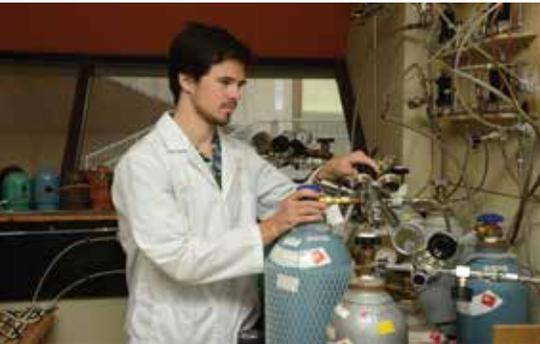


Bachelor of Science

Marine & Freshwater Biology



ABOUT THE PROGRAM

The Marine and Freshwater Biology co-op major provides a broad perspective on aquatic environments based on the physical as well as the biological sciences. Students build upon core courses in ecology, evolution, genetics, and physiology of aquatic biota as you study freshwater and marine environments and work with aquatic organisms experimentally in the field and in the lab. You will have the opportunity to perform independent research projects under a variety of field and laboratory conditions to enhance your learning experience and participate in co-op work terms to gain knowledge and skills in a workplace setting.

The Marine and Freshwater Biology major capitalizes on Guelph's recognized excellence in aquatic research. The state-of-the-art Hagen Aquaculture Lab on campus allows researchers and students to simulate global aquatic environments and maintain a wide variety of marine and freshwater flora and fauna in Guelph. This program prepares students for post-graduate work in the aquatic sciences, and provides a sound scientific background for students pursuing careers in biology, management and conservation, aquaculture, biotechnology, education, and research in either government or private sectors.

WHY CO-OP?

As a co-op student, you will gain relevant work experience, build professional networks, and develop essential interpersonal skills needed to succeed in the workplace, all while getting paid and earning your university degree. Guelph's co-op program is unique due to the exceptional level of support provided, including a co-op preparatory course, a personal connection with a Co-op Coordinator to assist you during the employment process, and access to senior student mentors.

COURSE SEQUENCING

In the Marine and Freshwater Biology co-op program, you will participate in five co-op work terms in addition to eight academic semesters throughout your five years at the University of Guelph. This sequencing is viewable below:

YEAR	FALL	WINTER	SUMMER
ONE	Academic	Academic	Off
TWO	Academic	Academic	Work
THREE	Academic	Work	Work
FOUR	Academic	Academic	Work
FIVE	Work	Academic	

Marine & Freshwater Biology

SAMPLE JOBS

There is a diverse selection of jobs made available to Marine and Freshwater Biology co-op students, in government, academic, and private sectors. Students may conduct research, participate in literature searches, assist in data collection and analysis, and/or may collect, prepare, and analyze samples. Students may work in a laboratory, in the field, or in an office setting. Below are some examples of positions that may be held by Marine and Freshwater Biology co-op students.

Student Aquatic Science Technician

In this role, you will participate in field sampling of water, phytoplankton, zooplankton, and other limnological parameters aboard small and large vessels. You will also assist in the laboratory analyses of water samples, prepare reports and conduct data analysis.

Plant Health Research Assistant

You will assist in the establishment and care of marine plant studies in controlled environments, greenhouses, and outdoor trial facilities. You will be responsible for monitoring plants for signs of nutrient deficiency, stress, or disease over the course of the experiments and collect data on plant growth parameters.

Great Lakes Scientist

You will assist staff in the preparation and analysis of water quality and lake physical data collected in Great Lakes studies. You will work with project scientists contributing to the review of data quality, organization of lab and field data, exploratory statistical analysis, production of technical graphics and literature reviews on Great Lakes water quality questions.

Additional Sample Jobs: Water Garden and Aquatic Care Associate, Field Monitoring Assistant, Algal Monitoring Technician, Biomonitoring Technician

SAMPLE EMPLOYERS*

- Fisheries and Oceans Canada
- Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change
- Conservation Authorities, Nature Conservancies
- Trout Unlimited
- AQUALAB, University of Guelph
- Planet Shrimp
- AquaTox Testing & Consulting Inc.

*Sample co-op employer list only (based on employers who hire current Bachelor of Science co-op students). Employers will vary depending on recruitment needs. During a job search, students are encouraged to be actively engaged and are supported in establishing and maintaining their own personal contacts.

SALARY INFORMATION

Average Weekly Salary Range: \$525 - \$700*

*Salary ranges shown as rates before deductions. Statistics are based on jobs held by Bachelor of Science co-op students in 2017. These ranges may fluctuate on an annual basis in response to economic conditions.

ABILITIES & KNOWLEDGE ACQUIRED

- Advanced understanding and appreciation of living aquatic organisms and specimens obtained through hands-on experience in the field and laboratory.
- Knowledge of the structure, function, and evolutionary relationships of the major taxonomic groups of aquatic organisms.
- Ability to characterize and integrate the diversity of biological, chemical, and physical features that structure marine and freshwater aquatic environments.
- Ability to collect and assemble biological data and apply mathematical and statistical methods to the interpretation of data to address questions in aquatic biology.

