

Useful Information for PHAS and BPHS Majors

We Work For You

Professor Patrick Hall is the Undergraduate Program Director of the Department of Physics and Astronomy (phasupd@yorku.ca). Prof. Ozzy Mermut is the Biomedical Physics Program Director. Feel free to talk to them about anything affecting your studies. You can make an appointment through Janaki De Camillis, the Undergraduate Program Assistant in Petrie 128 or at phas@yorku.ca. All students can also contact the Chair of the Department, Professor Tom Kirchner (chphas@yorku.ca) with any questions.

Getting Help

First and foremost, TALK TO YOUR PROFESSORS AND TAs. They are happy to help you.

Consult the [Undergraduate Handbooks](#) for details about courses and other aspects of your major.

[Bethune College](#), the college for science majors, offers many resources to help you succeed at York, especially with first year courses.

If you are concerned about a course, remember to also utilize your Class Reps as a resource.

Student Clubs/Astronomy Journal Club

Several student clubs are affiliated with the Department, such as the Astronomy Club and the Diversity in Physics Student Association. [And we are looking for organizers for the undergraduate Physics Society!](#) Meeting notices are sent out via e-mail to all PHAS and BPHS majors, and links to the club websites can be found here: <https://www.yorku.ca/science/physics/undergraduate/clubs/>

You may also be interested in the Astronomy Journal Club, which meets weekly (timeslot TBA). Current events in astronomy are discussed at a level accessible to any undergraduate major in our Dept. Everyone interested is welcome to attend; to be added to the mailing list, email phall@yorku.ca.

Research

To find out about the exciting research carried out by department professors, be sure to attend **Two-Minute Prof Parade in January 2026** (on Tuesday the 20th, from 2:30-4:00 PM). Also [check out our colloquia](#) on Tuesdays 2:30-3:30 PM. Colloquium talks should be accessible to 3rd-year undergrads.

Students can apply for summer research positions from a variety of sponsors; see the [NSERC website](#) and <https://www.yorku.ca/science/physics/undergraduate/research-internships/>. York faculty seeking summer students will advertise projects in December to February.

There are also Research At York (RAY) positions that enable York students to engage with faculty in research, and Leadership, Engagement and Ambassadorship Program (LEAP) and Work-study positions which may be associated with research groups. Current full-time international students are eligible, as are current part-time or full-time domestic students. For details, see sfs.yorku.ca/work-study-programs.

Research can also be undertaken for credit by honours students via PHYS/BPHS 4310 3.0; for details, see the Handbook, then contact the Undergraduate Research Advisor Prof. Boukaré (boukare@yorku.ca).

Co-op Placements

PHAS and BPHS students are eligible to participate in [York's Co-op program](#). During the Fall, students enroll in a for-credit professional development course, and in the winter are assisted in finding a co-op placement. Co-op courses and placements appear on transcripts. Check out [this hyperlink](#) for further information. If you are interested in co-op placements, please [contact the UPD](#) or the Undergraduate Co-op Advisor Prof. Boukaré (boukare@yorku.ca).

Graduate Studies

If you are considering studies beyond a B.Sc., contact the Graduate Program Director, Professor Deborah Harris (phasgpd@yorku.ca), or the Graduate Program Administrative Assistant, Cristal Carmela del Biondo at delbiond@yorku.ca. For more information, see <https://www.yorku.ca/science/physics/graduate/>.