

2020-2021 Graduate Calendar

The information published in this Graduate Calendar outlines the rules, regulations, curricula, programs and fees for the 2020-2021 academic year, including the Summer Semester 2020, Fall Semester 2020 and the Winter Semester 2021.

For your convenience the Graduate Calendar is available in PDF format.

If you wish to link to the Graduate Calendar please refer to the [Linking Guidelines](#).

The University is a full member of:

- Universities of Canada

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The logo for the University of Guelph, featuring the text "UNIVERSITY of GUELPH" in a stylized font.The tagline "CHANGING LIVES IMPROVING LIFE" in a bold, sans-serif font, set against a yellow background.

Disclaimer

The information published in this Graduate Calendar outlines the rules, regulations, curricula, programs and fees for the 2020-2021 academic year, including the Summer Semester 2020, the Fall Semester 2020 and the Winter Semester 2021

The University reserves the right to change without notice any information contained in this calendar, including but not limited to that related to tuition and other fees, standards of admission, course delivery or format, continuation of study, and the offering or requirements for the granting of, degrees or diplomas in any or all of its programs. The publication of this calendar does not bind the University to the provision of courses, programs, schedules of study, or facilities as listed herein.

The University will not be liable for any failure or delay in performance arising out of any cause or causes beyond its reasonable control. Such causes may include but are not limited to fire, strike, lock-out, inability to procure materials or trades, war, mass-casualty event, flood, local, regional or global outbreak of disease or other public health emergency, social distancing or quarantine restriction, legislative or regulatory requirements, unusually severe weather, failure of public utility or common carrier, or attacks or other malicious act, including but not limited to attacks on or through the internet, or any internet service, telecommunications provider or hosting facility.

In March 2020 the World Health Organization declared a global pandemic of the virus leading to COVID-19. The Governments of Canada, the Province of Ontario, and local Governments responded to the pandemic with legislative amendments, controls, orders, by-laws, requests and requirements (collectively, the "Governmental Response"). It is uncertain how long the pandemic, and the related Governmental Response, will continue, and it is unknown whether there may be a resurgence of the virus leading to COVID-19 or any mutation thereof (collectively, the "Virus") and resulting or supplementary renewed Government Response. Without limiting the foregoing paragraph, the University shall not be liable for costs associated with any failure or delay in performance arising out of:

- a. the continued spread of the Virus;
- b. the continuation of or renewed Governmental Response to control the spread of the Virus; and
- c. a University decision, made on an organization-wide basis and in good faith, to control the spread of the Virus, even if exceeding the then current specific Government Response.

In particular, the COVID-19 pandemic may necessitate a revision of the format of course offerings such that courses are offered in whole or in part on an alternate delivery model to in-person classes. Tuition and mandatory fees have been set regardless of the method of instruction and will not be refunded in the event instruction occurs remotely for any part of the academic year.

Dates or times of performance including the Schedule of Dates may be extended as appropriate and the University will notify students promptly of the existence and nature of such delay and shall, so far as practicable, use reasonable efforts to minimize and mitigate any such delay or non-performance.

In the event of a discrepancy between a print version (downloaded) and the Web version, the Web version will apply.

The University of Guelph reaffirms section 1 of the Ontario Human Rights Code, 1981, which prohibits discrimination on the grounds of race, ancestry, place of origin, colour, ethnic origin, citizenship, creed, sex, sexual orientation, handicap, age, marital status or family status.

The university encourages applications from women, aboriginal peoples, visible minorities, persons with disabilities, and members of other under-represented groups.

Introduction

Collection, Use and Disclosure of Personal Information

Personal information is collected under the authority of the University of Guelph Act (1964), and in accordance with Ontario's Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (FIPPA) http://www.e-laws.gov.on.ca/DBLaws/Statutes/English/90f31_e.htm. This information is used by University officials in order to carry out their authorized academic and administrative responsibilities and also to establish a relationship for alumni and development purposes. Certain personal information is disclosed to external agencies, including the Ontario Universities Application Centre, the Ministry of Advanced Education and Skills Development, and Statistics Canada, for statistical and planning purposes, and is disclosed to other individuals or organizations in accordance with the Office of Registrarial Services Departmental Policy on the Release of Student Information. For details on the use and disclosure of this information call the Office of Registrarial Services at the University at (519) 824-4120 or see <https://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/>

Statistics Canada - Notification of Disclosure

For further information, please see Statistics Canada's web site at <http://www.statcan.gc.ca> and Section XIV Statistics Canada.

Address for University Communication

Depending on the nature and timing of the communication, the University may use one of these addresses to communicate with students. Students are, therefore, responsible for checking all of the following on a regular basis:

Email Address

The University issued email address is considered an official means of communication with the student and will be used for correspondence from the University. Students are responsible for monitoring their University-issued email account regularly.

Home Address

Students are responsible for maintaining a current mailing address with the University. Address changes can be made, in writing, through Registrarial Services.

Name Changes

The University of Guelph is committed to the integrity of its student records, therefore, each student is required to provide either on application for admission or on personal data forms required for registration, their complete, legal name. Any requests to change a name, by means of alteration, deletion, substitution or addition, must be accompanied by appropriate supporting documentation.

Student Confidentiality and Release of Student Information Policy Excerpt

The University undertakes to protect the privacy of each student and the confidentiality of their record. To this end the University shall refuse to disclose personal information to any person other than the individual to whom the information relates where disclosure would constitute an unjustified invasion of the personal privacy of that person or of any other individual. All members of the University community must respect the confidential nature of the student information which they acquire in the course of their work.

Complete policy at <https://www.uoguelph.ca/secretariat/office-services/university-secretariat/university-policies>.

Learning Outcomes

Graduate Degree Learning Outcomes

On May 27, 2013, the University of Guelph Senate approved the following five University-wide Learning Outcomes as the basis from which to guide the development of graduate degree programs, specializations and courses:

1. Critical and Creative Thinking
2. Literacy
3. Global Understanding
4. Communication
5. Professional and Ethical Behaviour

These learning outcomes are also intended to serve as a framework through which our educational expectations are clear to students and the broader public; and to inform the process of outcomes assessment through the quality assurance process (regular reviews) of programs and departments.

An on-line guide to the learning outcomes, links to the associated skills, and detailed rubrics designed to support the development and assessment of additional program and discipline-specific outcomes, are available for reference on the [Learning Outcomes website](#)

Critical and Creative Thinking

Critical and creative thinking is a concept in which one applies logical principles, after much inquiry and analysis, to solve problems with a high degree of innovation, divergent thinking and risk taking. Those mastering this outcome show evidence of integrating knowledge and applying this knowledge across disciplinary boundaries. Depth and breadth of understanding of disciplines is essential to this outcome. At the graduate level, originality in the application of knowledge (master's) and undertaking of research (doctoral) is expected.

In addition, Critical and Creative Thinking includes, but is not limited to, the following outcomes: Independent Inquiry and Analysis; Problem Solving; Creativity; and Depth and Breadth of Understanding.

Literacy

Literacy is the ability to extract information from a variety of resources, assess the quality and validity of the material, and use it to discover new knowledge. The comfort in using quantitative literacy also exists in this definition, as does using technology effectively and developing visual literacy.

In addition, Literacy includes, but is not limited to, the following outcomes: Information Literacy, Quantitative Literacy, Technological Literacy, and Visual Literacy.

Global Understanding

Global understanding encompasses the knowledge of cultural similarities and differences, the context (historical, geographical, political and environmental) from which these arise, and how they are manifest in modern society. Global understanding is exercised as civic engagement, intercultural competence and the ability to understand an academic discipline outside of the domestic context.

In addition, Global Understanding includes, but is not limited to, the following outcomes: Global Understanding, Sense of Historical Development, Civic Knowledge and Engagement, and Intercultural Competence.

Communication

Communication is the ability to interact effectively with a variety of individuals and groups, and convey information successfully in a variety of formats including oral and written communication. Communication also comprises attentiveness and listening, as well as reading comprehension. It includes the ability to communicate and synthesize information, arguments, and analyses accurately and reliably.

In addition, Communication includes, but is not limited to, the following outcomes: Oral Communication, Written Communication, Reading Comprehension, and Integrative Communication.

Professional and Ethical Behaviour

Professional and ethical behaviour requires the ability to accomplish the tasks at hand with proficient skills in teamwork and leadership, while remembering ethical reasoning behind all decisions. The ability for organizational and time management skills is essential in bringing together all aspects of managing self and others. Academic integrity is central to mastery in this outcome. At the graduate level, intellectual independence is needed for professional and academic development and engagement.

In addition, Professional and Ethical Behaviour includes, but is not limited to, the following outcomes: Teamwork, Ethical Reasoning, Leadership, Personal Organization and Time Management, and Intellectual Independence.

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Integrative Biology

The Department of Integrative Biology is comprised of faculty members in three overlapping fields and offers MSc and PhD degrees in:

- **Ecology**
- **Evolutionary Biology**
- **Comparative Physiology**

Research is focused on a wide variety of organisms (from microbes to plants to animals) at multiple levels of organization (from molecules and cells through to entire ecosystems). Basic research is being used as a foundation to address some of the most important regional and global issues.

See the [department website](#) for additional information.

Administrative Staff

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MSc Program

The Integrative Biology Graduate Program offers MSc degrees in each of three major fields of emphasis: 1) ecology; 2) evolutionary biology; and 3) comparative physiology. The three areas of interest focus on (but are not restricted to) experimental approaches in field and laboratory settings and a strong linkage between theoretical and applied investigations. The department encourages students to pursue interdisciplinary research and, where appropriate, utilize faculty expertise from across campus on their advisory committees.

Admissions Requirements

To be considered, applicants must meet the requirements of a four-year honours science degree with a minimum 'B' (75%) average during the final two years (4 semesters) of undergraduate study. Each applicant must obtain the support of a faculty member willing to serve as their thesis advisor.

Admission may be granted in September, January or May. Completed applications should be uploaded at least one full semester (four months) before the expected date of admission. Applications from international students should be uploaded at least eight months prior to the expected date of admission.

All components of the application, including transcript(s), graduate certificate(s), grading scale(s), language test results, assessment forms, a statement of interest and the name of the faculty advisor must be uploaded no later than two months after an application is submitted through the OUAC portal. Applications that are incomplete after this time period will be closed.

Admission Process

Graduate student applications to programs in the College of Biological Science are handled by the Office of the Associate Dean, Research (ADR). Before submitting an application, applicants are strongly encouraged to review the information found on the CBS-ADR website to learn more about [the application process](#).

Complete application submission instructions may also be found on the [Office of Graduate Studies](#) webpage or in the Graduate Calendar.

Program Requirements

Students must complete and defend an acceptable thesis. In addition, they must successfully complete courses totaling not fewer than 1.5 credits. These credits must include the mandatory course IBIO*6630, Scientific Communication (0.50 credit)

An acceptable MSc thesis comprises a scientifically defensible account of the student's research on a particular, well-defined research problem or hypothesis. Such research should begin with the practical expectation that it could be completed and the thesis defended in not more than six semesters. Paramount to the notion of acceptability of the thesis is its quality with respect to the underlying rationale (problem identification), the approach used to address the problem, and the evaluation of the results. Final acceptance of the MSc thesis need not imply that the work is sufficiently meritorious to warrant publication in scholarly media, though the majority of MSc research in the department is published.

The Department endorses the idea that graduate students in the Integrative Biology program should benefit from exposure to recent developments both within and between the major areas of emphasis. To that end, students may enrol in any of the regularly offered courses entitled "Special Topics in ..." Details of course content, format and evaluation will be available in the Office of the Chair of the Department one semester prior to the semester in which the course is offered.

In addition, the Department offers two "Advances in Integrative Biology" courses to provide students with the opportunity to study with individual faculty on specific topics in the faculty member's area of expertise. These courses may be taken by groups as either reading/seminar courses, or on an individual research-project basis. Students should approach individual faculty members to request supervision on individual research project courses. In addition, a student can register in an "Advances in Integrative Biology" course to combine a senior-level undergraduate course in ecology, evolutionary biology, or comparative physiology with an additional component – typically a major paper or research project. Students should approach individual faculty members that teach the senior-level undergraduate course, and in consultation with their thesis advisor.

PhD Program

The Integrative Biology Graduate Program offers PhD degrees for studies in each of the three major fields of emphasis: 1) ecology; 2) evolutionary biology; and 3) comparative physiology. The 3 three areas of emphasis focus on (but are not restricted to), experimental approaches in field and laboratory settings and a strong linkage between theoretical and applied investigations. The Department encourages students to pursue interdisciplinary research and, where appropriate, utilize faculty expertise from across campus on their advisory committees.

Admissions Requirements

The admission and degree requirements of the PhD program are essentially those of the university. Most applicants will have a recognized Master's degree in a related field obtained with minimum academic standing of 'A-' (80%) in their postgraduate studies, and the endorsement of a potential thesis advisor. Under exceptional circumstances admission directly to a PhD program with an appropriate honours degree alone, or transfer from MSc to PhD program without completing the MSc thesis requirements, is also possible. Applications should be uploaded at least one full semester (four months) prior to the expected date of admission. Applications from international students should be uploaded at least eight months prior to the expected date of admission.

Each applicant must obtain the support of a faculty member willing to serve as their thesis advisor.

All components of the application, including transcript(s), graduate certificate(s), grading scale(s), language test results, assessment forms, a statement of interest and the name of the faculty advisor must be uploaded no later than two months after an application is submitted through the OUAC portal. Applications that are incomplete after this time period will be closed.

Admissions Process

Graduate student applications to programs in the College of Biological Science are handled by the Office of the Associate Dean, Research (ADR). Before submitting an application, applicants are strongly encouraged to review the information found on the CBS-ADR website to learn more about [the application process](#).

Complete application instructions may also be found on the [Office of Graduate Studies](#) webpage or in the Graduate Calendar

Program Requirements

The Integrative Biology program expects that the major part of the student's time will be devoted to research in fulfillment of the thesis requirement. For that reason, the Department does not require that PhD students with an MSc degree take any courses. Students entering directly into the PhD program are required to take 1.0 course credits, which must include IBIO*6630, Scientific Communication (0.50 credit) in their first or second semester. Furthermore, advisory committees may, from time to time, require that a student take some prescribed or additional courses. Regardless, PhD students are expected to contribute and participate actively in the full academic life of the department, including regular attendance at departmental and inter-departmental seminars, and to provide leadership and counseling to undergraduate and MSc students.

PhD students will become candidates for the PhD degree upon successful completion of a qualifying examination with oral and written components, which should be conducted not later than the third semester of the PhD program. The exam evaluates students' knowledge in the general area of the intended research.

Submission and defence of an acceptable thesis complete the requirements for a PhD. An acceptable thesis comprises a report of the candidate's research on a particular and well-defined research problem or hypothesis. It should represent a significant contribution to knowledge in that field. Emphasis is placed on the quality of the work as judged by the expression of mature scholarship, critical judgment, and satisfactory literary style in the thesis. Thesis approval implies that the research is judged sufficiently meritorious to warrant publication in reputable, refereed journals in its field.

Interdepartmental Programs

Faculty in Integrative Biology also participate in the interdepartmental programs in Bioinformatics or Biophysics

Collaborative Specializations

Faculty in Integrative Biology also participate in the collaborative specializations in One Health, Neuroscience or Toxicology

Courses

Ecology

IBIO*6000 Special Topics in Ecology and Behaviour U [0.50]

This is a course in which several faculty lecture and/or lead discussion groups in tutorials about advances in their broad areas, or related areas, of ecology and behaviour. Topics may include animal communication, optimal foraging, life-history evolution, mating systems, population dynamics, niche theory and food-web dynamics, and will depend on who is co-ordinating the course for that particular offering. The course includes lectures and seminars in which the students actively participate.

Department(s): Department of Integrative Biology

Evolutionary Biology

IBIO*6020 Special Topics in Evolutionary Biology U [0.50]

This modular course reviews books and/or other publications in the field of evolutionary biology, providing knowledge of progress in this area of biology. Topics may include epigenetics, phylogenetics, developmental basis of evolutionary change, and molecular evolution. The course includes lectures and seminars in which the students participate. Offered annually.

Department(s): Department of Integrative Biology

Comparative Physiology

IBIO*6010 Special Topics in Physiology U [0.50]

This is a course in which several faculty lecture and/or lead discussion groups in tutorials about advances in their broad areas, or related areas, of physiology. Topics may include metabolic adaptation to extreme environments, behavioural and molecular endocrinology, and exercise and muscle physiology, and will depend on who is co-ordinating the course for that particular offering. The course includes lectures and seminars in which the students actively participate.

Department(s): Department of Integrative Biology

General

IBIO*6070 Advances in Integrative Biology I U [0.50]

This course provides graduate students, either individually or in groups, with the opportunity to pursue topics in specialized fields of integrative biology under the guidance of graduate faculty. Courses may be offered in any of lecture, reading/seminar, or individual project formats. A minimum enrolment may be required for some course offerings.

Restriction(s): Instructor consent required.

Department(s): Department of Integrative Biology

IBIO*6080 Advances in Integrative Biology II U [0.50]

This course provides graduate students, either individually or in groups, with the opportunity to pursue topics in specialized fields of integrative biology under the guidance of graduate faculty. Courses may be offered in any of lecture, reading/seminar, or individual project formats. A minimum enrolment may be required for some course offerings.

Restriction(s): Instructor consent required.

Department(s): Department of Integrative Biology

IBIO*6630 Scientific Communication U [0.50]

This course involves development and refinement of the skills of scientific communication, with emphasis on writing skills, in the context of developing a thesis proposal. This course is mandatory for MSc AND DIRECT ENTRY PhD students in the Department of Integrative Biology.

Department(s): Department of Integrative Biology