ABOUT THE PH.D. IN BIOLOGY

As a student in the Ph.D. program in Biology at St. John’s University, you’ll master the foundational principles of biochemistry and molecular biology, understand the scientific process and how it advances knowledge of the biological sciences, and be able to effectively communicate your ideas and experimental results.

The 60-credit core curriculum will introduce you to the fundamentals of biology, with an emphasis on cell biology. Courses cover topics such as biomolecules and cell structure; molecular genetics; subcellular structure and biochemistry; growth, movement, and regulation; and developmental and systems biology. You’ll also conduct research rotations through at least three research laboratories, where you’ll be introduced to the specific techniques and research approaches of individual faculty members. Further training consists of upper-level specialized courses, research leading to the doctoral dissertation, and advanced seminars in which specific research questions are examined through current experimental literature.

WHAT CAN I DO WITH A PH.D. IN BIOLOGY?

A doctoral degree in biology will allow you to pursue research and teaching positions at the college or university level, or at medical schools. You may also find opportunities in managerial positions in industry or government, in patent law, or as a writer or editor for a scientific publisher.
MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

Our Ph.D. program in Biology offers rigorous training in molecular and cell biology that will prepare you very well for the competitive job market. Under the guidance of our dedicated faculty members, you will carry out an independent research project for publication in internationally recognized, peer-reviewed journals and give poster presentations at international meetings. Most of the students who graduate from our program pursue a career in research at top-notch universities, including Ivy League and medical schools, or in an industry setting. Others become teaching faculty members at the college or university level, while others develop careers in patent law or in scientific publishing.

Rachel Zufferey, Ph.D.
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RESEARCH AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

As a doctoral student in biology, you will carry out two rotations in different laboratories before choosing your mentor for your thesis. Your research mentor will assist you and guide you through the intellectual and experimental aspects of the scientific research process. You will work closely with our dedicated faculty, both assisting with research and conducting your own original research for publication in peer-reviewed journals.

ASSISTANTSHIPS, FELLOWSHIPS, SCHOLARSHIPS, AND FINANCIAL AID

The University awards a limited number of doctoral fellowships and graduate assistantships to highly-qualified students each year. These positions provide tuition remission and a stipend and involve teaching laboratory classes.

For more information about assistantships or fellowships, as well as other types of financial aid and scholarship awards, please see the Graduate Bulletin (stjohns.edu/bulletin).