

Information for Potential Applicants

MSc (Thesis) in Atmospheric & Oceanic Sciences

Admission of new students to the Master of Science (MSc) program in Atmospheric and Oceanic Sciences (Thesis) occurs once per year, in September (Fall semester). The application period begins October 3 of the preceding year. For Fall 2023 admissions, our **recently changed application deadlines** are as follows:

January 15, 2023 for international applicants,
excepting applicants registered in a full-time McGill program in Winter 2023;

February 28, 2023 for Canadian citizens and permanent residents of Canada, and
for applicants registered in a full-time McGill program in Winter 2023.

General instructions and online information sessions

There are many steps to be completed before an application can be submitted. You will find helpful information here: <https://www.mcgill.ca/gradapplicants/how-apply>.

When accessing our Slate admissions platform, the **Google Chrome** browser will normally provide the best experience.

McGill University offers online workshops and pre-recorded information sessions to assist applicants, including sessions on:

- Writing a personal statement;
- How to contact potential supervisors;
- Using our new application system;
- The application process.

Please visit <https://www.mcgill.ca/gradapplicants/events> to access these sessions.

Virtual tour of McGill University

Visit <https://www.youvisit.com/tour/mcgill/> for a virtual tour of McGill University.

Applying to our program – MSc (Thesis) in Atmospheric & Oceanic Sciences

Please see next page.

Applying to our program – MSc (Thesis) in Atmospheric & Oceanic Sciences

We do ***not*** require the GRE.

Applications are submitted through our Slate admissions platform, at <https://www.mcgill.ca/gradapplicants/apply-now>. You will be asked to upload all your university-level transcripts, as well as a personal statement, and two referees will upload their letters of reference. A TOEFL score (or equivalent) may also be required; additional information is available here: <https://www.mcgill.ca/gradapplicants/international/apply/proficiency>.

Notes re. transcripts:

- All university-level institutions attended must be listed in the application, including institutions attended via study abroad/exchange programs (if applicable).
- All university-level transcripts must be uploaded. This includes transcripts from study abroad/exchange programs (if applicable).
- We accept unofficial transcripts during the initial application review. (We will request your official documents if you receive an offer of admission.)
- If not on the transcript, the grading scale must also be provided (usually found on the back of the transcript).
- For Fall 2023 admissions, normally we do ***not*** require grades from Winter 2023 or later during the initial application review. (We will request these grades if you receive an offer of admission.)
- Please ensure that you complete all the requirements listed here: <https://www.mcgill.ca/gradapplicants/how-apply/submit-your-application/documents#transcripts>.

Financial support – stipend and fee subsidy

Stipend

Many of our students arrive without an external fellowship. In such cases our department provides a stipend of **\$21,100 per year** (in Canadian dollars), for two years, to full-time students who maintain satisfactory standing in our MSc program.¹

Please note that if a student is awarded an external scholarship or other financial support, the departmental contribution to the student's funding will be reduced. However, supervisors in our department offer a significant financial top-up to students who have received a major award.

¹ Very rarely, applicants hoping to secure funding from outside Canada may receive a **conditional offer of admission** to our MSc program; in such exceptional cases the student may not receive a stipend from our department. This information would be clearly stated in the letter of offer.

Fee subsidies

Fee subsidy for Out-of-Province students who are Canadian citizens or permanent residents of Canada

Our department offers a **partial subsidy of “Out-of-Province Canadian” fees** up to and including the Fall semester of the MSc 2 year. At 2022–2023 rates, the value of this subsidy is **approximately CAD \$8,900 over two years** (approximately CAD \$5,900 in the first year and CAD \$3,000 in the second year) for Out-of-Province Canadian students admitted to our MSc program.

This subsidy ensures that full-time non-Quebec students who are Canadian citizens or permanent residents of Canada, and who maintain satisfactory standing in our MSc program, **pay:**

- **the same tuition fees and**
- **the same non-tuition fees charged by Student Accounts**

as students who are Quebec residents, up to and including the Fall semester of the MSc 2 year.

Fee subsidy for international students

Our department offers a **partial subsidy of international fees** up to and including the Fall semester of the MSc 2 year. At 2022–2023 rates, the value of this subsidy is **approximately CAD \$25,800 over two years** (approximately CAD \$17,000 in the first year and CAD \$8,800 in the second year) for most international students admitted to our MSc program.

This subsidy ensures that full-time international students who maintain satisfactory standing in our MSc program **pay:**

- **the same tuition fees and**
- **the same non-tuition fees charged by Student Accounts**

as students who are Quebec residents, up to and including the Fall semester of the MSc 2 year.

Additional non-guaranteed income: paid Teaching Assistant positions

McGill University offers paid Teaching Assistant (TA) positions with a salary of CAD \$33.03/hour (as of Aug. 1, 2022). Every year our department typically offers 40-50 TA positions of 45 hours each. All MSc students who have completed their first year may apply for our department’s TA positions.

In our department, students may earn employment income for up to 180 hours per semester without reduction to the stipend or fee subsidy. Typically, our graduate students above the MSc 1 year who apply to and are selected for one 45-hour TA position per semester, will earn CAD \$2,970 per year in addition to the full stipend (and full fee subsidy, if applicable).

Evaluation of the applicant's dossier

Most supervisors in our department look at the transcript to evaluate whether the student can excel in graduate-level courses and can perform quantitative research. Most supervisors generally care most about the quantitative background: math, physics, and upper-level physical science courses. Strong grades in these courses are likely to be needed. Other positive attributes such as computer programming skills and/or strong letters of reference (from respected scientists) would also work in your favour.

For applicants who have completed university-level studies outside Canada:

Please also consult McGill's web page on international credentials and grade equivalencies:

<https://www.mcgill.ca/gradapplicants/how-apply/application-steps/equivalency>.

If you would like to know what level of math is normally required, you can use our undergraduate major program as a guideline:

<https://www.mcgill.ca/study/2022-2023/faculties/science/undergraduate/programs/bachelor-science-bsc-major-atmospheric-science>.

Please note that admission to our programs is competitive; therefore, the available number of places for new MSc students is limited (but may vary from year to year). Typically, successful applicants to our MSc program have a CGPA ranging from 3.3/4.0 to 4.0/4.0. Admission is not guaranteed for applicants presenting at least the minimum CGPA. The evaluation of an application includes the careful review of reference letters, training in mathematics, prior research experience and future research potential, applicant interests, and all other admission requirements.

Finding a supervisor

At the MSc level, some exceptional students may be accepted without an assigned thesis research supervisor. These students normally find a supervisor during or after completing the first semester in the program.

However, some MSc applicants choose to secure a supervisor during the application process. If you wish you can review our faculty members' research interests to determine which potential supervisors best match your interests and goals. You can find a list of our faculty members at

<https://www.mcgill.ca/meteo/facultystaff/faculty-0>. (Choose the "Professors" tab, then click on a faculty member's name for a description of their research interests. See also the links to faculty members' websites.)

You can also search for potential supervisors by research area, by visiting our department's Research web pages at <https://www.mcgill.ca/meteo/aos-research>.

You are welcome to send your CV to potential supervisors to express your interest, with a message explaining why you wish to work with the potential supervisor and which aspects of their research match your interests. If you choose to do so (again, this is optional for MSc applicants), our advice is to:

- 1- Explain why you are interested in their research (mention a specific paper they wrote that you read, or discuss one of their areas of interest; be specific; demonstrate that you have found and read information about their professional activities), and
- 2- Explain why your background is a good match for their research area or research group.

You may also be interested in McGill University's **online workshop/recorded information session** on securing a supervisor. For information, please visit <https://www.mcgill.ca/gradapplicants/events>.

Personal statement

The personal statement is an essay in which the applicant describes their reasons for applying to graduate studies and indicating qualifications, qualities or circumstances the applicant feels to be significant; this document usually provides information about educational and professional goals.

One page is sufficient; two pages are also acceptable. You may want to explain some/all of the following in the personal statement:

- Why you are interested in the program;
- Which aspects of Atmospheric & Oceanic Sciences are of most interest to you, and why;
- Why you are a strong candidate for the program; and
- (Optional)
Which faculty members you would most wish to work with, and why.

You may also be interested in McGill University's **online workshop/recorded information session** on writing a personal statement. For information, please visit <https://www.mcgill.ca/gradapplicants/events>.

Additional information

You can find additional information concerning the Master of Science (MSc) program in Atmospheric and Oceanic Sciences (Thesis) on the following web pages:

- [Atmospheric and Oceanic Sciences at McGill University – Graduate Programs](#)
- [Atmospheric and Oceanic Sciences at McGill University – Prospective Graduate Students](#)
- [McGill University eCalendar – MSc Program in Atmospheric and Oceanic Sciences](#)

Should you have questions, please contact Manuela Franzo, the Graduate Program Coordinator, at graduateinfo.aos@mcgill.ca.