Research and Volunteer Opportunities

By: Chanhee, Adam, Saja
Who are we?

• Chanhee Seo
  • 3rd year Biology & Psychology dbl major
  • PM, PT, CR
  • Former Research Practicum, Current RAY

• Adam Szocs
  • 3rd year mathematics for commerce
  • PM, SA, CR
  • Volunteer experience?

• Saja Abid Al Hadi
  • 3rd year Biology
  • PM, SA
  • York University Mass Spectrometry Lab
AGENDA:

- Volunteer Opportunities at York
- Unpaid/Volunteer Research Opportunities
- Hospital Volunteering/Research
- Paid Opportunities
- Recreational Opportunities
Volunteer Opportunities at York
Student Ombuds Services (SOS)

- Peer Mentor (PM)
- Peer Tutoring (PT)
- Peer-Assisted Study Sessions (PASS)
- Class Representatives (CR)
- Student Ambassador (SA)

http://bethune.yorku.ca/sos/
Bethune College Council (BCC)

● Elections in October for two First-Year reps as well as any vacant positions

● General elections in March for all other positions (President, VP, External, VP Athletics, and four General Members)

Office: 122 Norman Bethune College (In the basement across from JCR)

http://bcc.info.yorku.ca
Student Community and Leadership Development (SCLD)

- RedZone [http://redzone.scld.yorku.ca/](http://redzone.scld.yorku.ca/)
- Health Ed. [http://healthed.scld.yorku.ca/](http://healthed.scld.yorku.ca/)
- Leadership [http://leadership.scld.yorku.ca/](http://leadership.scld.yorku.ca/)
- Leadershape [http://leadership.scld.yorku.ca/leadershape/](http://leadership.scld.yorku.ca/leadershape/)
York Federation of Students (YFS)

RedPack: Volunteer Program run by YFS

YFS organizes popular events like York Fest, Frost Wee Multicultural week

Office Location:
336 Student Centre
Mon-Fri, 10am-6pm

http://www.yfs.ca/getinvolved/
YUConnect

● York’s hub for all co-curricular activities

● http://yuconnect.yorku.ca/
Let’s Talk Science

Class room Visits
Volunteers typically go to schools during a class period and do hands-on/minds-on activity with your students.

Workshops
Volunteers deliver workshops tailored to STEM related topics

Now Hiring!
Email yorku@letstalkscience.ca
http://outreach.letstalkscience.ca/yorku.html
Unpaid/Volunteer Research
Ontario Universities Program in Field Biology

- Gain experience through field-based learning and research, and fulfill your interest in the natural world.

- Research fields are located around the world (Costa Rica, Brazil, Bahamas etc.)

- Application found on website [http://www.oupfb.ca](http://www.oupfb.ca)

Dr. Dawn Bazely  
Ms. Patty Lindsay  
416-736-2100 X 20109  
416-736-2100 X 33770  
dbazely@yorku.ca  
patlind@yorku.ca
Research Practicum

- Biology and Chemistry (Research Experience Term)
- Can be taken during any year/semester of study
- Taken part time while taking courses (5~10 hours/week)
- ZERO CREDITS (PASS/FAIL) ON TRANSCRIPT
- Must make arrangements with professor before enrolling
- Submit personal essay/report on your work at the end of practicum

GREAT WAY TO GET YOUR FOOT IN THE DOOR!
Physics/Astronomy Project

- PHYS 4310 3.0

- Fall/Winter/Summer terms available

- Usually taken when in fourth year

- Example of project areas:
  - Biophysics
  - Atomic physics
  - Computational electromagnetism

http://www.yorku.ca/marko/PHYS4310/index.htm
Independent Study/Honors Thesis

- Biology, Kinesiology, Chemistry, and Psychology Departments
  - Biology (BIOL 3100) and Psychology (PSYC 1010, 2020 & 2030; completion of >84 credits) have prerequisites
  - Kinesiology, need to be in Specialized Honours Program and completed 84 credits
  - Biology thesis courses: 3.0 and 8.0 credits
  - Difference?

- Arrange project details with professor
- Grading system is determined beforehand with professor

Look early! (Nov/Dec/Jan of the year before)

http://science.yorku.ca/biology/faculty-research/
Volunteering in a Lab

- Opportunities available depend on the Professor

- Check with each professor individually (via email or in-person)

- Be persistent

- Don’t give up easily (you will likely get many “no”s before you finally get a “yes”)

- Be professional and courteous when you email them

Note: Ecology-based labs usually advertise for volunteers in class
Approaching/Emailing Profs

- See Faculty profiles for a description of their research and their contact information

- Familiarize yourself with their research and choose a prof whose line of research/techniques genuinely interests YOU!

- Approach professors through email, class, or office hours

- Be courteous and prepare to market yourself

- Show the professor that you really have an interest in their research (read a few of their most recent papers)
How did you do?

Dear [Name],

I am an undergraduate student at York University completing a double major in psychology and biology. I will be starting my fourth year in September 2015 and would like to do my honours thesis. After volunteering in a Biology research lab for the past year and realizing that my research interests lie in the [redacted], I found that your research on [redacted] was particularly interesting. Furthermore, I find it appealing that [redacted]. On that note, I would like to inquire whether you are currently accepting honours thesis students for the 2015/2016 year. If so, I was wondering if you would be available anytime next week to discuss this possibility?

I would like to mention that I have previous research experience [redacted]. My psychology GPA is [redacted]. I have attached my unofficial transcript and resume for your consideration. I have also attached a writing sample I submitted as an assignment for the course PSYC 3260 Cognition. Thank you in advance for your consideration and I look forward to hearing from you.

Kind regards,
Volunteering at a Hospital
http://mackenziehealth.ca/

http://www.hrh.ca/BecomeaHumberRiverVolunteer


http://sunnybrook.ca/content/?page=volunteer-application

https://www.mountsinai.on.ca/patients/volunteer

● 3-4 hours a week (summer or during the year)

● Immunization record is required.

● Check each hospital website for specific requirements (application, Résumé and reference letters)

● Summer research opportunities at hospitals
Paid Research and Work Opportunities

Welcome to the Career Fair

Meet employers recruiting York students and new graduates for the following types of positions:
- full-time jobs
- part-time jobs
- internships
- summer jobs

1st & 2nd floors

yorku.ca/careers/fair
NSERC

Natural Sciences and Engineering Council of Canada

● A federal academic granting agency

● Offers summer research assistant studentships for undergraduate students: NSERC USRA

● Application deadline is mid to late January, so you must find a professor well before this deadline

● Pay: $4500 over 16 weeks + 25% co-pay from university

● You can do NSERC at any university, don’t feel limited to York University

● At York, students can apply for NSERC starting summer of 2nd year
York Financial Aid Employment

● **RAY (Research At York):** Through the RAY program, eligible undergraduate students will have the opportunity to participate in research projects with faculty members and/or fellow students, while receiving compensation at a competitive rate.

● **Work Study:** The Work/Study program provides on-campus part-time job opportunities for eligible full-time York University undergraduate students.

● **The College Life at York (CLAY) program** focuses on enhancing the student experience within the college system on the Keele campus.

● **The York Engaged Students (YES) program** supports high profile contributions and engagement activities on campus that are focused on such things as peer mentoring, ambassadorship and advising.

[http://sfs.yorku.ca/employment](http://sfs.yorku.ca/employment)
Career Center website demo

http://careers.yorku.ca/
Recreational Opportunities
Intramurals

York Torch: Intramural championship for which York Colleges compete.

Two Levels

Tier 1 – Competitive
Tier2 - Recreational

Register through IMLeagues

http://www.imleagues.com/
http://bcc.info.yorku.ca/bac/
York U Lions

**INTRAMURAL ASSISTANT:** Provide administrative support with statistics, standings, rules, points, staff training and evaluation.

**INTRAMURAL CONVENOR:** Hiring, training and scheduling of officials, participant identification verification, player eligibility, field/court inspection and equipment inventory as well as appropriate incident management and reporting.

**INTRAMURAL OFFICIALS/REFEREES:** Ball Hockey, Basketball, Broomball, Cricket, Flag Football, Futsal, Handball, Innertube Basketball, Innertube Water Polo, Rugby, Soccer, Volleyball

Note: These positions are part of Work Study program

http://www.yorkulions.ca/index.aspx
Guest speaker

Dr. Patricia Lakin-Thomas
- Associate Professor, Department of Biology
- Course director for Biology Research Practicum, BIOL 2021, BIOL 4141
Summary

There are plenty of opportunities available

- Use the time now to get your resume, cover letters and reference letters ready

- Start searching for projects that interest you

- Approach professors early to see if they have positions available

- Get good grades!
Questions?

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