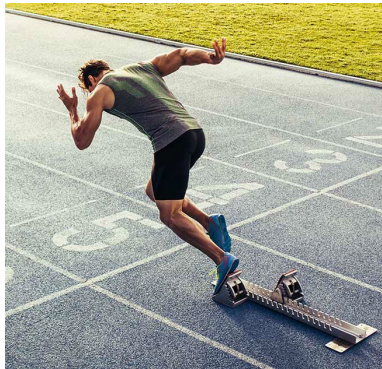
# The Accelerated (1 year) MSc Pathway in Chemical Biology

## Preparation for future careers

- B.Sc. degree often insufficient to secure competitive industry positions
- + Efficient preparation for the growing Canadian Biotechnology sector (BioTalent Canada: “job-opening-to-candidate ratios reaching 4:1 in some cases”).
- + Early entry into workforce
- + Possible pathway to MD/PhD program
- + Quite unique and new pathway

## Admission reqmnts.

- GPA 10+
- 12-15 U undergraduate thesis with proposed MSc supervisor
- Description of undergraduate thesis and proposed MSc project
- Apply by **November 20, 2026**



https://simplifaster.com/

| | Accelerated MSc pathway (1 year)* | Traditional MSc pathway (2 years) |
|---|---|---|
| **Start date options** | May 1st<br>September 1st | May 1st<br>September 1st<br>**January 1st** |
| **First Committee meeting** | Within the **first 2 months** | Within the **first 6 months** |
| **CB 700A/B** | In the first-year Fall and Winter semester | In the first-year Fall and Winter semester |
| **Additional 3-unit course** | One of the following:<br>• CB 702<br>• An alternative 3U course<br>• **Advanced credit from a cross listed 400/600 level course taken in UG (approval required).** | One in the following<br>• CB 702<br>• An alternative 3U course |
| **Second Committee meeting** | **By the 6th month** (advised but optional) | **n/a** |
| **Third Committee meeting** | By the 10th month | Around the 12th month |
| **Colloquium Presentation** | In April of the **first year** | In April of the **second year** |
| **Thesis submission** | At least two weeks before the thesis oral defence | At least two weeks before the thesis oral defence |
| **Thesis oral defence** | Two weeks after the thesis document submission and **by the end of the 12th month.** | Two weeks after the thesis document submission and **by the end of the 24th month.** |
| **PhD transfer (if applicable)** | **By the 12th month** | **By the 22nd month** |

# FAQs

**Q:** *Is it open to co-op students as well?* Yes, at end of 5th year.
**Q:** *Is the two-year pathway for MSc or transfer to PhD still possible?* Yes
**Q:** *Is TA included? Yes, 130h/yr or RA-in lieu if bought out*
**Q:** *Is it a research-based MSc?* Yes
**Q:** *Can I include my 4G12 results in my MSc thesis?* No, no 'double dipping'
**Q:** *Can I still apply for scholarships?* Yes, by early Dec

**Other info about the CB grad prog.? https://chembio.mcmaster.ca/**

**Other questions? Contact us at: wylier@mcmaster.ca**