

ISS NEWS

INTERNATIONAL STUDENT SERVICES

Figuring out February

February can be a tough month.

Projects and papers start being due one after the other but not to fear: After this month, there's a break!

[Reading Week 2021](#) is right around the corner, from March 1st to March 5th. Follow [Healthier McGill](#) for tips and tricks to help you take care of yourself.

Best wishes,
The International Student Services Team



[#ImmigrationTipTime](#)

Important Immigration Updates

* As of **January 26, 2021**, it is no longer possible to submit a paper application for a *Certificat d'acceptation du Québec* (CAQ – Québec Acceptance Certificate) nor is it possible to submit your CAQ supporting documents to the Ministère de l'Immigration, de la Francisation et de l'Intégration (MIFI) by mail. For more details about this important update, please see our [Immigration FAQs](#).

* If you have a mandatory co-op/internship requirement as part of your degree and are still waiting for your study permit and co-op work permit to get approved, you **may** begin working inside or outside of Canada. For details on how many hours you can work, please review the following **new** Work FAQs on our [website](#).

* **International graduate students who are currently outside of Canada and are completing a program that is less than 2 years in length:** The COVID-19 Post-Graduation Work Permit (PGWP) [facilitative measures](#) are of particular importance for short programs that are less than 24 months in length, such as non-thesis Master's

programs and some graduate certificates and diplomas. If your study permit application has been approved and you are concerned that you will not meet the 50% in-Canada requirement, or if you are worried that the length of your PGWP may be cut short due to the IRCC April 30th, 2021 deadline, you may opt to come to Canada for the start of the Summer 2021 academic term (if the Summer is a mandatory academic term for your program). Before making any plans to do so, please see our [Entering Canada](#) page for information about travel restrictions, what documents you should bring to the border, and the quarantine requirement. Read further details [here](#) in our Work FAQs.

Proof of Completion of Studies



If Fall 2020 was your final term of studies, Senate will meet to grant your degree on **February 24th, 2021**. Once Senate has met, you *are no longer authorized to work*.

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.

In both cases, you may resume working only:

- After you obtain your [Post-Graduation Work Permit \(PGWP\)](#); **or**
- After you submit an online PGWP application **if** you [meet certain conditions](#)

Want to find out more? See our [Fall 2020 Graduates website](#) and our [COVID-19 Work FAQs](#).

A PGWP webinar is scheduled for February 25th at 10am! [Register Here](#).

Travel to Canada

***IMPORTANT:** As announced on January 29th, 2021, new travel measures will soon be coming into force which will require:

- All international passenger flights to land at one of the following four Canadian airports: Vancouver, Toronto, Calgary, and Montreal
- All travellers to take a COVID-19 test upon arrival to Canada, on top of [pre-departure test requirement](#) and quarantine for three days at an approved hotel at their own expense while they wait for the results. The estimated cost to travellers may be up to **\$2,000**.
 - If their results are negative, they can continue the rest of their fourteen day quarantine at home
 - If their results are positive, they will be required to complete their fourteen day quarantine at a designated government facility.
- Travellers entering Canada by land to provide proof of a negative COVID-19 test prior to entering Canada. As of yet, no date has been announced but an announcement is expected shortly.

Note: The government and Canada's airlines have agreed to suspend all flights to and from Mexico and Caribbean countries until April 30, 2021. This will be in effect as of January 31, 2021. For more information, please refer to the [Government of Canada website](#).

Mandatory pre-departure testing for COVID-19 for travelers coming to Canada **by air is required for all persons aged 5 years and older**. Air passengers are required to present proof of their negative PCR test results to airline

officials prior to boarding their flight to Canada.

As per Transport Canada:

The test must be performed using a COVID-19 molecular polymerase chain reaction (or PCR) test and must be taken within 72 hours prior to the traveller's scheduled departure to Canada. Anyone who receives a negative test result and is authorized to enter Canada must still complete the full, mandatory 14-day quarantine.

You can read the full announcement on [Transport Canada's website](#).

For more information, please see Transport Canada's [Pre-departure COVID-19 testing and negative results for air travellers coming to Canada](#) webpage.

IMPORTANT: All travelers, whether arriving by air or land, are required to provide proof of their **mandatory plan to quarantine for 14 days** and follow [all reporting directives](#) after entering Canada. Before travelling to Canada, please see the [Entering Canada](#) and [Travel FAQs](#) sections of our website for important information related to travel restrictions and your mandatory quarantine.

Are you struggling with anxiety related to being an international student during the pandemic?

Join our International Student Support Group

Description: Do you feel disconnected from others at the university? Has your mental health been impacted by all the uncertainty this past year? International students have been uniquely impacted by the pandemic. This online support group is an opportunity to come together, share what you're going through, gain coping skills, and receive support. Open to all international students, regardless of where they're located. Participants are welcome to attend any or all sessions. Please register at least 2 hours prior to the start time of a session in order to receive the invitation for the online meeting.

Dates: Every other Friday from 10:00am -11:00am EST, Feb. 12th, 26th, March 12th, 26th, April 9th, April 23rd
[Register Here](#)



WORK IN CANADA

Post-Graduation Work Permit (PGWP) Workshop

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

Details

Thursday, February 25th, 10:00am - 11:00am

[Register Here](#)



Permanent Residence: Info Sessions

- Learn all the steps to apply for PR in Canada or Quebec.
- Ask any questions you may have about the process of applying for Permanent Residence to the hosting Immigration Official. McGill Staff cannot - by law - provide any advising on Permanent Residence.

Canada: PR Information Session with IRCC

Date	Time	Registration
Wed, Feb 3	10am	Register Here

Quebec: PR Information Session with MIFI (These sessions will be led in French)

Date	Time	Registration
Wed, Feb 24	9am	Register Here
Thurs, Feb 25	12pm	Register Here

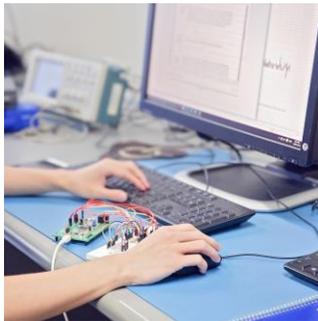
INTERNATIONAL STUDENT HEALTH INSURANCE



Just a friendly reminder to visit our [COVID-19 IHI FAQs](#) often, since updates about International Health Insurance premium adjustments are posted on a regular basis.

If you are outside of Canada but planning to arrive in Canada during summer 2021, you may qualify for a new IHI premium adjustment. Further details are found in our [IHI FAQs](#).

ANNOUNCEMENTS



Accessible Materials Request

Beginning this semester, all students and course instructors can submit their course-related material, including articles, books and assignments to be converted to an accessible format. Please note that requests will be processed throughout the Winter 2021 semester on a first come first serve basis. [Click here](#) to access the Accessible Materials Request form.

For specific requests or questions related to this project, please contact Enoch Leung, Accessible Learning Administrator at the Office for Students with Disabilities, by email: enoch.leung@mcgill.ca.



Being Black @McGill

Join this five-part workshop series designed to create a safe environment where Black students at McGill can discuss how their race has impacted the ways in which they experience their time at McGill. Students will have the opportunity to share their narratives, while learning both about themselves, and the impact racism and discrimination can have on their mental health. They will discuss what has allowed them to thrive despite the obstacles they face, and what they feel still needs to be done to create an inclusive environment for Black students at the University.

[Register](#) to learn more about the facilitators or to explore the theme of each workshop. You can also join the [Facebook event page](#).

Want to become a Buddy Volunteer?

The International Buddy program is currently recruiting volunteers for Fall 2021!

We expect over 1,000 new international student students wishing to be connected with a seasoned McGill Student. With the International Buddy Program, you can:

- Make a difference in a new student's life.
- Supplement your co-curricular record.
- Help a new student and ease their transition to McGill.

Not sure what to say? The program training webinar covers topics like intercultural communication and will help to get you ready.

Do you still have questions? E-mail us at international.buddy@mcgill.ca.

[APPLY TO VOLUNTEER NOW](#)



[Volunteer for the Buddy Program](#)



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Contact us

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