Undergraduate Newsletter
Department of Biology
November 2026 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 2027-28? Wondering about BIOL 537, BIOL 5XX, Research Mentorship, or an Accelerated M.Sc.?

- Mark your calendars! We will be holding our annual **Upper Year Info Night** on **November 24, 2026, from 5:30pm - 7:30pm (EST)** in the Bioscience Complex, room 1102 (Auditorium).

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 approximately a minimum of $17.60 per hour x 35 hours x 16 weeks, for a total of $11,675. 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 15, 2027.

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 approximately a minimum of $17.60 per hour x 35 hours x 16 weeks, for a total of $11,675. 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 15, 2027.

J. Allen Keast Lake Opinicon Undergraduate Research Fellowship
For Independent Research at The Queen's University Biological Station (QUBS)
This award was established to support undergraduate students to carry out a one-summer study at QUBS. The award provides an experiential learning opportunity to engage in field-based research and nurture interest in field research and discovery. Students are expected to be based at QUBS for at least 2.5-3 months of the summer (with any remaining time spent at Queen's in agreement with the supervisor). The award will cover the costs of board and room at QUBS plus a stipend to the student that is supplemented by additional funds from the supervisor. The duration of the award is for 16 weeks during the summer. Students will be paid approximately a minimum of $17.60 per hour x 35 hours x 16 weeks, for a total of $11,675. Students must be supervised by faculty who have a research program at QUBS, are affiliated with the Biology Department, and can support their portion of the student award. Application and awarding of the J. Allen Keast Lake Opinicon Undergraduate Research Fellowship is through Queen's Biology, with an application deadline of January 15, 2027.

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

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 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-swep

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