

Undergraduate Newsletter
Department of Biology
May - June 2026 Issue



Now that exams are almost over it is time to relax a little and start thinking about course registration for 2026-27. Over the next month we will work on updating our course offering web page, but unfortunately, we cannot yet give you a heads up on the scheduling of any of our 2026-27 BIOL offerings until the official timetable is released in June. We are available year-round except for vacation leave. Normally we close for two weeks in August (Arts and Science Registration Hiatus period), we will include the dates in the next newsletter. Below is what we know now, we will do our best to keep you up to date. Please have fun and stay safe!

BIOL 5XX - Advanced Honours Seminars

The BIOL 5xx Advanced Honours Seminars Application for 2026-27 will be posted soon @ <https://biology.queensu.ca/academics/undergraduate/courses/advanced-honours-seminars/>.
Application deadline: **May 8, 2026**

BIOL 537 - Honours Thesis Course

Although the first deadline of March 16th has passed, you can still explore BIOL 537 opportunities until the last day to add in September 2026.

Plan Selection for 1st Year Students

- May 19 to 29

First-Year Students – May 19 to 29 is the Plan Selection period when you will choose your area of study, or degree plan, which will determine many of the courses that you'll take in your remaining years of study.

Change of Plan Period

- May 19 to 31

For more information, please visit <https://www.queensu.ca/artsci/undergraduate/current-students/change-of-plan>

Upcoming registration details and deadlines for all students

Course registration details and deadlines can be found at:

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

The **2026-27 Arts and Science Calendar** when ready will be available on the web at:

<https://www.queensu.ca/artsci/undergrad-students/student-services/academic-calendar>

Arts and Science Important Academic Dates, Deadlines, and Special Events:

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

Undergraduate Research Opportunities - 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. <https://biology.queensu.ca/current-students/undergraduate-students/courses/research-mentorship>

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

A maximum of 12.00 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 plan requirements, tracks progression, and it tells you what you have completed. To run an APR please visit:

<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 flag potential concerns with respect to your registration and plan/program 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/>

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, 205, 206, 212, 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:

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

[Arts and Science Calendar](#)

<https://biology.queensu.ca/current-students/undergraduate-students/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 Hours

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

In-Person or Virtual meetings.

Reach out @ ug.biology@queensu.ca