



Droit McGill Law (BCL/JD)

Law Admissions Information Session / Séance d'information sur les admissions

Presented by M^e Andra Syvänen (Assistant Dean, Admissions & Recruitment)





Agenda

- Mots de bienvenue et plan du jour
- Questions/participation via WebEx Webinars
- Survol du programme BCL/JD et de la Faculté
 - Structure du programme
 - Vie étudiante
 - Soutien en matière de développement de carrière
- Admissions to the BCL/JD program
 - Exigences d'admissibilité
 - Politique d'admission
 - Recent changes
 - Supporting documents
 - Financial support
 - Important deadlines
- Question period



Overview of the BCL/JD Program

*Inspiring legal leadership for global challenges.
Fièrement enracinés à Montréal, nous rayonnons dans le monde.*





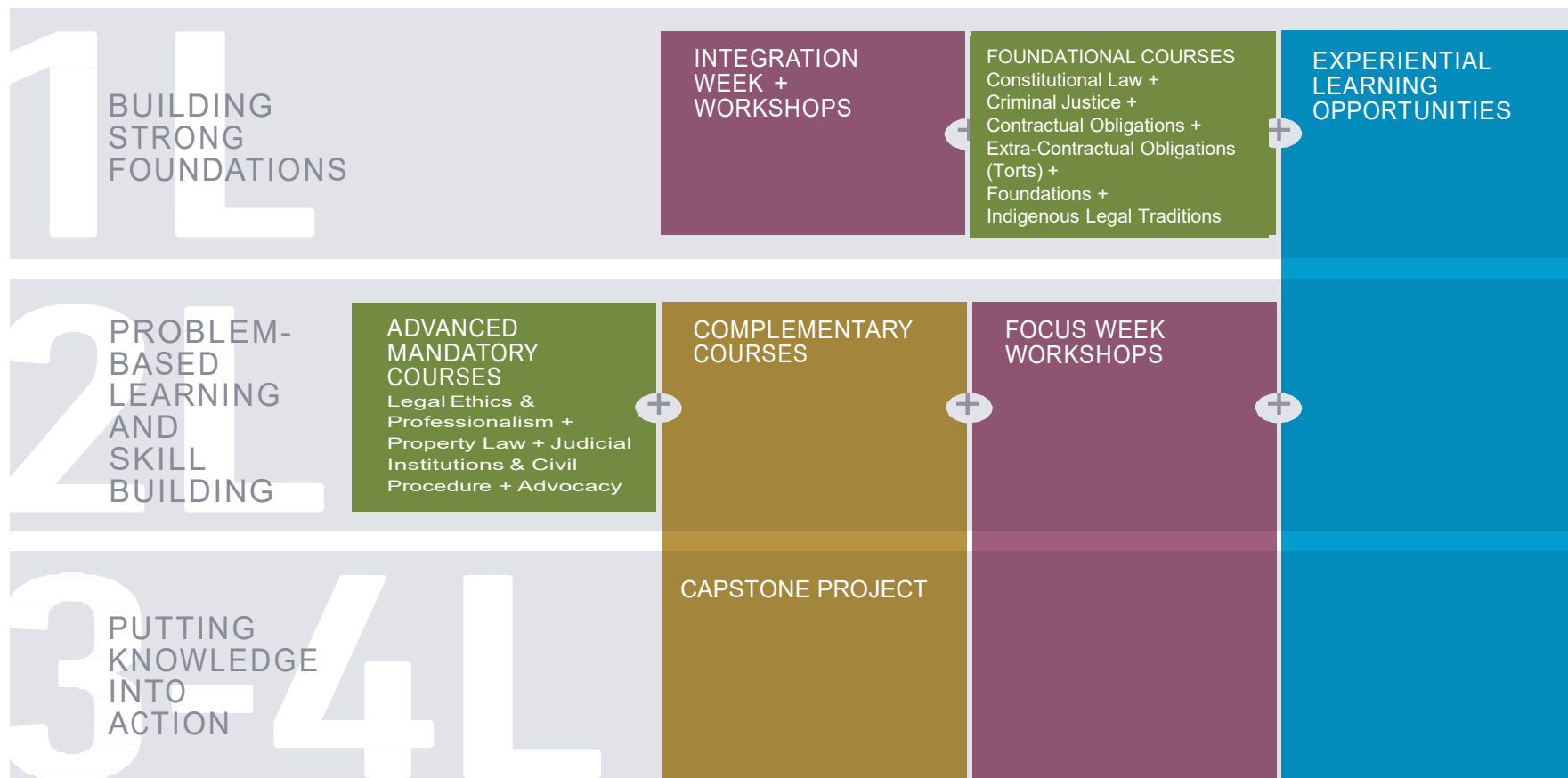
Program Highlights

- Integrated, bilingual BCL/JD implemented September 1999, renewed in Fall 2016
 - Fundamental concepts of civil law and common law and Indigenous legal traditions taught in integrated courses in both English and French
 - 2016 Curriculum renewal – More transsystemic courses, Indigenous legal traditions, integration workshops & focus weeks
 - Fall 2020 – Mandatory first year Indigenous Legal Traditions course
- Internationally-recognized program
 - 17th, according to Times Higher Education
 - 31st, according to QS World University Rankings
- Myriad experiential learning opportunities
 - Clerkships, journals, legal clinics, mooting, etc.
- All students graduate with both BCL and JD degrees
 - Bar eligibility across Canada, New York State and Massachusetts, France
 - Check specific jurisdictions for bar entry requirements (e.g. minimum level of education, other bar membership)
- Traditional and non-traditional career avenues



Program Structure

Students have flexibility in shaping their time at the Faculty





Faculty of Law
Faculté de droit

BCL/JD overview: 105 credits

COMPLEMENTARY COURSES

Students complete courses in four required areas:

- Civil Law
- Common Law
- Social Diversity, Human Rights and Indigenous Law
- Administrative Law

They also take elective courses in multiple fields of law, sampling widely or going deeper into areas of special interest.

APPRENTISSAGE PAR L'EXPÉRIENCE

Les étudiants et étudiantes peuvent acquérir de l'expérience pratique au cours du programme BCL/JD grâce à diverses activités d'apprentissage expérientiel.

- Concours de plaidoirie
- Auxiliaire juridique
- Clinique juridique
- Échange
- Revue de droit
- Stages en droits de la personne

LEGAL EDUCATION FOR A RAPIDLY CHANGING WORLD

- Students learn to solve legal problems in areas of **rapid change with no single right answer**—or with many.
- Intensive **Focus Week workshops** given by practicing professionals introduce students to current topics like Election Law, Anatomy of a Deal, Wrongful Convictions, Thinking like an innovator and La redaction juridique.





DURÉE DU PROGRAMME

Menant à l'obtention de deux diplômes, en droit civil et en common law, le programme est d'une durée de trois à quatre ans, selon le cheminement individuel et les options choisies.

3 ANS

Cheminement accéléré
(charge de cours accrue
et cours d'été)

3.5 ANS

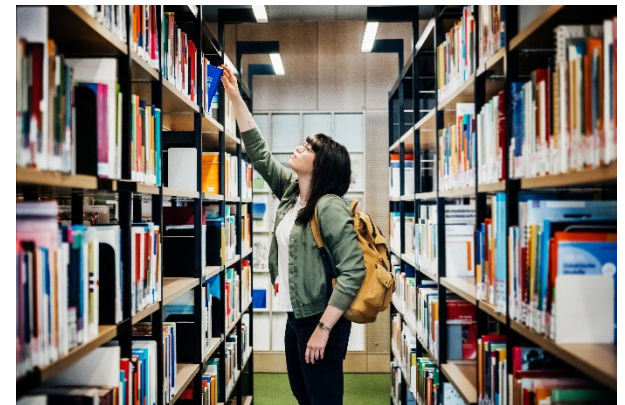
Cheminement
régulier

4 ANS

Cheminement avec options
complémentaires

TAKING THE BCL/JD FURTHER

- + Minor in Arts, Science or Management
- + Honours option (Advanced Legal Research)
- + Major in Commercial Negotiation & Dispute Resolution or in International Human Rights & Development
- + Joint BCL/JD-MBA
- + Joint BCL/JD and Masters of Social Work

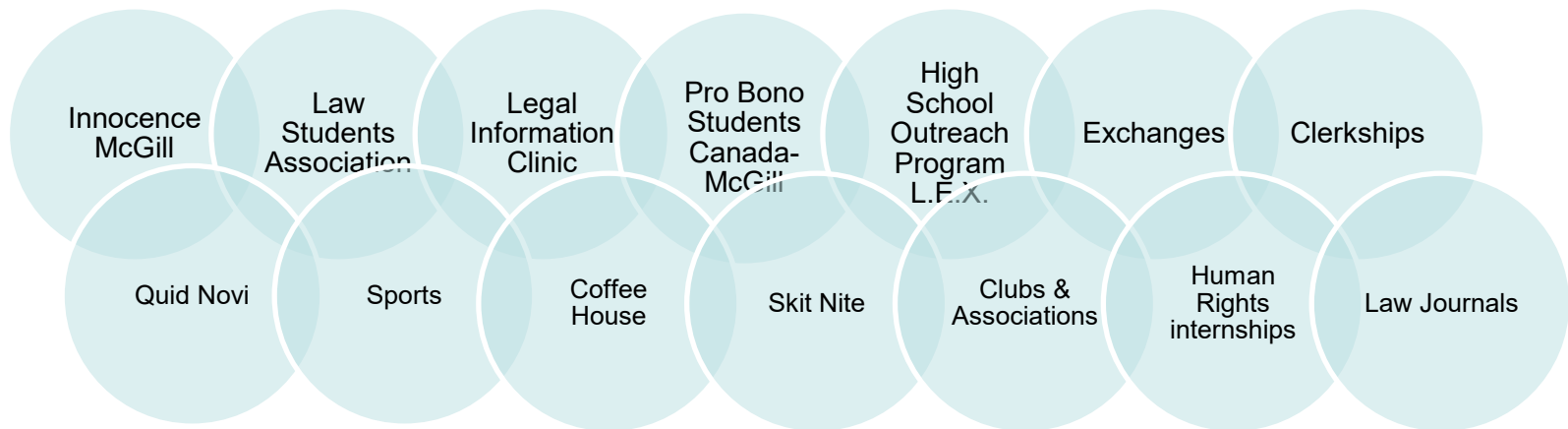




Beyond our program...

Student Life & Community involvement

There is always something happening on McGill's campus, whether at the Faculty of Law or beyond. Myriad clubs and activities, a full roster of visiting speakers and plenty of opportunities for community service promise enriching ways to apply your legal education, as well as create a life-long network of colleagues and friends.





Career Development Office (CDO)

We facilitate recruitment and interview processes for a range of employers and actively develop relationships with potential and current employers across Canada and internationally:

- ❖ law firms
- ❖ governments
- ❖ local and international non-profit organizations
- ❖ businesses
- ❖ Montreal and Quebec City
- ❖ Toronto, Ottawa (and other cities in Ontario)
- ❖ West Coast (Calgary, Vancouver, etc.) and East Coast (Halifax, St. John's, etc.)
- ❖ US and other international locations (e.g. Paris, London, Hong Kong, Singapore)

Events

- ❖ Career Days, to highlight diverse career options
- ❖ On-Campus interviews, during which legal employers in Toronto, Ottawa and some US cities come interview selected McGill law students
- ❖ Various Networking & Mentoring Events, where students can show their enthusiasm, make contacts and find employment prospects
- ❖ Workforce readiness workshops, career interests exploration, CV writing, Interview preparation, networking skills
- ❖ One-on-One Career Advising, to explore your interests and develop an application strategy
- ❖ Student-Organized Events, where students and CDO can partner to hold events such as speed meets with professionals



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Clerkships

In-course

Cour d'appel du Québec
Cour supérieure du Québec
Cour du Québec, chambre civile
Cour du Québec, chambre criminelle
Cour du Québec, chambre de la jeunesse
Tribunal administratif du Québec
Bureau de décision et révision en valeurs mobilières
Cour municipale de la Ville de Montréal
Cour du Québec du district de Laval,
Laurentides, Lanaudière

After graduation

Supreme Court of Canada
Court of Appeal of Ontario
Quebec Court of Appeal
Federal Court & Tax Court
Federal Court of Appeal
Superior Court of Ontario

International Tribunals
Permanent Court of Arbitration
International Court of Justice
Inter-American Court of Human Rights

Benefits

Gain insight into oral and written advocacy, court procedures, and the judicial decision-making process

Develop excellent research, writing, and reasoning skills

At some courts, clerks have the chance to consider and learn about policy issues as well as legal issues







Preparing for a McGill Law Application





La demande d'admission en droit – conseils pratiques

- Se questionner
- Faire ses recherches – sur notre faculté et sur d'autres

 @lawmcgill  @lawmcgill
 McGill University – Faculty of Law
 Faculty of Law, McGill University

- LIRE avant de nous contacter www.mcgill.ca/law/bcl-jd
- Ne vous fiez pas aux informations dans les forums
- Nous sommes là pour vous aider: admissions.law@mcgill.ca



Eligibility Requirements

Education:

- DEC/Quebec French Baccalaureate (Marie-France & Stanislas)
- Or DEC and at most 30 credits of university studies
- Or at least 60 credits of university studies*

Bilingualism:

- **Passive bilingualism policy: High intermediate comprehension in both English and French (DELF B2 for French) and fluency (comprehension and expression) in one of the two languages**
- 2023 admissions cycle: Assessed by information declared in the application form, transcripts, CV, reference forms
- **2024 admissions cycle:** New process with specific forms of proof being required to demonstrate requisite level, with certain exemptions (e.g. DES or DEC) – more information on our website
- Follow-up phone call or testing if necessary
- **NO FRENCH = NO OFFER**
- Indigenous applicants are eligible for funding to allow for language training and deferred admission to provide time to complete required language courses



Politique d'admission

- Objective: to select those applicants best suited to studying law in McGill's uniquely comparative, transsystemic and bilingual environment
- Evaluation globale du dossier (holistic review)
 - No academic cut-offs, but a demonstration of academic excellence is still essential
- Diversité de la classe (géographique, ethnique, académique, linguistique, socio-économique, etc.)

2021 Incoming Cohort* Snapshot - Excellence rooted in diversity, equity and inclusion





Competitiveness of program

Incoming 2021 cohort as a whole

1,782 applications*

251 offers made

181 spots

Average CGPA = 85%

Average LSAT = 164

Average R score = 35.041

/ **1,463** Applications / **180** Incoming Students

Score	Undergrad Degree %	LSAT	CÉGEP R-Score
Highest	94	179	37.938
75 th percentile	88	168	35.268
Average	86	164	34.493
25 th percentile	83	161	33.661
Lowest	67	145	32.138

** Based on the average of recent years*

On average, 80% of our incoming students have an undergrad degree average of 83% or higher, and 85% of those who wrote the LSAT scored 159 or higher.

- 17% de la cohorte provient du CÉGEP, 12% ont une maîtrise ou un doctorat.
- 39% de la classe a fait le LSAT (excluant les étudiant.e.s du CÉGEP)
- Age moyen est 23 ans

*25% increase seems to be an anomaly



Recent changes

- We have moved to the Slate-based application tool for the Fall 2023 cycle (no longer via Minerva)
- Only **one version** of all supporting documents now accepted, except for transcripts
- Referees are now prompted to complete reference forms directly through the Applicant Portal (no longer submitting them to our office)
- Applicants complete the Admissions Demographic Survey directly through the Applicant Portal (no longer a separate document managed by our office)
- We have a new optional applicant category for Indigenous candidates
- Applicants self-report their adjusted GPAs on a 4.0 scale in their application (no longer our office doing the conversion to a % scale)
- Cegep applicants must send us their transcripts (we are no longer receiving them directly from the government)
- Applicants wishing to declare extenuating circumstances must complete the form available in the Applicant Portal
- French version of the Personal Statement has been renamed « dissertation personnelle » from « lettre de presentation personnelle » to better reflect the nature of this document

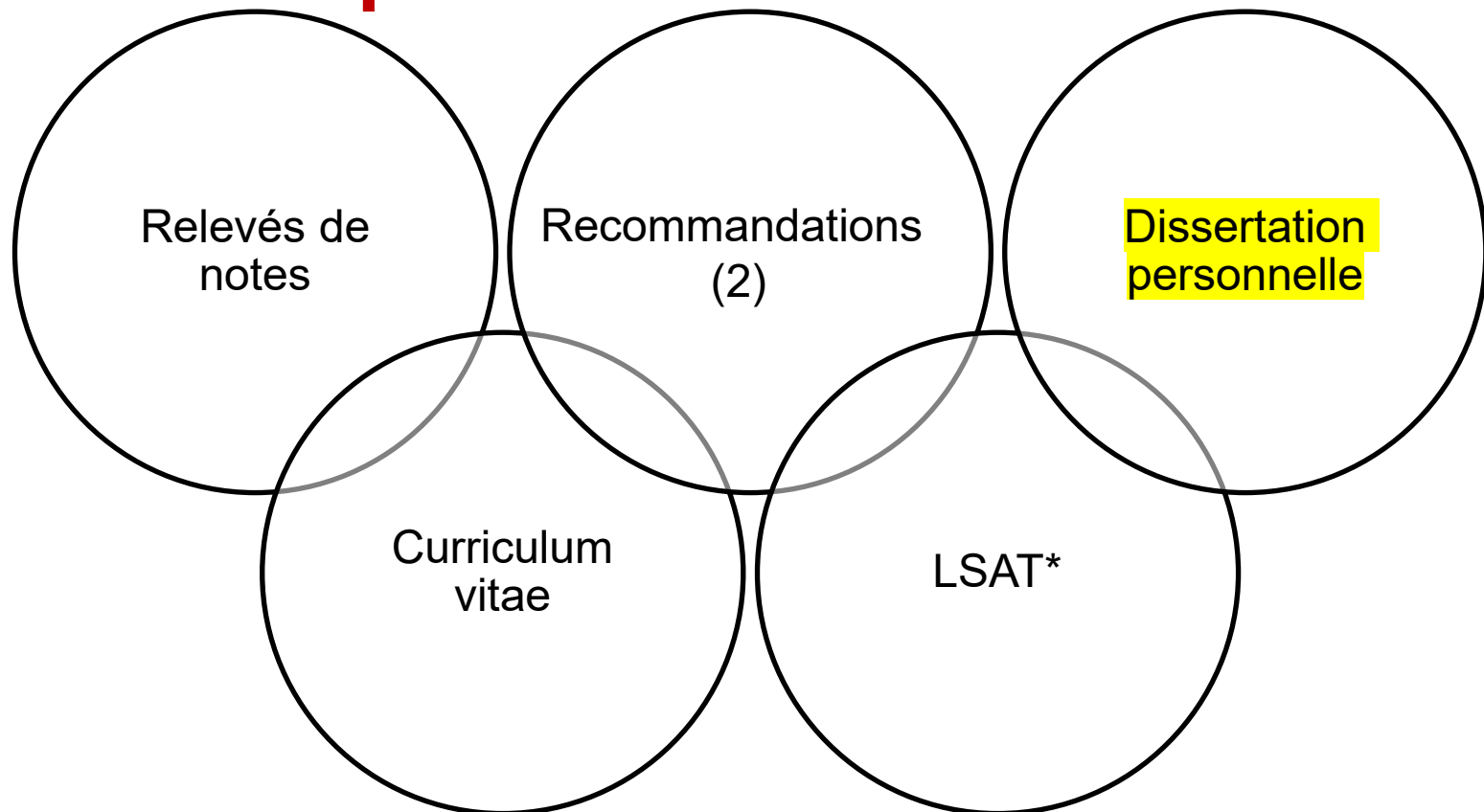


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Documents justificatifs





Supporting Documents

Transcripts & Academic record:

- No specific DEC, undergraduate degree or field of study required to apply
- Complete academic record of **all** post-secondary studies – including exchanges, transfer credits
- Committee looks for consistency, improvement, difficulty and range of coursework, relative performance (helpful when class averages are available)
- No academic thresholds – but **evidence of sustained academic excellence is essential to a successful file**. Applicants should also consider their competitiveness relative to the pool.



Supporting Documents (continued)

CV:

- Tailored as appropriate for an application to law
- Highlight achievements of academic and extra-curricular nature
- **Any** and **all** work experience is relevant
- Include number of hours worked during the academic year
- Length: 2 pages maximum.

Personal Statement:

- **Why law? Why McGill? Why “you”?**
- Authentic
- Not a summary of the CV or our own web materials
- Written in the language in which the candidate feels most able to express him or herself well (English or French)
- Candidate should be self-critical. Edit, edit, edit. Submit only when final.
- Maximum **750 words*** (indicate word count at bottom of page)



Supporting Documents

References:

- Two references, academic, preferably*
- Review the guidelines on our website before selecting a reference
- We want to see the most impressive **reference**, not the most impressive **referee**

LSAT:

- The LSAT is NOT required for admission to McGill Law, BUT...
 - Why and when to write it
- McGill considers an average of the LSAT scores, but we will also look at progression (e.g. improvement over time, etc.)



Additional Supporting Documents

Extenuating circumstances

- Where applicable, can be used to explain a potential weakness of the application caused by medical or personal difficulties
 - E.g. Poor grades, low LSAT, absence from school
- Allows more focus on Personal Statement
- Mandatory form to complete through the applicant portal, which requires that applicants identify the semester(s) and/or year(s) that were affected
- Supporting documentation can be submitted, and will be handled as personal and confidential, but candidates should be aware that the Admissions Office staff reviewing these documents are not medical professionals
- Could lead to a readjustment of your CGPA (e.g. omitting grades from impacted semesters); at the discretion of the Admissions Office, based on the nature and relevance of the situation



Optional Indigenous candidate category document requirements

References

- One reference may be a letter from an individual who can speak to an applicant's connections to Indigenous communities or organizations, or where a connection does not exist, an applicant's goals for supporting Indigenous communities and concerns and the relationship between these goals and their motivation to study law.

Personal Statement

- Word limit increases to **1200 words** from 750 words
- Candidates are encouraged to use their personal statement to also address one or more of the following:
 - their substantive connections to Indigenous communities and organizations, or if these connections do not yet exist, the kind of meaningful efforts they will undertake to build these connections
 - to the extent that they are currently engaged in their cultures and legal traditions, its role in their lives, and how it bears upon their application;
 - to the extent that they have been affected by the historical and structural effects of colonialism, the ways in which that reality bears upon their application;
 - how they intend to use their legal education to support the flourishing of Indigenous communities, organizations, or legal traditions.



Procédure d'entrevue

CÉGEP (obligatoire) & autres candidat.e.s (le cas échéant)

- Environ 25 minutes
- En présence de deux membres de la Faculté
- Bilingue
- Par videoconference
- Questions sont variées; le but est de déterminer si vous avez les compétences que nous cherchons (esprit analytique, curiosité, une bonne communication orale, par exemple)
- Les entrevues ont lieu en mars, avril et en mai



Scholarships and financial aid

McCall-MacBain Scholars

- Full tuition for entire program + living stipend
- mccallmacbainscholars.org



McGill Faculty of Law Entrance Scholarships

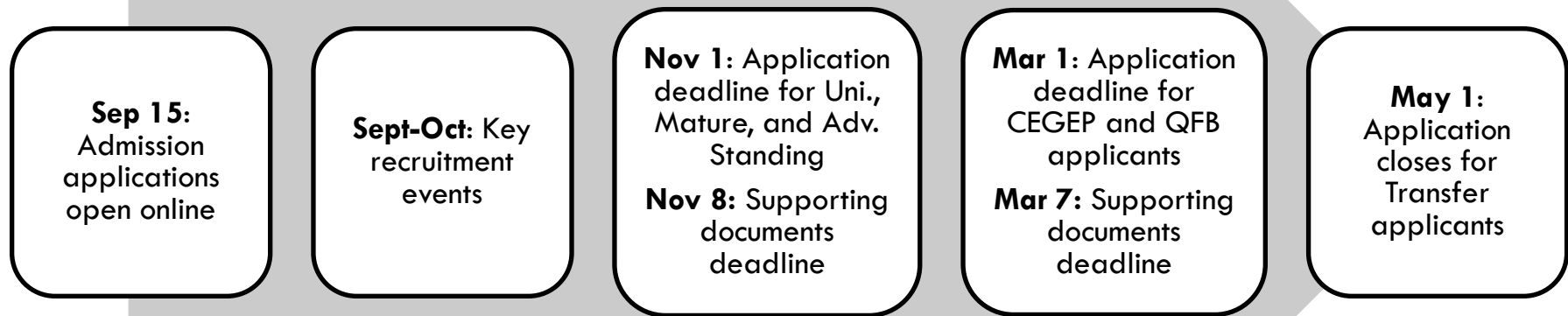
- All University and Mature applicants and CÉGEP/QFB applicants below the academic threshold set by central SSAO automatically considered
- Approximately 30% of admitted candidates receive one
- Offers made February through September

McGill University Entrance Scholarships and Bursaries

- McGill Entrance Scholarships **only available** to those applying from CÉGEP who are above the academic thresholds
- Need to complete financial needs analysis through Minerva once accepted



Key Dates



Other important dates

- **November:** latest LSAT recommended; we will accept **January** test, but consider the impact on your application
- **December - June:** offers of admission are extended on an ongoing basis
- **February:** Welcome Day for admitted candidates



Next steps...

Déposer sa demande en ligne

- Online application + BCL/JD Checklist
<https://www.mcgill.ca/law/bcl-jd/admissions-guide/application-process>
- Supporting documents must be uploaded via the Applicant Portal
- <https://www.mcgill.ca/admissions/checklist-information>

Vérifier l'état de votre demande

- It is your responsibility to make sure that your application is complete
- Check Applicant Portal regularly



Perspective :
Étudiante actuelle
Stephanie





Merci !

Questions?

Get in touch or book a virtual advising appointment:



<https://www.mcgill.ca/law/bcl-jd>



admissions.law@mcgill.ca



<https://outlook.office365.com/owa/calendar/LawAdmissionsOfficeHours@McGill.onmicrosoft.com/bookings/>