Biochemistry

The Biochemistry program provides students with in-depth training in a wide range of essential topics related to fundamental cellular processes, including cellular metabolism, movement, replication, repair, and communication, and the molecular and genetic basis of infection and disease. The Biochemistry program offers opportunities for students to explore rapidly expanding fields in molecular genetics, bioengineering, and regenerative medicine through hands-on training with professors in research labs. This program also provides students with in-depth training needed to prepare them for entry into graduate programs, industry, and a wide array of careers in the biomedical sciences, education, medicine, and biotechnology.

TOP 5 Reasons To Study Biochemistry

1. Gain knowledge of chemical and biological processes within the human body and other organisms.
2. Work directly in our laboratories to become familiar with all types of equipment.
3. Build specific skills that employers are looking for in the industry.
4. Learn from top professors, who conduct research on cancer, reproductive health, and infection and disease.
5. Our internship program (QUIP) offers a range of careers to explore and companies to learn from.

TOP ALUMNI JOBS

- 5% of alumni work in GOVERNMENT
- 11% of alumni work in PHARMACEUTICALS
- 17% of alumni work in HEALTH CARE
- 40% of alumni work in EDUCATION & RESEARCH

Alumni Story

“Biochemistry is a program designed to challenge you but is incredibly rewarding. The courses, especially lab-based courses, teach you desirable skills that are highly transferable, such as data analysis and common biochemistry techniques. For students interested in research, I highly recommend doing a 4th year specialization project - it was this project that made me want to stay for a masters and PhD degree! Although the courses on this Major’s Map may seem like a lot, balance your degree with fun electives and extracurricular clubs to make the most of your university experience (I highly recommend the Biochemistry Department Student Council).”

-Kody Klupt, Biochemistry Specialization Grad

Add a CERTIFICATE

- Data Analytics
- Disability and Physical Activity
- Employment Relations
- Entrepreneurship, Innovation and Creativity
- French for Professionals
- Geographic Information Science
- Global Action and Engagement
- Indigenous Languages and Cultures
- International Studies
- Media Studies
- Sexual and Gender Diversity
- Urban Planning Studies

Quartsci.com/certs

2022-23 Plan Thresholds

Thresholds are made on a competitive basis and are updated annually. To see the thresholds for all programs as well as the latest information, please visit quartsci.com/planselection


That is a degree from Queen’s. healthsci.queensu.ca/liscbchm
Biochemistry MAJOR MAP

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE (HONOURS): SPECIALIZATION, MAJOR, MINOR

1ST YEAR

GET THE COURSES YOU NEED

Direct entry students (JL) will have the chance to explore the foundations of Biochemistry in biology, chemistry, math and physics along with CSC 151/3U and PATH 180/3U or BCHA 102/3U in first year. Students transferring into Biochemistry in second year (J2) will have the chance to explore the foundations of Biochemistry in biology, chemistry, math and physics along with some electives.

GET RELEVANT EXPERIENCE

Join teams or clubs on campus such as Let's Talk Science and Queen's First Aid. See the AMS Clubs Directory or the Queen's Get Involved page for more ideas.

GET CONNECTED WITH THE COMMUNITY

Volunteer on- or off-campus with different community organizations, such as Science Rendezvous and the Queen's iGEM Team. Consider becoming a tutor or mentor through the ASUS programs.

GET THINKING GLOBALLY

Prepare for work or studies in a multi-cultural environment by taking QUIC 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 Biochemistry program. Wondering about career options? Check out Career Services. Attend Information Sessions in November and January offered by the Associate Dean, Life Sciences and Biochemistry.

2ND YEAR

1. Gain an understanding of the building blocks of cells, how they interact and function to sustain life, and how we can study them. Attend DOG 101 in the Fall term to learn more about Certificates and Internship options.

2. Want to make sure your academics are where you want them to be? Visit SASS (Student Academic Support Services) and the Writing Centre for some help.

3RD YEAR

1. Receive in-depth exposure to all areas of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, Cell Biology, including extensive hands-on laboratory experience.

2. Meet with an Academic Advisor in the Life Sciences and Biochemistry Program Office to make sure you are on track and have planned out your courses for next year.

3. Consider taking more responsibility within clubs or extracurriculars, like Queen's Lifeboat Newspaper. Look into summer jobs by talking to the department or Career Services about work through SWEET or NSERC.

4. Consider entrepreneurial opportunities via programs like the Queen’s Innovation Centre Summer Initiative (QICSI) and the Queen’s Connect program.

5. Consider volunteering at Student Wellness Services or other health centers.

4TH OR FINAL YEAR

1. Investigate requirements for full-time jobs or other opportunities related to careers of interest. Assess what experience you’re lacking and fill in gaps with volunteering, clubs, or internships. - check out the Career Services; skills workshop for help. Participate in Inquiry at Queen’s undergraduate student conference.

2. Consider joining professional associations like the Canadian Society for Biochemistry, Canadian Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, and the International Union of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology.

3. Join groups on LinkedIn reflecting specific careers or topics of interest in Biochemistry.

4. International students interested in staying in Canada can speak with an International Student Advisor.

5. Apply to jobs or future education, or make plans for other adventures. Get help from Career Services with job searching, resumes, interviews, Grad School applications, or other decisions. Attend Town Hall meetings offered by the Associate Dean and prov. input into the Program.

What will I learn?

A degree in Biochemistry can equip you with valuable and versatile skills that employers seek, such as:

- Knowledge of the chemical and biological processes within the human body and other organisms
- Understanding of organic, analytical and physical chemistry and biology (genetics)
- Ability to use statistics and computer programs for data processing
- Familiarity with a laboratory environment and ability to troubleshoot laboratory equipment and instruments
- Quantitative skills to solve quantitative problems
- Oral and written communication to write and summarize reports, along with giving oral presentations
- Time and resource management
- Work experience to help identify careers of interest

Where can I go?

A degree in Biochemistry 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:

- Agricultural sciences
- Biotechnology
- Business
- Drug Development
- Epidemiology
- Genetic counselling
- Health administration
- Food science and technology
- Law
- Medicine
- Nutrition & dietetics
- Public health
- Veterinary medicine

Taking time 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 academics. 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.
Biochemistry

Get started thinking about the future now – where do you want to go after your degree? Having tentative goals (like careers or grad school) while working through your degree can help with short-term decisions about courses and experiences, but also help you keep motivated for success.

Get the help you need

Queen’s provides you with a broad range of support services from your first point of contact with the university through to graduation. At Queen’s, you are never alone. We have many offices dedicated to helping you learn, think and do.

Ranging from help with academics and careers, to physical, emotional, or spiritual resources – our welcoming living and learning environment offers the programs and services you need to be successful, both academically and personally. Queen’s wants you to succeed! Check out the Student Affairs website for available resources.

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.