

Simon Fraser University  
Maggie Benston Centre 1100  
8888 University Drive  
Burnaby, BC V5A 1S6

TEL 778.782.3042  
FAX 778.782.3080

gradstudies@sfu.ca  
www.sfu.ca/grad

MEMORANDUM

---

ATTENTION Senate  
FROM Wade Parkhouse, Chair of Senate  
Graduate Studies Committee (SGSC)  
RE: Program Changes

DATE April 27, 2017

**For information:**

Acting under delegated authority at its meeting of April 3, 2017 SGSC approved the following program changes effective **Fall 2017**:

Faculty of Communication, Art and Technology

- 1) Comparative Media Arts MA (*effective Spring 2018*)

Faculty of Science

- 2) Master of Pest Management
- 3) Master of Environmental Toxicology
- 4) Biological Sciences MSc
- 5) Biological Sciences PhD



FACULTY OF COMMUNICATION, ART AND TECHNOLOGY  
Office of the Dean

Harbour Center 7475  
515 West Hastings Street,  
Vancouver, BC Canada V6B 5K3

TEL 778.782.8790  
FAX 778.782.8789

www.feat.sfu.ca

**MEMORANDUM**

---

<b>ATTENTION</b>	Wade Parkhouse, Dean of Graduate Studies	<b>DATE</b>	March 3, 2017
<b>FROM</b>	Zoë Druick, FCAT Associate Dean & Chair, FCAT-Graduate Studies Committee	<b>PAGES</b>	
<b>RE:</b>	SGSC Agenda Item – SCA Calendar Change		

---

On behalf of the Faculty of Communication, Art and Technology, I am forwarding for SGSC's consideration the following calendar update from SCA. These changes follow on from course changes that were approved by the FCAT GSC meeting on February 27, 2017.

- 1) Change to the calendar entry to the MA in Comparative Media Arts (FPA 829) calendar listing to clarify that the two extended essays are taken as a single course. <sup>CA</sup>

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

---

Zoë Druick  
Associate Dean, FCAT  
Chair, FCAT Graduate Studies Committee

cc: Arne Eigenfeldt, Graduate Program Chair, SCA

/encl

ZD/ld

SFU

SCHOOL FOR THE CONTEMPORARY ARTS

Dance / Film / Music / Theatre / Visual Art / Art, Performance & Cinema Studies  
MA Comparative Media Arts / MFA Interdisciplinary Studies

Goldcorp Centre for the Arts  
149 West Hastings Street  
Vancouver, BC, Canada V6B 1H4

TEL 778.782.3363  
FAX 778.782.5907  
[www.sfu.ca/sca](http://www.sfu.ca/sca)

February 14, 2017

Zoë Druick  
Associate Dean of Graduate Studies and Research  
Faculty of Communication, Art and Technology

Dear Zoë

Following the Degree Audit Project, it was recommended that we make a slight change to our calendar entry to the MA in Comparative Media Arts Calendar listing. The change is meant to clarify that the two extended essays are taken as a single course (FPA 829).

CA

Yours truly,



Arne Eigenfeldt  
Graduate Program Chair  
Professor  
School for the Contemporary Arts  
[arne\\_e@sfu.ca](mailto:arne_e@sfu.ca)

**Calendar Entry Change for MA in Comparative Media Arts Program (SCA)**

<p><b>Summary of change:</b></p> <p>Slight change in wording regarding Extended Essays</p>
<p><b>Rationale for change:</b></p> <p>Clarification following Degree Audit</p>
<p><b>Effective term and year:</b></p> <p>Spring 2018</p>
<p><b>Will this change impact current students? If yes, what is the plan for current students?</b></p> <p>No</p>

<b>FROM</b>	<b>TO</b>
<p>Students complete a minimum of 30 units, including:</p> <p>CA 821 - Research Methods in Comparative Media Arts (4)</p> <p>CA 822 - Research Colloquium in Comparative Media Arts (4)</p> <p><del>CA 829 - Extended Essays in Comparative Media Arts (6)</del></p> <p>and at least three of</p> <p>CA 823 - New Approaches in Visual Art and Culture (4)</p> <p>CA 824 - New Approaches in Moving-Image Studies (4)</p> <p>CA 825 - New Approaches in Digital Art Studies (4)</p> <p>CA 826 - New Approaches in Performance Studies (4)</p> <p>CA 827 - Practicum in Comparative Media Arts (4)</p>	<p>Students complete a minimum of 30 units, including:</p> <p>CA 821 - Research Methods in Comparative Media Arts (4)</p> <p>CA 822 - Research Colloquium in Comparative Media Arts (4)</p> <p>at least three of:</p> <p>CA 823 - New Approaches in Visual Art and Culture (4)</p> <p>CA 824 - New Approaches in Moving-Image Studies (4)</p> <p>CA 825 - New Approaches in Digital Art Studies (4)</p> <p>CA 826 - New Approaches in Performance Studies (4)</p> <p>CA 827 - Practicum in Comparative Media Arts (4)</p> <p><b>and two extended essays:</b></p> <p><b>CA 829 - Extended Essays in Comparative Media Arts (6)</b></p>

MEMO

Faculty of Science

---

ATTENTION Wade Parkhouse, Dean, Graduate Studies

---

FROM Peter Ruben, Associate Dean, Faculty of Science

---

RE Course changes, calendar changes, and new courses –  
Biological Sciences

---

DATE 31 March 2017

---

TIME 4:44 PM

The graduate program in the Department of Biological Sciences seeks a number of changes to their graduate program, as follows:

~~**New course:** BISC 891 – PhD Graduate Candidacy Exam. This is part of the new degree-audit initiative.~~

~~**Course change:** BISC 821 – Cell and Molecular Biology Colloquium~~

~~**Course deletions:** BISC 829 – Conservation Ecology; BISC 822 – Cell and Molecular Biology Colloquium; BISC 823 – Cell and Molecular Biology Colloquium~~

**Calendar entry changes:** Master of Pest Management; Master of Environmental Toxicology; Master of Science; PhD.

Please see the attached information for details.

I have approved these changes on behalf of the FGSC in the Faculty of Science on designated authority and forward them to SGSC for consideration.



---

P. Ruben

**SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY**  
**DEPARTMENT OF BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES**  
**MEMORANDUM**

---

**To:** Peter Reuben  
Faculty of Science

**From:** Margo Moore  
Chair, DGSC 

**Subject:** Courses and minor calendar  
revisions

**Date:** 29 November 2016

---

The following changes to courses and calendar entries have been approved by the Department of Biological Sciences and are now forwarded to the Faculty of Science Graduate Curriculum Committee for review and approval.

**Course changes**

New course

BISC 891 - PhD Graduate Candidacy Exam

Course change

BISC 821 - Cell and Molecular Biology Colloquium

Course deletion

BISC 829 - Conservation Ecology

BISC 822 - Cell and Molecular Biology Colloquium

BISC 823 - Cell and Molecular Biology Colloquium

**Calendar entry changes**

Master of Pest Management

- Added program description, minimum units for program, and expected program length
- Removed information already included in GGRs
- No changes to the program requirements

Master of Environmental Toxicology

- Revised program description
- Added minimum units for program, program length, and the requirement that the project needs to be submitted to library
- Removed information already included in GGRs
- No changes to the program requirements

Master of Science

- Added program description and total units of program

- Removed information already included in GGRs and application information regarding documents and deadlines
- No changes to the program requirements

### PhD

- Added program description and minimum units of program
- Added BISC 891 to formally recognize the required candidacy exam that already exists for this program
- Removed information already included in GGRs and application information regarding documents and deadlines
- No changes to the program requirements



**Please note:**

To view the Spring 2017 Academic Calendar go to <http://www.sfu.ca/students/calendar/2017/spring.html>

Department of Biological Sciences  
Simon Fraser University Calendar | Summer 2017

## **Pest Management**

MASTER OF PEST MANAGEMENT

### Program Requirements

The research-based master of pest management (MPM) program is distinct from an MSc program because of its strongly applied context and its interaction with practitioners and producers.

The student completes all of

BISC 601 - Agriculture, Horticulture and Urban Pest Management (2)

BISC 602 - Forest Pest Management (2)

BISC 844 - Biological Controls (3)

BISC 847 - Pest Management in Practice (3)

and two of

BISC 838 - Population Dynamics and Demography (3)

BISC 841 - Plant diseases and plant biotechnology (3)

BISC 846 - Insecticide Chemistry and Toxicology (3)

BISC 852 - Ecological and Molecular Interactions between Insect Vectors and Parasites (3)

BISC 884 - Special Topics in Pest Ecology and Management (3)

One of these courses can be substituted by an 800 division elective (three units) or

STAT 650 - Quantitative Analysis in Resource Management and Field Biology (5)

### **Thesis Requirements**

The program requires a thesis, which is based on original research with relevance to pest management. To do this, the student enrolls in

BISC 849 - Master of Pest Management Thesis (18)

and continues enrolling in that course until the thesis is finished.



The thesis will be defended publicly. The examining committee is composed of a chair (non-voting), all members of the student's supervisory committee, and an examiner who is a member of faculty at the university, or a person otherwise suitably qualified, who is not a member of the student's supervisory committee.

## **Supervisory Committee**

A senior supervisor is appointed prior to admission.

The supervisory committee consists of, at minimum, the senior supervisor and one additional regular biology faculty member. In exceptional cases, a faculty member from another Simon Fraser University department may be substituted for the Department of Biological Sciences faculty member. Additional supervisory committee members from other institutions may be appointed upon submission of research credentials and approval by the departmental graduate studies committee.

## **Annual Progress Report**

Students submit a report of their progress every year, and will maintain satisfactory progress toward degree completion to remain in the program. Students receive an annual report form from the graduate secretary every year in the term in which they started, and are expected to complete and return it within six weeks. They will have a committee meeting each year, and a brief summary of this meeting will be included in the report. Also included should be a description of the work/courses completed since the last report (or since starting their program if this is the first time), student progress evaluation forms by each of the supervisory committee members, and a copy of the student's unofficial transcript.

## **Academic Requirements within the Graduate General Regulations**

All graduate students must satisfy the academic requirements that are specified in the Graduate General Regulations, as well as the specific requirements for the program in which they are enrolled.

[Back To Top](#)

REVISED  
CALENDAR ENTRY

## **Pest Management**

### MASTER OF PEST MANAGEMENT

## Description of Program

Pest problems offer opportunities for research on the biological processes involving organisms that cause damage to crops and structures or threaten human health. The master of pest management (MPM) program at SFU allows students to access these opportunities in the management and research of pests and furthermore, directly apply this knowledge. This research-based master of pest management (MPM) program is distinct from an MSc program because of its strongly applied context and its interaction with practitioners and producers.

## Admission Requirements

Applicants must satisfy the University admission requirements as stated in Graduate General Regulations 1.3 in the SFU Calendar.

## Program Requirements

This program consists of required courses, elective courses, and a thesis for a minimum of 34 units.

Students must complete all of

BISC 601 - Agriculture, Horticulture and Urban Pest Management (2)

BISC 602 - Forest Pest Management (2)

BISC 844 - Biological Controls (3)

BISC 847 - Pest Management in Practice (3)

and two of\*

BISC 816 - Biology and Management of Insects (3)

BISC 838 - Population Dynamics and Demography (3)

BISC 841 - Plant diseases and plant biotechnology (3)

BISC 846 - Insecticide Chemistry and Toxicology (3)

BISC 852 - Ecological and Molecular Interactions between Insect Vectors and Parasites (3)

BISC 884 - Special Topics in Pest Ecology and Management (3)

and a thesis

BISC 849 - Master of Pest Management Thesis (18)

The thesis is based on original research with relevance to pest management. See Graduate General Regulation 1.10 for more information on the examination of the thesis.

\*One of these courses can be substituted by

STAT 650 - Quantitative Analysis in Resource Management and Field Biology (5)

Alternatively, an 800-level elective course (three units) may be substituted, subject to approval by the MPM Director.

## Program Length

Students are expected to complete the program requirements in nine terms.

## Other Information

## REVISED CALENDAR ENTRY

### **Supervisory Committee**

A senior supervisor is appointed prior to admission. The supervisory committee consists of, at minimum, the senior supervisor and one additional regular biology faculty member. In exceptional cases, a faculty member from another Simon Fraser University department may be substituted for the Department of Biological Sciences faculty member. Additional supervisory committee members from other institutions may be appointed upon submission of research credentials and approval by the departmental graduate studies committee.

### **Annual Progress Report**

Students submit a report of their progress every year, and will maintain satisfactory progress toward degree completion to remain in the program. Students receive an annual report form from the graduate secretary every year in the term in which they started, and are expected to complete and return it within six weeks. They will have a committee meeting each year, and a brief summary of this meeting will be included in the report. Also included should be a description of the work/courses completed since the last report (or since starting their program if this is the first time), student progress evaluation forms by each of the supervisory committee members, and a copy of the student's unofficial transcript.

## **Academic Requirements within the Graduate General Regulations**

All graduate students must satisfy the academic requirements that are specified in the Graduate General Regulations, as well as the specific requirements for the program in which they are enrolled.



### **Please note:**

To view the Spring 2017 Academic Calendar go to <http://www.sfu.ca/students/calendar/2017/spring.html>

Department of Biological Sciences  
Simon Fraser University Calendar | Summer 2017

## **Environmental Toxicology**

### MASTER OF ENVIRONMENTAL TOXICOLOGY

This master of environmental toxicology (MET) program may be completed on a full or part-time basis. The program consists of a minimum of 32 graduate units of course work, plus BISC 656-6, Master of Environmental Toxicology Project.

## Admission Requirements

Before entering the program, the following courses or equivalents should be completed. These prerequisites may be waived by the departmental graduate studies committee under special circumstances, on recommendation from the director.

BISC 313-3 Environmental Toxicology II

CHEM 282-3 Organic Chemistry II

MBB 231-3 Cellular Biology and Biochemistry

## Program Requirements

The student chooses a senior supervisor after program admission, with program director consultation.

Students complete

BISC 650 - Environmental Risk Assessment (3)

BISC 651 - Toxicity Tests I: Ecological Effects Based Tests (3)

BISC 652 - ET Tests II: Mammalian Toxicity Tests (3)

BISC 654 - Food and Drug Toxicology (3)

BISC 655 - Environmental Toxicology Seminar (3)

BISC 656 - Master of Environmental Toxicology Project (6)

BISC 855 - Biochemical Toxicology (3)

STAT 650 - Quantitative Analysis in Resource Management and Field Biology (5)

and one of

BISC 854 - Ecotoxicology (3)

EASC 613 - Groundwater Modelling (3)

REM 610 - Applied Environmental Toxicology and Environmental Management of Contaminants (5)

and six units chosen from the following

BISC 839 - Industrial Microbiology (3)

BISC 846 - Insecticide Chemistry and Toxicology (3)

BISC 883 - Special Topics in Environmental Toxicology (3)

BPK 851 - Recent Advances in Experimental Carcinogenesis (3)

REM 612 - Simulation Modelling in Natural Resource Management (5)

## **Supervisory Committee**

A supervisory committee is formed by the beginning of the fourth term of full time equivalent enrolment. The supervisory committee consists of, at minimum, the senior supervisor and one additional regular biology faculty member. In exceptional cases, a faculty member from another Simon Fraser University department may be substituted for the Department of Biological Sciences faculty member. Additional supervisory committee members from other institutions may be appointed upon submission of research credentials and approval by the departmental graduate studies committee.

## **Project**

Students must also complete a project, supervised by the senior supervisor, while enrolled in

BISC 656 - Master of Environmental Toxicology Project (6)

The project will concern a specific aspect of environmental toxicology which may be based on original field, laboratory or library research.

## **Annual Progress Report**

Students must submit a report of their progress every year, and must maintain satisfactory progress toward degree completion to remain in the program. Students receive an annual report form from the graduate program assistant every year in the term in which they started, and are expected to complete and return it within six weeks. They will have a committee meeting each year, and a brief summary of this meeting will be included in the report. Also included should be a description of the work/courses completed since the last report (or since starting their program if this is the first time), student progress evaluation forms by each of the supervisory committee members, and a copy of the student's unofficial transcript.

## **Oral Examination**

In addition to submission of a report at project completion, the student prepares for an oral exam according to Graduate General Regulations 1.9 and will be examined according to Graduate General Regulations 1.10.

## **Academic Requirements within the Graduate General Regulations**

All graduate students must satisfy the academic requirements that are specified in the Graduate General Regulations, as well as the specific requirements for the program in which they are enrolled.

[Back To Top](#)

REVISED  
CALENDAR ENTRY

## **Environmental Toxicology**

### MASTER OF ENVIRONMENTAL TOXICOLOGY

### Description of Program

Environmental toxicology is a rapidly expanding area of environmental science concerned with understanding the adverse effects of chemicals, physical, and biological agents on living organisms. A master's degree in environmental toxicology can be challenging, stimulating, financially rewarding, and lead to an exciting professional career that contributes to the welfare of humans the environment.

### Admission Requirements

Applicants must satisfy the University admission requirements as stated in Graduate General Regulations 1.3 in the SFU Calendar. Before entering the program, the following courses or equivalents should be completed. These prerequisites may be waived by the departmental graduate studies committee under special circumstances, on recommendation from the director:

- BISC 313-3 Environmental Toxicology II
- CHEM 282-3 Organic Chemistry II
- MBB 231-3 Cellular Biology and Biochemistry

### Program Requirements

This program consists of required courses, elective courses, and a thesis for a minimum of 38 units.

Students must complete all of

- BISC 650 - Environmental Risk Assessment (3)
- BISC 651 - Toxicity Tests I: Ecological Effects Based Tests (3)
- BISC 652 - ET Tests II: Mammalian Toxicity Tests (3)
- BISC 654 - Food and Drug Toxicology (3)
- BISC 655 - Environmental Toxicology Seminar (3)
- BISC 855 - Biochemical Toxicology (3)
- STAT 650 - Quantitative Analysis in Resource Management and Field Biology (5)

and one of

- BISC 854 - Ecotoxicology (3)
- EASC 613 - Groundwater Modelling (3)
- REM 610 - Applied Environmental Toxicology and Environmental Management of Contaminants (5)

and six units from the following courses

- BISC 839 - Industrial Microbiology (3)
- BISC 846 - Insecticide Chemistry and Toxicology (3)
- BISC 883 - Special Topics in Environmental Toxicology (3)
- BPK 851 - Recent Advances in Experimental Carcinogenesis (3)
- REM 612 - Simulation Modelling in Natural Resource Management (5)

and a project

- BISC 656 - Master of Environmental Toxicology Project (6)

## REVISED CALENDAR ENTRY

The project is supervised by a senior supervisor and will concern a specific aspect of environmental toxicology which may be based on original field, laboratory, or library research. In addition to submission of a report at project completion, the student prepares for an oral exam according to Graduate General Regulations 1.9 and will be examined according to Graduate General Regulations 1.10. The project must be submitted to the library upon successful completion.

### Program Length

Students are expected to complete the program requirements in nine terms.

### Other Information

#### **Supervisory Committee**

The student chooses a senior supervisor after admission to the program, in consultation with the program director. A supervisory committee is formed by the beginning of the fourth term of full time equivalent enrolment. The supervisory committee consists of, at minimum, the senior supervisor and one additional regular biology faculty member. In exceptional cases, a faculty member from another Simon Fraser University department may be substituted for the Department of Biological Sciences faculty member. Additional supervisory committee members from other institutions may be appointed upon submission of research credentials and approval by the departmental graduate studies committee.

#### **Annual Progress Report**

Students submit a report of their progress every year, and will maintain satisfactory progress toward degree completion to remain in the program. Students receive an annual report form from the graduate secretary every year in the term in which they started, and are expected to complete and return it within six weeks. They will have a committee meeting each year, and a brief summary of this meeting will be included in the report. Also included should be a description of the work/courses completed since the last report (or since starting their program if this is the first time), student progress evaluation forms by each of the supervisory committee members, and a copy of the student's unofficial transcript.

### Academic Requirements within the Graduate General Regulations

All graduate students must satisfy the academic requirements that are specified in the Graduate General Regulations, as well as the specific requirements for the program in which they are enrolled.



**Please note:**

To view the Spring 2017 Academic Calendar go to <http://www.sfu.ca/students/calendar/2017/spring.html>

Department of Biological Sciences | Faculty of Science  
Simon Fraser University Calendar | Summer 2017

## Biological Sciences

### MASTER OF SCIENCE

## Admission Requirements

Prior to applying for admission, contact faculty members directly to discuss research interests, programs, and to confirm the availability of a position within their group as well as possible financial support.

In addition to the completed admission form, official copies of all academic transcripts in envelopes sealed and endorsed by the issuing institution is also required. International applicants will provide both the original language transcripts and degree certificates, and certified English translations. Also required is an up-to-date curriculum vitae, and any evidence of research accomplishment (e.g. reprints, manuscripts, thesis abstracts, etc.). Please give careful attention to indicating current research interests on the application. Applicants will request a confidential evaluation and letters of reference from three referees who are familiar and competent to judge your academic potential.

New students may begin their programs at the start of any term. Deadlines for receipt of completed applications, with required supporting documents, by the Departmental Graduate Studies Committee are: 1 October (for spring term), 1 February (for summer term) and 1 June (for fall term).

In some circumstances, a student who does not meet the minimum requirements for admission may be admitted as a qualifying student when it is expected that the admission requirements can be met by satisfactorily completing a number of senior undergraduate courses. Successful students may then apply for regular admission to graduate studies in the usual way.

### English Language Competence

English is the language of instruction and communication at the University. Accordingly, an applicant whose primary language is not English must demonstrate command of English sufficient to pursue graduate studies in the chosen field. Please refer to the Graduate General Regulations (1.3.12 English Language Competence) for minimum language requirements and further information.

## Program Requirements

This master of science (MSc) program requires a thesis based on original research.



Applicants will have completed a bachelor's degree at a recognized university with a graduation average of B or better (3.0 cumulative grade point average on all post-secondary course work), have a research supervisor prior to admission, and provide evidence of ability to undertake advanced studies.

Candidates successfully complete a minimum of 12 units of graduate course work and will submit a thesis based on original research.

The thesis will be defended publicly. The examining committee will be composed of a chair (non-voting), all members of the student's supervisory committee, and a Simon Fraser University faculty member, or a person otherwise suitably qualified who is not a member of the student's supervisory committee.

The program is expected to be completed in less than three years.

## **Supervisory Committee**

A senior supervisor is appointed prior to admission.

The supervisory committee consists of at minimum the senior supervisor and one additional regular biology faculty member. In exceptional cases, a faculty member from another Simon Fraser University department may be substituted for the Department of Biological Sciences faculty member. Additional supervisory committee members from other institutions may be appointed upon submission of research credentials and approval by the departmental graduate studies committee.

## **Annual Progress Report**

Students submit a report of their progress every year, and will maintain satisfactory progress toward degree completion to remain in the program. Students receive an annual report form from the program assistant every year in the term in which they started, and they are expected to complete and return it within six weeks. They must have a committee meeting each year, and a brief summary of this meeting and a table of milestones is included in the report. Also included will be a description of the work completed since the last report (or since starting the program if this is the first time), student progress evaluation forms by each of the supervisory committee members, and a copy of the student's unofficial transcript.

## **Academic Requirements within the Graduate General Regulations**

All graduate students must satisfy the academic requirements that are specified in the Graduate General Regulations, as well as the specific requirements for the program in which they are enrolled.

[Back To Top](#)

REVISED  
CALENDAR ENTRY

## **Biological Sciences**

MASTER OF SCIENCE

### **Description of Program**

The Master of Science program in the Department of Biological Sciences at Simon Fraser University entails rigorous academic training and a research project culminating in a thesis. Our research strength is broadly organized into three themes: Cellular, Developmental, & Molecular Biology; Ecology, Evolution and Conservation Biology; and Applied Biology. Because applicants must identify a faculty member who will supervise them, all applicants must contact potential supervisors directly. To learn about areas of faculty research, [click here](#).

Further information about the department and how to apply can be found on our website.

### **Admission Requirements**

Applicants must satisfy the University admission requirements as stated in Graduate General Regulations 1.3 in the SFU Calendar, have a research supervisor confirmed, and provide evidence of ability to undertake advanced studies. Prior to applying for admission, applicants are required to contact faculty members directly to discuss research interests, programs, and to confirm the availability of a position within their group as well as possible financial support.

### **Program Requirements**

This program consists of courses and a thesis, based on original research, for a minimum of 30 units.

Students must complete

12 units of graduate courses including  
BISC 800 - Skills for the Successful Scientist (1)

and a thesis  
BISC 898 - MSc Thesis (18)

See Graduate General Regulation 1.10 for more information on the examination of the thesis.

### **Program Length**

Students are expected to complete the program requirements in less than nine terms.

### **Other Information**

#### **Supervisory Committee**

A senior supervisor is appointed prior to admission. The supervisory committee consists of, at minimum, the senior supervisor and one additional regular biology faculty member. In exceptional cases, a faculty member from another Simon Fraser University department may be substituted for the Department of Biological Sciences faculty member. Additional supervisory committee members from other institutions may be appointed upon submission of research credentials and approval by the departmental graduate studies committee.

#### **Annual Progress Report**

## REVISED CALENDAR ENTRY

Students submit a report of their progress every year, and must maintain satisfactory progress toward degree completion to remain in the program. Students receive an annual report form from the graduate secretary every year in the term in which they started, and are expected to complete and return it within six weeks. They will have a committee meeting each year, and a brief summary of this meeting will be included in the report. Also included should be a description of the work/courses completed since the last report (or since starting their program if this is the first time), student progress evaluation forms by each of the supervisory committee members, and a copy of the student's unofficial transcript.

### Academic Requirements within the Graduate General Regulations

All graduate students must satisfy the academic requirements that are specified in the Graduate General Regulations, as well as the specific requirements for the program in which they are enrolled.



### Please note:

To view the Spring 2017 Academic Calendar go to <http://www.sfu.ca/students/calendar/2017/spring.html>

Department of Biological Sciences | Faculty of Science  
Simon Fraser University Calendar | Summer 2017

## Biological Sciences

### DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY

## Admission Requirements

Prior to applying for admission, students should contact faculty members directly to discuss their research interests, programs and to confirm the availability of a position within their group as well as their ability to provide financial support.

In addition to the completed admission form, official copies of all academic transcripts in envelopes sealed and endorsed by the issuing institution are required. International applicants must provide both the original language transcripts and degree certificates, and certified English translations. Also an up-to-date curriculum vitae, and any evidence of research accomplishment (e.g. reprints, manuscripts, thesis abstracts, etc.) is required. Please give careful attention to indicating current research interests on the application. Applicants will request a confidential evaluation and letters of reference from three referees who are familiar and competent to judge the applicant's academic potential.

New students may begin their programs at the start of any term. Deadlines for receipt of completed applications, with required supporting documents, by the departmental graduate studies committee are: 1 October (for spring term), 1 February (for summer term) and 1 June (for fall term).

Applicants must either have: a 3.5 grade point average (GPA) in a bachelor's degree program and evidence of research ability or; have completed a master of science degree or its equivalent from a recognized university. All PhD students must have a research supervisor prior to admission.

Students already in the MSc, MPM, or MET program in the Department of Biological Sciences may transfer to the PhD program after meeting the following criteria:

- at least two terms (and no more than six terms) in the Simon Fraser University master's program
- completion of at least three-quarters of the required course work of their respective master's program, with a cumulative grade point average (CGPA) of 3.5 or better
- letters of support from all members of the student's supervisory committee
- evidence of scholarly accomplishments, such as submission of manuscripts for publication or presentations at national or international meetings

Please note that transfer is NOT automatic. The application for transfer is considered by the departmental graduate studies committee who will carefully review the quality of the proposal, the extent of tangible accomplishments to date, and the supervisory

committee's comments before approving a request to transfer. *It is recommended that the application to transfer be submitted no later than the end of the sixth term of the MSc program.*

## English Language Competence

English is the language of instruction and communication at the University. Accordingly, an applicant whose primary language is not English must demonstrate command of English sufficient to pursue graduate studies in the chosen field. Please refer to the Graduate General Regulations for minimum language requirements and further information.

## Program Requirements

This doctor of philosophy (PhD) program requires a thesis based on original research.

The program requires a minimum of two courses totalling not less than six units of course work beyond the master's degree. Of these, all must be graduate courses. Students accepted to the PhD program who have not completed a master's degree must complete 12 units of graduate course work beyond the baccalaureate. Of these, all must be graduate courses. It is at the discretion of the supervisory committee to ask a student to complete additional course work.

The student must pass an oral candidacy exam prior to the end of the fourth program term, or the second term after transfer from the MSc program. The exam concentrates on the student's research area, follows a written PhD research proposal submission, and is graded acceptable/unacceptable. Students with an unacceptable grade must pass a second exam within six months; a second unacceptable rating requires program withdrawal.

Candidates submit a thesis based on original research which is defended publicly.

The examining committee is composed of a chair (non-voting), all members of the student's supervisory committee, a member of faculty at the University, or a person otherwise suitably qualified, who is not a member of the student's supervisory committee, and an external examiner who is specifically qualified in the field of the thesis and is not a member of faculty at the University.

The PhD program is expected to be completed in less than five years.

## Supervisory Committee

A senior supervisor is appointed prior to the student's admission.

The supervisory committee consists of, at minimum, the senior supervisor and one additional regular biology faculty member. In exceptional cases, a faculty member from another Simon Fraser University department may be substituted for the Department of Biological Sciences faculty member. Additional supervisory committee members from other institutions may be appointed upon submission of research credentials and approval by the departmental graduate studies committee.

## Annual Progress Report

Students submit a report of their progress every year, and will maintain satisfactory progress toward degree completion to remain in the program. Students receive an annual report form from the graduate secretary every year in the term in which they started, and are expected to complete and return it within six weeks. They will have a committee meeting each year, and a brief summary of this meeting will be included in the report. Also included should be a description of the work completed since the last report (or since starting their program if this is the first time), student progress evaluation forms by each of the supervisory committee members, and a copy of the student's unofficial transcript.



All graduate students must satisfy the academic requirements that are specified in the Graduate General Regulations, as well as the specific requirements for the program in which they are enrolled.

[Back To Top](#)



REVISED  
CALENDAR ENTRY

## Biological Sciences

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY

### Description of Program

The Doctor of Philosophy program in the Department of Biological Sciences at Simon Fraser University entails rigorous academic training and independent research culminating in a thesis leading to peer-reviewed publications. Our research strength is broadly organized into three themes: Cellular, Developmental, & Molecular Biology; Ecology, Evolution and Conservation Biology; and Applied Biology. Because applicants must identify a faculty member who will supervise them, all applicants must contact potential supervisors directly. To learn about areas of faculty research, [click here](#).

Further information about the department and how to apply can be found on our website.

### Admission Requirements

Applicants must satisfy the University admission requirements as stated in Graduate General Regulations 1.3 in the SFU Calendar, have a research supervisor confirmed, and provide evidence of ability to undertake advanced studies. Prior to applying for admission, applicants are required to contact faculty members directly to discuss research interests, programs, and to confirm the availability of a position within their group as well as possible financial support.

Students already in the MSc, MPM, or MET program in the Department of Biological Sciences may transfer to the PhD program after meeting the following criteria:

- At least two terms completed (and no more than six terms) in the SFU master's program;
- Completion of at least three-quarters of the required course work of the respective master's program, with a cumulative grade point average (CGPA) of 3.5 or better;
- Letters of support from all members of the supervisory committee;
- Evidence of scholarly accomplishments, such as submission of manuscripts for publication or presentations at national or international meetings.

Please note that a transfer is NOT automatic. The application for transfer is considered by the departmental graduate studies committee who will carefully review the quality of the proposal, the extent of tangible accomplishments to date, and the student's supervisory committee's comments before approving a request to transfer. *It is recommended that the application to transfer be submitted no later than the end of the sixth term of the MSc program.*

### Program Requirements

This program consists of courses and a thesis for a minimum of 12 units. Students may be required to complete additional course work at the discretion of the supervisory committee. Students accepted to the PhD program who have not completed a master's degree, must complete an additional six units of graduate course work.

Students must complete

Six units of graduate courses

and a candidacy exam

BISC 892 PhD Graduate Candidacy Exam (0)

## REVISED CALENDAR ENTRY

and a thesis  
BISC 899 - PhD Thesis (6)

The thesis is based on original research and is defended publicly. See Graduate General Regulation 1.10 for more information on the examination of the thesis.

### **Oral Candidacy Exam**

The student must pass an oral candidacy exam prior to the end of the fourth program term, or the second term after transfer from the MSc program. The exam concentrates on the student's research area, follows a written PhD research proposal submission, and is graded satisfactory/unsatisfactory. Students with an unacceptable grade must pass a second exam within six months. Students who receive a second unsatisfactory rating will be withdrawn from the program.

## Program Length

Students are expected to complete the program requirements in less than five years.

## Other Information

### **Supervisory Committee**

A senior supervisor is appointed prior to admission. The supervisory committee consists of, at minimum, the senior supervisor and one additional regular biology faculty member. In exceptional cases, a faculty member from another Simon Fraser University department may be substituted for the Department of Biological Sciences faculty member. Additional supervisory committee members from other institutions may be appointed upon submission of research credentials and approval by the departmental graduate studies committee.

### **Annual Progress Report**

Students submit a report of their progress every year, and will maintain satisfactory progress toward degree completion to remain in the program. Students receive an annual report form from the graduate secretary every year in the term in which they started, and are expected to complete and return it within six weeks. They will have a committee meeting each year, and a brief summary of this meeting will be included in the report. Also included should be a description of the work/courses completed since the last report (or since starting their program if this is the first time), student progress evaluation forms by each of the supervisory committee members, and a copy of the student's unofficial transcript.

## Academic Requirements within the Graduate General Regulations

All graduate students must satisfy the academic requirements that are specified in the Graduate General Regulations, as well as the specific requirements for the program in which they are enrolled.