

## 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 3 math and science courses and the additional work of the Innovation Project 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?**

Yes. On the application form you can indicate your preferred semester. Although we try to accommodate all successful candidates, preference will be given according to student ranking.

### **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 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 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 attend an interview in person or by phone. 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?**

You must be enrolled in 3 classes. No more. No less. We require students to be registered as full-time students.

**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
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 3:45 pm. A typical schedule looks like this:

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
8:30-10:00	Chemistry	Biology	Innovation	Mathematics	Physics
10:05-12:00	Mathematics	Physics	Chemistry	Biology	Innovation
12:00-1:15	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch
1:15-2:45	Biology	Mathematics	Physics	Innovation	Chemistry
2:45-3:45	Physics	Chemistry	Biology		Mathematics

## The Uniqueness of the Ontario Science Centre School

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

The courses follow the Ontario curriculum, the same as those offered at your current high school. The difference is that you are in unique environment. In the classroom and as part of the Innovation Project we emphasize group work, real problem solving and lab skills. Some students find the change from their home school difficult at first; the teachers know this and 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?

The Science School gives students the opportunity to be involved in many activities. These include:

- Communicating with Ontario Science Centre Visitors: You will be trained by our experienced floor staff to engage visitors with puzzles and activities that communicate science concepts for a 'practicum' experience that can count towards the 40 hours of community service required for the graduation from an Ontario high school.
- Working with young students: The Ontario Science Centre has a long-standing partnership with a local elementary school. Science School students will produce a curriculum connected science storybook or activity for young students at this school.
- Special Events: Occasionally there are special events in which the Science School students participate. In the past students have tested exhibit prototypes, participated in a video conference with NASA, participated in Space Day, and spoken with the media about their Science School experience.

**Is there a dress code?**

Yes. The dress code is business casual.

**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 like participating in art festivals, attending Blue Jays games, or skating at Nathan Phillips Square.