Happy New Year!

Goodbye 2023 and Hello 2024!

If it's your first term: Welcome to McGill! And if you're a returning student: Welcome back!

Here are a few tips to help you start the term right:

- Try a Montreal Bagel at Mac Campus on January 22nd
- Try a Montreal Bagel on campus on January 24th
- Want to work in Canada? You'll need a Social Insurance Number
  - Visit the SIN Clinic on January 25th on the Downtown Campus
- Jan. 22-26 is Well Week! Follow @healthiermcgill for more details

Finally, we want to warn everyone to learn more about avoiding online and phone scams. You may not think this applies to you until it's too late. Please be careful!

Best wishes for a healthy and successful 2024!
International Student Services

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**IMMIGRATION UPDATES**

**Update on off-campus work hours for international students**

Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) has extended the temporary policy that removes the limit on off-campus work hours for certain students who meet the eligibility requirements. These students may work an unrestricted amount of hours off-campus until April 30th 2024.

If you applied for your study permit (first or extension) **on or before October 7th 2022**, please refer to this policy to verify if you are eligible.

If you applied for your study permit (first or extension) **between October 8, 2022 and December 7th 2023**, please refer to this policy to verify if you are eligible.

Please continue to refer to our website, as we will be updating our Work FAQ’s once we have more information.
Increase in living expenses requirement for CAQ and Study permit applications

Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) has recently increased the estimated cost of living in Canada for a single student to $20,635 per year. This increase will only affect students applying to study at an institution outside of Quebec.

International students applying for a CAQ or study permit to study in Quebec must be able to prove that they meet the financial capacity requirement as set by Immigration Quebec for one year of tuition fees and one year of living expenses in Quebec.

As of January 1st 2024, the estimated living expenses in Quebec have been increased to $15,078 for one student (18 and over). If you have accompanying family members, please see Immigration Quebec’s newly updated Cost of Living webpage.

Certain students are exempt from the requirement to prove financial capacity for their first CAQ application.

Note: The processing time for the CAQ application is now 25 working days.

Leave of Absence and Reduced Course Load Q&A

The course Add/Drop deadline is January 16th. If you plan to take a leave of absence or reduce your course load, please join our immigration advisor who will answer any questions you may have.

Thursday, January 11th at 10am

Register here

Permanent Residence Q&A with IRCC

This presentation will cover the PR programs for applying for PR outside of Quebec and will not cover the PR pathways offered by Immigration Quebec. There may be a separate session hosted by Immigration Quebec that will cover the PR pathways for those who would like to remain in Quebec. Please visit our Events page for more information.

Details
Tuesday, January 30 at 12pm

Register here

International Student Health Insurance (IHI): UPDATES

New Students (Winter 2024): Activate your IHI coverage

Activate your McGill’s International Health Insurance (IHI) contract on Minerva as soon as possible. Please be mindful of the January 31st deadline* to do the following:

*January 31st deadline

https://e1.envoke.com/m/8f5ff1b21b29fab62535812b1e85a40b/m/5c21d4c1d4d2996d14e6595754822ab1/?mode=3&rev=1704732025
- Send us your supporting documents, if you have applied for an exemption
- or to opt-in to the IHI plan, if you are a Canadian citizen without a provincial health plan.

*International students applying for Régie de l'assurance maladie du Québec (RAMQ), under the Social Security agreement, may experience delays with obtaining their RAMQ letter of confirmation or card by the January 31st deadline. Please see our IHI FAQ's for more information on the RAMQ processing delays and exemption options.

After activating your IHI plan on Minerva, please wait 7 business days to sign up for the Medavie Blue Cross app or the Medavie Blue Cross website portal. You can then make your claims by using Medavie Blue Cross eClaims. Please see our website for more information on how to submit claims and instructions on how to register for the Medavie Blue Cross app and website portal.

We highly encourage you to learn all about McGill's International Health Insurance Plan and Accessing Healthcare in Quebec by viewing our webinar recording.

If you have any questions, please contact us!

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**JANUARY CELEBRATIONS AROUND THE WORLD**

- Coptic Christmas: Jan 7
- Coming of Age Day: Jan 8
- Berber New Year (Yennayer): Jan 12
- Lohri: Jan 14
- Pongal: Jan 15– Jan 18
- Makar Sankranti: Jan 15
- Timket: Jan 20
- World Religion Day: Jan 21
- Altagracia Day: Jan 21

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

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**Contact us**

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