

2025 UNDERGRADUATE SCHOLARSHIP

CONNOR JOHNSON

Connor is a graduating Bachelor of Science Honours student majoring in Chemical Biology at Thompson Rivers University (TRU) in Kamloops. Throughout his degree, he has completed multiple undergraduate research projects in analytical chemistry and organic synthesis. His honours thesis focused on characterizing volatile flavour compounds in bananas using gas chromatography-mass spectrometry (GC-MS), which he presented at the Western Canadian Undergraduate Chemistry Conference (WCUCC) 2025, earning the People's Choice Award. Connor has also researched trace metal analysis in Canadian bee pollen using inductively coupled plasma mass spectrometry (ICP-MS), presenting his findings at the Canadian Mineral Analysts (CMA) conference. Lastly, he helped develop an upper-level laboratory experiment in ortho-metalation organic synthesis for future teaching applications.

Over the past year, Connor served as Vice President of the Chemistry Biochemistry Club at TRU, where he helped organize social and academic events, including the annual student-faculty roast and community outreach initiatives. He co-founded the Science Trajectory Ambassador Mentorship Program (STAMP) to support first-year science students and foster peer mentorship. He also worked as a teaching assistant in first-year chemistry labs and created a lab report help centre to support over 160 students.

Outside of academics, Connor enjoys cooking, photography, and exploring the Kamloops area. Starting this fall, Connor will pursue graduate studies in analytical chemistry at the University of Alberta. His research will focus on developing a novel ionization source for liquid chromatography-mass spectrometry (LC-MS), contributing to advancements in instrumentation design and analytical performance.