

## BIEN 471 FAQ

What is BIEN 471?

BIEN 471 is an independent 2 credit research course where students get the opportunity to work with a professor on a specific research project. Students must find a professor to work with and establish what research project they will work on. The course can include literature review, lab experiments, written reports, and oral presentations. BIEN 471 is offered in the fall, winter, and summer semesters.

How do you choose a professor to contact for this course?

Before contacting professors, you can do a little digging into what McGill engineering professors are working on in the lab. Then, you can contact the professors whose research interests you most. Engaging with the professor and showing interest in their research prior to asking for their supervision for 471 will most likely play in your favor.

FYI: BIEN 471 can be done with any engineering professor, and even with non-engineering professors. It doesn't have to be within the bioengineering department. However, before committing to a research project with a non-bioengineering professor, always confirm with the course coordinator (course instructor on Minerva) first.

Do you pick the research project or does the professor provide one for you?

In most cases, professors will have a project in mind, but you can always propose your own idea and see where it gets you. PHD and graduate students working in the professor's lab might need help completing a part of their research and you will be called in to fulfil this assignment.

How many hours a week do you spend in the lab?

Depending on whether you take the course in the fall and winter or summer semester, this will vary significantly. Students completing the course in the summer will typically spend approximately 25h a week in the lab over the course of 4 weeks, but this really depends on the nature of the project you are working on and the requirements of your professor.

Students completing the course during the fall and winter semesters typically go to the lab in between courses or in the evening. The number of hours can vary significantly depending on your workload for a given week, what stage of the project you are completing, etc. On average, students spend approximately 5h a week completing 471 related course work.

FYI: there is no specific time slot for BIEN 471 in your schedule. You make your own schedule with your professor.

What evaluations are part of the course outline?

Evaluations and their specific weight will vary depending on the professor you are working with, but most projects include at least the following evaluations:

- 1) Written project proposal
- 2) Midterm progress report/presentation
- 3) Final report
- 4) Final presentation