



A note from our Director

The team at International Student Services ([ISS](#)) warmly welcomes all of our new and returning international students to a historic fall semester at McGill. Whether you are here in Montreal or abroad, ISS is “here” for you, remotely and in-person! 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.

Are you in the loop on the latest news on travel, immigration, work, health, and updates on entering Canada? Visit your [COVID-19 online resources and FAQs](#) to find out, and 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 them our way!](#)

Best wishes for the academic year ahead, and we hope to have you all safely in Montreal soon!

[Pauline L'Ecuyer](#)
Director, International Student Services

Important Update: New measures on post graduation work permit eligibility for students beginning programs online.

IRCC has introduced new measures that facilitate students' eligibility for the post-graduation work permit and who begin their programs online due to COVID-19.

These new measures include the following:

- Students may now study online from abroad until April 30, 2021, with no time deducted from the length of a future post-graduation work permit, provided 50% of their program of study is eventually completed in Canada.
- Students who have enrolled in a program that is between 8 and 12 months in length, with a start date from May to September 2020, will be able to complete their entire program online from abroad and still be eligible for a post-graduation work permit.
- Students who have enrolled in a program with a start date from May to September 2020 and study online up to April 30, 2021, and who graduate from more than one eligible program of study, may

be able to combine the length of their programs of study when they apply for a post-graduation work permit in the future, as long as 50% of their total studies are completed in Canada.

For full details, see IRCC's [news release](#).

Your IHI Coverage has been Activated as of September 1st

- The International Health Insurance (IHI) premium of \$1,128 was billed to your student fee account along with your tuition.
- Please note that while your IHI contract has been activated, 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 need any adjustments made to your single coverage, please contact international.health@mcgill.ca

IHI adjustments due to COVID-19: If you have not yet arrived in Canada, exceptionally this year and as part of the COVID-19 adapted measures, international students may request an adjustment of the annual premium for the period they will not be in Canada. You may request this adjustment upon your arrival to Canada. Your annual premium will be then adjusted accordingly within 30 days of the request date, on a pro-rated monthly basis. You cannot request this adjustment if you have not arrived in Canada. Your adjustment will be processed for the months that precede the month of your date of arrival. *Example: If you arrive in Canada on October 31st, you will get an adjustment for September only.*

- Simply complete this [WEB FORM](#) upon your arrival in Canada; either by landing or crossing a Canadian border.

For more information regarding the activation of your IHI and how your IHI is effected by COVID-19, please review our [News Release](#).



Orientation Continues

When? Now until September 7th

You may have attended one of our ISS Orientation Sessions or met an advisor during our Rapid Advising sessions. Join us this week and next week for some more social events... [View our full orientation programming](#).

Quarantine Support Group

This online support group is an opportunity to come together, share what you've been going through, and receive support. Open to all McGill students who have recently arrived in Canada and are under the 14 day mandatory quarantine order.

When: Tuesday September 8, 15, 3:30 - 5pm EDT

[Register Here](#)

Canada/McGill Trivia Night

You can interact with ISS and other new students while testing your knowledge about Canada, Quebec, Montreal, McGill, campus, famous alumni, and its history! **Prizes to be won!**

When: Thursday, September 3rd at 6pm EDT

[Register Here](#)

Montreal Scavenger Hunt

Discover Montreal's neighbourhoods and their iconic food scenes.

Prizes to be won!

When: Monday, September 7th at 5pm EDT

[Register Here](#)



Get Your Social Insurance Number Online

You need a Social Insurance Number (SIN) to work in Canada. Service Canada is operating virtually. If you need a Social Insurance Number, please apply [here](#).

Watch Out!

Be aware that frequent phone call scams continue to spread. You might receive a call, from someone claiming they work for Service Canada claiming that your SIN number has been used in fraudulent activity and that the police are looking for you. This is a SCAM. Do you not give any personal or financial information. Visit the [Government of Canada](#) site to learn more about protecting yourself from scams and fraud.



SKILLS21

Develop your skills.
Explore new ideas.
Make lasting connections.

Register now at
mcgill.ca/skills21

Develop your skills with SKILLS21!

Calling all undergrads! Would you like to improve skills such as time management, note taking, or mindfulness? Do you want to learn about anti-racism, communication, or library research? SKILLS21 is a skills development program with workshops on all these topics and more! Register today at mcgill.ca/skills21 to get weekly updates about all these free workshops, and to have your attendance be recognized on your Co-Curricular Record.

Learning in your Second Language!

Learning in Your Second Language provides students with an interactive opportunity to support learning in their second (or third, or fourth...) language. In this one-hour webinar, participants will learn to recognize their challenges, identify personalized learning strategies, and develop peer support networks to enhance their McGill academic experience.

Students must register with their official McGill email address in order for the registration to be valid.

When: Tuesday, September 29th at 12pm



[Register here!](#)

Permanent Residence Info Session with IRCC

Find out how to apply for Permanent Residence in Canada. A representative from Immigration Refugees Citizenship Canada will provide application tips and will take questions at the end of the session.

When: Thursday, September 24th, 1pm - 2:30pm

[Register Here](#)



Winter 101

We hope everyone can safely return to Montreal and to McGill this winter. To prepare, join us online to find out about how to stay warm and how to have fun in Montreal in the winter!

When: Tuesday, September 29th, 10am - 11:30am

[Register Here](#)



Wellness Walking Group for International Students

Looking for an opportunity to meet other students and to stay active? Curious to explore the beautiful trails of Mont Royal? Join our weekly walking group! It's a great way to connect with others from a safe distance and to enjoy the outdoors. Registration is limited; participants must respect two-meter social distancing (in accordance with [public health guidelines](#)) and masks are encouraged. Wear comfortable shoes and bring a bagged lunch!

When: Thursdays Sept. 10 – Oct. 29, 2020, 12-1:30pm

[Register Here](#)



Find a First Friend!

First Friend is a peer-to-peer program where you'll be matched with a fellow new McGill student (not to be confused with a mentorship program). We know that Fall 2020 is going to be a different



Our partner student club: MISN

McGill International Student Network (MISN) aims to create an unforgettable global experience for our international student body



Rapid Advising

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

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

[Register Here →](#)

semester and that's why we want to help you connect with your peers.

[Register Here](#)

through a variety of events and services.

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



[Read more on our website!](#)



[Volunteer for the Buddy Program](#)



[Check out our Instagram](#)



Contact us

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