Figuring out February

February can be a tough month.

Projects and papers start being due one after the other but not to fear: At the end of this month, there’s a break!

Reading Week 2022 is right around the corner, from February 28th to March 4th. Follow Healthier McGill for tips and tricks to help you take care of yourself.

In this month’s newsletter, you will find information about:

- myISS launches today
- Proof of Completion of Studies
- IHI: Social Workers now covered!
- Programming: Post-Graduation Work Permit and Permanent Residence, new Student-Parent Support Group and more!
- Free Winter Gifts!
- Events around the world in February

Best wishes,
The International Student Services Team

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myISS

Use myISS to connect with International Student Services

As we mentioned in the January newsletter, starting today, International Student Services is launching a new web-based system, myISS, to make it easier for you to communicate with us.

The new system has two main sections:

1) myISS Request Form

Submit a “Request for Information,” or RFI, through the myISS request form at any time. The myISS request form will replace our e-mail inbox, so that we can organize and respond to your requests more effectively, serving you better.
You can now access the myISS request form, using your McGill log-in credentials, to submit your questions.

Starting today, please use the myISS request form whenever you have a question for ISS. Your “Request for Information,” or RFI, will then be organized and sent to the appropriate staff member.

The goal is to direct all students to the myISS system by moving away from the ISS mailbox. Starting February 8th, International Student Services will begin prioritizing the Requests for Information received through the myISS request form over emails sent to our ISS email account.

Effective March 8th, the international.students@mcgill.ca email account will no longer be monitored.

2) myISS Student Portal

When our team member receives your RFI, they will respond to your question or, when necessary, direct you to book an advising appointment through the myISS student portal. If it is determined that your RFI requires an advising appointment, you will receive an email from ISS which will notify you that you have been given access to appointment booking and direct you to the myISS student portal.

The myISS student portal will allow you to book an appointment with an Immigration Advisor that fits your schedule. You can also submit any supporting documents securely in the same portal.

In order to help you become familiar with the new system, we have prepared a short video and user instructions that you may review at your convenience. These contain more details about the myISS system, including details on how to access the system, how to submit an RFI, how to schedule an appointment once provided access to appointment booking and direct you to the myISS student portal.

Please be assured, you will still be able to reach ISS by phone for any inquiries. Similarly, advising appointments may be booked by phone as well, if an ISS staff has determined that it is required for you to speak with an advisor.

 IMMIGRATION UPDATES

Proof of Completion of Studies

If Fall 2021 was your final term of studies, Senate will meet to grant your degree on February 23rd, 2022. Once Senate has met, you are no longer authorized to work.

Note: the degree granted remark will appear on your transcript on February 24th, 2022.

If you receive a special letter of program completion* from Service Point before Senate meets, you are not authorized to work in Canada from the date indicated on the letter.

*Service Point can exceptionally provide this letter for the purpose of applying for the PGWP at a fee of $15. The letter (in PDF form) will be emailed to your McGill email address within 5 to 7 business days of requesting it.

You may only resume working once you have either:

- Submitted an online PGWP application from inside Canada (and meet certain conditions)

OR

- Obtained your Post-Graduation Work Permit (PGWP)

Want to find out more? See our PGWP guide, and COVID-19 Work FAQs or attend a PGWP Info Session!
International Student Health Insurance (IHI): UPDATES

IHI Now Covers Social Worker Services

We are proud to announce that the International Health Insurance (IHI) plan now covers services of Social Workers! Under the IHI plan, you are covered at 80% for the services of a social worker with a maximum reimbursement of $750 (including services of psychologists and psychotherapists).

Furthermore, this change in coverage will be retroactive to September 1st, 2021. Therefore, if you used the services of a social worker off-campus during the Fall 2021 term, you may now submit your invoice as a claim for partial reimbursement. Please visit our website for information on how to process claims. Please note, this change may take a few business days, so we request that you only submit these claims after February 14th, 2022.

Also, please be reminded to activate your IHI coverage on Minerva if you have not yet done so.

PROGRAMS AND RESOURCES

Post-Graduation Work Permit (PGWP) Workshop

- Attend this webinar to find out how to apply for your Post-Graduation Work Permit.

Details
Thursday, February 24th, 10:00am - 11:30am
Register Here

Permanent Residence in Canada

- Learn all the steps to apply for PR in Canada with IRCC.
- Ask any questions you may have about the process of applying for Permanent Residence to the hosting Immigration Official. ISS does not advise on Permanent Residence.

Details
Thursday, March 10th, 1:30pm - 3:30pm
Register Here

The Student Wellness Hub is offering a new support group for student parents - cofacilitated by our LWA for International Students, Jos Porter!

Student-Parent Support Group
Are you a student and a parent? Do you find it challenging to balance family and academic obligations? Do you feel disconnected from your peers? Join our group and connect with other student-parents to receive support, ideas, and encouragement. Registrants may attend any or all sessions, which will take place remotely every other Friday. View the full schedule for more details and to register. Please register at least 24 hours prior to the start of a session in order to receive the access link.

**How I Learn Best**

*How I Learn Best* is a living library of curated study tips and strategies from McGill students, for McGill students. From maintaining balance, to improving focus, to creating study guides, and much more, How I Learn Best has strategies on a variety of topics to support your academic success. With new additions from Fall 2021, check out the growing list of tips here.

**Academic Skills Workshops**

Calling all undergrads! Would you like to learn about how to improve academic skills? The upcoming workshops for students from Teaching and Learning Services on topics like effective reading, group work, and exam prep can help support your success. See the schedule here. Looking for additional support? Be sure to check out the learning resources with guides and videos to support your learning!

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**Brighten up your winter with free gifts!**

Montréal International, through its I choose Montréal initiative, will keep you warm and cozy this winter with a new contest. Whether you have just arrived in Greater Montréal or you want to treat yourself this winter, here’s something to make you love the cold. With this new contest, I choose Montréal offers you the chance to win one of our five gift boxes.

Each box contains:

- A Simons gift card to buy a new warm coat ($200 value)
- A comfy P/C hoodie ($75 value)
- A Juliette et Chocolat chocolate fondue pot for your sweet tooth ($10 value)
- A maple syrup bottle from Nos Cabanes ($22 value)
- A Place des arts gift card ($200 value)
- Little surprises from I choose Montréal

Enter the Contest HERE

Hurry! The contest ends on February 25, 2022.
This contest is only open to international students residing in Québec, holding a valid study permit and enrolled full time at a Greater Montréal educational institution. For more details, read the contest rules. Good luck!

FEBRUARY CELEBRATIONS AROUND THE WORLD

February 1: Chinese New Year
February 1: Korean New Year/Seollal
February 1: Vietnamese New Year/Tét
February 1: Mongolian New Year/Tsagaan Sar
February 2: Traditional Day of Offerings
February 2: Feast of Candelaria
February 2: Candlemas
February 2: Sonam Lhosar
February 5: Saraswati Puja/Vasant Panchami

February 8: Prešeren Day
February 15: Lantern Festival
February 16: Magha Purnima
February 16: Hizir fast
February 16: Navam Full Moon Poya Day
February 22: Feast of the Chair of St Peter
February 24: Feast of St. Vartan's day
February 24: Dragobete

**If we missed a celebration in your country or region, send us more information at events.iss@mcgill.ca**

Contact us

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