



Welcome to McGill

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

Whether you are here in Montreal or still making travel plans to join us shortly, 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 help you succeed 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](#)
- [International Student Welcome Day](#)
- [Social Insurance Number Clinic](#)

Best wishes for the academic year ahead

[Pauline L'Ecuyer](#)

Director, International Student Services

IMMIGRATION UPDATES

Message for Students Preparing to Travel to Canada

We understand that some of you are still waiting for a decision on your study permit application and the uncertainty that this entails. Immigration, Refugees & Citizenship Canada is processing study permits as fast as they can and we hope they are able to issue many more before the start of the Fall term.

As announced in the Spring, **all classes** will return to an in-person format in Fall, 2022. Online courses at McGill were always meant to be a temporary measure during the COVID-19 pandemic.

So, it is important to remember that in order to begin your studies at McGill, you **must** have a valid CAQ and study permit. **Students should not enter Canada as visitors** and should only make plans to come to Canada once their study permit application has been approved. The only exception to this is for US citizens and US permanent residents who can apply for [their study permit directly at a port of entry](#).

In order to accommodate international students who are experiencing delays obtaining their immigration documents, you **may** be able to defer your admission up until the add/drop deadline on September 13th, 2022. However, a deferral request is not guaranteed to be approved and the decision to be granted one will be made on a case-by-case basis. Depending on the availability in each program or Faculty, you may be able to defer to the Winter 2023 term or you may have to defer until the Fall 2023 term. Instructions and forms are available on the [deferral request webpage](#).

If you are a graduate student, please contact your department directly to let them know that you may or may not receive your study permit in time for the start of the Fall term.

If your study permit has already been approved, please continue to monitor our website regularly for updates, especially our Travel FAQs, in order to prepare for your travel to Canada. We also suggest you review the information in the [handout for students arriving to Canada](#) prepared by the Government of Canada.

We know how disappointed some of you may be if you are unable to start the Fall term as expected but we do hope to see you at McGill as soon as possible.

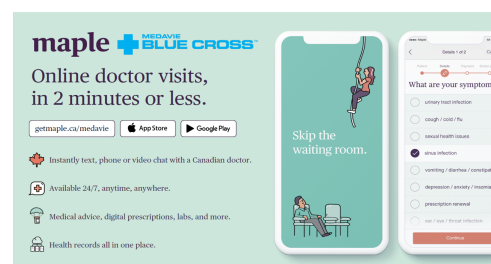
HEALTH UPDATES

For students who have not activated their IHI coverage - Don't forget to activate your IHI plan before September 30th!

- The International Health Insurance (IHI) premium of \$999 was billed to your student fee account along with your tuition in August 2022.
- Once you activate your IHI plan, you can print/save your electronic health insurance card, you can register for [MAPLE](#) virtual care and [MEDAVIE BLUE CROSS](#) to make claims.
- Please note that you do not have coverage until you have entered Canada. Your coverage and benefits will only begin once you have arrived in Canada.
- If you are requesting an exemption from the IHI plan, please do so on Minerva before August 31, 2022.
- Do you qualify for RAMQ under the Social Security Agreement but are experiencing delays with RAMQ? Visit our [FAQs](#) to review your options.

Maple Virtual Healthcare

Did you know that students on International Health Insurance (IHI) plan have coverage for Maple, a private virtual healthcare platform? Through Maple, you can connect with a doctor within minutes, from the comfort of your own home. Their doctors can support patients for both physical and mental health concerns.



Visit the [ISS website](#) for more information and for how to register for direct billing to your insurance provider.

PROGRAMS AND EVENTS

International Student Welcome Day

For the first time in 3 years, McGill will be hosting a day of events for all international students in a tent on the Lower Field on September 22nd. Join us for a snack and meet other students from around the world.

2pm: Undergraduate Student Meet Up

3pm: Graduate Student Meet Up

4pm: Buddy and First Friend Program Welcome

No registration required

5pm: Welcome Reception for New International Students*

* By Invitation Only. Registration Required.

When: Thursday, September 22nd starting at 2pm

Where: Lower Field in a big tent - Can't be missed!



Social Insurance Number (SIN) Clinic: On Downtown Campus

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.



When: Tuesday, September 13th and Wednesday, September 14th

Where: Brown Building (3600 Rue McTavish), Room 5001

[Register Here](#)

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 26 from 10am -11:30am

[Register Here](#)

English Placement Testing

The McGill Writing Centre will be holding placement tests in August and September 2022 for students whose first language is not English and who wish to strengthen their academic writing by taking one of our WCOM ESL courses in Fall 2022 and Winter 2023.



The next placement test is scheduled for:

- Wednesday, September 7, 2022 12:00 pm to 01:30 pm

Students can register for a test here:

<https://www.mcgill.ca/mwc/courses/placement-tests>

For more information about WCOM undergraduate courses, please visit:

<https://www.mcgill.ca/mwc/courses/undergraduate-courses>



Our partner student club: MISN

McGill International Student Network (MISN) aims to create an unforgettable global experience for our international student body through a variety of events and services.

[Like MISN on Facebook for upcoming events→](#)



Develop your Skills with Skills21

Calling all undergrads! Would you like to improve skills such as time management, test preparation, or mindfulness? Do you want to learn about anti-racism, communication, or library research?

SKILLS21 is a skills development program with workshops and more! [Register today](#) to get weekly updates about free workshops, and to



Rapid Advising

Do you have a quick question for an ISS Immigration Advisor?

Join us for a 5-minute advising appointment Thursday mornings!

Note that ISS does not advise on Permanent Residence and PR questions will be removed.

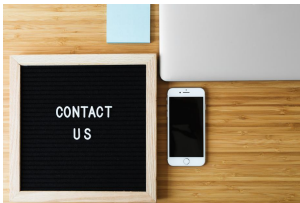
[Register Here](#)

receive credit on your Co-
Curricular Record.

CELEBRATIONS AROUND THE WORLD

Day of Knowledge - Sept 1
Gaura Parba - Sept 3
Umhlanga Reed Dance - Sept 5
Onam - Sept 8
Nativity of Mary - Sept 8
Indra Jatra - Sept 9
St. George's Caye Day - Sept 10
Chuseok Harvest Festival - Sept 10
Nayrouz - Sept 11
Geez New Year - Sept 11
Ethiopian New Year- Sept 11
Our Lady of Coromoto - Sept 11
Mid-Autumn Festival - Sept 10-12
Knabenschiessen - Sept 10-12

Arbaeen - Sept 17
Jitiya Parwa - Sept 18
The Feast of Saint Januarius - Sept 19
St. Matthew's Day - Sept 21
Day of Saint Thecla - Sept 23
Our Lady of Las Mercedes - Sept 24
Mahalaya - Sept 25
Pchum Ben Festival - Sept 24-26
Ghatasthapana - Sept 26
Navratri (begins) - Sept 26
Rosh Hashanah - Sept 25-27
Meskel - Sept 27
Gedaliah Fast - Sept 28



CONTACT ISS

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