

BIOL 516: Project in Biotechnology and Genomics

How to find a research supervisor

Congratulations on enrolling to BIOL516! Through this course, you will conduct an independent research project under a supervision of a Concordia faculty member. Although I am the coordinator of BIOL516, my involvement in your research activity is minimal.

Your first task is to find a research supervisor for BIOL516. It is your job to find your supervisor & research project. There are no restrictions as to which department your supervisor is in, as long as the project fits to the descriptions in the course outline. The project should be in one or more of the following fields: biotechnology, genomics, bioinformatics, and high-throughput experimentation. The nature of the project can be research, development, or application.

Since many of you are not familiar with researches at Concordia, I suggest you to consult Concordia web sites to learn about faculty members and their research interests.

- Centre for Structural and Functional Genomics:
<http://www.concordia.ca/research/genomics/about/members.html>
- Department of Biology: <http://www.concordia.ca/artsci/biology/research/areas.html>
- Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry:
<http://www.concordia.ca/artsci/chemistry/research/faculty-research-areas.html>

Once you learn a bit about faculty members, make a list of faculty members who you would like to contact. Bring your CV, a letter describing your background/research interests and BIOL516 course outline with you when you approach faculty members. Ask them if they have suitable project for you.

It is important to communicate what you would like to learn from the project. In the past, some students were not happy about the project because they were very different from what they were expecting. But, at the same time, you don't want to be too specific about the project. Your goal is to obtain research skills. Best way to communicate with professor is to visit their office and talk face-to-face. Ask them if they have time to talk. If they are busy, ask to make an appointment.

A student who wishes to pursue the project at another institute should contact the coordinator to obtain the approval of the project. Find the supervisor first and get approval from me afterwards.

Once you found a suitable project and supervisor, please fill out the project admission form. You can download the form from Moodle course portal. It is your responsibility to obtain necessary information from your supervisor. Save the document as a new MS word file with an appropriate name containing your name. Upload the file to the designated upload link on Moodle.

Mike Hallett, BIOL516 coordinator