



Ecology & Evolutionary Biology UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

Guidelines for Research Project Courses in Ecology and Evolutionary Biology

EEB397Y1 // EEB498Y1 // EEB499Y1 Research Project Courses

EEB497H1 Research Studies Course

What are Project Courses?

- An opportunity for University of Toronto St. George undergraduate students to actively participate in the research process – in the discovery and dissemination of new knowledge. Students frame the question or questions that will guide their research and design, while conducting research to find answers and communicating the results of their work.
- If you plan to take a research course, you are urged to plan early with the professor with whom you wish to work. The original research project requires the prior consent of a [faculty member](#) within the Department of Ecology & Evolutionary Biology at the St. George Campus or the Royal Ontario Museum to supervise the project. Adjunct professors may also be permitted if an eligible faculty member agrees to co-supervise/sign the project.
- The research topic should be mutually agreed upon by the student and supervisor. The expectation is that the student, aided and advised by the supervisor, will (1) read and review the relevant literature on the topic and (2) plan, execute, analyze and report on experimental or descriptive investigations of the topic. For the full-year (Y) courses, a literature review alone is not sufficient.
- Visit the [EEB Undergraduate Research Fair page](#) to view a sample of past research projects.

Who can take them?

- UofT St. George undergraduate students enrolled in an [EEB-administered program](#).
- EEB497H1, EEB498Y1/EEB499Y1 are open only to Fourth-Year students with adequate background in Ecology, Evolutionary Biology and/or Behaviour.
- Earlier-stage students may opt for EEB397Y1, or look into other research opportunities, such as [ROP or REP](#) administered by the Faculty of Arts & Science.
- Students may not take multiple EEB research courses concurrently.

When are they offered?

- EEB397Y1, EEB498Y1, EEB499Y1 (1.0 credit) can be taken during the Fall/Winter or Summer terms.
- EEB497H1 (0.5 credit) is a literature-based research studies course that the supervisor and student mutually agree on. Students are not required to present a final poster or oral presentation and do not participate in the research fair. EEB497H1 can be taken in the F or S session of the Fall/Winter or Summer terms.
- Students who completed EEB498Y1 can take EEB499Y1 for a second independent project in another year. However, it must be with a different supervisor and on a different research topic from their EEB498Y1 project.

What is the time commitment?

- Faculty members estimate that students spend 10-12 hours per week on their independent project. Some students may spend more time as they immerse themselves in their projects.

How are students evaluated?

- Evaluation consists of (1) a written proposal 3-5 pages in length, (2) a poster presentation (oral presentation in the Summer term) for EEB397Y1, EEB498Y1, and EEB499Y1, (3) a substantive written report, and (4) evaluation of the quality of the project work, including statistical analysis of data and participation in lab meetings.
- A Registration Form is completed and signed by the supervisor and student and submitted to the EEB Undergraduate Office. This form outlines in advance the expectations and course requirements associated with the research project of the student and the supervisor.
- The supervisor, in conjunction with the department, will determine the marking scheme that will calculate the final grade. The written proposal is 15% and the oral or poster presentation is 20% of the overall final grade (EEB497H1 exempted). The final written report and presentation combined must be worth a minimum of 50% of the final grade.
- The expectations of an acceptable length for the written report will be communicated to the student by the supervisor. Written reports by past students have been approximately 20-25 double-spaced pages and are often written in the format of a manuscript to be submitted for publication to a journal. The submission date for the final report will be determined by the supervisor; the submission deadline is generally sometime after the presentation date.
- For EEB498Y1Y students, the poster presentation will take place during the EEB Undergraduate Research Fair, at the end of the Winter term.
 - The oral presentation for non-EEB498Y1Y students and Summer session project courses will take place at an appropriate date determined by the student and supervisor.
- The supervisor must submit the student's final grade to the Undergraduate Advisor and Program Manager, so they can submit it to eMarks. They will send out information regarding the deadline for submission of the grade when FAS sends out eMarks information.

How are students enrolled?

- Interested students should first find a supervisor who is willing to supervise their project.
- The student and supervisor must complete an Application Form, and the student should email the completed form to the EEB Undergraduate Office. Application Forms are available [on this page](#).
- Once the student's application is verified, the office will enroll the student on ACORN.
- Once enrolled on ACORN, the student and supervisor should meet to discuss the next steps.
- The Registration Form for EEB397Y1, EEB498Y1, and EEB499Y1 ([on this page](#)) must be submitted to the EEB Undergraduate Office by the date indicated on the form.

Important Notes:

- Contact potential supervisors and discuss project ideas.
- Consider what topics interest you the most. If you are unsure where to start, think about current and previous courses, and [scan the research areas of our faculty](#). Take note of the ones that sound exciting to you.
- Submit forms by their appropriate deadline.
- Meet with your supervisor no later than the last date to drop a course to discuss the progress to date and assess the expectations for successful completion.

For further questions, contact the EEB Undergraduate Office at undergrad.eeb@utoronto.ca.