Life Sciences

The unique group of scientists and faculty involved with Life Sciences at Queen’s share a common goal: to lessen the impact of disease and trauma by training the next generation of health care scientists and professionals. One of the largest Bachelor of Science degree programs at Queen’s, Life Sciences is in high demand by students who wish to pursue careers in biomedical research and health care.

TOP 5 Reasons To Study Life Sciences

1. Preparation for a career in health care or biomedical research.
   Cutting-edge research in drug development and human toxicology, cancer biology, genetics, reproduction, microbiology, experimental medicine, and neuroscience.

2. Our internship program (QUIP) offers a range of careers to explore and companies to learn from.

3. Summer research (SWEP) assistant positions with professors.

4. Home to the Cancer Research Institute, the Centre for Neuroscience Studies, and the Cardiac, Circulation, and Respiratory Group.

5. Alumni Story

   “The Life Sciences major program offered a supportive community where I could explore various areas of science to discover where my passion was. The application-based courses provided several unique opportunities to apply course content to real life scenarios!”
   Meaghan Frank, Life Sciences Major Graduate

TOP ALUMNI JOBS

- 5% of alumni work in GOVERNMENT
- 9% of alumni work in PHARMACEUTICALS
- 27% of alumni work in EDUCATION & RESEARCH
- 33% of alumni work in HEALTH CARE

Alumni Story

“...” Meaghan Frank, Life Sciences Major Graduate


That is a degree from Queen’s.
2022-2023
Life Sciences MAJOR MAP
BACHELOR OF SCIENCE (HONOURS): MAJOR, MINOR, SPECIALIZATION

GET THE COURSES YOU NEED
- Direct entry students (Q) will have the chance to explore the foundations of Life Sciences in biology, chemistry, math and physics along with CSC 151/3U and PMH120/3U or BCHM 102/3U in your first year.
- Students transferring into Life Sciences in second year (QS) will have the chance to explore the foundations of Life Sciences in biology, chemistry, math and physics along with some electives.

GET RELEVANT EXPERIENCE
- Join teams or clubs on campus such as the Synthetic Biology Organization, Queen’s First Aid, Universities Allied for Essential Medicine.
- See the AMS Clubs Directory or the Queen's Get Involved page for more ideas.
- Get involved with the Departmental Student Council (DSC).
- Consider becoming a tutor or mentor through the ASUS programs. Volunteer on or off-campus with different community organizations, such as Let’s Talk Science (LTS), Queen’s Union on Tropical Access to Health, Science Rendezvous and the Queen’s IEM Team or local charities.

GET CONNECTED WITH THE COMMUNITY
- Get involved with the Departmental Student Council (DSC) and connect with professors at socials or attend speaker events.
- Start or continue volunteering with organizations such as the Canadian Undergraduate Conference on Healthcare (CUCOH) and Doctors Without Borders.

GET THINKING GLOBALLY
- Prepare for work or studies in a multi-cultural environment by taking QUEC Intercultural Competency Certificate, and research possible immigration regulations.
- Speak to a QUIC advisor to get involved in their programs, events, and training opportunities.

GET READY FOR LIFE AFTER GRADUATION
- Attend Majors Night to learn more about Life Sciences’ programs.
- Wondering about career options? Check out Career Services.
- Attend Information Sessions in November and January hosted by the Associate Dean, Life Sciences and Biochemistry.

What will I learn?
A degree in Life Sciences can equip you with:
- Knowledge of the cellular structures, organic systems, organic chemistry, and the functions of the human body
- Understanding of statistical research methods, the scientific method and experimental design
- Research skills leading to an ability to draw relevant information out of a large amount of data
- Fieldwork skills to design and carry out site investigations to solve problems
- Experience working in a laboratory setting and operating equipment
- Attention to detail to analyze and interpret scientific data
- Problem solving to adopt a systematic approach to problems
- Oral and written communication for laboratory reports and presenting reports to groups
- Time and resource management

Where can I go?
A degree in Life Sciences can take your career in many directions. Many students choose to continue their academic inquiry with a Master's degree. Our students are equipped with a strong foundation for careers in:
- Animal research
- Drug development
- Epidemiology
- Food science and technology
- Genetics
- Medical and clinical research
- Neuroscience
- Optometry
- Public health
- Toxicology

Time taking to explore career options, build experience and network can help you have a smooth transition to the world of work after graduation.

How to use this map
Use the 5 rows of the map to explore possibilities and plan for success in the five overlapping areas of career and academic. The map just offers suggestions – you don’t have to do it all! To make your own custom map, use the My Major Map tool.
Why study in Kingston?

For 175 years, our community has been more than a collection of bright minds – Queen's has attracted students with an ambitious spirit. Queen's has the highest retention rates, the highest graduation rates, and one of the highest employment rates among recent graduates. We are a research intensive university focused on the undergraduate experience. The BBC has identified Kingston as one of the GREATEST UNIVERSITY TOWNS in the world – and it is often awarded the safest city in Canada. It is a university city at the core; just a quick drive to Toronto, Montreal, Ottawa and even New York. A university with more clubs per capita than any other university in Canada, and a city with more restaurants per capita than any other city in North America – you will have the experience of a lifetime at Queen's – and graduate with a degree that is globally recognized among the best.

For more information, contact quip@queensu.ca or visit the Program Website.