Biology

MAJOR MAP

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.

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.

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 university focused on the undergraduate experience. With research among the best globally recognized and graduate with a degree that is among the best per capita than any other university 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 biology@queensu.ca or visit the Program Website.

REASONS to Study Biology

1. Queen’s Biology program was very well-rounded and definitely played a major role in helping to get where I am today. Not only did I learn a lot from the courses, but I also had the opportunity to do an independent research project and spend a summer doing fieldwork at Queen’s University Biological Station.” -Sharon Zhang, BScH ’13

2. SWEP jobs provide students with true research opportunities, and start after first year.

3. QUBS: an off-site field station that provides students with opportunities to learn hands-on from their environment.

4. Courses are focused on cutting-edge topics in biology.

5. Apply for an internship, with specific research opportunities, and start after first year.

2019-20 major thresholds

1.9 cGPA - AUTOMATIC ACCEPTANCE

1.6 cGPA - PENDING LIST

10% of alumni work in GOVERNMENT & NON-PROFIT

13% of alumni work in BUSINESS & LAW

16% of alumni work in HEALTH CARE

35% of alumni work in EDUCATION


That is a degree from Queen’s.

biology.queensu.ca
### 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 (QSYNBO). 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

**Get the Courses You Need**
- Start going deeper into the discipline of Biology, while considering a minor and/or certificate such as Media Studies. Attend Degree Day 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 SWFP 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 (CUCOH).

**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 B 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 our Career Counselling or by finding and connecting with alumni on LinkedIn.

### 3RD YEAR

**Get the Courses You Need**
- 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 QUIP 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 Connects. Check out Career Services Networking workshops.
- Connect with professors at events or workshops hosted by the DSC.

**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

**Get the Courses You Need**
- 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 Inquiry or 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 Adviser.

**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.

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### 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
- Biotechnology
- Biochemistry
- Biostatistics
- Dentistry
- Environmental conservation
- Environmental sustainability
- Fisheries science
- Marine biology
- Medical
- Medical technology
- Occupational therapy
- Osteopathy
- Pharmacology
- Physical therapy
- Toxicology
- Veterinary medicine

### What can I do?

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

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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 My Major Map Tool.*