Welcome to McGill!

The team at International Student Services (ISS) warmly welcomes all of our new and returning international students on campus.

ISS is here for you! We are happy to help you with immigration advising, one-on-one or through a variety of programs, international health insurance administration (IHI), as well as specially designed programs to support you academically, and socially.

Do you have questions about your study permit? Travel? Work? Check out our updated FAQs. Please keep an eye out for the monthly ISS newsletter to stay up to date on everything happening for international students. If you have suggestions to make it better, please don’t hesitate to send feedback our way!

In this month’s newsletter, you will find:

- Immigration Updates
- International Health Insurance Plan
- Social Insurance Number Clinic

Best wishes for the academic year ahead

Pauline L’Ecuyer
Director, International Student Services

------------------------------- IMMIGRATION UPDATES -----------------------------

ISS would like to remind you of your immigration requirements and responsibilities:

Make Studies Your Principal Activity
You are expected to be actively pursuing your studies while residing in Canada, from your very first semester right up to your last. This means that you must:
- Make reasonable progress toward the completion of your certificate or degree within the expected timeline of your program.
- Maintain a full-time status in every semester of your program, with the exception of your last term before graduating.

For more details, see our Immigration Facts and Part-Time Studies Cheat Sheet!

**Working as a Student in Canada**
Thinking of working during your studies at McGill? Make sure you meet the requirements to do so! Check out our Work in Canada as a Student Cheat Sheet for detailed information!

**Know When Your Documents Are Expiring**
Take a second to jot down when your CAQ and study permit will expire. If either your CAQ or your study permit (or both!) will expire before you have completed your program, you’ll need to renew them to maintain your status as a student and continue your studies in Canada. You must do so before they expire or you’ll lose your status as a student. Visit our Maintained Status vs Out of Status Cheat Sheet to know the difference!

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**Question & Answer Sessions with an Immigration Advisor**

**Q&A Leave of Absence and Part-time Studies: Open Questions Session**
Thursday, September 7th at 1pm
Registration

**Q&A Add/Drop Deadline: Open Questions Session**
Tuesday, September 12th at 10am
Registration

**Q&A Withdraw with Refund Deadline: Open Questions Session**
Tuesday, September 19th at 10am
Registration

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**INTERNATIONAL HEALTH INSURANCE UPDATES**

ISS is happy to announce that IHI premiums have decreased by 5% bringing down the premium from $999 to $951 and the following added benefits were enhanced:

- An increased maximum for pre-existing conditions from $10,000 to $20,000
- Removal of maximum of $40 for eye exams (there is now no maximum)
- Now includes an out-of-pocket maximum on prescription drugs equivalent to that of RAMQ (currently $1,161) and a new MBC Drug eCard that you can present at your next pharmacy visit
- An increase in coverage for mental health professionals (combined for psychologists, psychotherapists, and social workers) from $1,500 to $3,000
- An increase coverage for physiotherapists from $750 to $1,500
• An increase coverage for vaccines from $300 to $1,000

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**PROGRAMS AND EVENTS**

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**Social Insurance Number (SIN) Clinic**

If you plan to work in Canada, you will need a Social Insurance Number (SIN).

**Service Canada** will be on the downtown campus to issue Social Insurance Numbers to international students. Please have your original study permit and passport on hand.

**Downtown**
- When: Monday, September 11th, 10am - 3pm
  - Wednesday, September 13th, 10am - 3pm
- Where: Brown Building (3600 Rue McTavish), Room 5001
  - Register Here

**Macdonald Campus**
- When: Thursday, September 14th, 10am - 4pm
- Where: Centennial Centre, 1st floor – Student Services (room 124)
  - Register Here

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**Winter 101**

First winter in Montreal? Worried? Excited? Not sure what to expect?

**Learn about:**

- Staying cozy and warm
- Thermometer reading and winterizing your apartment
- Shopping for winter clothes on a budget
- Fun outdoor winter activities

- Monday, September 25 from 10am -11:30am
  - Register Here
GETTING INVOLVED
WORKSHOP & MEET AND GREET

JOIN SSMU AND CL&E
THUR, SEPT 7, 2023, 4:30-5:30
ROOM 203, UNIVERSITY CENTER

LEARN ABOUT:
• Opportunities on & off campus
• How to juggle academics and extra curriculars
• Much more!

SNACKS PROVIDED

CELEBRATIONS AROUND THE WORLD

Umhlanga Reed Dance Ceremony: Aug 29 -Sept 4
Grand Magal de Touba: Sept 3-4
Arbaeen: Sept 5-6
Chelum: Sept 5-6,
Jeune Genevois: Sept 7,
Nativity of Mary: Sept 8
Our Lady of Coromoto day: Sept 11
Coptic New Year: Sept 12
Day of Our Lady of Sorrows: Sept 15
Rosh Hashanah: Sept 15-17

Thimphu Drubchen: Sept 20
St. Matthew's Day: Sept 21
Day of Saint Thecla: Sept 23
Saint Rupert's Day: Sept 24
Our Lady of Las Mercedes Day: Sept 24,
St. Nicholas of Flüe day: Sept 25
Indra Jatra: Sept 28
St. Wenceslas Day: Sept 28
Binara Full Moon Poya Day: Sept 29
Chuseok Harvest Festival: Sept 28-30
Mid-Autumn Festival: Sept 29

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