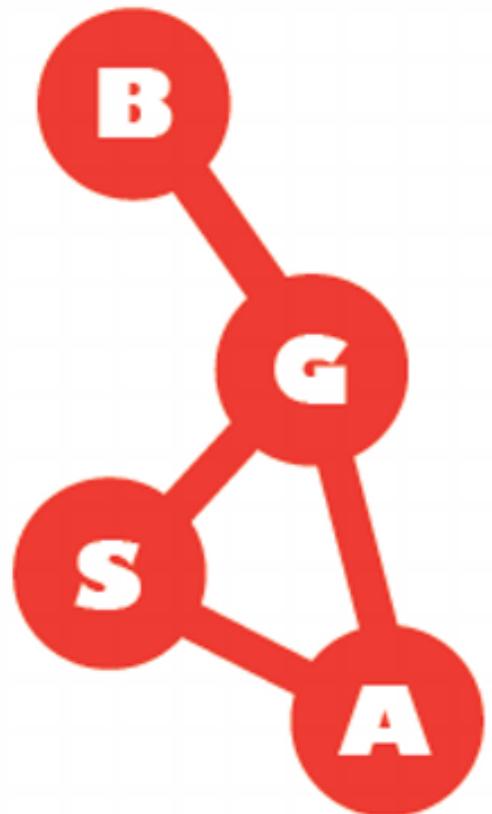


The Biology Department and You.

THINGS I WISHED I KNEW WHEN I STARTED



The Biology Graduate Student Association is...

- An association under the Post-Graduate Student Society (PGSS)
- You! (MSc/PhD/Post Doc)
- Execs:
 - President
 - Vice President
 - Finance Officer
 - Secretary
- Councillors: 16
- Representatives
 - PGSS
 - AGSEM (TA union)
 - Seminar series
 - Many more!

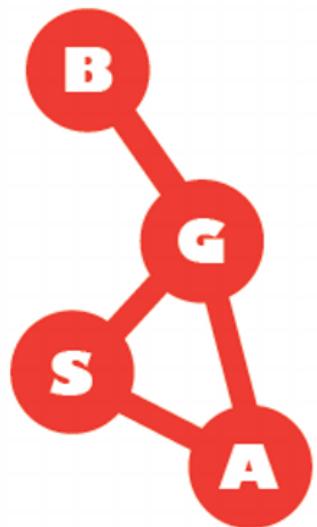
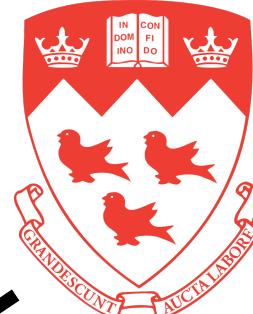
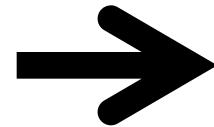


JORGE CHAM © 2010

Where we get our money to do things:

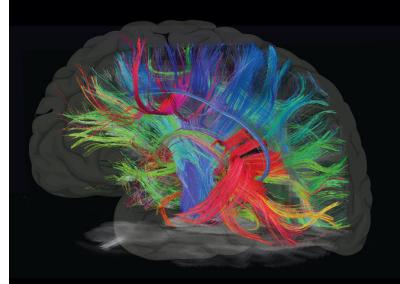
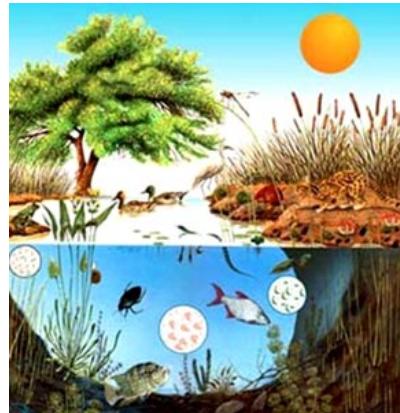
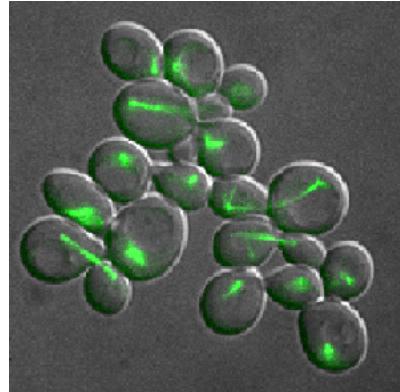


JORGEE CHAM © 2010

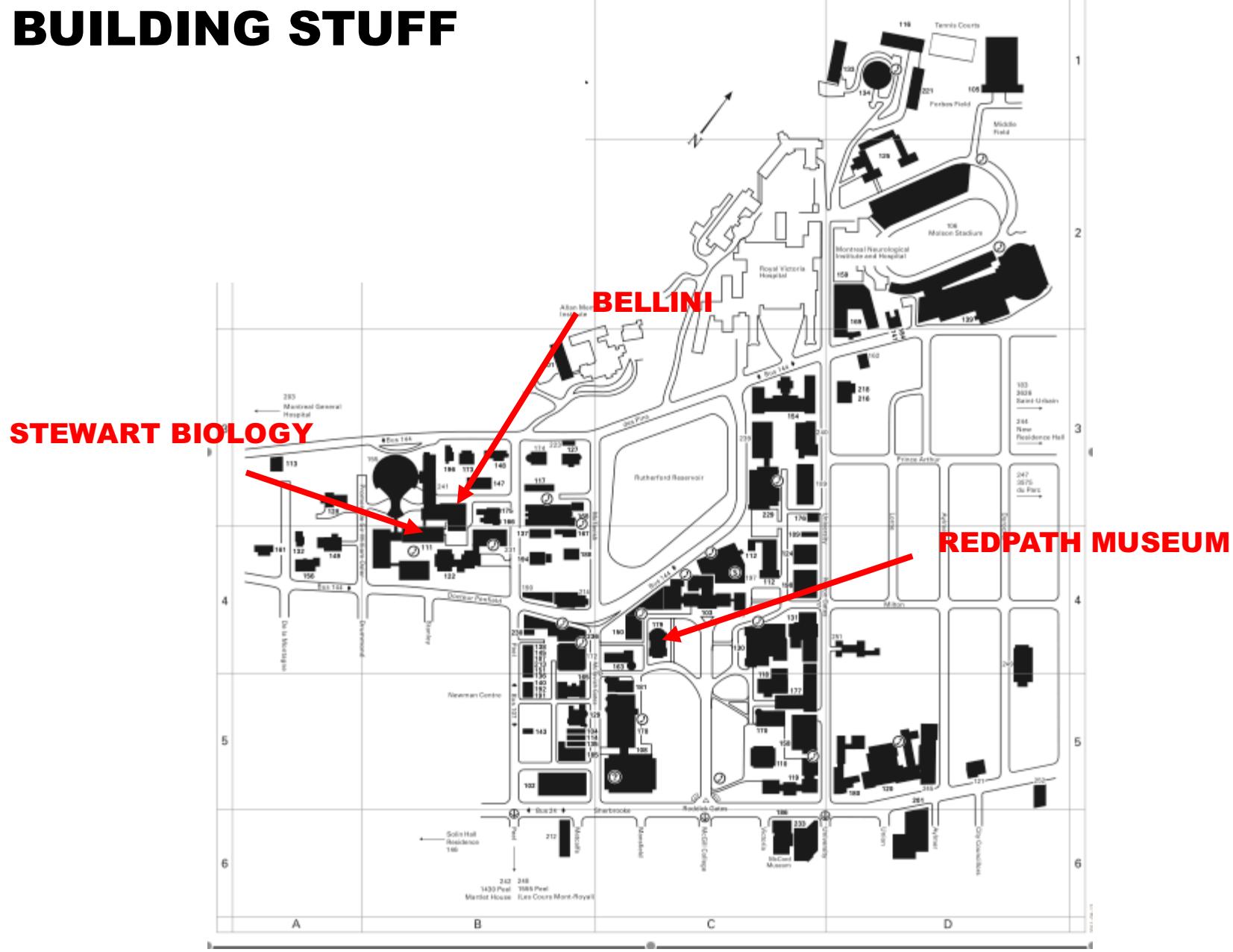


The Biology Department is...

- Three overlapping subdivisions:
 - Molecular
 - Conservation, Ecology and Evolution (CEEB)
 - Neurobiology
- Three main buildings



BUILDING STUFF



Important Building People

- Stewart:
 - Prof. Rudiger Krahe - Building Director
 - Carole Smith - Deputy Building Director, Safety, Keys
 - Susan Gabe: room bookings
 - Elke Kuster-Schock: Room bookings 5th floor access and Bellini
- Redpath:
 - Sara Pimpaneau: room bookings
- Bellini:
 - Carmen Lampron: access, keys, room bookings





McGill

- ① Welcome Centre
 - ② Security Services (24 hours)
Ferrier Building, 1st floor
 - ③ Emergency Phone

STEWART BIOLOGY

BELLINI

**THOMSON
HOUSE**

VINH'S BANH MI

REDPATH MUSEUM

DECENT SUBWAY

SSMU

SUPER SANDWICH

HIPSTER COFFEE

Important People

- Prof. Graham Bell - Department Chair
- Carole Smith - Deputy Building Director, Safety, website linking
- Ancil Gittens – Graduate Program Coordinator
- Sonal Patel - Awards and Stipends
- Susan Gabe - TAships
- Lucy Scigliano - Payment of TAs

Being a grad student

www.biology.mcgill.ca

A screenshot of the McGill University Department of Biology website. The header features a blue background with a building image and the text "Department of Biology" and "McGill University". A red arrow points from the text "Graduate Studies" in the navigation bar to the "Graduate Studies" section of the page. The main content includes a welcome message, research areas, and contact information for the Stewart Biology Building and Bellini Life Sciences Complex.

Department of Biology
McGill University

Home > Our Department > Graduate Studies > Undergraduate Studies > Our Faculty > Seminars

Welcome to the Department of Biology

English / Français

Biology is the study of life. Its scope extends from molecules to organisms and ecosystems. It deals with fundamental questions such as the origin and evolution of plants and animals, interactions between living organisms and their environment, mechanisms of embryonic development, the structure and function of the living cell, the molecular basis of inheritance, the biochemical and genetic basis of human diseases, and the operation of the brain and the nervous system. Staff of the Biology Department conduct research and offer teaching programs in all these areas. The Department of Biology's well-equipped teaching and research laboratories are located in the Stewart Biology Building and the Bellini Life Sciences Building.

Areas of Research

 Evolution	 Ecology, Biodiversity & Conservation	 Bioinformatics	 Behaviour
 Molecular Biology & Genetics	 Cell & Developmental Biology	 Neurobiology	 Plant Biology

Stewart Biology Building
205 Doctor Penfield
Montreal, Quebec Canada H3A 1B1
Tel.: (514) 398-5401
Fax: (514) 398-5069

Bellini Life Sciences Complex
3649 Sir William Osler
Montreal, Quebec Canada H3G 0B1
[Our location on Campus]

► Courses
► Research Centres & Field Stations
► Biology Services & Facilities
► Biology Health & Safety
► Faculty Positions
► Teaching Assistant Positions
► Graduate Students & Postdocs
► Work opportunities for students

What's New?

► Biology Weekly (Dec. 18, 2014)

Featured Articles

► The emerald ash borer (*Agrilus planipennis*), a recent invader

Graduate Studies - Department of Biology

GENERAL INFORMATION Research Areas, Programs & Research Facilities



Research Areas

The Department offers graduate training in many areas of biology with particular strengths in Ecology, Biodiversity and Conservation, Evolution, Molecular Biology and Genetics, Cell and Developmental Biology, Behaviour, Neurobiology, Plant Biology and Bioinformatics. The research areas of individual staff are detailed in the [academic faculty section](#).

Graduate programs leading to the **M.Sc.** and **Ph.D.** degrees are offered. The emphasis in both programs is on development of the intellectual and technical skills necessary for independent research. The main component of both degrees is a thesis embodying the results of original research. Formal course requirements are few and are largely intended to fill gaps in the student's background.

Specialized Option Programs are available in the following areas:

- 1) **NEO (Neotropical Environment)**
- 2) **Bioinformatics**
- 3) **Environment**

Research Facilities

The Stewart Biology Building and the Bellini Life Sciences Complex are well equipped for graduate training and research in a wide variety of areas of biology.

Their resources are greatly extended by affiliation with the Redpath Museum, the Groupe Interuniversitaire de Recherches Océanographiques du Québec (GIROQ), the Biotechnology Research Institute of the National Research Council of Canada, the Montreal Neurological Institute, and the McGill University Health Centre (MUHC) affiliated hospitals.

Field research facilities include the Gault Natu the Huntsman Marine Science Center (New Br Research Institute (Barbados), the Smithsonian station at the Wilder and Helen Penfield Natu

Graduate Studies Office
Department of Biology
1205 ave du Général Penfield
Room W4/8
Montreal, Quebec
CANADA H3A 1B1

Room W4/8
Office Hours: 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Fax No: (514) 398-5069
graduate.biology@mcgill.ca

Ancil Gittens
Graduate Admissions Coordinator
(514) 398-5478

Useful Links:

- TA Positions**
- Forms**
- Current Students**
- BGSA**
- > Biology Graduate Students Association
- GPS Website**
- > McGill's Graduate & Postdoctoral Studies Office
- McGill Policies & Procedures**

[M.Sc Program](#)



Graduate Studies - Department of Biology

Graduate Programs

M.Sc Program

- Length of Program
- Course Requirements
- Other Requirements
- Thesis Requirements
- Transfer to Ph.D Program
- >> Go to Forms

M.Sc. PROGRAM



Ph.D. Program

Supervision

Admissions

Application & Deadlines

Fees & Student Support

Awards & Scholarships

Thesis Submission Info

Useful Links:

TA Positions

Forms

Current Students

BGSA

- > Biology Graduate Students Association

GPS Website

- > McGill's Graduate & Postdoctoral Studies Office

McGill Policies & Procedures

Length of Program

Three full-time terms of resident study at McGill is the minimum time requirement to complete the Master's degree. The Biology Department offers a summer term so the residence requirement can be completed in one year, if required. The normal and expected duration is 2 years. In exceptional cases, 3 years may be required, but students are cautioned to avoid research projects that cannot be completed in 2 years.

Course Requirements

- Forty-five credits are required for the M.Sc. degree.
- Students must complete the courses BIOL 697, -698 and -699 (Master's Thesis Research 1, 2, 3). These research courses each carry a credit weight of 13 credits.
- In addition, six course credits are required.
- These courses may be taken in Biology or in other departments, but they must be relevant to the student's program (language and writing courses are excluded) and they must be graduate level courses at the -500 or higher level.
- All course selections must be approved by the student's supervisor. Additional course work may be required if the **Supervisory Committee (SC)** considers such courses necessary for background knowledge or suitable training in biology.
- A graduate pass (65% or better) is mandatory for all courses required for the M.Sc. degree. Students who fail a required course may be allowed to write a supplemental exam, but permission for this must be sought from the Chair of the GTC who will, in turn, request University authorization.

Being a grad student:

- Your program is guided by supervisor:
 - Lab/field work
 - T.A. ships
 - Courses (6 credits, usually 2 courses)
 - Supervisory Committee Meetings
 - Required yearly seminar
 - Safety Courses: <https://www.mcgill.ca/ehs/training>
 - WHMIS, Introduction to Biology Safety
 - Others: Hazardous Waste Disposal, Radiation, Laser
 - Opportunities to go to conferences



Being a grad student

- **Expected to participate in seminars:**
 - Invited speakers
 - Molecular Seminars: Monday at 4:00PM
 - Organismal Seminars: Thursday at 3:00PM (TBA)
 - Internal seminars:
 - Molecular WIPS: Thursdays at 12:00
 - EEL: Wednesdays 12:30
 - Neuro group: Friday at 12:00
- **Other research opportunities:**
 - Departmental conferences/symposia (organized by BGSA or Department groups, eg MBSS, CEEB Retreat, Neuro Retreat)
- **To think about for later:**
 - Transfers to PhD, Qualifying Exam

Q: HOW MANY PH.D.'S DOES IT TAKE TO GET A POWERPOINT PRESENTATION TO WORK?



ANSWER: $(n+1)$

WHERE $n =$ THE NUMBER OF ACADEMICS IN THE ROOM WHO THINK THEY KNOW HOW TO FIX IT, AND $1 =$ THE PERSON WHO FINALLY CALLS THE A/V TECHNICIAN.

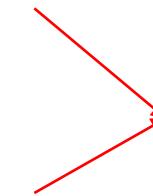
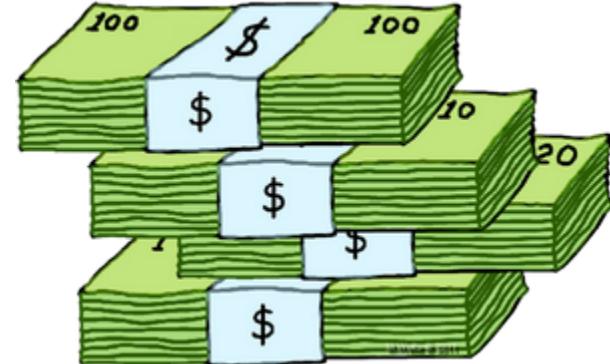
\$\$\$\$ STUFF

- Funding/scholarships deadlines:

- FQRNT, FQRS
 - NSERC, CIHR

Get transcripts and references early!

- Travel grant for conferences: GREAT (from GTC)
- Grants for other things (field work, courses, workshops, etc)... website updated in September
- Invigilating and grading
- Writing semester (later PhD)



Forms on
Biology
website!

**GPS – Graduate & Postdoctoral
Studies**

GRADUATE FUNDING

NSERC Information Session

DATE: Monday, September 14, 2015

TIME: 14:30

LOCATION: Leacock Bldg, Room 232

REGISTRATION: <https://www.mcgill.ca/gps/funding/students-postdocs/workshops/nserc-information-session>

- Other grad student things:
 - AGSEM: TA union
 - Insurance opt-out
 - Health Clinic, Travel, Mental Health
 - Athletics
 - Intramurals



The BGSA can help you out...



AVOID ISOLATION!

SOCIALLY

- Monthly social events
- Camping (Sept 11-13) and cabin trips (winter)
- BGSA weekly newsletter
- BGSAjiji
- Intramurals
- Room Stewart N2/5
- Fight Imposter Syndrome!

How do I get involved?

- 2 BGSA Councillor positions for new students
- Come to our General Assembly (GA)!

Useful links

Biology department:

<http://biology.mcgill.ca>

GPS:

<http://www.mcgill.ca/gps/>

GPS Policies:

<http://www.mcgill.ca/gps/policies/>

McGill Policies-Secretariat:

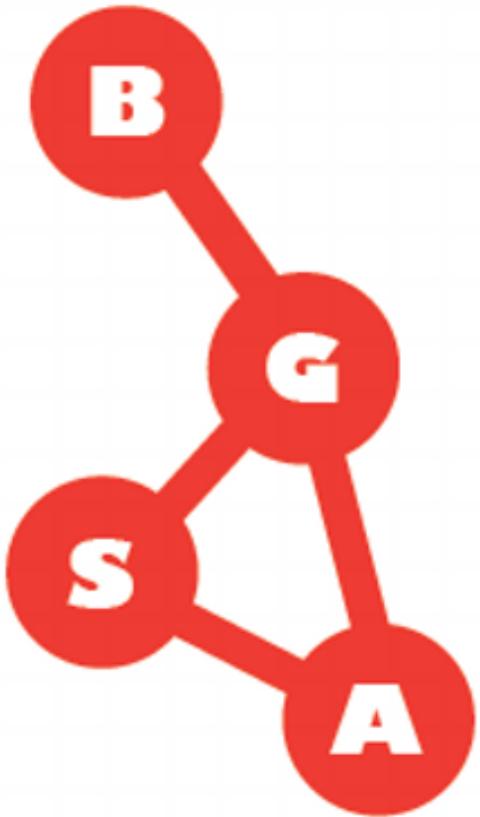
<http://www.mcgill.ca/secretariat/policies/>

Supervisor-supervisee website

<http://www.mcgill.ca/gradsupervision/>

Environmental Health and Safety

<https://www.mcgill.ca/ehs/training>



BGSA Room: N2/5

mcgillbgsa.com

mcgillbgsa@gmail.com

Twitter: @McGillBGSA

Instagram: mcgillbgsa

Facebook: McGill BGSA