

Pre-Arrival Orientation: Immigration Essentials for Grad Students



McGill

Student
Services

International
Student Services

We're here for you!

IMPORTANT: The information contained in this presentation is accurate as of **April 16, 2024**



We acknowledge that McGill University is located on land which has long served as a site of meeting and exchange amongst Indigenous peoples, including the Haudenosaunee and Anishinaabeg nations. McGill honours, recognizes and respects these nations as the traditional stewards of the lands and waters on which we meet.



Congratulations!

You're going to be part of an
incredible community at a
world-class university!



About You: International Students

McGill International Student Body by Citizenship 2023-2024: 11,987

Afghanistan	3	Congo (Rep Pop)	2	India	782	Nepal	9	South Africa	11
Albania	2	Costa Rica	8	Indonesia	31	Netherlands	31	South Korea	170
Algeria	7	Croatia	2	Iran	442	New Zealand	22	Spain	65
Argentina	18	Cuba	4	Iraq	2	Nicaragua	1	Sri Lanka	15
Armenia	1	Cyprus	1	Ireland	18	Nigeria	73	Stateless	1
Australia	64	Czechia	10	Israel	60	North Macedonia	1	Sudan	1
Austria	12	Denmark	27	Italy	73	Norway	9	Sweden	23
Azerbaijan	12	Dominica	1	Ivory Coast	6	Oman	32	Switzerland	46
Bahamas	6	Dominican Rep	2	Jamaica	6	Pakistan	100	Syria	21
Bahrain	5	Ecuador	13	Japan	72	Palestine	8	Taiwan	62
Bangladesh	163	Egypt	80	Jordan	41	Panama	6	Tanzania	5
Barbados	3	El Salvador	2	Kazakhstan	9	Paraguay	3	Thailand	21
Belarus	1	Eritrea	1	Kenya	18	Peru	43	Togo	1
Belgium	102	Ethiopia	15	Kuwait	111	Philippines	28	Trinidad & Tobago	3
Belize	5	Finland	8	Kyrgyzstan	4	Poland	15	Tunisia	25
Benin	3	France	2,096	Lebanon	104	Portugal	10	Türkiye	162
Bermuda	3	Gabon	1	Libya	4	Qatar	10	Uganda	6
Bolivia	8	Gambia	1	Luxembourg	8	Romania	8	Ukraine	21
Botswana	7	Georgia	1	Macau, SAR	2	Russia	37	United Arab Emirates	57
Brazil	111	Germany	97	Madagascar	3	Rwanda	8	United Kingdom	233
Bulgaria	2	Ghana	56	Malaysia	33	Saint Vincent	1	Unknown + Blanks	18
Burundi	2	Greece	25	Mali	1	Saudi Arabia	233	Uruguay	4
Cambodia	4	Grenada	1	Mauritius	32	Senegal	9	USA	2,184
Cameroon	13	Guatemala	3	Mexico	202	Serbia	6	Uzbekistan	1
Chad	1	Guinea	3	Monaco	1	Sierra Leone	1	Venezuela	6
Chile	22	Haiti	5	Mongolia	11	Singapore	51	Vietnam	61
China	2,639	Hong Kong, SAR	55	Morocco	77	Slovakia	5	Yemen	8
Colombia	78	Hungary	6	Myanmar	2	Slovenia	1	Zambia	1
Congo (Rep Dem)	5	Iceland	2	Namibia	2	Solomon Islands	1	Zimbabwe	6
TOTAL = 11,987									

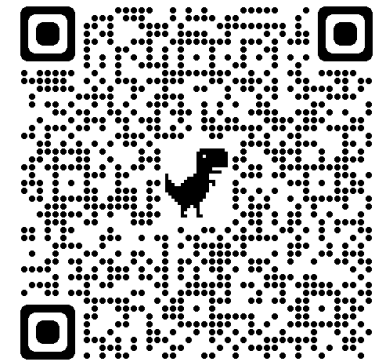
*Special Administration Region - SAR

2023-2024
11,987 International
Students
4081 of those were
grad students

Almost 30% of McGill
students are international
from over 150 countries!

Today's agenda:

- 1. Immigration documents – What you need and how to apply**
 1. CAQ
 2. Study Permit
- 2. Travelling to Canada**
- 3. How and where to get more information and help if needed**



News from Immigration Canada

- **January 22, 2024** - Immigration Canada (IRCC) announced that the Government of Canada has set an intake cap on international study permit applications for a period of two years.
 - Who at McGill will be affected by the cap? Newly admitted undergraduate students
 - Graduate students will **not** be affected by the cap.
- **February 15, 2024** – Effective immediately, international students who complete a Master's program that is less than two years in length are now eligible for a 3 year Post-graduation Work Permit.

What immigration documents do I need?

	Passport	CAQ	Study Permit	Entry Visa/TRV or eTA*
2-terms & more				  

**US Citizens and US permanent residents are exempt from both Entry Visa/TRV and eTA*

You should **NOT** make travel plans until you have received your CAQ, Letter of Introduction and your TRV or eTA.



PROCESSING TIMES

CAQ: 5 – 8 weeks

Study Permit: 12 weeks

Apply for your documents **as soon as you get the admission letter.**

You do **not** have to satisfy all the conditions in your admission letter to begin your applications for CAQ and study permit.



Offer of Admission Offre d'admission

January 27, 2023

McGill ID: 7

Dear Y

Congratulations! It is my great pleasure to inform you that you have been admitted to the following graduate program at McGill University:

MSc Mathematics and Stats (Thesis)

Masters (Thesis / Non-Thesis)

Mathematics and Statistics-T Mathematics and Statistics / Math. et statistique

Fall / Automne 2023

Full Time Note that Master's degrees must be completed within three (3) years of initial registration.

This is your official offer of admission from McGill. You may print copies of this letter as needed or use the electronic copy as proof of admission. **A supplemental letter will be issued by your department with program-specific information, including funding details.**

Please take a moment to review the conditions of admission and other important information which follows this letter. Note that all conditions of admission must be met before you register. Please contact your McGill department immediately should you be unable to meet this expectation.

I sincerely hope that you will accept this offer of admission and the great opportunity it represents. McGill University is one of the world's leading research-intensive educational institutions, and I would be delighted to [welcome you to our graduate student community](#).

If you applied to another McGill program or programs, you will receive a separate response for each one.

Once again, congratulations on your acceptance. I wish you every success in your graduate studies.

Sincerely,

Josephine Nalbantoglu, PhD
Associate Provost (Graduate Education)
Dean, Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies

Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies
James Administration Building, Room 400
845 Sherbrooke Street West
Montreal, Quebec, Canada H3A 0G4

Études supérieures et postdoctorales
Pavillon James (administration), bureau 400
845, rue Sherbrooke Ouest
Montréal (Québec) Canada H3A 0G4

Step-by-Step Guide: Applying for your documents

Step 1: Make sure you have a passport that is valid for at least 1 year (ideally, valid for your expected duration of studies)



Period of study in Québec

Obtaining authorizations to study in Québec

Required conditions

Applying for temporary selection for studies

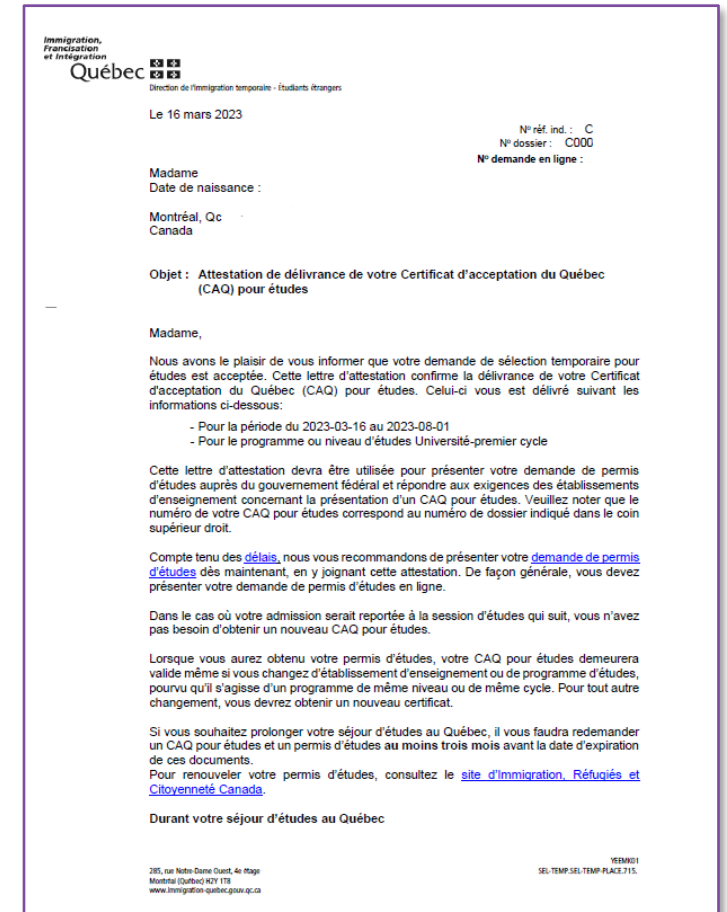
Applying for temporary selection for studies

To obtain a Québec Acceptance Certificate (CAQ) for studies, you must submit an application for temporary selection for studies online.

Step 2: Apply for your Québec Acceptance Certificate (CAQ)



[More information on the Immigration Quebec website](#)



CAQ

Provincial document: CAQ

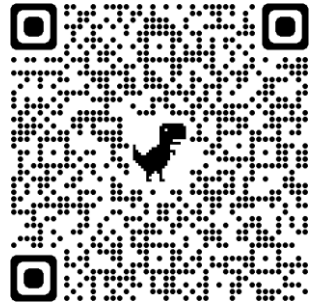
A. Answer the online questionnaire through the Immigration Quebec online portal

- Start of program?
 - August 28, 2024 (or earlier if specified by program)
- Duration of program?
 - PhD degree: Maximum 4 years
 - Masters Degree: Maximum 2 years
 - Master's Non-Thesis: Indicate official length of program

B. Create your profile on Arrima Use the application number found in the Immigration Quebec online portal

C. Pay the application fee (\$128) through Arrima

D. Return to the Immigration Quebec online portal to access your Personalized Document Checklist



[Access the online application](#)



[Arrima Online System](#)

Provincial document: CAQ

E. Upload and submit your required documents on [Arrima](#)

- Proof of **financial capacity** may be required
- **Handwritten signatures** required for forms (electronic or iPad signatures are not accepted)
- After uploading all documents, you must submit them by clicking “Déposer” in order to complete the CAQ application.

F. Receive confirmation online and download your CAQ!

- You can check the status of your application on the [Immigration Quebec](#) portal. Once your CAQ is approved, you will receive the CAQ on the Immigration Quebec portal.
- **Approximate processing time: 5 weeks** (after supporting documents are received)



[Arrima Online](#)
[System](#)

Provincial document: CAQ



Who Needs to Prove Financial Capacity?

- Students **currently living** in Austria, Canada, U.S., France (including La Réunion), Greenland, Hong Kong, Mexico, Monaco, or Saint-Pierre-et-Miquelon **must** also include **recent proof** that they can pay for tuition and related fees , living expenses and **travel costs** for their **FIRST YEAR OF STUDIES**.
- Living expenses are approximately **\$15,078** per year for a **single student**
- **Documents that can demonstrate financial capacity:**
 - 3 most **recent** bank statements
 - **Recent** bank letter indicating balance in account(s)
 - Proof of financial aid, scholarship, award, bursary
 - Proof of departmental funding
 - If you will be paying reduced tuition (*e.g.* Quebec rate of tuition), this should be clearly stated.
- If someone else is funding your studies (*e.g.* parent), they must sign and date a [Declaration of financial support form](#)
- (OPTIONAL) A **cover letter** explaining the costs of your first year of studies and how you will be paying these costs



[Tuition Fee Calculator](#)

A collection of diverse hands raised in the air, symbolizing participation and questions. The hands are of various skin tones and are positioned at different heights, creating a sense of movement and engagement. The background is a solid, muted grey color.

Have a question?

Ask it now!

Federal Document: Study Permit

Step 3: Once your CAQ has been approved, apply for your **study permit**. Your CAQ will be issued to you in your Immigration Quebec portal >> save this!

- Register for an **online IRCC account** (either [IRCC secure account](#) or [IRCC portal](#))
- If using IRCC secure account:
 - Answer “[Check your eligibility](#)” questionnaire
 - Fill out PDF form(s) provided
- Scan and upload documents on checklist and pay fees
- Once your application is approved you will receive a [Port of Entry \(POE\) Letter of Introduction](#) *If necessary, you will be prompted to mail your passport to the Visa Office in order to obtain your TRV.



[Check your eligibility questionnaire](#)

Sign in to your IRCC secure account

Your account lets you start an application, submit and pay for your application, get messages related to your application, check the status of your application and update your information.

Need help signing in or applying online?

Option 1: GCKey

Sign in with your GCKey user ID and password.

Option 2: Sign-In Partner

Sign in with your online Canadian banking information if you have an existing account with 1 of our partners.

Apply online for a study permit: IRCC Portal



If you're applying to **extend** your study permit, **you must use the IRCC secure account.**

[Extend your permit in the IRCC secure account.](#)

Federal Document: Study Permit

- If using the IRCC secure account - complete and validate the "**Application for a Study Permit Made Outside of Canada (IMM 1294)**" PDF form (included in the "Document Checklist").
- Collect all of the supporting documents listed on your personalized "Document Checklist".
- Check the [Visa Office Instructions Guide](#) for your region to see if there are any other required documents for you to submit that may not appear in your "Document Checklist".
- If additional documents are required that do not appear on your "Document Checklist", merge them into one file and upload under the **Optional Documents - Client Information** section of your online account.

[Student Direct Stream \(SDS\)](#)



STUDENT DIRECT STREAM (SDS)

IMPORTANT! Certain visa offices outside of Canada may require students to provide **proof that they have paid the tuition fees for the first year of their studies** (e.g. some students from China and India, and students applying through the **Student Direct Stream**). See our [Study Permit Application Guide](#) for more information.

Federal Document: Study Permit

- All applicants must include **proof of financial capacity** for one years tuition and fees, travel costs and annual living expenses.
- Valid credit card needed (\$150 CAD + 85\$ biometrics)
- **Medical exam** may be required
 - If you have lived in a [designated country](#) for 6 months or longer in the past year; OR
 - If your program* requires you to work in an occupation that brings you into close contact with children, the elderly and other vulnerable populations – **even if** your Document Checklist does not include a medical exam.
- If your program **requires** an internship/Co-Op, apply for your [Co-op Work Permit](#) in the same application. Depending on your program or where you live, you may need to complete an upfront medical exam (see above).
- Entry Visa/TRV or eTA will be issued automatically if needed

Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada / Immigration, Réfugiés et Citoyenneté Canada
PROTECTED WHEN COMPLETED / PROTÉGÉ UNE FOIS REMPLI - B

CANADA
EA024 [REDACTED]
F313 [REDACTED]

Application/Demande: S30 [REDACTED]
UCI/IUC: [REDACTED]

STUDY PERMIT/PERMIS D'ÉTUDES

CLIENT INFORMATION/INFORMATION DU CLIENT

Family Name/Nom de Famille: [REDACTED]
Given Name(s)/Prénom(s): [REDACTED]
Date of Birth/Date de naissance: [REDACTED] (yyyy/mm/dd - aaaa/mm/jj)
Sex/Sexe: FEMALE
Country of Birth/Pays de naissance: HONG KONG
Country of Citizenship/Citoyen de: CHINA (HONG KONG SAR)
Travel Doc No./N° du document de voyage: [REDACTED] PASSPORT

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION/INFORMATION SUPPLÉMENTAIRE

Date Issued/Déjà délivré le: 2022/06/23 (yyyy/mm/dd - aaaa/mm/jj)
Expiry Date/Date d'expiration: 2024/07/30 (yyyy/mm/dd - aaaa/mm/jj)
Case Type/Genre de cas: 30
Institution Name/Nom de l'institution: DESIGNATED LEARNING INST-QC
Field of Study/Domaine d'études: ARTS/HUMANITIES/SOCIAL SCIENCE
In Force From/En vigueur le: 2022/06/23 (yyyy/mm/dd - aaaa/mm/jj)

Conditions:

1. MUST LEAVE CANADA BY 2024/07/30
2. NOT VALID FOR EMPLOYMENT IN BUSINESSES RELATED TO THE SEX TRADE SUCH AS STRIP CLUBS, MASSAGE PARLOURS OR ESCORT SERVICES.
3. MAY ACCEPT EMPLOYMENT ON OR OFF CAMPUS IF MEETING ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA AS PER R186(F), (V) OR (W). MUST CEASE WORKING IF NO LONGER MEETING THESE CRITERIA.

Remarks/Observations:

THIS DOES NOT AUTHORIZE RE-ENTRY/CECI N'AUTORISE PAS LA RÉ-ENTRÉE

THIS FORM HAS BEEN ESTABLISHED BY THE MINISTER OF IMMIGRATION, REFUGEES AND CITIZENSHIP CANADA - THIS DOCUMENT IS THE PROPERTY OF THE GOVERNMENT OF CANADA
FORMULAIRE ÉTABLI PAR LE MINISTRE DE L'IMMIGRATION, RÉFUGIÉS ET CITOYENNETÉ CANADA - LE PRÉSENT DOCUMENT EST LA PROPRIÉTÉ DU GOUVERNEMENT DU CANADA

IMM 1442B (1-2019)

Canada


Date: January 20, 2022

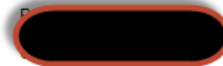
UCI: 

Application: 



Bring this letter of introduction with you to Canada. It has information that may be used by the Canada Border Services Agency to issue your study permit.






Dear 

Your application to study in Canada has been initially approved by Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada. The final decision to issue you a study permit and allow you to enter Canada is made after an examination by an officer in Canada. At that time, an officer will assess if you still meet the requirements of the *Immigration and Refugee Protection Act*, its

Type: Permit - SP / Permis - PE

Document number: 



Letter of Introduction validity (YYYY/MM/DD): 2024/08/31

Medical Examination validity (YYYY/MM/DD): N/A

Documents you must bring with you to get your study permit:

- a valid passport or travel document.
 - o Your study permit won't be valid beyond your passport's expiry date.
- a valid temporary resident (visitor) visa (TRV) or Electronic Travel Authorization (eTA), if required.
 - o Your eTA is valid for multiple visits to Canada, until . Your eTA number is and is linked to the passport you used when you applied to study in Canada. If you obtain a new passport before you will need to apply for a new eTA by visiting www.canada.ca/eTA.

Federal Document: Study Permit – Letter of Introduction

Federal Document: Study Permit

A [Visa Application Centre \(VAC\)](#) can assist you with your application for a nominal fee.



English ▾

[Home](#) [Apply for a Visa](#) [Book an appointment](#) [Attend a centre](#) [Track your application](#) [Additional Services](#) [Canada-Ukraine](#)

Welcome to VFS Global

VFS Global is the exclusive service provider for the Government of Canada, authorized to provide administrative support services to visa applicants in Ghana. The Canada Visa Application Centre is operated by the International Organization for Migration (IOM) in partnership with VFS Global.

Apply for a visa

Find information and begin your application

Start now

Book an appointment

Schedule your appointment with us

Book now

Find a centre

Information about your local centre

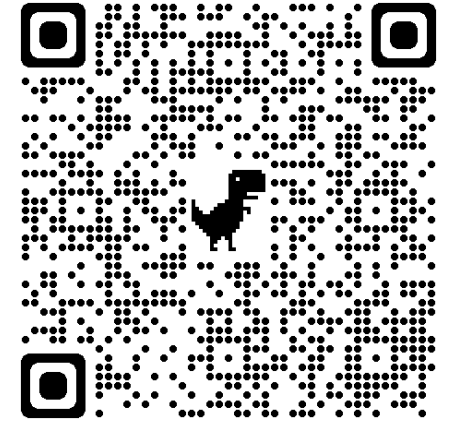
Find now

Additional Services

Enjoy a more convenient and more luxurious application

View services

U.S. Citizens & U.S. Permanent Residents (Green Card Holders)

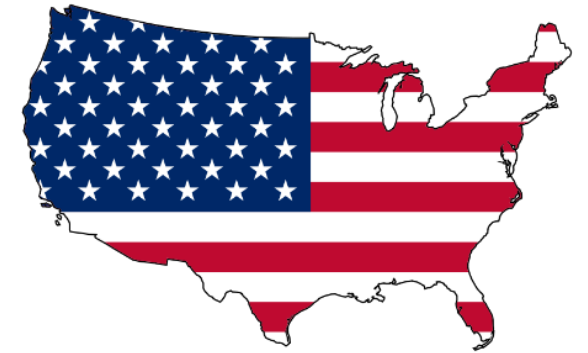


[Info about Biometrics](#)

Once your CAQ has been approved, you can apply for your study permit at your **Port of Entry** (e.g. land border or airport)

Bring with you:

- your valid passport
- your CAQ
- your Letter of Admission from McGill (from Slate)
- a photocopy of your proof of financial capacity
- the processing fee of \$150 CAD (*U.S. or CAD cash, credit & debit card accepted*)
- **U.S. Permanent Residents (Green Card Holders)** may have to provide their biometrics and pay a fee of \$85



- Home
- Quebec residents
- Canadians
- International
- Permanent Code
- International Fee Exemptions
- Where/how to submit
- Forms & reference materials
- Medicine: applicants
- Frequently-Asked Questions
- Contact Us

- Why we need your documents**
- What to submit**
- When to submit**
- Where and How to submit**
- Check your legal status in Minerva**

Why we need your legal documents

All universities in Quebec must report their students' legal status in Canada to the Quebec Ministry of Education.

- If you are International, you must have immigration permission to remain in Canada for the length of your registration at McGill, according to the level of your program (e.g. undergraduate, graduate, postdoctoral, etc).

Ask McGill your questions!



Type your short question in everyday language and receive a response and/or links to additional information.

Note to international students

For assistance with applying for or renewing your immigration documents, please contact [International Student Services \(ISS\)](#).

For questions on immigration matters, please contact [Immigration Canada \(IRCC\)](#).



[Legal Documents webform](#)

Once you receive your documents, you **must** submit scanned copies [via webform](#) to McGill Legal Documents.

IMPORTANT! You should **NOT** make travel plans until you have received your CAQ, Letter of Introduction and your TRV or eTA.



Contact Service
Point

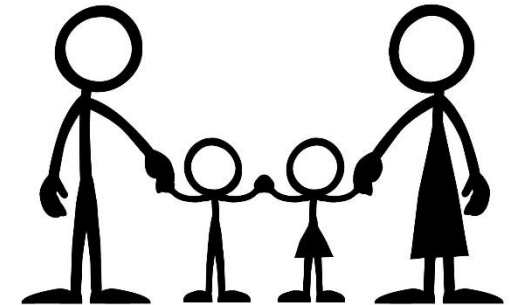
Quebec Permanent Code

- All students who attend an educational institution in Quebec must have a Quebec Permanent Code
- A Quebec Permanent Code is a government ID number created and assigned to you by the **Quebec Ministry of Education**
- You do not have to take any steps to obtain a Quebec Permanent Code
- This code is generated for you once McGill receives your legal documents
- For more information contact [Service Point](#) (scan QR code)

Bringing a Spouse and/or Dependent Children

Your **spouse or common-law partner** can apply to accompany you to Canada:

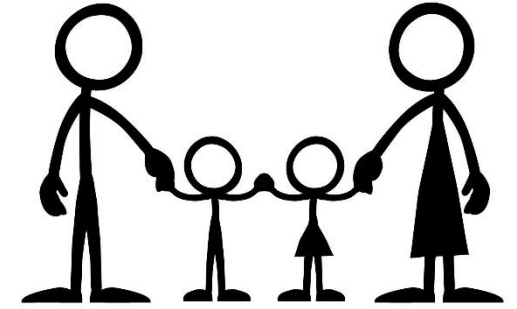
- a) as a **Visitor**, OR
- b) as a **Worker**, by applying for an Open Work Permit (OWP) as an accompanying spouse



Children

- **5 years old or less** (going to daycare/kindergarten): can come as **Visitors**
- **Of school age**: should come as **Students** (must have a CAQ and Study Permit)

Bringing a Spouse and/or Dependent Children



Tips:

- We recommend that you apply for your dependents' documents **at the same time** when applying for your immigration documents. You must use the IRCC secure account (not the IRCC portal) if you intend to apply together!
- We recommend that families travel and enter Canada **together**



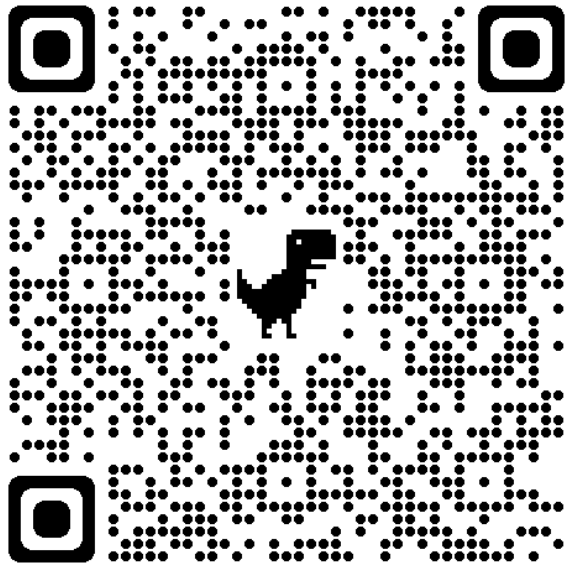
[IRCC secure account](#)

McGill Family Care Resources

- For information about daycares, schools, and events and activities for families, visit the McGill Family Care website.
- You can also join the McGill Parents' Network via MS Teams.



[McGill Family Care website](#)



Health Insurance

All international students are automatically provided with McGill's health insurance (IHI) plan once registered.

You do not need to provide proof of health insurance when applying for your immigration documents.

Important: We invite you to find out more about health insurance by joining us during our *International Health Insurance and Navigating Healthcare* webinar. Dates to be [announced](#) soon!

August 1st 2024 - contract activation will open for the 2024-2025 academic year on Minerva -> Student Menu -> International Student Health Insurance Form.





Traveling to Canada

- Even if your immigration documents are issued to you in the summer, we do not recommend that you travel to Canada more than 4-6 weeks before the start of your program.
- If you must travel, be prepared to explain your situation at the border

A collection of diverse hands raised in the air, symbolizing participation and questions. The hands are of various skin tones and are positioned at different heights, creating a sense of movement and engagement. The background is a solid, muted grey color.

Have a question?

Ask it now!



ORIENTATION FALL 2024



In person Info-sessions



New International
Students Meet and
Greet Events



Bite-Size Tours



Buddy Program

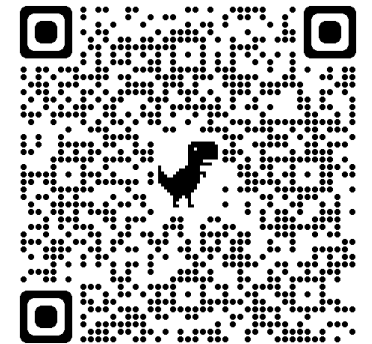




Don't miss our other International Pre-Arrival Orientation webinars!

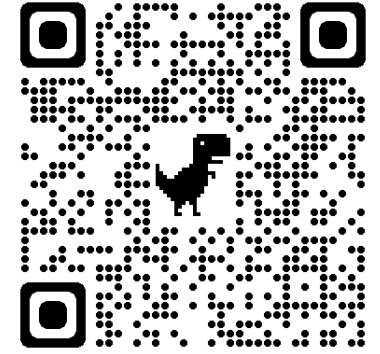
- International Student Guide to McGill and Montreal
- International Health Insurance plan and Accessing Healthcare in Quebec

Registration is open for all Fall 2024 webinars



Need more details or assistance?

[FAQs](#) (scan QR)



Frequently Asked Questions

CAQ

[CAQ FAQs](#)

Study Permit

[Study Permit FAQs](#)

Travel FAQs

[Travel FAQs](#)

Work

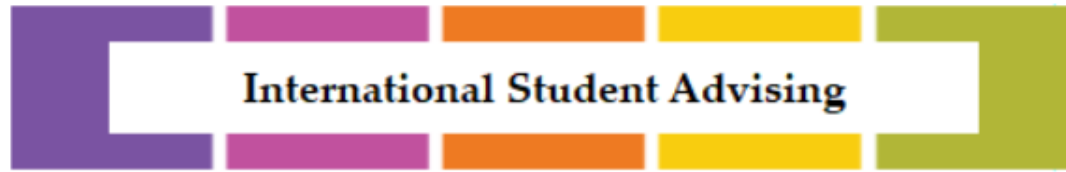
[Work FAQs](#)

Health Insurance

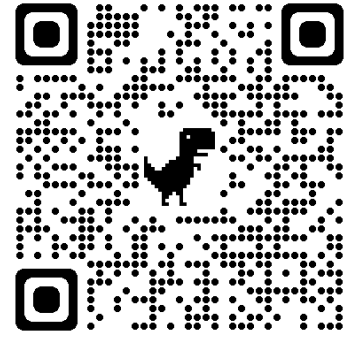
[Health Insurance](#)

Immigration Guide

[Essentials for Graduate Students](#)



myISS



[myISS Request form](#)

Please note that ISS does NOT advise on Permanent Residence (PR). For assistance, please consult our [Permanent Residence information and resource page](#).

[myISS Request Form](#)

Please use this form to submit your request for information (RFI)

[myISS Student Portal*](#)

Schedule/cancel [appointments](#); upload documents

***Note:** in order to gain access to the Student Portal, ISS will need to create a student record for you. Please first submit an RFI and tell us how we can help you.

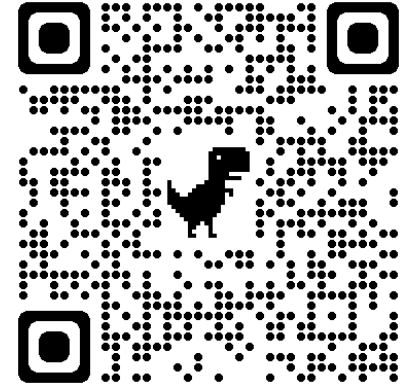
ISS Rapid Advising

Sign-up for a 5-minute ISS Advising Appointment

Need help or more information?



For immigration or other questions: [website](#)
(scan QR code)



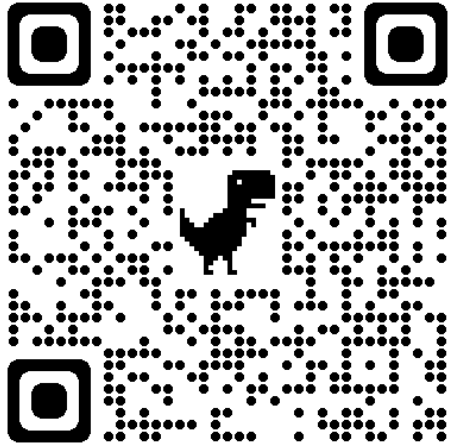
For International Health Insurance questions:
international.health@mcgill.ca



+1 (514) 398-4349

Follow ISS and Healthier McGill on Facebook and Instagram

Connect with us online!



[Instagram](#)
[@issmcgill](#)



[Facebook](#)
[@mcgill.iss](#)

