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.

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 with high research funding, one of the highest thresholds and one of the highest percentage of alumni working in all sectors. In Kingston – 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 a strong community focus and a strong undergraduate experience. The BBC has identified Kingston as one of the UK’s top 3 university towns.

We’re closer than you think

For more information, contact quip@queensu.ca or visit the Program Website.
2019-2020

Biology MAJOR MAP *

1ST YEAR

GET THE COURSES YOU NEED

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

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

GET RELEVANT EXPERIENCE

Join teams or clubs on campus such as Queen's First Aid, the Queen’s Association for Technology in Medicine and Biology (QATMB), the Queen’s Genetically Engineered Machine Team (QGEM) and the Queen's Synthetic Biology Organization (QSYNB). 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 Queen’s Health Outreach, Let’s Talk Science, and Women in Science & Engineering at Queen’s University (WISE).

GET THINKING GLOBALLY

Prepare for work or studies in a multi-cultural environment by taking QUIC’s 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

Grappling with program decisions? Go to Majors Night or get some help considering career options from Career Services.

Build your transferable skills in time management, problem-solving, writing and more with Student Academic Success Services.

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.

GET RELEVANT EXPERIENCE

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 SWEP or NSERC.

GET CONNECTED WITH THE COMMUNITY

Get involved with the Departmental Student Council (DSC). Start or continue volunteering with organizations.

If interested, attend conferences and talks like the Canadian Undergraduate Conference on Healthcare (CUCHO).

GET THINKING GLOBALLY

Is an exchange in your future? Start thinking about where you would like to study abroad. Apply in January for a third year exchange through the International Programs Office.

Look into a BIOL 307/317 Field Biology International Program.

GET READY FOR LIFE AFTER GRADUATION

Explore different careers of interest by reading books in the Career Services Information Area, such as Opportunities in Biotechnology Careers. For more information check out Career Cruising or by finding and connecting with alumni on LinkedIn.

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.

GET RELEVANT EXPERIENCE

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 QUP internship between your third and fourth year.

GET CONNECTED WITH THE COMMUNITY

Do some targeted networking with alumni working in careers of interest by joining the LinkedIn group Queen's Alumni Networking.

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 Inquir@ Queen’s undergraduate student conference.

GET THINKING GLOBALLY

Build your intercultural competence by getting involved with other cultures or by practicing and improving your language skills.

GET READY FOR LIFE AFTER GRADUATION

Start focusing on areas of interest. Research education requirements for 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.

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).

GET RELEVANT EXPERIENCE

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 Inquir@ Queen’s undergraduate student conference.

GET CONNECTED WITH THE COMMUNITY

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.

GET THINKING GLOBALLY

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

GET READY FOR LIFE AFTER GRADUATION

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.

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 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
• Biochemistry
• Dentistry
• Environmental conservation
• Environmental sustainability
• Fisheries science
• Marine biology
• Medicine
• Medical technology
• Occupational therapy
• Oceano graphs
• Optometry
• Pharmacology
• Physical therapy
• Toxicology
• Veterinary medicine

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

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* 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 By Major Map tool.