

PEER-ASSISTED LEARNING (PAL) IN BIOLOGY 207

A VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY FOR

UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS

In the 2024/2025 academic year we will be running the Peer-Assisted Learning (PAL) in Biology 207 (Molecular Genetics and Heredity). This program started in 2008 to provide regularly scheduled, out-of-class review sessions to all students enrolled in the course. To make this happen we require undergraduate students who:

- received an A– or higher (or a CR), when they took BIOL 207
- have a solid understanding of basic genetics concepts
- are looking for a volunteer job that involves teaching students

PAL Teaching Assistants work directly with course instructors and get an insider's appreciation of how courses work. They also develop teaching and public speaking skills. Former PAL TAs have found the experience rewarding and have gone on into medicine, graduate school, and other professional degree programs.

Candidates must have enough flexibility in their timetable to fit in 6 hours per week while classes are in session. The workload is 3 hours of preparation, two 1 hour sessions, and a 1 hour weekly meeting. In the previous 2023/24 year, each TA chose whether to deliver their seminars in person or on Zoom. We will probably continue this policy in the upcoming year.

Preference will be given to candidates who:

- participated in the PAL sessions when they took BIOL 207
- have completed or intend to take GENET and related courses
- have worked or intend to work in a research lab
- are in a program hosted by the Department of Biological Sciences
- participate in extracurricular activities such as volunteering and sports

Essentially, this is a volunteer position teaching basic genetics. We are looking for candidates with experience and/or potential in these three things (volunteering, teaching, and genetics).

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Students who applied in previous years are welcome to reapply. We consider this to be a positive. Candidates who transferred from other academic institutions are also welcome to apply. You can modify your application package as required. Your reference letters could be from your original institution. La candidature des étudiants ayant pris des cours à la Faculté Saint-Jean est aussi encouragée.

If you are interested, application forms are available here:

<https://www.ualberta.ca/biological-sciences/undergraduate-studies/research-project-courses/index.html>

The deadline for applications is Wednesday May 1. Interviews will be done in person or by Zoom (as chosen by the candidate) in May until all positions are filled. If you will be unavailable in May and would prefer an interview in April this might be arranged.

Contact the PAL program coordinator, Dr. Mike Harrington (mjh@ualberta.ca), for more information.