

Undergraduate Newsletter
Department of Biology
February 2025 Issue



USRA / USSRF 2025!

Congratulations to this year's recipients of the prestigious NSERC Undergraduate Student Research Award (USRA) and the Queen's Undergraduate Summer Student Research Fellowship (USSRF)

Congratulations!

These students will be conducting a whole summer's worth of research in Biology, so all the best!! The experience promises to be rewarding and represents a major career-building step.

Please remember there are other similar opportunities to check out as we turn our attention to the summer months, from field studies to QUBS to summer lab courses.

Please don't forget to check the awards opportunities at:

<https://biology.queensu.ca/current-students/undergraduate-students/awards-and-opportunities>

Important dates to remember...

- ✓ **Majors Night** is Thursday March 13th from 4:00pm to 7:00pm in Grant Hall

Are you going into 4th year in 2025-2026?

BIOL 537 – Honours Thesis Course

Faculty Project Profiles and Application for 2025-2026 and can be found @

<https://biology.queensu.ca/academics/undergraduate/courses/honours-thesis-course/>

Application deadline: **March 17, 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**

BIOL 404 - Summer 2025

BIOL 404: May 5th to May 16th (the last date to add/drop the course is May 6th 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 5th to May 16th (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.

Call for Applications to the Gray Family Student Initiative Fund

The Gray Family Student Initiative Fund (GFSIF) was established through a gift to Queen's University by Gordon Gray, BCom'50 in January 2004. This fund 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 2025 to April 2026) the amount available from this endowed account is approximately \$10,000. 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 forwarded 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 February 28, 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. The research practicum would normally include 60h of laboratory or fieldwork in the host lab per 3.0 units of credit (x2 for 6.0). The total number of learning hours should be commensurate with the course weight (i.e., 110 – 130 LH/3.0 units). 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>



BIOLOGY DEPT

MERCH
SALE

ONLINE ONLY
FROM JANUARY 22ND - FEBRUARY 14TH

[HTTPS://WWW.QUEENSASUS.COM/STORE](https://www.queensus.com/store)

LINK IN BIO

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: <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](#)

BIOLOGY Undergraduate Office

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

Rm. 3109d, BIOSC Complex

ug.biology@queensu.ca