ADEQUATE REQUIREMENTS
- Honour’s Bachelor Arts & Sciences degree.
- Grade requirements: minimum upper second class standing (B+ average).

ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS
- Correspond with potential supervisors. (May require CV.)
- If English is not a native language, prospective students must meet the TOEFL requirements in writing, speaking, reading, and listening.

KEY DATES & DEADLINES
- Application due: March 1 (domestic students), February 15 (international students).
- Notification of acceptance: Students are notified as the applications are reviewed.

Before you start your application, please review the Graduate Studies application process and visit the Biology grad studies page.

How do I find a supervisor?
We encourage you to identify an area of research interest and contact a potential faculty member with similar research interests to yours, contact him/her and tell them about your interest in graduate work and related experience.

What about funding?
M.Sc. students in Biology receive minimum funding of $22,650 per year for the two years of their program. Students who show exceptional promise in their research have the option to transfer to the PhD program after one year.

How do I USE THIS MAP?
Whether you are considering or have embarked on graduate studies at Queen’s, use this map to plan for success in five overlapping areas of your career and academic life. The map helps you explore possibilities, set goals and track your individual accomplishments. Everyone’s journey is different – the guide offers options for finding your way at Queen’s and setting the foundation for your future. To make your own customized map, use the online My Grad Map tool.

Why GRADUATE STUDIES in BIOLOGY?
There is no end to the fascinating questions we can ask about how the natural world functions, from dissecting the molecular mechanisms at play in cells to understanding the complexity of interactions in the biosphere, the beauty and mystery of nature astounds. It is an incredibly exciting time to do biological research and we are learning about the natural world at a rate unprecedented in history. The remarkable power of modern research tools, from powerful gene editing techniques to bioinformatics to ecosystem modeling, is driving exciting discoveries daily. These discoveries are made by graduate students. Regardless of your area of interest, there is something in biology for you, questions waiting to be answered, and riddles of nature to be solved.

Why QUEEN’S?
“When I started my [Biology graduate degree] at Queen’s, all of a sudden I had this new network of friends who were interested in the same biological questions that I was,— it was a ton of fun.”
— Roslyn Dakin, PhD

We offer a broad and challenging program in one of the top Biology departments in the country. We have an impressive range of sophisticated infrastructure for cell biology, biochemistry, molecular biology, ecology, and evolutionary research including a confocal microscopy suite, DNA and RNA sequencing services, aquatic research facilities, and a state-of-the-art phytoplankton lab. Our field station, comprising more than 1200 hectares of woodland, fields and lakes is a short drive away and has excellent research facilities and living quarters.

At Queen’s, graduate students from all disciplines learn and discover in a close-knit intellectual community. With some of the world’s best scholars, prize-winning professional development opportunities, excellent funding packages and life in the affordable, historic waterfront city of Kingston, Queen’s offers a wonderful environment for graduate studies.

Why KINGSTON?
Described by students as both “quant” and “eclectic,” Kingston is big enough to provide all the conveniences of modern life, and small enough for students, staff, and faculty to feel instantly comfortable and at home. Kingston is an integral part of the Kingston community, with the campus nestled in the core of the city, only a 10-minute walk to downtown with its shopping, dining and waterfront. For more about Kingston’s history and culture, see Queen’s University’s Discover Kingston page.

Program STRUCTURE
MSc (2 years): 4 single-term courses with minimum standing of 70% in each; research thesis and defence.

RESEARCH Areas
- Animal Physiology
- Cell and Molecular Biology
- Ecology, Evolution and Behaviour
- Plant Sciences
- Mathematical Modeling & Bioinformatics
## GETTING STARTED

### ACHIEVE YOUR ACADEMIC GOALS
- Start with key priorities like developing your relationship with your supervisor, forming your committee, and doing your coursework.
- Complete WHMS safety training.
- Find your way through the academic process with help from departmental and *Expanding Horizons* professional development workshops, the department Grad Chair and the *SSS Habitat*.

### MAXIMIZE RESEARCH IMPACT
- Start to think about the audiences for your research.
- If you will be continuing graduate studies, apply for NSERC and OGS funding.
- Consider positions in student services, the *SGPS*, or media outlets like the *Queen’s Journal* for more ideas.
- Serve on departmental, faculty or university committees. Talk to the Biology Graduate Student Council for tips on getting involved.
- Check out professional development workshops from *Expanding Horizons*.

### BUILD SKILLS AND EXPERIENCE
- Consider volunteering with different community organizations, museums, and cultural studies groups, such as the *Kingston Field Naturalists*.
- Explore how you can connect with your community through experiential opportunities on- and off-campus.
- Consider volunteering with different community organizations, museums, and cultural studies groups, such as the *Kingston Field Naturalists*.
- Participate in your graduate and professional community through activities such as graduate student outreach programs, organizing conferences, and research groups like *Material Matters* or *Let’s Talk Science*.
- Prepare for work or studies in a multi-cultural environment by taking *SGS901* or the *PUTL* certificate for more professional development in teaching and learning.
- Do some targeted networking with people working in careers of interest, through *Queen’sConnects* on LinkedIn, the *Queen’s Alumni Association*, professional associations, and at conferences. Check out *Career Services’* networking workshops.
- Join professional associations like *Science for Peace*, and the many discipline-specific societies that host annual meetings.

### ENGAGE WITH YOUR COMMUNITY
- Explore different careers of interest by reading *alumni profiles* on the SGS website, and using *Queen’sConnects* on LinkedIn to connect with Queen’s alumni, or find alumni in various careers through *Ask an Alum*.
- Explore different careers of interest by reading *alumni profiles* on the SGS website, and using *Queen’sConnects* on LinkedIn to connect with Queen’s alumni, or find alumni in various careers through *Ask an Alum*.
- Check out the free online modules at *MyGradSkills* to help you plan your career.
- If you are considering a PhD, explore programs of interest, reach out to faculty, and apply to PhD programs and external scholarships.
- Participate in hiring committees and attend job talks. Start focusing on areas of interest. Research organizations of interest and start putting together your CV or resume for potential positions of interest. Get help from *Career Services* with *job searching, resumes, or interviews*.

### LAUNCH YOUR CAREER
- Finding a career that fits starts with knowing yourself. Get help by taking the *Career Services Career Planning workshop* or meeting with a career counselor. Check out books like *So What Are You Going to Do With That?* for advice on various career options.
- Start reading publications like *University Affairs* and the *Chronicle of Higher Education*. Browse non-academic labour market websites. Stay on the lookout for special events like Graduate Student Career Week to explore your career pathways.
- Check admission test deadlines, if needed for further studies.

## INTERMEDIATE STAGE

### COMPLETE YOUR COURSEWORK
- Complete your coursework. The first stage is doing the coursework. Consider participating in the *3 Minute Thesis (3MT) competition*.
- Participate in and graduate seminars such as *Departmental Seminars, EEB, Limnology, and MCB* workshops, as well as the *Al Downe Lecture*.
- Expand your research audience through social media such as Twitter.
- Attend or present at a graduate conference such as those hosted by the *Canadian Society for Ecology and Evolution*, *Society for Experimental Biology*, *Canadian Society of Plant Biology*, or the many other national and international groups that feature graduate research.

### WRAPPING UP
- Complete and defend your thesis.
- Practice articulating the skills you have been developing in settings outside the university, such as casual conversation, networking, interviews. Get help with the *Skills and Experience workshop*.
- Check out opportunities for extra training through *CTL*, *Expanding Horizons*, *Mittacs*, or other sources to boost your skills.
- Participate in hiring committees and attend job talks. Start focusing on areas of interest. Research organizations of interest and start putting together your CV or resume for potential positions of interest. Get help from *Career Services* with *job searching, resumes, or interviews*.

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### EMPLOYABILITY SKILLS

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Knowledge and technical skills</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>in areas of specialization and often in cross-disciplinary fields</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Communication</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>effective and clear in written, oral and multimedia forms, for diverse audiences</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Information management</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>prioritize, organize and synthesize large amounts of information</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time management</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>meet deadlines and responsibilities despite competing demands</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project management</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>develop ideas, gather information, analyze, critically appraise findings, draw and act on conclusions</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Creativity and innovation</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>to address complex, multifaceted challenges</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Perseverance</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>to work through challenges to achieve desired outcome</td>
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<tr>
<th>Independence and experience as a collaborative worker</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>awareness and understanding of sound ethical practices, social responsibility, responsible research and cultural sensitivity</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Professionalism</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>in all aspects of work, research, and interactions</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Leadership</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>initiative and vision leading people and discussions</td>
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Visit careers.queensu.ca/gradmaps for the online version with links!