

This month's graduate student profile is that of Ms. Nicole Berardi.



Nicole grew up in Brampton, ON and had little exposure to agriculture until she arrived at the University of Guelph to complete a Bachelor's degree in Animal Biology. Upon completion of her Bachelor's degree, she went on to pursue a Master's degree in the field of Animal Nutrition, of which she has since successfully defended. From there, Nicole decided to again stay at the University of Guelph, but made the switch from animal agriculture into plant agriculture. She began her PhD studies on the mechanisms of weed competition under the supervision of Dr. Clarence Swanton where she is investigating the Antioxidant Responses to Weed Competition in

Arabidopsis and Maize. As she is working towards successfully defending dissertation, Nicole hopes to bring a unique perspective to the field of weed science using her past experience in animal agriculture to provide a more holistic view and approach to the agriculture industry. Once she has completed her Ph.D., Nicole hopes to continue working in research as it relates to plant physiology and weed interactions, whether in academia, industry, or government.