

Undergraduate Newsletter
Department of Biology
November 2025 Issue



We trust that this October's week-long Fall Break was a welcome change of pace, providing you with rest, time, and energy for the remainder of the term now that we are into November!

Are you going into the 4th year 2026-27? 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 **November 26, 2025, from 5:30pm - 7:30pm (EST)** in the [Bioscience Complex](#), room [1102](#) (Auditorium).

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 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 16, 2026, 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 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 16, 2026, for summer awards. Information on eligibility, the application and instructions can be found @ <https://biology.queensu.ca/current-students/undergraduate-students/awards-and-opportunities>

Research Mentorship

Biology 538 (3.0 unit), 539 (3.0 unit) and 540 (6.0 units [a full-year two-term]) 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 attend BIOL537 seminars (Fall and/or Winter) and conduct research to present both as a major paper and seminar. BIOL 538 is a prerequisite to BIOL 539 - which is intended for students who wish to do a second follow-on 3.0 units research mentorship after completing BIOL 538.

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

Ready for a year unlike any other? Create change in your community and develop your leadership skills through Canada's leading post-graduate program for changemakers.

Applications for Cohort 11 of the [Pathy Foundation Fellowship](#) are open until November 15th! This is a 12-month experiential-learning program in youth leadership and community engagement. Each year, up to 12 selected Fellows receive state-of-the-art training, extensive support, and \$50,000 in funding to support their growth as leaders, make a meaningful impact in a community they care about, and acquire skills that will benefit them for a lifetime.

This is the only program in Canada that provides young people with a fully funded opportunity to dedicate a year of their early career to an initiative they are passionate about, in any field, sector, and community across the world. Learn more and start your application by [visiting the Pathy Foundation Fellowship website](#).

ASURF - The Arts & Science Undergraduate Research Fund

An important source for funding undergraduate research endeavours is offered by ASUS. The Arts and Science Undergraduate Research Fund (ASURF) was implemented to foster a community amongst undergraduate scholars and promote a greater investment in undergraduate research. ASUSF Winter 2025 Applications are now open → [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 @ [Queen's Work Study Program | Registrar & Financial Aid Services \(queensu.ca\)](https://www.queensu.ca/academic-calendar/arts-science/schools-departments-programs/biology/)

Queen's Undergraduate Internship Program (QUIP)

QUIP provides students with a 12–16-month internship experience. QUIP internships are paid, professionally supervised, career-related positions offering students the opportunity to learn about current practices, advances, and technologies in business and industry.

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

Queen's Summer Work Experience Program (SWEP)

The Summer Work Experience Program (SWEP) has provided Queen's undergraduate students with an engaging, challenging, and rewarding summer work experience. 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>

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 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

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

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