendar/arts-science/schools-departments-programs/biology/>

**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, 205, 206, 300, 330, 334, 339, & 341.*

*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**

[Arts and Science Academic Deadlines](#)

[Arts and Science Calendar](#)

[FAQ](#)

**QUBS Quick Links**

Website: <https://qubs.ca>

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

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

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

BIOLOGY Undergraduate Office

Monday to Friday 9:30am – 12:00pm & 1:00pm – 3:00pm

Rm. 3109d, BIOSC Complex

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