Carleton University biology programs offer you an opportunity to work closely with renowned scientists in an academically enriching and collegial environment. Faculty members conduct cutting-edge research at all levels of biological organization, from molecular genetics to landscape ecology. Our programs are research-intensive. The Department of Biology is equipped with state-of-the-art molecular biology laboratories, an aquatics facility, controlled-environment rooms and growth chambers and extensive greenhouses. Students benefit from our membership in the Ottawa-Carleton Institute for Biology, a joint research-intensive collaboration with the University of Ottawa. OCIB is one of the largest centres in Canada for graduate studies and research in the biological sciences.

We offer a Master of Science degree in Biology, with optional specializations in Bioinformatics, Biochemistry, Chemical and Environmental Toxicology and Data Science. At the doctoral level, we offer a PhD in Biology, as well as specializations in Biochemistry and Chemical and Environmental Toxicology.

Degrees Offered
MSc, PhD

Career Options
Our alumni are pursuing rewarding careers all over the world as, for example, biologists, government and industrial scientists, lab managers and research technicians, business development officers and analysts, scientific planners and analysts, bioinformatics programmers, health professionals, school teachers and university professors.

Fall Application Deadline
March 1, to be eligible for funding

Admission Requirements
MASTER’S: An honours Bachelor of Science degree with a GPA of at least a B+ (overall GPA or GPA of biology courses in the last two years). For the MSc in Chemical and Environmental Toxicology, you must also have an introductory course in toxicology or take one of the two introductory courses once registered in this specialization.

PHD: An MSc from a recognized university is required, as well as a B+ average. A student currently registered for the MSc may be permitted to transfer to the PhD program following a recommendation by the departmental graduate committee and successful completion of the qualifying examination required of PhD candidates.

Prior to applying to a program, applicants must contact individual faculty members to see if they would be willing to act as their research thesis supervisor. A list of faculty is available at: carleton.ca/biology/facultystaff-listing/faculty

“...My time as a graduate student within the Department of Biology allowed me to grow as both a scientist and communicator. Each day presented new challenges which helped build skills useful for any career. The wonderful staff and faculty encourage a highly productive and collaborative environment."

— Kaylen Brzesinski (MSc/2019)