

Undergraduate Newsletter
Department of Biology
April 2026 Issue



On behalf of all in Biology, Rachel and Paul wish you the best for the April 2026 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 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.

Plan Selection for 1st Year Students

- May 19 to 29

First-Year Students – May 19 to 29 is the Plan Selection period when you will choose your area of study, or degree plan, which will determine many of the courses that you'll take in your remaining years of study.

Change of Plan Period

- May 19 to 31

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

BIOL 404 - Summer 2026

BIOL 404: May 4th to May 15th (last date to add/drop the course is May 5th 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 2026

BIOL 418: May 4th to May 15th (last date to add/drop the course is May 5th 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 2026-2027?

BIOL 537 – Honours Thesis Course

Although the first deadline of March 16th has passed, you can still explore BIOL 537 opportunities until the last day to add in September 2026.

BIOL 5XX – Advanced Honours Seminars

The BIOL 5xx Advanced Honours Seminars Application for 2026-27 will be posted soon @ <https://biology.queensu.ca/academics/undergraduate/courses/advanced-honours-seminars/>.
Application deadline: **May 8, 2026**

Undergraduate Research Opportunities - 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. <https://biology.queensu.ca/current-students/undergraduate-students/courses/research-mentorship>

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

A maximum of 12.00 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 plan requirements, tracks progression, and it tells you what you have completed. To run an APR please visit: <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 flag potential concerns with respect to your registration and plan/program 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/>

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, 205, 206, 212, 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:

<https://www.queensu.ca/artsci/events>

[Arts and Science Calendar](#)

<https://biology.queensu.ca/current-students/undergraduate-students/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 Hours

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

In-Person or Virtual meetings.

Reach out @ ug.biology@queensu.ca