Important Summer Updates for International Students

Dear International Students,

We know many of you are asking questions about travelling to Canada. COVID-19 has made international travel complicated, and while we can’t wait to welcome you to McGill, we want to make sure you have the most up-to-date and accurate information about cross-border travel so you can plan with the risks and restrictions in mind. Remember that no matter where you’re living now, ISS is here for you.

We’re looking forward to welcoming you soon!

The ISS Team.

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Travelling to Canada

As of 12:01am (ET) August 9th, 2021, new border measures will come into effect. For full details on the upcoming border measures, see our Entering Canada – Latest Updates page. If you will be travelling before August 9th, you will need to respect the border measures that are currently in place.

We recommend that new international students arriving by air, plan to arrive in August and register for the Acceuil PLUS service, opening August 1st at Montreal International Airport (only). In addition, all international students entering Canada (by air or land) must fill out the Government of Canada’s ArriveCAN application. These 2 important steps will save you a considerable amount of time at the border or at the airport.

We understand that the current border measures and upcoming changes may be confusing and can lead to many questions. To help you better navigate the complexities involved so that you are informed and well prepared to travel to Canada, we will be hosting a series of town halls on Entering Canada and the Quarantine Measures. See our Events and Workshops page for registration details.

Entering Canada and Quarantine Town Hall for New and Returning Students
Details and Registrations

Thursday, July 29 at 9am
Thursday, August 5 at 10am
Monday, August 9, at 1:30pm
Thursday, August 12 at 9am

*All times are in Eastern Time.

Note: these town halls are intended for students who have obtained their valid immigration documents and are ready to travel. In order to enter Canada you must have:

- a valid CAQ or CAQ approval letter;
- study permit or port of entry letter (study permit approval letter); and
- either a temporary resident visa (TRV) or electronic travel authorization (eTA), unless exempt.

If you do not yet have the proper immigration documents to travel to Canada, then we recommend that you listen to a recording of our Pre-Arrival Webinar: Immigration Essentials. Note you will need to login by using your McGill credentials.

Quarantine Bursary Program

Updates regarding need-based financial aid, brought to you by the Scholarships & Student Aid Office: The Quarantine Bursary Program assists with financial barriers facing (primarily international) students travelling to Montreal for academic reasons. It is available to returning and newly admitted Bachelors, Masters and Ph.D. students based on demonstrated financial need, considering a student's totality of resources and costs for the academic year. The program will remain in place even once the 3-day quarantine at designated hotel is no longer required, as there are other quarantine costs for non-vaccinated students. As such, students in receipt of the quarantine bursary and who may now be exempt from having to quarantine will NOT have their aid rescinded.

Pandemic Drop-In Support

Has your mental health been impacted by the pandemic? Are you struggling with grief, anxiety, isolation, and/or distress related to COVID-19? You’re not alone. This online support circle is an opportunity to come together and share what you’ve been going through. Open to all McGill students, regardless of current location. Students in quarantine are welcome. Participants are invited to attend any or all sessions.

Facilitator: Jos Porter

Details & Registration

Tuesday, August 3 at 10am
Tuesday, August 10 at 10am
Tuesday, August 17 at 10am
Tuesday, August 24 at 10am
Tuesday, August 31 at 10am

All times in Eastern Time
Late Arrivals

If you are not currently in Canada, we strongly advise you to make travel plans to arrive in Montreal in the coming weeks. **Fully vaccinated students** (new and returning) will be exempt from the 14-day quarantine and should plan to arrive in Montreal before **September 1st**. Students who are not fully vaccinated will need to do a 14-day quarantine and should plan to arrive by **August 17th**.

If you need to quarantine for 14 days and you are unable to arrive by August 17th:

**Undergraduate Students:**
If your arrival or the end of your self-isolation period is after the start of the term, it is possible to request academic accommodation for in-person classes that you will not be able to attend in-person. Accommodation requests will be considered for students who are *unavoidably* and temporarily delayed in starting their courses, and will be handled on a case-by-case basis. Not all requests may be possible to accommodate, depending on course format and pedagogy. Instructions on how to request accommodation will be available in the coming weeks. Therefore, students should make every effort to be in Montreal and out of quarantine for the beginning of the term. For more information, please see the McGill Coronavirus webpage for **Fall 2021 for students FAQ**, in particular the question: *What academic accommodations related to COVID-19 are available for students?*

International students admitted for Fall 2021 and experiencing visa/travel delays related to COVID can request a deferral until **September 1st**. Instructions and forms are available [here](https://e1.envoke.com/m/8f5ff1b21b29fab62535812b1e85a40b/m/3cb7a098865c67acc6a60fecb109df3c/198b7d7686b5236a2123c36ebcc71fe4?mode=3&rev=16351...)

**Graduate Students:**

**Master’s thesis and PhD students:** You should make every effort to be in Montreal and out of quarantine for the beginning of the term. If your arrival or the end of your self-isolation period is after the start of the term due to a delay in obtaining your immigration documents, contact your department and your supervisor as soon as possible to discuss your options. All such inquiries will be handled on a case-by-case basis to ensure you can progress towards your degree in a timely manner.

**Master’s non-thesis students:** You should make every effort to be in Montreal and out of quarantine for the beginning of the term. If your arrival or the end of your self-isolation period is after the start of the term due to a delay in obtaining your immigration documents, contact your department as soon as possible. Academic accommodation requests for missed in-person classes are not guaranteed.

Graduate deferrals are handled at the departmental level. For questions about deferral options, contact your Graduate Program Coordinator.

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**All new & returning students:**

**Submitting your Immigration Documents**

Don’t forget to submit a scanned copy of your new or renewed CAQ and Study Permit to legal documents by [webform](https://e1.envoke.com/m/8f5ff1b21b29fab62535812b1e85a40b/m/3cb7a098865c67acc6a60fecb109df3c/198b7d7686b5236a2123c36ebcc71fe4?mode=3&rev=16351...).

View full instructions

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**International Health Insurance (IHI) 2020-2021 Information**

**Exceptionally for Fall 2021:** New students and returning international students who cancelled their IHI plan during 2020-2021 get **1 complimentary month of coverage** prior to the start of their first term at McGill. Therefore, if you arrive anytime starting **August 1st**, you will receive coverage upon your arrival in Canada.

https://e1.envoke.com/m/8f5ff1b21b29fab62535812b1e85a40b/m/3cb7a098865c67acc6a60fecb109df3c/198b7d7686b5236a2123c36ebcc71fe4?mode=3&rev=16351...
Returning students: If you were enrolled in the 2020-2021 academic year and did not enter Canada for the academic year, you may be eligible for a cancellation of the International Health Insurance plan for the 2020-2021 year (more information here). Please note, the deadline to request an IHI cancellation is July 31st 2021, therefore if you are eligible for an IHI cancellation, please submit the webform as soon as possible.

If you were enrolled in the 2020-2021 academic year and entered Canada after September 30th 2020, you may be eligible for an adjustment of the International Health Insurance plan for the 2020-2021 year (more information here). Please note, the deadline to request an IHI adjustment is July 31st 2021, therefore if you are eligible for an IHI adjustment, please submit the webform as soon as possible.

Contact us

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