

ISS NEWS

INTERNATIONAL STUDENT SERVICES

CONGRATULATIONS!

Dear International Students,

If you are graduating this spring, CONGRATULATIONS from the ISS team!

We just completed another academic year which brought its load of challenges to everyone. Congratulations to all of you for your resilience and perseverance this year.

Many of you are making plans to travel over the summer months. Please make sure to consult the government advisories for your destination and find out about health authority guidelines before your departure. Also, please ensure that you read our [Entering Canada webpage](#) and that you plan to return early enough in August to quarantine for 14 days before you can start attending classes in September.

The ISS team will continue to update the [ISS website](#) and [COVID-19 FAQs](#) throughout the summer with information on border closures, quarantine, and vaccinations. Make sure to consult our [website](#) regularly.

Have a safe and relaxing summer!

[The ISS Team.](#)

Montreal in the Summer



Summer is finally coming. And when it does, summer in Montreal, even during a pandemic, is a most glorious time of year.

Start with [Tourism Montreal](#) to find out about the best Terraces in town, [the best ice cream](#), [how to rent a bike and routes to ride](#), and attractions such as [the Montreal Botanical Gardens](#), [public markets](#), or [a picnic getaway](#).

[MTL Blog](#) also has some great features to inform and inspire you - particularly their ["Things To Do in Mtl"](#) section".

Enjoy the Summer!

[#ImmigrationTipTime](#)

Proof of Completion of Studies



If Winter 2021 will be your final term of studies, Senate will meet to grant your degree on [May 28th, 2021](#). Once Senate has met, you **are no longer authorized to work**. Note: the degree granted remark will appear on your transcript on May 31, 2021.

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 [Winter 2021 Graduates FAQs](#) and our [COVID-19 Work FAQs](#).

Post-Graduation Work Permit Webinar

Thinking of working on or off-campus, doing an internship, or seeking post-graduation employment?



Register for a Post-Graduation Work Permit Webinar

[Thursday, May 20th, 9:00am - 10:30am](#)

Find out everything you need to know, including:

- What conditions you must respect to maintain your eligibility to work
- Whether or not you need a work permit and how to apply for one if needed

Quebec Income Tax Session for International Students

Filing your returns for the first time or just looking for some tax tips? The Scholarships & Student Aid Office and [Revenu Quebec](#) will lead an information session for international students on how to complete your provincial tax return.

If you live and work in Quebec, you are advised to file both [provincial](#) and federal tax returns. This session will address **provincial** tax returns only with information tailored to international students.

Attendees will have the opportunity to ask questions, but due to time limitations, personalized tax advising cannot be provided.

Our tax experts will provide inside tips and advice on:

- Student tax breaks
- Optimizing returns

- How to apply for a Social Insurance Number (SIN) to get paid
- Covid-19 factors will be discussed

- Easy filing at no cost

[Tuesday, May 4th, 10am - 12pm](#)

HEALTH

International Health Insurance (IHI) coverage: Summer 2021

If you are in Montreal or elsewhere across Canada over the Summer 2021 term, please be assured that McGill's Medavie Blue Cross covers COVID-19 related medical expenses. Due to the unfolding public health emergency, it may be difficult to consult with a doctor in person, however McGill's Student Wellness Hub is offering [virtual care](#). Additionally, if you are a Medavie Blue Cross plan member, you have the option to receive 24/7 on-demand access to doctors online anywhere in Canada by secure text or video for advice, diagnosis and prescriptions with [Maple Virtual Care](#). If you have not yet [signed up](#) for Maple Virtual Care, now might be the right time to do so. If you are a Medavie Blue Cross plan member, you also benefit from Maple billing Medavie Blue Cross directly, where the consultation fee is completely covered by the McGill's IHI plan.

If you are planning to travel outside of Canada, please be cautioned that McGill's Medavie Blue Cross IHI coverage is limited as you are only covered for emergencies resulting in hospitalization (must be admitted as an in-patient), up to \$2,000 CAD funds per day for all services combined as specified in the [Medavie Blue Cross contract](#). For further details please review McGill's IHI [Travel](#) benefits. Take note that temporarily, at this time, there are significant limitations to the travel insurance available for trips outside of Canada with [Quebec Blue Cross](#):

- In accordance with federal government restrictions on travel, new travel insurance sales are currently suspended for all trips to Mexico, the Caribbean, and for all cruises.
- The Emergency Medical Care benefit does not cover the cost of getting tested for COVID-19 while travelling unless prescribed by a doctor following a medical emergency or sudden illness.
- Health care services as of result of a COVID-19 infection abroad are covered, as long as you have not tested positive for COVID-19 or showed symptoms prior to your departure. It is impossible to guarantee access to health care services abroad during the pandemic.
- Emergency repatriation is only covered if it is considered necessary and safe by the travel assistance medical team and the attending physician at the destination. Inability to access health care or lack of access due to overcrowded medical centres alone does not constitute grounds for emergency repatriation.
- COVID-19 is a known and not covered situation for the Trip Cancellation and Interruption benefit. Therefore, you will not be covered if you must cancel or interrupt your trip for this reason.



It is essential to consult the government advisories for your destination and find out about health authority guidelines before your departure.

Continuing your studies in Fall 2021?

Following last year's positive premium experience, the IHI premiums for 2021-2022 have decreased. Please review the new IHI rates [here](#).

Please see our [COVID-19 FAQs](#) on Health Insurance.

Need emotional support over the summer months?

Classes may have ended, but [Student Wellness Hub services](#) remain available for students throughout the summer months, including our Local Wellness Advisor (LWA) for international students. Jos offers remote wellness programming and individual sessions. Do you think you could benefit from wellness advising? Book an appointment [here](#).



Please note that students must be located in Quebec at the time of their appointment.

Not in Quebec? Not a problem. The [Keep.meSAFE](#) counseling service is available 24/7, from anywhere in the world. Also, did you know that students on the IHI plan have coverage for private therapy off-campus? See details in your [handbook](#).

BE A BUDDY VOLUNTEER

Want to share your knowledge and help new international students?

Become a Buddy Volunteer!

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

We expect over 1500 new international student applicants 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.
- Share your experiences
- Supplement your co-curricular record.
- Ease their transition to McGill.

Are you hesitating because you're no longer in Montreal?
No problem, online peer mentoring is available.

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



**INTERNATIONAL
BUDDY PROGRAM**

[Apply NOW](#)

Still have questions? E-mail us at international.buddy@mcgill.ca

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Contact us

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