

## Field course information session November 2022 (summer 2023 courses)

### Introduction

Field courses are designed to get you doing research outside in the field. They are an alternative to on-campus research experiences (where you can also get credit by enrolling in IBIO4500/4510 or IBIO4521/22, or in courses IBIO4600 and BIOL4110).

The Integrative Biology Department website provides all instructions and forms for taking field courses: Department of Integrative Biology > Undergraduate program > Field Courses:

[https://www.uoguelph.ca/ib/field\\_courses](https://www.uoguelph.ca/ib/field_courses)

To guide yourself through the various different experiential research opportunities available to students, go to the *Experiential learning courses decision tree* at the field course website above:

[https://www.uoguelph.ca/ib/sites/uoguelph.ca/ib/files/public/Experiential Learning Courses Decision Tree 2019.pdf](https://www.uoguelph.ca/ib/sites/uoguelph.ca/ib/files/public/Experiential_Learning_Courses_Decision_Tree_2019.pdf)

There are three possible ways of taking field courses outlined below. The following apply in all cases:

- You must be a registered student at the university of Guelph to gain academic credit. You must pay university of Guelph registration fees on top of the separate course fees.
- Fees vary by course, and do not include transportation fees to/from the field site. More information about fees is below.
- Registration ALWAYS includes a non-refundable deposit of 350\$ (except for verified medical or other compassionate circumstances)
- For international field courses (including to the US), students must take and pass the UoG *Depart smart* online course to prepare you for your international experience. See 'Other international academic travelers' at: <https://www.uoguelph.ca/cip/pre-departure-orientation>
- Prerequisites for most field courses (see specific course outlines):
  - BIOL\*2060 (or equivalent)
  - Statistics is either a prerequisite or strongly recommended to design and analyze data that you collect for a research project.

### Three ways to take a field course for academic credit

If you are confused about how to do any of these options, consult the *Field course decision tree* at: [https://www.uoguelph.ca/ib/sites/uoguelph.ca/ib/files/public/Field Course Decision Tree 2019.pdf](https://www.uoguelph.ca/ib/sites/uoguelph.ca/ib/files/public/Field_Course_Decision_Tree_2019.pdf)

1. **Field courses offered by Integrative Biology at UoG** (0.75 credits each). There are typically three IB led field courses: Field Ecology (BIOL\*4410), Marine Biology (ZOO\*4300) and Arctic ecology (BIOL\*4610).

a. each course has a specific informational meeting:

i. Marine Biology: Monday, Nov. 21.

- ii. Field ecology: Wednesday Nov. 23.
- iii. Arctic Ecology: Not offered in S23 – no meeting!
- b. University of Guelph students apply to and enroll in courses under their specific course numbers – but NOT through the normal course registration system.
- c. Get applications and follow instructions from the field course website at:  
[https://www.uoguelph.ca/ib/field\\_courses](https://www.uoguelph.ca/ib/field_courses)

**2. Field courses at another Ontario university (OUPFB).** (0.5 credits each)

Guelph is part of a consortium of 16 ON universities that allow students to take each other's field courses for academic credit (0.5 per course) at the student's home university program.

- This is the Ontario University Program in Field Biology (OUPFB)
- You enroll in BIOL\*4700/4800/4900 for OUPFB courses.
- Study the 2022 list of courses on the OUPFB website:  
<http://www.oupfb.ca/index.html>.
- This list changes about 20% from year to year and so the most recent list is a decent guide to courses that will be offered in the next year.
- OUPFB field courses are available from February to August, but mostly between May-August.
- Follow ALL instructions to register for an OUPFB course found at the bottom of the IB department website for field courses (above): The Ontario Universities Program in Field Biology (OUPFB)
- More registration details for OUPFB courses are given at the bottom here - after the next item 3.

**3. Field courses from other academic/research organizations/institutions.** This process requires an evaluation of the course for academic credit at UoG. Academic credit must be applied for and organized before you take the course with the other organization. This process assures that academic standards are met and that the organization/institution will provide grades in a timely fashion to UoG.

- a. In general, ANY field course for 4000 level credit must meet the criteria:
  - i. Taught by faculty with an academic appointment at an accredited post-secondary institution.
  - ii. Course is offered through a post-secondary institution and so listed in their official calendar of courses
  - iii. Or sponsored by a research centre, station, and/or research-related institute whose primary function is scientific research (not education, outreach, tourism, etc).
- b. Ecotourism type organization experiences are NOT acceptable for field course credit at the 4000 level.
- c. For example, summer field courses are available through the Bamfield Marine Sciences Centre on the west coast of Vancouver island  
<https://bamfieldmsc.com/education>) and Bonne Bay Marine Station Newfoundland (<https://grenfell.mun.ca/academics-and-research/Pages/Bonne-Bay-Marine-Station/study.aspx>). Many similar centers exist in the US.

- d. Additional details for registering for non-UoG and non-OUPFB field courses are outlined in the *Field course decision tree*:

[https://www.uoguelph.ca/ib/sites/uoguelph.ca.ib/files/public/Field Course Decision Tree 2019.pdf](https://www.uoguelph.ca/ib/sites/uoguelph.ca.ib/files/public/Field_Course_Decision_Tree_2019.pdf)

## Field course Fees

Your total direct costs = Field course costs + Transportation costs + standard UoG term registration (or co-op) costs.

Field courses require you to be an enrolled student at the university of Guelph. In other words, part time or full-time or co-op tuition applies in addition to field course and transportation costs. Because work is completed both in the field and after the field experience, students have various registration options that will influence the additional university registration or coop fees.

- Registering in a term when you are already taking other courses will save on university fees.
- Typically, students register for the field course in the fall semester (ie., 1<sup>st</sup> term after the summer field component has occurred) when they are taking a full-time course load and already paying university registration. No additional registration fee is imposed other than the full-time registration in the fall term.
- If the student is taking a coop workterm in the fall semester after the field component of the course, then they may register in the winter semester (ie., 2<sup>nd</sup> term after the field component).
- If the field component ends before mid-June, then students can choose to register in the summer semester, but will have to pay the standard UoG registration or coop fees for the summer semester depending on part-time or full-time status.

## Further details about registering in OUPFB field courses (#2 above)

The OUPFB website is at: <http://www.oupfb.ca/index.html>. About 80% of the courses continue from year to year. Descriptions of the courses from the previous year indicate when, where, how much, academic and travel considerations, etc. You can contact the instructors for further information. BUT, instructors DO NOT sign you in, nor do they tell you if you are in or not.

Access to OUPFB courses is **HIGHLY** competitive because there are limited seats allocated to students from multiple universities. You DO NOT register through WebAdvisor. The key to a successful OUPFB application is to be organized and register early. Your local OUPFB coordinators (Faculty - Dr. Beren Robinson; Staff – Mr. Ryan Kenwell in the Dept. of IB office) register you into any OUPFB course.

Step 1: Start planning now. Review the previous year's courses on the OUPFB website (link above). Download and read fully, the course outline for BIOL4700/4800 at: [https://www.uoguelph.ca/ib/system/files/Course\\_Outline\\_2022\\_BIOL4700\\_4800\\_4900.pdf](https://www.uoguelph.ca/ib/system/files/Course_Outline_2022_BIOL4700_4800_4900.pdf)

Step 2: Go to the OUPFB website and choose your 3 preferred OUPFB field courses and rank them. Bring/email this with your name and student number to Ryan Kenwell in the Dept. of Integrative biology (Scie 2484; rkenwell@uoguelph.ca) **before Dec. 4**, so that we can try to reserve a seat in your preferred course at the other university. There is no guarantee that we can reserve seats in advance.

Step 3: Download the BIOL4700/4800/4900 Application form from the Department of Integrative Biology > Undergraduate > Field courses website:

[https://www.uoguelph.ca/ib/field\\_courses](https://www.uoguelph.ca/ib/field_courses)

Follow ALL instructions, completing all related forms, and submitting in one package. A deposit check must follow by mail or personal delivery to the office to complete your application.

Step 4: Submit your completed registration forms and deposit to Ryan Kenwell. Registration begins Monday Jan. 9 and closes Friday February 17.

#### IMPORTANT OUPFB NOTES

1. Registration is first come first serve based on submission of your complete registration package including deposit check. Register early.
2. Make second and third ranked choices and provide these at the same time. If we cannot get you into your first choice, then we will try to get you into your other choices. Choose 1-2 back-up courses.
3. A 350\$ deposit is required for each course that you wish to take in the form of a signed check. No checks are required for your two back-up choices. This deposit is **non-refundable** except for significant verifiable medical or other circumstances, or if we can fill the vacant slot with another student. Field courses are expensive to run and we cannot have them undersubscribed because students change their minds.
4. The upcoming registration window is for OUPFB courses offered from Feb – Aug 2023.
5. You can take up to 3 OUPFB courses for 0.5 credits each in most UoG programs. You can usually take up to 2 field courses over your normal course load in any registered term. So, this is a chance to get some serious field research science credits towards your academic program.
6. To use an OUPFB course as a back-up in case you are not accepted into an IB field course above, requires you to apply for OUPFB course(s) and IB field courses, and paying separate deposits for each.
7. We will not cash any deposit until you are accepted into the field course for which the deposit applies. Rule number 3 about non-refundable deposits applies for students accepted into a field course who then back out.