

Undergraduate Newsletter
Department of Biology
July-August 2025 Issue



Congratulations Class of 2025, from all the faculty, staff, and current graduate students in the Department of Biology. **We are so proud of you!**

We trust that your summer endeavours are progressing productively and are pleasurable. Although the start of the new academic year is a while away, we would like to welcome each of you to the Department. Rachel Batson and I, Paul Grogan (Undergraduate Chair), hope you find this short newsletter helpful. It is designed primarily as a working tool to help steer us through the time-sensitive intricacies of course selection, registration, and associated decisions. The second priority of the newsletter is to highlight tools and events for career development. Keep these newsletters handy for helpful pointers and timelines. So, to begin, here are this month's pointers.

2nd Year BIOL SSP & MAJ Students

All 2nd year BIOL SSP & MAJ students are being automatically registered in BIOL 205, 212, 243 (for the Fall term) and BIOL 200, 212 and 206 (for the Winter term). Please check your course registration panel in SOLUS to confirm. Second year BIOL SSP students normally take at least 3.0 units of CHEM at the 200 level along with electives. Don't forget to register in a CHEM 2XX level course and your electives. If you notice that you are not registered in any of the above BIOL 2XX level courses, then please register as soon as you have your enrolment time. If you need assistance, please contact Rachel Batson (ug.biology@queensu.ca). Please note that once a course/section has filled, Rachel will not be able to register you. If you wish to change a section (providing there is

space) you will be able to do this yourself on SOLUS ([Student Registration Guide | Queen's University \(queensu.ca\)](#)). If you try to move into a section that is full, you will be removed from the course and placed on a wait list and there is no guarantee that you will be successful in obtaining a place. The wait list is not a guarantee that you will secure a place in the course.

2nd Year BIMA, BIPS, & BTEC Students

Unlike BIOL MAJ students, students in BIMA, BIPS, and BTEC plans have a more diverse array of courses from different departments to select from, hence these students are **only** automatically registered into BIOL 212 (fall or winter term) to allow scheduling flexibility. Please review your degree plan course requirements and register in your second-year courses accordingly.

Registration Pointers

During the first round of course registration, most of the BIOL courses have been reserved for students in degree plans where the course is a requirement. This is the same for other departments – students in a degree plan where it is a requirement will get priority into the courses. So, if you try to register in a course and you know you have the course prerequisites but get a message stating that you do not meet the requirements, it is probably because it is not a specific course requirement. You will have the option of going on the wait list. These restrictions will be lifted when open enrolment begins.

Wait List Information

You can go on a waitlist prior to open enrolment. If there is space at open enrolment and you meet the prerequisites and you have space in your schedule, you will be automatically enrolled into the course. If the course has lecture plus lab/tut/seminar then there must be space in both the lecture and the additional component before you will be placed. Please note being on the wait list is not a guarantee that you will secure a place. For more information on [waitlists](#)

Fee Payments & Important Dates:

It is important to make sure fees are paid or you may be at risk of losing your place in courses. A complete list of deadlines can be found at: [Events | Queen's University Faculty of Arts and Science \(queensu.ca\)](#)

For all details on **course registration**, please visit:

<https://www.queensu.ca/artsci/undergraduate/current-students/course-enrolment>

For any **SOLUS** related questions or concerns, please check out the [SOLUS Central](#)

FAS Registration Hiatus Period (August 4th 15th)

It has been a very busy few weeks for both students and staff. Now it's time to take a break from course registration and to relax and enjoy the summer weather. On August 4, course registration comes to a halt until August 15. *The Undergraduate Office will be closed August 4 to 15 and we would like to ask you to refrain from sending e-mail until after August 15.* On August 18, open enrolment (Phase 2) begins. The system will be open again for students who need to make changes to course registrations and/or add an additional 3.0 units (providing there is space in the courses selected). At this time, students can add a 6th course (18.0 units) on their own and waitlist for two classes per term.

And just a little reminder, tuition and SAL fees are due early September. It is important to make sure these are paid, or you may be at risk of losing your place in courses. Don't forget to check!

A complete list of deadlines can be found @ <https://www.queensu.ca/artsci/events>

Timetable – Scheduling Courses

Every effort has been made to schedule BIOL courses conflict free. This is a complex feat; therefore, it is not always possible to schedule BIOL 300, 400, and 500 level courses conflict free. You may not be able to schedule the combination of courses you have decided on and may need to anticipate changes to your choices.

Note: The Department of Biology does not waive time conflicts. The expectation is that you can attend all scheduled lectures, labs, seminars, and tutorials for each course.

Upcoming Registration Details and Deadlines for all Students:

Course registration details and deadlines can be found at:

[Course Registration | Queen's University Arts & Science \(queensu.ca\)](#)

The **2025-26 Arts and Science Academic Calendar** is available @ [Academic Calendar | Queen's University Arts & Science \(queensu.ca\)](#)

Arts and Science Important academic dates, deadlines, and special events:

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

Are you going into 4th year 2025-2026 – here are a few reminders!

BIOL 537

You can still explore [BIOL537 opportunities](#) until the last day to add in September, 2025.

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)**. <https://www.queensu.ca/artsci/students-at-queens/the-personal-interest-credit>

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

A maximum of 6.00 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 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/>

Looking for study and travel opportunities → <https://www.queensu.ca/ipo/>

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 @ <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, 212, 205, 206, 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

[Arts and Science Academic Deadlines](#)

[Arts and Science Calendar](#)

[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

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

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ug.biology@queensu.ca