Undergraduate Newsletter
Department of Biology
December 2023 Issue

Winter Pinecone on Pinetree

On behalf of all in Biology, we wish you the best for the end of Fall term, the December 2023 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 in 2024. Check them out and let us know if you need guidance or further information.

Introducing the Biology Department Student Council!

Who We Are: The Biology DSC is a dynamic group of students coming together to create a supportive and engaging environment within the biology department. We are committed to creating a welcoming environment where you can thrive both academically and socially!

What We do: Our mission is to connect you with the Biology Faculty in exciting and engaging ways. Through a diverse range of events and initiatives, we facilitate a strong bond between students and

professors, making your academic experience at Queens University truly exceptional. These events include:

Our Portfolio: We organize a diverse range of events to cater to both academic and social interests of our student community. Our academic initiatives include study nights, where students collaborate, share knowledge, and prepare for exams in a supportive environment with expert guidance. In addition, our social gatherings, such as "Crops with Profs," movie nights, trivia, and more, provide opportunities to create connections, relax, and engage in conversations with peers and faculty. These events collectively contribute to a well-rounded and enriching experience, fostering a strong sense of community and academic growth within our biology department.

Follow us on Instagram at **@queensubio** to stay updated on upcoming events and other exciting opportunities.

Join us and be a part of a community that celebrates the marvels of life and the endless possibilities of the biological sciences. Let's explore, learn, and grow together!

Fall Preview


Crops with Profs


Crops with Profs

Are you going into 4th year 2024-25? Wondering about BIOL 537, BIOL 5XX, or an Accelerated M.Sc.?

Mark your calendars and plan to join us! We will be holding our annual Upper Year Information Session on **January 31st, 2024 from 5:30pm - 7:30pm (EST)** in the Bioscience Complex, room 1101 (Auditorium).

Important dates to remember…

- ✓ **Majors Night** is Thursday February 29, 2024, from 4:00pm to 7:00pm in Grant Hall
- ✓ ***BIPS Information Session*** February 6th, 2024 from 2:30 to 3:30pm

BIOL 404 - Summer 2024

BIOL 404 section 001: April 29th to May 10th (the last date to add/drop the course is April 29th at mid-night)

BIOL 404 section 002: August 19th to August 30th (the last date to add/drop the course is August 19th at mid-night)

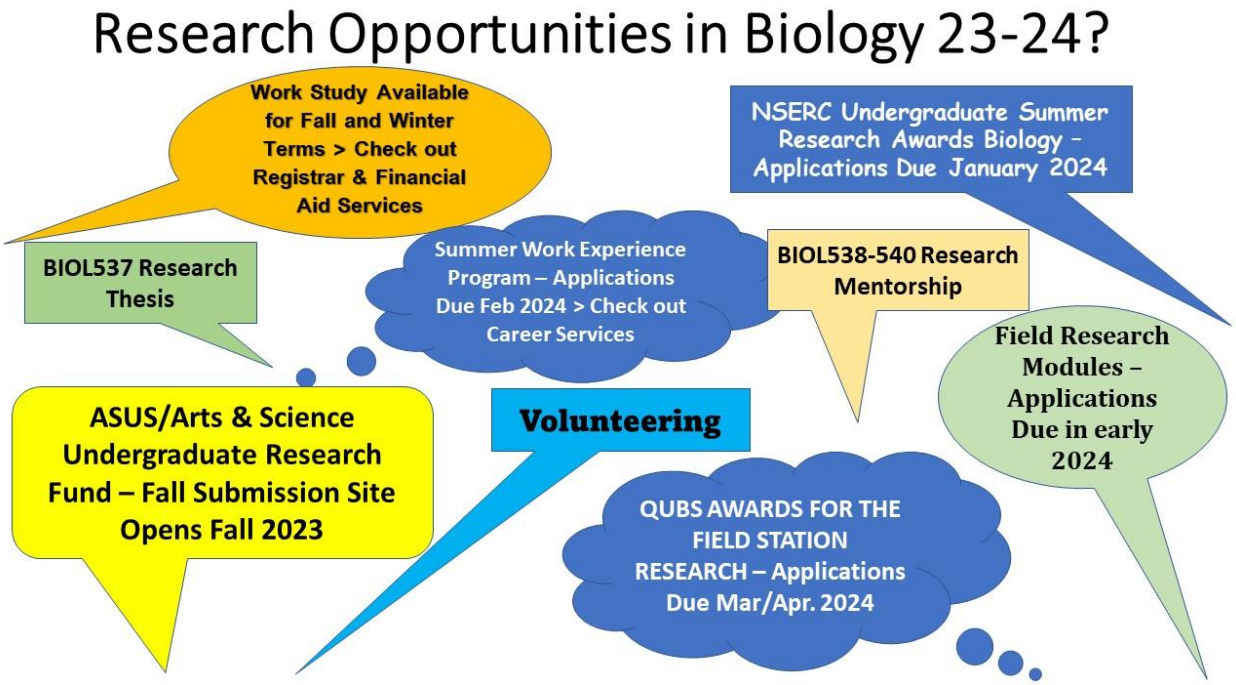
Course details can be found @ https://130.15.90.125/BioLab/biol404.html

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.



Research Opportunities in Biology

NOTE: The Biology Department will be accepting one combined application for both the USRA and USSRF awards. Eligible students will be considered for either program.

Undergraduate Summer Research Awards (USRA) Canada's Natural Science and Engineering Research Council (NSERC) underwrites these **prestigious awards** to nurture interest and fully develop the potential for a research career. USRAs provide salary support to gain research work experience. The award is supplemented by the supervisor to match or exceed other positions, such as SWEP. The duration of the award is for 16 weeks during the summer. There is no restriction on who can supervise 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 and awarding of USRAs is through Queen's Biology, with an application deadline of January 19, 2024 for summer awards. Information on eligibility is available through this link. The 2024 application and instructions are available as a fillable PDF form titled USRA and USSRF Internal Application Form 2024.

Undergraduate Student Summer Research Fellowships (USSRF) Queen's University sponsors these competitive awards to provide an experiential learning opportunity for undergraduate students at Queen's. The program is intended to provide students with meaningful opportunities to engage in discovery-based learning and to develop research skills. The award provided by Queen's is supplemented by additional funds from the supervisor to match or exceed other positions, such as SWEP. The duration of the award is for 16 weeks during the summer. There is no restriction on who can supervise a USSRF student, provided the university deems the faculty member eligible to supervise students and providing they can support their portion of the student award. Application and awarding of USSRF's is through Queen's Biology, with an application deadline of January 19, 2024 for summer awards. Information on eligibility is available through this link. The 2024 application and instructions are available as a fillable PDF form titled USRA and USSRF Internal Application Form 2024.

ASURF – The Arts & Science Undergraduate Research Fund

Another important source for funding undergraduate research endeavours is offered by ASUS. As stated on the ASURF website, the "Arts and Science Research Fund (ASURF) was implemented to foster a community amongst undergraduate scholars and promote a greater investment in undergraduate research". Check out ASURF!

Queen's Work Study Program

The Queen's Work Study program provides eligible students the opportunity to receive priority for certain part-time positions during a specified period of study. Many of these opportunities can be focused on undergraduate research experience in the various labs. Check out the details and the application @ Queen's Work Study Program | Registrar & Financial Aid Services (queensu.ca)

Queen's Summer Work Experience Program (SWEP) – Career Services

Career Services operates the Summer Work Experience Program (SWEP), a unique Queen's program that helps faculty members create challenging and rewarding summer jobs. Open to all year levels, a SWEP position will get you engaged full-time in an active research program for up to 16 weeks during the summer months. SWEP positions are competitive, so make sure to do your research about the positions you are applying for, and to show your interest and enthusiasm. Keep updated with the details as they develop SWEP positions for next summer. Bookmark the below link for convenient access.
Summer Work Experience Program (SWEP) | Career Services (queensu.ca)

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? … 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

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: https://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

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

Looking for a job? Quick Link
Looking for study and travel opportunities? Quick Link

BIOLOGY Undergraduate Office
Monday to Friday 9:30am – 12:00pm & 1:00pm – 3:00pm
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ug.biology@queensu.ca