Brief Introduction to the School of Life Sciences at Peking University

Hongya Gu

The Department of Biology at Peking University (PKU), established in 1925 as one of earliest in China was the predecessor of the School of Life Sciences. In 1952, the Department of Biology from Yenching University and Tsinghua University joined into PKU’s Biology Department as a result of the national “College of Department Rearrangement”.

The School currently enrolls over 500 undergraduates, who take courses for the first three years and practice research in the last year of study. The School also currently enrolls over 400 graduate students, who participate in research in a wide variety of areas in life sciences and pursue a Ph.D. degree.

There are about 100 faculty and 50 supporting staff members in the School. It possesses more than 50 laboratories directed by one or more professors (as principle investigators, or PIs), covering the following areas: biochemistry and molecular biology, plant biology, physiology, neurobiology, cell biology, developmental biology, behavior science, bioinformatics, evolutionary biology, conservation biology, ecology, and etc. With the increasing investments on life sciences from Chinese government in recent years, the average annual research budget reaches over 100 million Yuan (RMB) from external funding agencies with approximately 130 research projects granted to our faculty members.

Last but not least, constructive exchanges with life science researchers all over the world are highly valued and enthusiastically promoted by the School.