RESEARCH AND VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES
WHO ARE WE?

- Sharan Johal
  - 4th year Environmental Biology major
  - Current PM, former CR
  - Currently volunteering in a lab, former Research Practicum
  - Current intramurals

- Mandy Huynh
  - 5th year Environmental Science (Life Science Stream) major
  - Current PM and Senior Student Ambassador
  - Completed 2 co-op placements
  - Treasurer of GESS@Y
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)

bethunedragons.ca
Student Community and Leadership Development (SCLD)

- RedZone http://redzone.scld.yorku.ca/
- http://leadership.scld.yorku.ca/
- Leadershape http://leadership.scld.yorku.ca/leadershape/
York Federation of Students (YFS)

GET INVOLVED ON CAMPUS!

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

Find Organizations
Join a new organization and utilize discussion, news posts, and group messaging.

Attend Events
Discover events happening on campus or in your area.

Track Involvement
Record your activities and memberships on campus to showcase your involvement.

https://yorku.campuslabs.ca/engage/
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://science.yorku.ca/biology/fieldcourses/
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
Chemistry thesis courses: 4.0 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 recent papers)
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 realized 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
Career Fair

http://careers.yorku.ca/career-fairs/
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

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
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/

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 SPEAKERS

- Jenny Tang
  - York University Alumni - Majored in Biomedical Science
  - Currently Volunteering at Humber River Hospital
  - Has Volunteered in Multiple Professors’ Lab

- Januja Jeyarajah
  - Currently a Masters Student in the Geography Department
  - York University Undergrad - Majored in Geography
  - Recently completed Honours Thesis
  - President of GESS@Y - 2016 to 2018
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!