RESEARCH AND VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES
WHO ARE WE?

- **Sharan Johal**
  - 3rd year Environmental Biology major, Environmental Studies minor
  - PM
  - Current Research Practicum, current intramurals

- **Saloni Phadke**
  - 4th year kinesiology major
  - PM
  - Current Independent study student
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/)
- [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)

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

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
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

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
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
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 [insert specific area or field], I found that your research on [insert specific topic] was particularly interesting. Furthermore, I find it appealing that [insert specific aspect of their research]. 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 [insert details]. My psychology GPA is [insert GPA]. 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
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

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
Deadline to apply is Feb 16, 2018

http://www.nserc-crsng.gc.ca/
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://careers.yorku.ca/
Recreational Opportunities
Intramurals

York Torch: Intramural championship for which York Colleges compete.

Two Levels
Tier 1 – Competitive
Tier 2 – Recreational

Register through IMLeagues

http://www.imleagues.com/
http://bcc.info.yorku.ca/bac/
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
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!