

Undergraduate Newsletter
Department of Biology
January 2024 Issue



Winter Scene

Welcome back and all the best for 2024! We trust that you are recharged and ready for new endeavors.

This January issue starts off the winter term with important reminders and career-building opportunities. There will be more in the coming months, so keep this newsletter in mind. As always, we are here to help, so please let us know.

Don't forget... January 19, 2024 is the last date to add a winter term course and the last date to drop courses without financial penalty, the complete list of important dates can be found @ <https://www.queensu.ca/academic-calendar/arts-science/academic-calendar/>

Are you planning to graduate in spring 2024?

Don't forget to check your degree plan status and add courses if needed. The last date to add a winter term course is January 19, 2024 (<https://www.queensu.ca/artsci/events?category%5B174%5D=174>). You also need to be aware of the GPA requirements for graduation, please see Academic Regulation 16: Requirements for Graduation (<https://www.queensu.ca/academic-calendar/arts-science/academic-regulations/>)

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: 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.

[How to get involved in research?](#)

Research Opportunities in Biology 23-24?



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 further develop potential for research and discovery. USRAs provide salary support to gain research work experience. The award is supplemented by the supervisor to match or exceed other positions, such as SWEPE. The duration of the award is for 16 weeks during the summer. Students will be paid a minimum of \$17.50 per hour x 35 hours x 16 weeks, for a total of \$9800.00 + vacation pay + fringe benefits. There is no restriction on who can supervise a USRA student, provided the faculty member is affiliated with the Biology Department, and the university deems them eligible to supervise students and 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 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 SWEPE. The duration of the award is for 16 weeks during the summer. Students will be paid a minimum of \$17.50 per hour x 35 hours x 16 weeks, for a total of \$9800.00 + vacation pay + fringe benefits. There is no restriction on who can supervise a USRA student, provided the faculty member is affiliated with the Biology Department, and the university deems them eligible to supervise students and 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](#).

The Gray Family Student Initiatives Fund (GFSIF)

This Fund was established through a gift to Queen's University by Gordon Gray, BCom'50 in January 2004. The GFSIF 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 2024 to April 2025) 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 forward 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 23, 2024.

Summer & Part-Time Job Fair – Tues, Jan 23 10:30 AM - 3:30 PM in Grant Hall

Looking for a job for the Summer months? Don't miss the Summer & Part-Time Job Fair at Grant Hall on January 23, 2024. Whether you are looking for full- or part-time work, in Kingston or elsewhere, this is your chance to explore opportunities and meet in-person with representatives from 40 employers, including QUBS! **View the [exhibitor guide](#) for more information about employers attending the fair.** At the Summer & Part-Time Job Fair, you can also access valuable career services, such as on-site resume review and one-on-one career advising.

This event is open to ALL students of ALL years. **Registration is NOT required, but you are encouraged to [register in MyCareer](#)**

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

Rm. 3109d, BIOSC Complex

ug.biology@queensu.ca