

Undergraduate Newsletter
Department of Biology
January 2025 Issue



Welcome back and all the best for 2025! 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 17, 2025 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 2025?

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 17, 2025 (<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/>)

Important dates to remember...

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

✓ **BIPS Information Session** TBD

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.

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 SWEP. The duration of the award is for 16 weeks during the summer. Students will be paid a (tentative) 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 17, 2025**, for summer awards. Information on eligibility, the application and instructions can be found @ <https://biology.queensu.ca/current-students/undergraduate-students/awards-and-opportunities>

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 SWEP. The duration of the award is for 16 weeks during the summer. Students will be paid a (tentative) 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 17, 2025**,

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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>

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 using the link below. ASUS is readying the next round of applications for the Fall term (starting September 2024). [ASURF — ASUS \(queensasus.com\)](https://queensasus.com)

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 through the link below.

[Queen's Work Study Program | Registrar & Financial Aid Services \(queensu.ca\)](#)

Queen's Undergraduate Internship Program (QUIP)

- ➔ Internship program available to undergraduate students in Faculty of Arts and Science, Faculty of Engineering and Applied Science, School of Computing, and Faculty of Health Sciences
- ➔ Internships are 12-16 months, competitively paid, career-related, and professionally supervised
- ➔ Students usually go on internship after 2nd or 3rd year of studies and return to complete their degree
- ➔ Students with a minimum GPA of 1.9 can register in the program by submitting the FAS email template to their Undergraduate Chair for review.
- ➔ Students attend workshops and receive internship search support from QUIP Coordinators

<https://careers.queensu.ca/jobs-experience/internships-quip>

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

Since 1995, the Summer Work Experience Program (SWEP) has provided Queen's undergraduate students with an engaging, challenging, and rewarding summer work experience. Funded through the undergraduate portion of the Student Assistance Levy, the program encourages creation of on-campus summer jobs that provide valuable experiences for Queen's undergraduate students.

<https://careers.queensu.ca/jobs-experience/summer-swap>

Did you know? 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 \(PICs\)](#)**.

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 6 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.

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/>

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

[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>

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

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

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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