

Undergraduate Newsletter
Department of Biology
September 2024 Issue

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Welcome to the September issue, and Welcome back to the community of Biology! We trust that you are refreshed, settled in, and ready to pursue more endeavours for this year and beyond.

Part of the September newsletter is the start of highlighting important program reminders. It is best to consider or adjust your plan/program at this stage of the academic year to meet the needed requirements, especially after a hectic course selection period. Please feel free to contact us (Rachel Batson or Paul Grogan) for advice and help.

The September issue also marks the start of this year's career-building opportunities, such as fellowships and research awards. Check them out and ready your submissions for these lucrative endeavours!

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 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 SWEF. 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 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>

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://queensu.ca/asur/)

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 \(queensu.ca\)](https://queensu.ca/work-study/)

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 (SWEF) – 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>

Planning considerations for the 2024-2025 academic year

Now that registration is “beginning to settle” and attention turned onto courses, it is prudent to take a moment to assess your plan. After the first week of classes, you should have a better sense of your courses, and the adjustments needed to maximize your academic performance in your plan of choice. Aspects to reflect on would be course workload, and the balance between core and interest. Many upper year courses can be scheduled flexibly between third and fourth year.



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](#)

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