

Student Exchange & Study Abroad

An Opportunity of a Lifetime!

Jamila Adnaan
Student Affairs Administrator

Ashley Kirschner
Student Affairs Administrator

March 13, 2026

**McGill Engineering Student
Centre (MESC)**
Student Affairs Office
Career Centre
Peer Tutoring Services
**Frank Dawson Adams Building
Room 22**



SEE WHERE MCGILL ENGINEERING TAKES YOU.

International experiences

Exchange

(Fall/Winter term)

Exchange means to study at one of McGill's partner universities while earning credit at McGill and paying tuition to McGill.

Attend the faculty information session and visit the faculty website to learn more about the application process, requirements, and McGill's exchange partners.

Independent Study Away

(Summer term)

Interested in studying abroad without committing to an entire Fall or Winter term? An independent Study Away term might be an interesting option to take non-Engineering courses in the summer. Independent Study-Away means to study away at another university while earning credit at McGill. Tuition is paid to the host university.

Summer Undergraduate Research in Engineering

(SURE International)

(Summer term)

A great alternative to an Exchange or Study Away term is participating in a research activity abroad. Merit-based and need-based funding is available for students who have secured a summer research internship.

<https://www.mcgill.ca/engineering/students/undergraduate/exchanges-study-away/outgoing>

<https://www.mcgill.ca/engineering/students/undergraduate/exchanges-study-away/study-away>

Am I Eligible to Apply?

- Be currently registered as a full-time, Engineering degree-seeking McGill student
- Have a minimum CGPA 3.0
- Completed at least one year of full-time study by the start of your term abroad – at least 24 graded credits.
- You can still go on exchange in your graduating term (after discussing this with departmental advisor and MESC) but be aware that will most likely delay your graduation – if you are not concerned with delaying graduation you can apply. You cannot only take extra courses during this term.
- If you have been approved to write a deferred exam during your exchange term away please meet with an academic advisor immediately to go over your options as this may impact your eligibility to go on exchange.
- **Tip!** Check in with your departmental advisor before applying to discuss any course restrictions or the best time to go on exchange for your program.

Where Can I Go on Exchange?

Search all exchange options via the Study Abroad website - you can only choose schools that are coded as **“Engineering”** or **“Open to all faculties”**

Full list is on the exchange site:

<https://www.mcgill.ca/mcgillabroad/go-abroad/steps/destinations>



Step 1: Choose and review different exchange partners



Step 1: Explore McGill exchange partners

Browse McGill exchange partners with our "Where Can I Go on Exchange" tool!

Exchange places at each destination are limited, and there is no guarantee that you will receive a nomination for your first choice, so keep your options open by considering several potential destinations.

1- Choose a region

- Choose - ▾


Reset

Step 2: Review the fact sheets for each exchange partner to determine which host institution might be a good fit for you!



McGill.CA / MCGILL ABROAD / Go Abroad / 7 Steps to Going on Exchange / Explore exchange destinations

École Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne (EPFL)

 [Download the 2024-2025 Fact Sheet](#)

Location 🌍	Language of instruction 🗣️	Eligible faculty 🎓
Lausanne, Switzerland	French and English	Open to All Faculties (Architecture excluded)

Highlights

The École Polytechnique Fédérale Lausanne is Europe's most cosmopolitan technical university. It welcomes students, professors and collaborators of more than 120 nationalities. EPFL has both a Swiss and international vocation and focuses on three missions: teaching, research and innovation.

EPFL collaborates with an important network of partners, including other universities and colleges, secondary schools and gymnasiums, industry and the economy, political circles and the general public, with the aim of having a real impact on society.

Important information

- Review a [list of courses offered during the academic year](#), including courses taught in English
- Visit the EPFL [Language Centre](#) website for information about the university's free language courses.
- EPFL does not provide remedial or "make up" examinations. It is imperative to review EPFL's [academic policies](#) including important dates, examination guidelines and deferral policies.

Find more information about our exchange partners here:

<https://www.mcgill.ca/mcgillabroad/go-abroad/steps/destinations>

Considerations for Host School Selections

- Review the full list of schools on the [McGill Abroad website](#) – note you can only choose schools that are coded as “Open to all faculties” or “Engineering”
- It is important to do thorough research on the schools you are considering in terms of Accreditation Units (AU), programs/courses offered and language of study – be sure to review existing course equivalencies (CES) in the Course Equivalency Database to get a sense of which courses you might be able to take.
- Keep in mind the CES is not a sure representation of the courses you can take on exchange it is a growing database just to used as base.
- Not all schools offer the courses you need and may not meet our accreditation requirements and therefore, you may be required to take additional courses to satisfy the accreditation requirements. Pay attention to the special requirements in the fact sheets of the exchange University.
- Student Experience Reports are available on the [McGill abroad website](#) by selecting the school that you want to view
- Work with your departmental advisor to determine the term which works best for your curriculum and confirm if there are any course restrictions.

Application Dates & Deadlines

Application Periods for 2026/2027: You may apply through MINERVA during the relevant application period:

TERM	Application Periods
Fall 2026 (includes full year applications*)	Complete
Winter 2027	April 15 th – June 10 th

Application Process

- You can only submit one application which can include 4 university choices – there is a **non-refundable fee** (indicated in the McGill Abroad website) that will be charged to your student account.
- For more information on the Minerva application, please review this [application screenshot guide](#).
- **Application:**
 - It is VERY important to do some personal research on the different schools.
 - ✓ Fill out the application form on Minerva.
 - ✓ Select up to for 4 host institutions (Important: Do research on their programs and courses to make sure the selected universities are a good fit for you!)
 - ✓ Add a tentative course selection (Important: Make sure the courses that you need to progress in your curriculum are offered in the term you would like to study abroad)

Decisions

There are 3 levels of decisions that will be made on MINERVA:

1. The departmental level will review your school choices and proposed course list to assess if your choices are suitable. – Their decisions are made by the after the end of January for Fall 2025 applications and June 15th for Winter 2025.

2. The Faculty level will provide a second review to confirm the department's decision in allowing you to participate in an exchange.

3. **The department and faculty are only approving the concept of you studying abroad- we do NOT approve which school nor term you will be selected for.

3. **FINAL APPROVAL AND NOMINATIONS:** The Exchange Office/Service Point will start the process of nominating students to a specific school, destination and term – decisions will be sent from the exchange office (end of July/beginning of August).

It is important to note that if you do not get nominated to any of your choices, you will be sent a list of alternative options.

Nominations

- **Accepting/declining nominations**: The Exchange Office will usually allow a week for you to make a final decision on their offer of nomination.
- Following your decision, you will be sent communication and instructions via email (also listed in the comments section on MINERVA).
- Host application instructions are given to you via myCourses between February and May for Fall/full year and August to November for Winter only - this will depend on host application deadlines!
- For questions you have about the host application (please contact the Exchange Office/ Service Point): studentexchanges@mcgill.ca

Service Point

3415 McTavish St. (corner Sherbrooke)

Montreal, Quebec | H3A 0C8

Tel.: 514-398-7878

Appointments available : myappointment.mcgill.ca

Will I Obtain Transfer Credits

- All Engineering students **must** select their courses and obtain approval after receiving their nomination but prior to leaving on exchange.

Step 1: Course Equivalency System approval

Step 2: Departmental approval of Transfer Credit Form

Step 3: Faculty approval of Transfer Credit Form

- ! • Some departments/schools have course restrictions; therefore, it is extremely important to check with your department before beginning the process of selecting courses.
- More information about the process and requirements be found on the faculty's exchange website under "STEPS TO RECEIVE APPROVAL FOR TRANSFER CREDITS":
www.mcgill.ca/engineering/current-students/undergraduate/exchanges-study-away/outgoing
- All nominated students will receive more detailed instructions.

Is Financial Assistance Available?

For each term you are on exchange you will be paying 15 McGill credits; regardless of how many courses you take.

To offset some study abroad costs, you may be eligible for financial assistance:

- Students are eligible to apply for government student assistance.
- Students may also apply to the Scholarships and Student Aid Office for further assistance.
- Holders of renewable scholarships and awards may retain their awards. Renewal of entrance awards will be contingent on performance at the host institution.



Funding Opportunities

- **Mobility Bursary for Exchanges** (<https://www.mcgill.ca/studentaid/special-funding/mobility-exchanges>)
- **Killam Awards** (Awards for study in the U.S.A.)(www.mcgill.ca/mcgillabroad/goabroad/funding)
- **McCall MacBain International Fellowship (up to \$24,000)**: these fellowships enable undergraduate students to spend a year abroad studying a foreign language, doing an academic exchange, and pursuing an internship. <http://www.mccallmacbain.org/mmif/> (application deadline: usually in January)
- **Canada Learning Initiative in China (CLIC)**: funding available for students going to Chinese exchange partners ([Funding | McGill Abroad Funding for McGill students going abroad - McGill University](#))

Reminder: Important Steps and Deadlines

- **Access the application** form on Minerva: starting on April 15th for Winter 2027 applications.
- **Talk to your department** if they have restrictions regarding the types of courses that they allow you to take while on exchange!
- **List the courses that you are proposing to take** (these will need to be confirmed and approved at a later date). Please do not ask your department to pre-approve each course until your application has been accepted.
- **Provide Proof of Proficiency** (as applicable) in the language of the host institution to Service Point.
- Decisions will be sent by the Exchange Office/Service Point at the beg of August for Winter 2026 applications.
- An email notification will advise you to accept or decline your nomination.
- Once you have accepted the nomination, you will be given instructions on how to get official course approvals.
- Instructions on how to apply to the host institutions will be available through myCourses.

Alternative Study Abroad Options:

- **Independent Study Away:** Take non-Engineering courses abroad during the summer term: [Study Away | Faculty of Engineering - McGill University](#)



Questions?

Jamila Adnaan

McGill Engineering Student Centre (MESC) located in FDA, room 22.

exchange.engineering@mcgill.ca

For more information on how to apply, please visit:

<https://www.mcgill.ca/mcgillabroad/go-abroad/steps>

or

www.mcgill.ca/engineering/students/undergraduate/exchanges-study-away/outgoing