

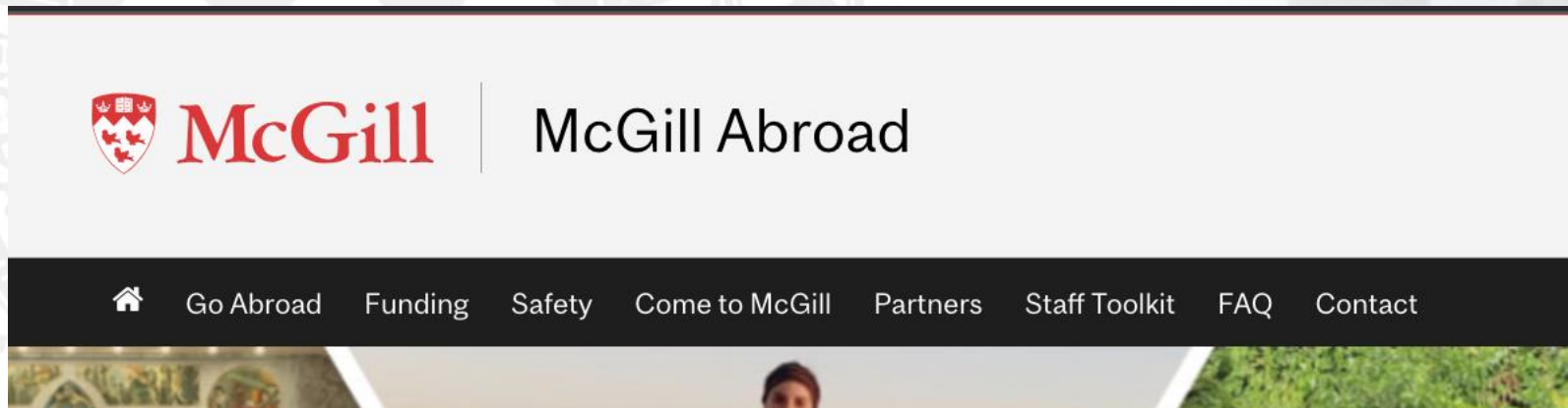


ECE Student Exchange Policy & Advice

September 2024

Where to start?

- McGill Abroad website: mcgill.ca/mcgillabroad/



- Information about how to apply, exchange partners, funding, costs, etc.
- ECE deals with the academic side of your exchange

Eligibility

- Point of view of the Faculty of Engineering
 - Need to be registered full-time
 - Need to have a minimum CGPA of 3.0
 - Need to have completed at least 24 graded credits
 - Possible to go in your last semester; however,
 - Graduation on time is not guaranteed – grades from host institution take time to arrive to us
 - If you have L grades to be cleared in your exchange term, eligibility can be withdrawn

Eligibility

- Point of view of the Department of ECE
 - Students in their last semester will not be approved
 - Students will be approved only if they have or will have completed the following courses prior to their term away:
 - Electrical engineering (incl. honours): ECSE 211, ECSE 331, ECSE 324, and at least 2 out of {ECSE 307, ECSE 308, ECSE 362, ECSE 354}
 - Computer engineering: ECSE 211, ECSE 331, ECSE 324, ECSE 321, and COMP 251
 - Software engineering co-op: ECSE 211, ECSE 324, ECSE 321, and COMP 251

Considerations for host school selection

- Only schools listed as “Open to all faculties” or “Engineering” are available
- All courses need to be given in person
- Seek schools whose courses have a similar number of accreditation units (AUs) as courses at McGill
 - For example, a basic 3-credit course at McGill is 39.0 AUs
 - ECSE courses typically have 45.5, 52.0 or 65.0 AUs
 - When going away, you are getting credits towards your McGill degree

Considerations for host school selection (cont'd)

- Seek schools whose courses have a similar number of accreditation units (AUs) as courses at McGill
 - However, AUs obtained abroad need to meet program requirements
 - Therefore, AU shortfalls on exchange must be made up
 - Extra courses done on exchange – no credit transfer, only for AUs
 - Extra courses done at McGill
 - Type of course determines the nature of AUs to be made up – e.g., a shortfall in humanities will require making up AUs in a humanities course

Considerations for host school selection (cont'd)

- Seek schools whose courses have a similar number of accreditation units (AUs) as courses at McGill
 - Consult the McGill course equivalency database when planning
 - AU information is not provided for non-engineering courses on the CES
 - These need to be assessed independently by the Faculty of Engineering or the Department
 - Be ready to work to get up to date course outlines from host institutions – outlines need to indicate contact time and its breakdown (lecture, lab, tutorial)

Considerations for host school selection (cont'd)

- Seek schools whose courses have a similar number of accreditation units (AUs) as courses at McGill
 - Avoid institutions with whose courses have few contact hours – you will have to make up lots of AUs
 - Courses with less than 50% contact time than a standard course (typical ECSE is 45.5 AUs; other units 39.0 AUs) cannot count as a full 3-credit course
 - Low AU courses need to be combined to obtain a standard 3-credit course

Considerations for host school selection (cont'd)

- Beware of different term dates
 - If the winter/spring term starts in April or later at the host institution, you still cannot do courses at McGill in the winter
 - Many universities have their finals for the fall semester in January after the holiday break
- Beware of the uncertainty considering the availability of courses or your eligibility to take certain courses at host institutions
 - You need a Plan A, a Plan B and (probably) a Plan C!

What courses can be taken on exchange?

- Technical complementaries (TCs)
 - Typically, those will be List B TCs – all programs
 - For CE and SE co-op:
 - List A TCs can be allowed if they contain significant design content – as assessed by the Department
 - They must be equivalent to List A ECSE courses (COMP, MATH, PHYS courses are not acceptable)

What courses can be taken on exchange? (cont'd)

- Technical complementaries (TCs)
 - For EE and HEE:
 - List A courses can be allowed if they contain significant design content, and they have an integrated laboratory/practical work component. These are very rare
 - For HEE: List C and 500-level TCs

What courses can be taken on exchange? (cont'd)

- Technical complementaries (TCs)
 - MTCAF form on Minerva will indicate the TC “flavour” (i.e., List A, B, C, 500-level)
 - Students are expected to ensure they take the correct number of TCs in the various TC lists as per their program requirements of their admit year
 - Failing to do so can lead to delays in graduation

What courses can be taken on exchange? (cont'd)

- Elective course – all programs; handled by ECE
- Natural science complementary – SE co-op only; handled by ECE

What courses can be taken on exchange? (cont'd)

- Humanities and social sciences – all programs; handled by MESC
- Impact of technology and society – all programs; handled by MESC
- WCOM 206 – provided that the equivalency is one-to-one, i.e., not WCOM 2XX; handled by MESC
- FACC 300 – provided that the equivalency is one-to-one, i.e., not FACC 3XX; handled by MESC

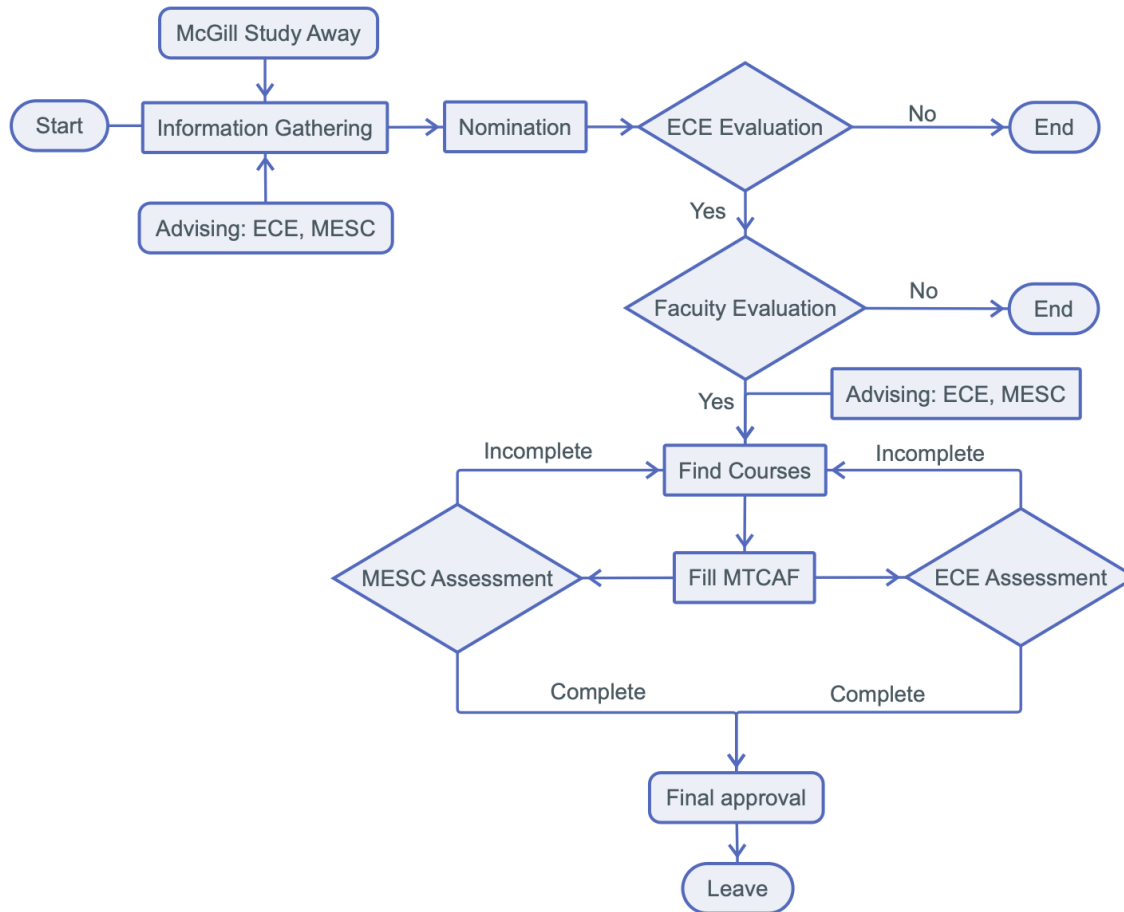
What courses can be taken on exchange? (cont'd)

- Core courses
 - Non-departmental (non-ECSE) courses at the 300-level and higher
 - Departmental courses at the 400-level and higher with the exception ECSE 458 and ECSE 478
 - All of those need to have received a full equivalency – e.g., no COMP 3XX or ECSE 4XX

Minors

- Students can complete up to a maximum of two courses (6 credits) towards a minor while on exchange
- All AU shortfalls must be made up
- Involve your minor advisor in the selection of courses

Exchange preparation flowchart – Academics



Dos and don'ts

- Start preparing early; the process is frustrating and painful – preparation can ease the pain
- Speak to an advisor about exchange timing early on in your program and about course selection at least one semester prior to departure
- You are allowed to take courses coded as, for example, ECSE 4XX (subject to approval) – they will count towards List B TCs
- Make sure you have the prerequisite knowledge to take your selected courses

Dos and don'ts

- Fill up your MTCAF and have it approved prior to departure; failing to do so can result in many unpleasant surprises
 - The MTCAF will list:
 - Approved/disapproved courses
 - AU shortfalls or surpluses for each approved course
 - TC flavours (List A, B, C, 500-level) – this is determined by the Department

MTCAF sample

External Course ⓘ				McGill Equivalent Course ⓘ			Student	Transfer Course ⓘ			Approval		Staff				
Del ID	Course	Weight *	Online? *	AUs	Course	Type*	CEQ Comment	AUs	Comments	Course *	Type*	Applied Credits *	Applied Del Ext. AUs	Pgm	Fac	Comments	
1	CS451 Distributed algorithms	8	N	63	ECSE518 Telecommunication Network Analysis.	Complementary (Technical)		39		ECSE 518 **APPROVED**	Complementary (Technical)	63	3	Y	FBOUFF1	JADNAA	24 AU Surplus MH; To count as a 500-level ECSE TC - FB
2	CS Concurrent algorithms	8	N	56	ECSE4XX Electrical Engineering 4XX	Complementary (Technical)		45.5		ECSE 4XX **APPROVED**	Complementary (Technical)	56	3	Y	FBOUFF1	JADNAA	10.5 AU Surplus MH; To count as a List B TC - FB
3	COM402 Information security and privacy	8	N	49	ECSE5XX Electrical Engineering 5XX	Complementary (Technical)		45.5		ECSE 5XX **APPROVED**	Complementary (Technical)	63	3	Y	FBOUFF1	JADNAA	17.5 AU Surplus MH; To count as a 500-level ECSE TC - FB
4	CS430 Intelligent agents	8	N	63	ECSE508 Multi-Agent Systems.	Complementary (Technical)		39		ECSE 508 **APPROVED**	Complementary (Technical)	63	3	Y	FBOUFF1	JADNAA	24 AU Surplus MH; To count as a 500-level ECSE TC - FB

Dos and don'ts

- AU shortfalls need to be fulfilled – this is non-negotiable
 - Based on the nature of shortfalls, you will be instructed on how to make them up
- It is your responsibility to ensure all program requirements at McGill are met – the Department and Faculty will help, but the responsibility is ultimately yours
- It is advisable to see an advisor after credits have been transferred once you have returned
- Check the warnings on your unofficial transcript – those need to be cleared to graduate

Dos and don'ts

- Consult with the CES as you shop for a destination
 - Have look at the AU shortfalls
 - Types of courses already approved
 - COMP courses cannot be used as List A TCs (SE, CE)
- File courses for assessment on the CES well in advance of departure
 - Do so with parsimony, nonetheless – equivalency assessment is a time-consuming multi-step process
 - Make sure contact time information is included on course outlines – requests will be returned as incomplete

Notes for HEE students

- The minimum of 14 credit per term is relaxed while on exchange
- Seek courses in graduate programs to make sure courses taken on exchange can be counted as 500-level courses

Useful links

- McGill Abroad: mcgill.ca/mcgillabroad/
- 7 steps to going on exchange: mcgill.ca/mcgillabroad/go-abroad/steps
- Destination search: mcgill.ca/mcgillabroad/go-abroad/steps/destinations
- Course equivalency database: nimbus-ssl.mcgill.ca/exsa/search/searchEquivalency