MCGILL UNIVERSITY

EXCHANGE PROGRAM FACT SHEET

This is an interactive fact sheet
Look for this icon!

CONTACTS

INCOMING & OUTGOING EXCHANGE INFORMATION

studentexchanges@mcgill.ca
+1 514 3987878

Student Exchanges - Service Point
3415 McTavish St.
Montreal, QC, Canada
H3A 0C8

AGREEMENTS & PARTNER VISITS

mcgillabroad/international-partners

mcgillabroad@mcgill.ca

24 hour emergency number:
McGill Security +1 514 398 3000

Bienvenue à Montréal!

There's no place in the world quite like Montreal. It is a city steeped in culture and infused with internationalism. Of Montreal's 3.6 million residents, nearly 800,000 were born outside of Canada. A further 220,000 are students at universities or other professional post-secondary programs, making Montreal one of the world's most student-friendly cities. Its safe, socially vibrant setting makes Montreal one of the world's most livable cities.

McGill University is a thriving city within a city – a community of learners where passionate, independent minds come together to combine their great ideas and make even greater ones. It's a place pulsing with life, where our students – 35,000-strong from about 150 countries – are earning their places at the vanguards of their fields – from music to medicine, from the art of architecture to the science of sustainability.

More about Montréal

AGREEMENTS & RESTRICTIONS

Students can be accepted to the exchange program for one semester or the full year (Fall start only). The preference is to have an even number of students nominated for each term - please do not send all in one term.

In general, students should be enrolled in the same program at their home university OR present sufficient educational background in chosen subject area.

MUSIC

- Availability under university-wide agreements is very limited, if available at all. Must contact Music directly for eligibility
- strongly recommend starting in the Fall term
- must be registered in same program at home university
- applicants who wish to participate in lessons, ensembles, or other performance classes are required to submit a recorded audition for evaluation
- certain course restrictions apply
- registration for practical instruction may incur private lesson fees as per agreement with home university

ENGINEERING, MANAGEMENT

- **Limited to 2 nominations per term for non-faculty specific agreements**
- limited spaces in all Engineering disciplines
- students may be responsible for supplemental fees associated with particular courses

LAW, ARCHITECTURE

- Normally not open to university-wide agreements (space permitting)
- students MUST be registered in the same program at home university
- for **Law**, refer to the Law Fact Sheet for further instructions (available upon partner request)
- for **Architecture** - a portfolio is required

GRADUATE PROGRAMS

- Courses at the **600-700 level** ONLY
- students MUST verify if exchange is possible by contacting the Department directly (not all programs are open)
- students MUST apply by program-specific deadlines
- deadlines vary by Department and are different from the undergraduate deadlines

Faculties not open for Exchange: Medicine, Dentistry, Continuing Studies

Students may take up to 1 course in the School of Continuing Studies, see **Registration section** (p. 4).

Academic calendar

Fall 2026	August 31 to December 21, 2026 (including exam period)
Winter 2027	January 5 to April 30, 2027 (including exam period)
Summer 2027	Not open for exchanges

NOTE: Students should **wait for the FINAL 2026-2027 exam schedule** to be available on McGill's website **BEFORE making any travel arrangements** for the end of the term. If they must book their flight in advance, students must book a flight for any date AFTER the end dates listed here.

NOMINATION & APPLICATION PROCESS

When extenuating circumstances arise, exchanges may be cancelled by McGill at any time. Nominated students should monitor the McGill Abroad website for relevant updates.

Nomination Deadlines - Undergraduate

Fall and full-year: March 20
Winter (Spring): September 20

Exchange coordinators should submit their nominations by the indicated deadlines. A link to the nomination webform will be sent to the university's exchange coordinator once available.

Once the nomination has been approved, each student will receive an email invitation from our office to access and complete their application.

NEW FOR WINTER 2027: Students will receive the application link directly from McGill.

Application Periods - Undergraduate

Fall and full-year: March 1 to April 1
Winter (Spring): September 1 to October 1

After a student is nominated by their home university, they must complete the online application and provide the required supporting documentation.

Requirements:

- Have a minimum CGPA of 3.0 (on a 4.0 scale), B average
- Demonstrate English proficiency if your home university's primary language of instruction is NOT English.

English proficiency - minimum requirements

Application Instructions:

- Students complete the online application.
- As part of their application, students must upload the required supporting documents:
  - **Copy of university transcript** in English or French (include ALL pages). Unofficial copies are accepted. Submission must include a transcript key or grading information page.
  - **Letter of permission / nomination**. A letter from the home university confirming the student's nomination for an exchange at McGill, and duration of the exchange.
  - **Proof of English Proficiency** (if applicable). Letter from an academic official or your exchange office confirming English proficiency **OR** copy of official test results.
  - **Scanned copy of the information pages of your passport**: BOTH the photo and signature pages in a single scan. All edges of the passport must be visible in the scan.
  - If applicable, submit **program specific documents** (example: Architecture portfolio, Music audition file).
- Applications are reviewed on a rolling basis. Students can expect to have a decision within one month of the posted application deadline. *Decisions for applications to Architecture may require additional time.*
- Decision: If admitted to McGill, students will be prompted to accept their offer of admission in the Applicant Portal. The official acceptance letter will be available for download and printing via the Applicant portal. Hard copies of the acceptance letter are **not** issued.
- Within 72 hours of accepting the offer, students will be contacted to set up their access to Minerva (student portal), and their McGill email.

Steps for Coming to McGill on Exchange
(Application information under *Step 2: Apply to McGill*)

GRADUATE PROGRAMS - see page 2

For further info, contact us: studentexchanges@mcgill.ca

REGISTRATION

Registration dates:

- **Fall / full-year - late May / early June**
- **Winter - early December**

Students register for courses prior to arrival at McGill online via the student portal Minerva (unless otherwise specified in sections below).

The maximum course load for an exchange student at McGill is 15 credits per term (12 credits is considered full-time). Undergraduate exchange students are only eligible to enrol in **100-500 level** courses.

Incoming exchange registration

Course Catalogue search for courses

Students have access to their official transcript as soon as they are registered for courses.

Faculty-Specific Notes for Registration

Students are required to take a minimum of 60% of their courses in their admitted faculty. For students who want to register for courses outside their admitted faculty it will depend on space availability and course restrictions (e.g. pre-requisites).

Student can register for a course in the School of Continuing Studies, however students should verify with their home university whether they will receive credit for this course.

If there are restrictions or pre-requisite errors while registering, students must contact the department offering the course to obtain permission to register for the course.

REGISTRATION INFORMATION:

Click each Faculty/School for more info

Architecture

Agriculture & Environmental Sciences

Arts

Education

Engineering

Management

Music

Science

COURSES WITH LIMITED ENROLMENT:

- Anatomy and Cell Biology
- Biochemistry
- Biology
- Computer Science
- Mathematics
- Microbiology
- Pharmacology
- Psychology
- Physiology
- Courses in the Faculty of Engineering
- Courses in the Faculty of Management
  - Due to high demand, maximum 2 Faculty of Management courses per subject area
- Courses in the Schulich School of Music have limited capacity

COURSES NOT AVAILABLE TO EXCHANGE STUDENTS:

- Lab courses
- Research projects
- Thesis courses
- Courses in the School of Social Work
- Engineering Faculty Courses FACC 100, 300, 400
- Special topics courses
- Student Teaching practicum (EDFE) courses

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

CLICK THE ICONS ↓

Immigration Documents

Full-year (two terms): Students must obtain a Certificate of Acceptance from Immigration Quebec (CAQ) and a Study permit from Citizenship and Immigration Canada.

One term only: Students must have a valid passport and students from certain countries may need to obtain a Temporary resident visa or an electronic Travel Authorization.

Canadian citizens or permanent residents: Student must submit a copy of their Canadian birth certificate, citizenship certificate, or permanent residency card.

Documents must be submitted to McGill as per the instructions on the Legal Documents website.

Legal documents website

FAQs: Traveling to Canada

International Health Insurance

The McGill International Health Insurance Plan is **mandatory** for all international students (see Expenses section below for the expected cost). Refer to the website for details on coverage (e.g. basic dental is not included).

Students from certain countries may qualify for an exemption provided they submit the required documentation.

Housing

On-campus housing: While priority is given to first-year degree students, limited places are available for exchange students. Once they have accepted their offer of admission, students should contact Housing directly at housing.residences@mcgill.ca

For more housing options: Off-campus housing

Expenses while on exchange

Students participating in the exchange program are exempt from regular tuition charges and compulsory term charges. However there some charges that they may see on their fee account:

- International Health Insurance - approximately $350 CAD per term
- Program/course charges that are compulsory upon registration, such as special activity charges, course materials, textbooks, music lessons, etc. - approximately $600-1000 CAD per term
- Residence and meal plan (if applicable)

Information about billing and payments

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Click the icons

Orientation & Arrival at McGill

Orientation sessions are available for all students. These sessions help students prepare for McGill's academic and social life, provide information about the University and its services, and living in Montreal.

The sessions are usually held:

- Fall term or year-long: end of August
- Winter term only: beginning of January

BEFORE YOU ARRIVE: Check out the Pre-Arrival Webinars hosted by International Student Services

Students requiring academic accommodations

McGill has a dedicated office for Student Accessibility & Achievement (SAA). Students are encouraged to contact the office after being admitted to see if the appropriate services are available to them during their exchange.

If documentation is required, students are responsible for submitting it directly to SAA.

Other available student services

Student health and wellness services

The Student Wellness Hub provides a range of health services to support students' physical and mental health with a focus on awareness, prevention, and early intervention.

Local Wellness Advisor (LWAs) are trained mental health clinicians embedded within faculties and services to orient and connect you with the appropriate support resource - on-campus or off-campus - for your unique situation.

Find your faculty LWA

Official Transcript

Students have access to their official transcript as soon as they are registered for courses.

All final grades should be available by February (Fall exchanges) or June (full-year/Winter exchanges). Note: McGill transcripts only show letter grades (not numeric grades).

Students are responsible for ordering their McGill electronic transcript to be sent to their home institution.

Proof of Enrolment Letter

Students who require confirmation of their enrolment at McGill should access their Proof of Enrolment letter in Minerva (McGill's student portal). This is an official letter which includes our seal and the Registrar's signature.