

## General Questions

When did Science School first open?

The first semester of Science School started September 1982. It is one of the Ontario Science Centre's longest running programs.

Are summer classes available?

No. The school operates from September to June.

How many students in each class?

We accept up to 30 students into the school each semester. However, enrollment in any particular class can range from 15 to 30 depending on its popularity.

Does the Science Centre School charge tuition?

No. The program is funded by the Ontario Science Centre and supported by the Toronto District School Board and the Toronto Catholic District School Board. The only financial commitment is for field trips and a lab coat. Those who must live away from home to attend may incur additional housing costs.

Who are the Science School teachers?

Our teachers are seconded from the Toronto District School Board or the Toronto Catholic District School Board. They apply for the opportunity to work at the Science Centre and are selected through an interview process. They have a wealth of experience and knowledge and are excited to teach in a unique environment.

Where can I get more information?

Please contact us. The Science School Coordinator can be reached by email at [science.school@ontariosciencecentre.ca](mailto:science.school@ontariosciencecentre.ca) or by phone at 416-696-4620.

## Application Process

Is acceptance to the Science School based on grades exclusively?

No, not exclusively. You must be a good student as the transition to a new school, taking 2-3 math and science courses and the additional work of the Innovation Course can be challenging. An ideal Science School student does well in school, enjoys learning, is an innovative and creative thinker and contributes to their community. The application process includes teacher recommendations, short essay questions to be completed by the applicant, a resume/CV and an official transcript.

Is there any way of choosing which semester I attend?

When you apply to Science School include a letter to the selection committee explaining why you could only attend during one of the semesters.

I am from outside of Toronto. Can I still apply?

Absolutely! We accept students from any Ontario school board. We have had students from as far away as Red Lake attend Science School. Our Guidance Counsellors from the Toronto Public and Toronto Catholic school boards oversee the transfer of your enrollment, university application and provide general guidance support.

I attend a non-semestered school. Can I attend Science School?

Yes. Upon acceptance to Science School, you must to transfer to a semestered school in your hometown. You would then take one semester with us and one at your new school.

The teacher I want to write my recommendation is my grade 6 teacher. Is that OK?

No. All teacher recommendations must be from secondary school teachers. One of the two can be from a non-science or math teacher if you wish.

I am homeschooled. Who should write my recommendation?

Select someone who is not a family member who can comment on your study habits, how you work with others and your ability to take on challenges. For example, this could be a supervisor from work or a volunteer position you hold, a coach or a music teacher.

Is an interview part of the application process?

We sometimes ask students to participate an interview by phone or internet. We would send you more information about this once we have received all applications.

When will I be informed if I am accepted?

Complete applications are due in April. Offers of acceptance are communicated in May. You will hear from us in time to choose your courses for next year with your school's guidance department.

## Courses and Schoolwork

I've already completed several of my grade 12 science credits. Can I retake one of them at Science school?

No.

I'm not sure of the courses I want to take at Science School. Can this be changed later?

Yes. Your course selection does not become final until you are registered by guidance counsellors here at Science School.

How many subjects can I take at the Science School?

Everyone will be enrolled in the Innovation Course (IDC4U). You choose a minimum of two other courses giving you a total of three. You may choose 3 other courses giving you a total of 4 but this is not recommended.

I am in grade 10 now. Can I attend Science School next year?

Yes. To be eligible you must have completed the grade 11 pre-requisites for the courses you are planning to take at Science School.

AP courses are offered at my school. Can I take AP classes at Science School?

No. We do not offer any AP classes.

What are the pre-requisites for the courses?

Science School Course	Pre-requisite
Innovation IDC4U	none
Biology-SBI4U	Biology-SBI3U
Chemistry-SCH4U	Chemistry-SCH3U
Physics-SPH4U	Physics-SPH3U
Advanced Functions-MHF4U (only offered 1 <sup>st</sup> semester)	Functions-MCR3U
Calculus and Vectors-MCV4U (only offered 2 <sup>nd</sup> semester)	Advanced Functions-MHF4U

## What is the Science School Daily Schedule?

Classes start at 8:30 am and end at 3:30 pm. Times you are not in class are considered spare periods.

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
8:30 - 9:45	Chemistry	Biology	Innovation	Mathematics	Physics
9:50 – 11:45	Mathematics	Physics	Chemistry	Biology	Innovation
11:50 – 12:55	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch
1:00 - 2:20	Biology	Mathematics	Physics	Innovation	Chemistry
2:25 - 3:30	Physics	Chemistry	Biology		Mathematics

## The Uniqueness of the Ontario Science Centre Science School

### How are the courses different from my high school?

The math/science courses you will be taking follow the Ontario curriculum, the same as those offered at your current high school. The difference is that you are in a unique environment. In addition the Innovation Course is the only one of its kind in Ontario. For all of your classes and as part of the Innovation Course especially, we emphasize group work, real problem solving and lab skills. Teachers are aware that some students find the change from their home school difficult at first and so provide support and assistance as needed. Science School graduates have reported that they find the experience prepares them for university studies very well.

You will have the challenge and opportunity to apply your knowledge of science to robust questions, and to produce thoughtful, well-communicated solutions. The Science School also provides you with the opportunity to take part in a well-respected, long-standing program that has produced graduates who have gone on to remarkable careers in science, math, engineering, medicine, art, music and more.

### What will I do when I am not in class?

During your spare and lunch periods you can eat lunch, work on homework, complete your practicum hours, go into the Don Valley to play disc golf, or participate in other Science Centre activities. These activities could be media events, testing out prototype exhibits the Science Centre staff are working on, Arduino workshops. These opportunities are different each semester.

### Can you tell me more about the IDC4U Innovation Course?

This interdisciplinary studies course focuses on the innovation process as applied to the scientific field. Working collaboratively with your fellow students, teachers and Science Centre staff, you will be creating an opportunity for visitors of the Science Centre to engage with science: It could be anything - an activity, a demonstration, an exhibit ect. During the class you will be guided through the full innovation cycle from idea conception to implementation and reflection. Group work, idea generation, brainstorming, researching, building, prototyping, presenting, collecting data, reflecting and revising will all be part of this iterative innovation process. This course challenges students with a unique hands-on experience that helps enhance many valuable 21<sup>st</sup> Century Skills necessary for university students and future careers in any field.

### How is the Innovation Course credit counted towards my OSD? Can this credit be used as part of my university or college application?

For your OSSD, you may take up to three IDC courses as electives, however you can take only **ONE** of **EACH** of IDC30, IDC40, IDC4U. If you have not taken an IDC4U credit you may use this credit towards the completion of your Ontario Secondary School Diploma and towards your university or college application. Check with your guidance counsellor to confirm if you can use this credit towards your post-secondary application. If you have any questions do not hesitate to contact us.

As you apply for University each school treats IDC4U courses differently. Most will accept it as part of your top 6 courses in calculating your average. Some of the specialized programs will not. They have a very specific list of courses you must take to be accepted into their program. Check the university website and with your guidance counsellor to determine the best choices for you.

[Will I be able to attend graduation at my home school?](#)

If you are attending second semester at Science School you will be transferred back to your home school before the end of the semester. You will officially graduate from your home school and should be able to participate in their graduation ceremonies. You should always check with your guidance counsellors to confirm.

[Is there a dress code?](#)

Yes. As you move through the building every day our visitors will look to you as a member of the Science Centre team to assist them with their visit. You represent the Centre. The dress is business very-casual but still represents you and your preferences. Greater details will be included in your school manual.

[I am from out of town. Where will I live?](#)

Sometimes students arrange to live with family or friends, others choose to rent a room or an apartment close by. We can provide a list of local residents who offer student accommodations. Please note that the Science Centre does not screen the accommodations or the people offering them.

[What type of field trips do you take?](#)

Past trips have included attending science-based university lectures, museum visits and chocolate factory visits. Students are encouraged to explore the city together by participating in activities like art festivals, attending Blue Jays games, or skating at Nathan Phillips Square.