There has never been a more exciting time to study biology, with subjects ranging from climate change and the conservation of biodiversity to the origin and evolution of life, and from the form and function of organisms to the ongoing “omics” revolution at the molecular level. Our program emphasizes interactive learning with hands-on laboratories, field courses, and small senior seminar modules.

10% of alumni work in GOVERNMENT & NON-PROFIT
13% of alumni work in BUSINESS & LAW
35% of alumni work in HEALTH CARE
20% of alumni work in EDUCATION

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.

Sample past internships
Running Logistics, Communications & Marketing, Research, Field Station, QUBS, and more.

Why study Biology?

Top 5 REASONS to study BIOLOGY

1. SWEP jobs provide students with true research opportunities, and start after first year.
2. QUBS: an off-site field station that provides students with opportunities to learn hands-on from their environment.
3. Courses are focused on cutting-edge topics in biology.
4. Interact closely with professors in class and during our many events held throughout the year.
5. Apply for an internship, with specific jobs for all types of biological study and research.

That is a degree from Queen’s.
BIOLOGY

MAJOR MAP *

1ST YEAR

In first year you will have the chance to explore the foundations of Biology in biochemistry, geography and geology along with some electives.

Attend Majors Night in the Winter term to learn more about Plan options.

2ND YEAR

Start going deeper into the discipline of Biology, while considering a minor and/or certificate such as Media Studies. Attend Degree +, in the Fall term to learn more about Certificates and Internship options.

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

A chance to start grouping courses in areas of interest, or to keep it more general and explore many areas of Biology. Meet with an Academic Advisor to make sure you are on track and have planned out your courses for next year.

Volunteering is a great way to get practical experience and build your Resume towards getting Biology jobs during your degree.

Look into summer jobs by talking to the department or Career Services about work through OWWP or NSERC.

4TH OR FINAL YEAR

In fourth year you will have the chance to participate in research-based courses that can lead to Graduate School or to your future career path. Make sure to finish up all your courses for your major and your optional minor and/or certificate(s).

Volunteering is a great way to get practical experience and build your Resume towards getting Biology jobs during your degree.

Consider applying to research opportunities at Queen's University Biological Station or through the Biology Undergraduate Summer awards.

Consider applying to do a 12-16 month QUIP internship between your third and fourth year.

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.

CONSIDER A 12-16 MONTH QUIP INTERNSHIP

Consider joining professional associations like Canadian Society for Molecular Biosciences, BIOTECanada, and the Canadian Society for Ecology and Evolution.

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

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

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.

Where can I go?

A degree in Biology can take your career in many directions. Many students choose to continue their academic inquiry with a Master's. Our students are equipped with a strong foundation for careers in:

- Agricultural Sciences
- Bioeconomics
- Biotechnology
- Chiropractic
- Dentistry
- Environmental conservation
- Environmental sustainability
- Fisheries science
- Marine biology
- Medicine
- Medical technology
- Occupational therapy
- Oceanography
- Optometry
- Pharmacology
- Physical therapy
- Toxicology
- 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.

What will I learn?

A degree in Biology can equip you with:

- Develop knowledge of biological functions
- Use laboratory equipment and instruments
- Gain hands-on experience studying biology in the field
- Comply with quality control and safety regulations
- Collect and preserve organisms
- Design experimental studies
- Present literature and research findings in posters and seminars
- Observe and make measurements
- Write, review, and summarize reports/ scientific writing
- Analyze and evaluate information
- Statistical analysis of biological data
- Solve quantitative problems

Where can I get help thinking about Grad school or other opportunities related to careers of interest. If needed, prepare to take any required tests (like the MCAT or GMAT) and get help thinking about Grad School from Career Services.

Visit careers.queensu.ca/majormaps for the online version with links!

* This map is intended to provide suggestions for activities and careers, but everyone's abilities, experiences, and constraints are different. Build your own Major Map using our online tool. My Major Map Tool.