



# The Cheap Sheet

Thrifty Options for the Savvy McGill Saver!



## FOOD

### Cheap Eats:

#### At / Near McGill Downtown

- **Basha** (666, rue Sherbrooke Ouest, [basharestaurants.com](http://basharestaurants.com)) has very affordable Lebanese food right next to campus, (\$3.95 for a falafel sandwich, or \$7.95 for a trio) and they're open late!
- **Churros**, like samosas, are often sold around McGill for fundraisers. Check out the Churro Search Facebook group ([facebook.com/groups/1699236350349133](https://facebook.com/groups/1699236350349133)).
- **Frostbite** (McConnell Engineering, [frostbite.mcgilleus.ca](http://frostbite.mcgilleus.ca)) exists to meet all your ice cream needs! Open Monday to Friday 12 – 5 p.m., they offer \$1.50 per scoop ice cream if you bring your own cup (any cup works!) and on Tuesdays offer \$2 small cups of frozen deliciousness.
- **McGill Pizza** (625, rue Milton, [facebook.com/mcgillpizza](https://facebook.com/mcgillpizza)) is a hidden gem around McGill. They offer any number of yummy comfort foods at ridiculously cheap prices. Two slices of pizza will run you \$3.90, and they even offer a breakfast with 2 eggs, bacon, home fries and coffee for only \$3.95.
- **The Midnight Kitchen** ([themidnightkitchen.wordpress.com](http://themidnightkitchen.wordpress.com)) offers free or pay-what-you-can vegan meals during the school year, Monday to Thursday at 12:30 p.m. in the SSMU Building. Bring your own plate and cutlery! You can also borrow dishes from The Plate Club in the SSMU Building ([theplateclub.wixsite.com/mcgill](http://theplateclub.wixsite.com/mcgill)).
- **Organic Campus** ([facebook.com/OrganicCampus](https://facebook.com/OrganicCampus)) is an SSMU club selling organic, vegetarian food straight from the farm. They offer baked goods, Ethiopian foods, and sometimes eggs, from Tuesday to Thursday from 12 – 4:30 p.m. in, or just outside, the SSMU building. A loaf of their sweet breads (banana, date or zucchini just to name a few) costs just \$4 and is great for a study snack.
- **Samosas** ([facebook.com/groups/720504868069082](https://facebook.com/groups/720504868069082)) are a tradition for McGill clubs looking to fundraise. At \$1 per samosa, or \$2 for 3, you won't find a cheaper lunch anywhere! Sales occur

daily in most major McGill buildings. Check out the Facebook group Samosa Search for daily locations.

- **SNAX** (Leacock Building, [ausmcgill.com/services/snax](http://ausmcgill.com/services/snax)) sells all kinds of, as their name suggests, snacks: pastries, cookies, candy, salads and even wraps from Aux Vivres. Their coffee is only \$1 if you bring your travel mug, and if you forget it, take advantage of their Early Bird special before 10am, and get a small coffee and a muffin for \$2.
- **Soup and Science** ([mcgill.ca/science/research/ours/soupscience](http://mcgill.ca/science/research/ours/soupscience)) is held for one week each semester for undergraduate science students (usually at 11:30 am every day in the Redpath Museum). Each day, 4-6 professors speak briefly about their research and current projects. Following these talks, all attendees receive free soup and sandwiches. You can also mix/mingle with the professors and ask questions.
- **Super Sandwich** (1115, rue Sherbrooke Ouest, [facebook.com/Super-Sandwich-102830263100697](https://facebook.com/Super-Sandwich-102830263100697)) sells deli sandwiches of all kinds for cheap. Their 15 varieties range from \$2.75–\$4.00, so there's something affordable for everyone.
- **Tim Hortons** (674, rue Sherbrooke Ouest or 2035, rue Stanley, [timhortons.com/ca/en](http://timhortons.com/ca/en)) is a Canadian legend. They offer cheap coffee, hot drinks, donuts and sandwiches, and you can barely walk 3 blocks in any Canadian city without walking into one. They're reliable, everywhere and open late.
- **Vinhs** (Genome Building and Strathcona Music Building, [mcgill.ca/foodservices/locations/retail/vinhs-cafe](http://mcgill.ca/foodservices/locations/retail/vinhs-cafe)) has delicious Bahn Mi Vietnamese sandwiches, as well as soups, noodles, steam buns and desserts. The Vinhs Classic sandwich will fill you up for only \$3.45, and they have several vegetarian options too!
- **The Yellow Door** (3625, rue Aylmer, [yellowdoor.org](http://yellowdoor.org)) runs the Rabbit Hole Café every Friday, from 12:30 – 3:00 p.m. during the school year, where they provide vegan lunches in their coffee house for donations of \$2+. The meals are always vegan and you are encouraged to bring Tupperware to take home some leftovers.

#### **Around Montreal:**

- **Bao Bao Dim Sum** (83, rue de la Gauchetière Ouest, [yelp.ca/biz/bao-bao-dim-sum-montréal](http://yelp.ca/biz/bao-bao-dim-sum-montréal)) is similar to Cocobun, but cheaper and yummiier (in this humble writer's opinion at least). It may not be as conveniently located as Cocobun, but Chinatown is filled with sights to see, and other cheap food to eat, so it's definitely worth it. My favourite items are their mixed vegetable steamed buns (\$1.75) and their red bean steamed buns (\$1.99).
- **Cachitos** (153, rue Sainte-Catherine Est, [store.cachitos.ca](http://store.cachitos.ca)) sells Venezuelan cachitos (bread with filling) as well as other pastries and coffee. They have many different fillings of cachitos to try, and most are only \$3.95 each.
- **Cocobun bakeries** (Guy-Concordia or Atwater metro stops, [cocobun.com](http://cocobun.com)) offer a variety of Chinese baked goods at super reasonable prices. From BBQ pork buns (\$1.99) to mochi (\$1.79) to custard buns (\$1.99) they've got a bit of everything at several convenient locations.
- **Cosmos Snack Bar** (5843, rue Sherbrooke Ouest, [facebook.com/The-Famous-Cosmos-205367469494263](https://facebook.com/The-Famous-Cosmos-205367469494263)) is a solid option for when you're starving, or just craving some good greasy

spoon fare. They're famous for creations like breakfast burgers, and 6-egg omelets, and your breakfast will likely run you less than \$10!

- **Crescent Sushi** (Various Locations: [sushicrescent.ca/en/frontpage](http://sushicrescent.ca/en/frontpage)) is a great choice if you're looking to maximize your dollar. Their all-you-can-eat lunch is only \$16.99, and they offer many vegetarian and meat options of sushi, Chinese and Japanese foods.
- **Joe's Panini** (1404, rue Drummond, [facebook.com/Joese-Panini-24Hrs-131378443589036](https://www.facebook.com/Joese-Panini-24Hrs-131378443589036)) is the Super Sandwich of Concordia. They offer a variety of sweet and savory grilled sandwiches for \$4.78 each, and are open 24 hours, to help you with those hungry all-nighters!
- **Ô Claf (formerly "Le Clafouti")** (2122 Drummond St, <https://www.yelp.ca/biz/%C3%B4-claf-montr%C3%A9al>) Family run, cash only deli and sandwiches on baguettes. Plus vegetarian & vegan options - salad + sandwich less than \$5.
- **Pushap** (5195, rue Paré, [pushaprestaurant.ca](http://pushaprestaurant.ca)), the people who make all the McGill samosas for sales (known as "Samosa Gods") have a physical location, and it is filled with CHEAP Indian food. Seriously, their entire menu is vegetarian (with quite a few vegan options) and all of the options are less than \$5.
- **Restaurant Nilufar** (1923 Saint-Catherine St W, [www.facebook.com/restaurantnilufar](http://www.facebook.com/restaurantnilufar)) A great little Middle Eastern restaurant near Guy-Concordia with a lot of vegan, halal, and gluten-free options. It's ridiculously good and doesn't break the bank with 1.69\$ falafel pitas and all plates under 8\$. The owner is also the sweetest person and her presence fills the restaurant with light.

### Free Food:

- **Free Food on Campus and in Montreal** ([facebook.com/groups/189542714498636](https://www.facebook.com/groups/189542714498636) or [twitter.com/foodatmcgill](https://twitter.com/foodatmcgill)) is the go-to place to find free food around McGill and elsewhere. Posts are made daily on any free food students have found around, and you can bet that if there is any free food, the eagle-eyed guys in this group have found it!

### Cheap Groceries:

- **Bulk Barn** (5445 rue des Jockeys, <http://www.bulkbarn.ca/en/Home>) Bulk snacks and ingredients. Healthy, cheap and filling ideas: chickpeas (salads, hummus, roasted), lentil (soup, curry), kidney beans (soup, enchiladas, chili), nuts and dried berries! (whole cranberries = best)
- **Costco** (<https://www.costco.ca/>) Purchase in bulk with a friend/roommate and share the value! It would be worth the membership.
- **Good Food Box** ([facebook.com/goodfoodboxmcgill](https://www.facebook.com/goodfoodboxmcgill) and [snacmcgill.wixsite.com/snac](http://snacmcgill.wixsite.com/snac)) is a bi-weekly box of fresh fruits and veggies ordered through S.N.A.C. (Student Nutrition Accessibility Club). They offer 3 sizes of boxes, for \$10, \$15 and \$20 respectively, and the boxes are well-worth the value! If you order for a whole term at once, you can receive a discount on the price and if you'd prefer not to pick up your food box from the SSMU building, you can do so at one of their many Montreal locations.
- **Kitchen Collectives** ([rccq.org/en/membres/nos-membres](http://rccq.org/en/membres/nos-membres)) are groups of people that pool their money, time and food to cook together. It allows you to meet new people and get portions of food you don't know how to, or don't have time to, cook in exchange for portions of something you can.

- **Marché Adonis** (2173, rue Sainte-Catherine Ouest, [groupeadonis.ca/en/](http://groupeadonis.ca/en/)) is another discount market. Check their weekly flyer for their best deals. Consider coming here especially if you're looking for specialty Greek ingredients.
- **Marché Lobo** is great for cheap produce and has a wide variety of Middle Eastern foods.
- **Marché Orientale** (Saint Denis at Jean Talon, <http://marcheoriental.ca/en/index.html>) Best coconut water price - \$3 for 1L pure 100% no additives. Stay hydrated! Various types. Also good selection cheap Asian ingredients and snacks.
- **McGill Student Run Ecological Gardens** ([macdonaldstudentfarm.wixsite.com/mseg](http://macdonaldstudentfarm.wixsite.com/mseg)) is what I use for fresh veggies during the off times of the Good Food Box. They offer two programs a year: a 10-week in the summer and an 8-week in the fall. Their boxes are about enough food for a household of 2 people, but I effectively fed 3 people on it this summer. The 10-week summer box is \$225 for students (\$22.5 per week), and is much less than buying the same veggies at a store. Plus, they're local, organic and the people are really nice.
- **PA Supermarché** ([supermarchepa.com](http://supermarchepa.com)) is a chain of supermarkets with products considerably cheaper than Provigo or Metro. Closest location to campus is 1420 Rue du Fort (du Fort/Ste Catherine O), but they also have locations in the Mile End on Avenue du Parc and in Laval. **Various ethnic supermarkets** offer the best option if you're looking for foods specific to any one culture. For Asian foods check out Produits Eden (3575 avenue du Parc), Jang-Teu Asian Supermarket (2109, rue Sainte-Catherine Ouest) or almost any grocery store in Chinatown.
- **Segal's Market** (4001 Boulevard St-Laurent, near Duluth, [virtualcampustour.mcgill.ca/en/details/125/segals-market](http://virtualcampustour.mcgill.ca/en/details/125/segals-market)) is a small, cheap grocery store with a good, quality selection. Segal's is great for cheap produce, dairy, and organic products. Good for stocking up in bulk for less. Get hemp milk for the best price. However, their meat/poultry selection is limited.
- **Super C** (147, avenue Atwater, [superc.ca/circulaire.en.html](http://superc.ca/circulaire.en.html)) is a discount grocery store chain that offers small discounts on all items, and large discounts on their weekly sale items. Check out their flyer to find when they have the best deals on. If you're ever making a bulk beer or wine purchase, go here! They always have great deals on big cases of beer and large bottles of wine!



## SCHOOL SUPPLIES

### Cheap Textbooks:

- **AbeBooks** ([abebooks.com](http://abebooks.com)) is a partner to Book Depository and often has some better deals if you're shipping to Canada.
- **Amazon** ([amazon.ca](http://amazon.ca)) offers new and used textbooks, sometimes at amazing discounts, sometimes at full price. They tend to be fairly hit or miss when it comes to textbooks, but it's always worth looking!
- **Book Depository** ([bookdepository.com](http://bookdepository.com)) is an online retailer of new and used books. Their prices are often cheaper than Amazon, and they offer free worldwide shipping, so even if their

price is the same as Amazon or the Bookstore, it is often worth it to buy from here if other sources are out of stock.

- **Book Finder** ([bookfinder.com](http://bookfinder.com)) is a wonderful resource for online textbook (and non-textbook) buying! This site will search all online book-selling websites, across all different countries, and show you the cheapest prices after factoring in shipping to wherever you are. This site is 100% your best bet at finding the best deal online, and has personally saved me hundreds of dollars.
- **Bookstore used or loose-leaf copies** are available as a last resort. They are sold at close to full price, but will save you at least some money over their new and hard-cover counterparts.
- **Direct Textbook** ([directtextbook.com](http://directtextbook.com)) offers much the same service as Book Finder, but specializes in textbooks. I've had it turn up some offers that Book Finder missed, so it's definitely worth a search before you buy.
- **McGill Textbook Exchange** ([facebook.com/groups/188599104592997](https://facebook.com/groups/188599104592997)) is a good first stop when looking for any textbooks. Chances are there are students who took the same class last term who are looking to offload their barely used, no longer needed textbooks for a steep discount.
- **The Word bookstore** ([wordbookstore.ca](http://wordbookstore.ca)) is a used bookstore on Milton. They sell used textbooks and novels, and also buy back used books.

### School Supplies:

- **McGill Clubs** like Healthy at McGill, McGill Health, McGill Mental Health, and The Sexual Assault Centre of the McGill Students' Society (SACOMSS), as well as Campus Life and Engagement, all put various school supplies like pens, pencils and highlighters out at displays and tables. Look around! There are probably free school supplies in most of your lecture halls, classrooms and libraries!
- **Office Supply Stores** are always the better option for buying school supplies. Places like depts (convenience stores), grocery stores and even the McGill Bookstore usually charge much more than a store like Bureau en Gros for pens and pencils. If it's an item you know you will use (highlighters, white-out, tape etc.), then buy the bigger pack; it's almost always a better deal. Consider skipping the brand-name supplies for the generic brands (all yellow highlighters are yellow) and make sure to evaluate your actual need of supplies (do you really need five different colours of pens, or will three do?).
- **Other University Libraries' Wi-Fi** (<https://www.eduroam.org/where/>) If you need a change in studying environment, cafes can get expensive. You can connect to Wi-Fi on any university campus through eduroam with your McGill email and password



## PERSONAL ITEMS

### Cheap Clothing:

- **McGill Clothing Exchange** ([facebook.com/groups/366960086756897](https://facebook.com/groups/366960086756897)) is a Facebook group where McGill students past and present can buy and sell their no longer wanted clothes and shoes. This group is by far the best option for used clothes around McGill, and there are

offshoot groups for petites ([facebook.com/groups/162185587465677](https://www.facebook.com/groups/162185587465677)) and men ([facebook.com/groups/443563652429873](https://www.facebook.com/groups/443563652429873)).

- **Montreal Swap Collective** ([facebook.com/groups/123662374434667](https://www.facebook.com/groups/123662374434667)) hosts monthly (or so) clothing swaps, for used and new clothes of all types. For every bag of clothes you bring, you can leave with a bag of clothes. Swaps are usually free, or less than \$10 to attend, and offer great chances to revitalize your wardrobe for cheap. If none of the locations or dates of these events work for you, consider hosting one yourself!
- **Thrift Stores:** Montreal has a lot of these, as well as used clothing stores called **fripéries**. You can find clothes, accessories, furniture and household items at many of these stores. Some well-known ones include:
  - **Value Village** (2033, boulevard Pie-IX or 4906, rue Jean-Talon Ouest, [valuevillage.com](http://valuevillage.com)) is a large used clothing and household item store, part of whose proceeds go to benefit local charities. Consider bringing your old items to donate here, as for every bag you donate, you get a discount on your future purchases!
  - **Eva B** (2015, boulevard St-Laurent, [eva-b.ca/en](http://eva-b.ca/en)) has grown into a Montreal institution. They offer second hand, stylish and vintage clothes for reasonable prices, and are a great place to find some trend-setting pieces. They also have a cute (and cheap!) café in their store, boast the cheapest cappuccino in Montreal (\$2!), have an impressive 3 story patio with an apiary and garden, and, all things considered, are a place that needs to be experienced by everyone.
  - **Le Coffre aux trésors du Chaînon** ([lechainon.org](http://lechainon.org)—in French only)
  - **Salvation Army Thrift Store** ([thriftstore.ca/qc/locations](http://thriftstore.ca/qc/locations))
- **Winners** (Place Montreal Trust and other locations, <https://www.winners.ca/en>) Clothes and home items of good quality and brand names for cheap. Sometimes/often deals on designer/brand names.
- **The Winter Coat Project:** ([mcgill.ca/morsl/morsl-programs-and-resources/winter-coat-project](http://mcgill.ca/morsl/morsl-programs-and-resources/winter-coat-project)) if you're an international student, you can pick up a free, used winter coat through this project offered by the McGill Office of Spiritual and Religious Life (MORSL). This is also a great program to donate your used jackets to when you upgrade or move back home.

### Toiletries:

- **Buy in Bulk**, or at least in the biggest size available, for products you know you will use (shampoo, tampons, face wash etc.). Travel size, or smaller sized products are never the cheapest option in the long run.
- **Condoms** are given out for free in many public McGill locations by Healthy at McGill, and can also be found in the offices of The Sexual Assault Centre of the McGill Students' Society (SACOMSS) ([sacomss.org](http://sacomss.org)), Queer McGill ([facebook.com/Queer-McGill-23883717465](https://www.facebook.com/Queer-McGill-23883717465)) or the Union for Gender Empowerment (UGE) ([theuge.org/the-co-op](http://theuge.org/the-co-op)). Contraception, sex toys and menstrual products can also be ordered through the McGill Shag Shop ([mcgill.ca/healthymcgill/shagshop](http://mcgill.ca/healthymcgill/shagshop)).
- **Dollar Shave Club** ([ca.dollarhaveclub.com](http://ca.dollarhaveclub.com)) offers packages delivered monthly or bi-monthly with 4+ razor cartridges for as low as \$3.50 / month (shipping included!). This site might market

primarily to men, but their razors work just as well for other genders, and I'd be personally stunned if you could ever find a cheaper price for a month of razors.

- **Drug Stores** (like Pharmaprix or Jean Coutu) offer cheaper prices on toiletries than grocery stores or depts, and they also offer store brand products that work as well (or better!) than the brand name ones, often for half the price.
- **Menstrual Cups** ([divacup.com](http://divacup.com), [mooncup.co.uk](http://mooncup.co.uk) or others) are money and environment saving alternatives to tampons and pads. They market for around \$40, and can be used for years at a time, saving you \$100+ /year in disposable feminine products.
- **Tampons and Maxi Pads** are available for free in the women's bathrooms in the SSMU building. This is a great option if you find yourself on campus without one; or just grab a few to take home with you.
- **The McGill Union for Gender Empowerment** ([theuge.org/the-co-op](http://theuge.org/the-co-op)) offers a variety of gender empowerment and safe sex products like packers, lube, sea sponges, breastfeeding supplies, clean needles and gaffs, all on a pay-what-you-can basis.

### Everything Else:

- **Free and for Sale** ([facebook.com/groups/188599131259661](https://facebook.com/groups/188599131259661)) is a Facebook Group for past and present McGill students to buy, sell or giveaway their unwanted items. From furniture to workout equipment to food and everything in between, this group gets a bit of everything (and always for cheap!). You are especially likely to find what you need for cheap if you time your search to the end of terms (December or May)—when students are leaving, and suddenly realize they can't take so much stuff home—or July 1 (moving day in Quebec)!
- **IsThereAnyDeal.com** is your one-stop-shop for buying video games online. Simply enter the game you're looking for, and they search through 34 different online video game retailers to find the cheapest price. For each game and site, they also offer historical low prices, so you know that you're getting a good deal. You can even sync your Steam, Gamersgate or GOG wish lists, and set the site to email you when good deals arrive.
- **McGill Computer Taskforce** ([ctf.science.mcgill.ca/printing.html](http://ctf.science.mcgill.ca/printing.html)) offers free printing to Science and Arts and Science students, in the Burnside basement. Otherwise, check out **Copi-EUS** ([copieus.mcgilleus.ca](http://copieus.mcgilleus.ca)) in McConnell Engineering for cheap printing.
- **Montreal Used Book Swap** ([facebook.com/groups/291349947657505](https://facebook.com/groups/291349947657505)) hosts monthly book swaps where you can bring your already read books and exchange them for new-to-you ones. Entrance is free, and books of any language are welcome!
- **Steam** ([store.steampowered.com](http://store.steampowered.com)), everyone's favourite online video game retailer, has massive sales a few times a year. Prices usually drop by 10-90% on almost every game in store, so it's usually worth it to wait, if you can, to buy a new game. They have Summer and Christmas sales every year, and have been known to have Easter, Thanksgiving and even Chinese New Year sales too.
- **The Kijiji "Free Stuff" and the Craigslist "Free"** sections can have some awesome hidden deals. Kijiji ([kijiji.ca](http://kijiji.ca)) and Craigslist ([montreal.craigslist.ca/?lang=en](http://montreal.craigslist.ca/?lang=en)) are also great places to look for cheap furniture, household items, bikes, and apartment listings. Make sure you buy and sell safely and always arrange to meet in a public place.

## SERVICES



### Haircuts:

- **Académie de Coiffure Hilda** (4621, de Salaberry Suite #1, [academiedecoiffurehilda.com/en](http://academiedecoiffurehilda.com/en)) is a hair school offering their students' services for cheap (\$12 for women, \$10 for men) located in the northern part of Montreal.
- **Académie de coiffure Tornade** ([tornadecoiffure.com](http://tornadecoiffure.com)) is a chain of hair styling schools. The closest location to campus is on St. Denis at St. Joseph. You can get your hair cut by a hair styling student or a certified stylist. Prices range between \$10 to \$26 for a haircut (male or female).
- **Andie's Barber Shop** (1245 Rue Metcalfe, [andiesbarbershop.com](http://andiesbarbershop.com)) does men's (and potentially women's short) haircuts for \$20 for students. Their loyalty system makes the 5<sup>th</sup> haircut only \$10, and the 10<sup>th</sup> haircut free. They do not take appointments though, so you may have to wait.
- **Coiffure Benny** (2030, rue Frontenac, [facebook.com/coiffeurbenny](https://facebook.com/coiffeurbenny)) offers a no frills, quality men's haircut for cheap (\$10–\$15).
- **Coiffure Pierre** (500, rue Sherbrooke Ouest, [yelp.ca/biz/coiffure-pierre-montreal-3](https://yelp.ca/biz/coiffure-pierre-montreal-3)) is a no-nonsense, no-frills barbershop offering haircuts to people with short hair for \$17. This place is located just east of campus and your entire haircut is likely to take only 20 minutes.
- **École de Coiffure International** (4755, avenue Van Horne, Suite 107, [ecoledecoiffure.ca](http://ecoledecoiffure.ca)) offers cheap haircuts done by their students. At only \$10 for women and \$6 for men, it's hard to beat their prices. Just be aware that it may take longer than usual as it will be a student cutting your hair!
- **Haircuts For Anyone** ([haircutsforanyone.com](http://haircutsforanyone.com)) is committed to giving people of all genders, sexes, sexualities and ethnicities haircuts without judgment. They charge \$20–60 depending on your income, making them a wonderful project to support.

### Transport around Montreal:

- **BIXI** ([bixi.com/en](http://bixi.com/en)) is a bike sharing program that is incredibly popular in Montreal. They have 460 stations throughout the city and offer several options for people looking to use their bikes. A single trip of 30 minutes or less costs \$2.95, and a full day's access (with unlimited 30 minute trips) costs \$5. Through McGill, students can receive a 10% discount on an annual BIXI membership ([mcgill.ca/transport/cycling/bixi](http://mcgill.ca/transport/cycling/bixi)), which takes the price from \$89 to \$80.10 and allows the user 45-minute trips instead of 30-minute trips. BIXI stations are open from April 15 to November 15 annually.
- **Drivesafe** and **Walksafe** are two great student services. Drivesafe (514-398-8040, [ssmu.mcgill.ca/drivesafe](http://ssmu.mcgill.ca/drivesafe)) is a free transportation service operating on Fridays–Saturdays from 11 pm to 3 am that will drive students anywhere on the island of Montreal. Walksafe (514-398-2498, [ssmu.mcgill.ca/walksafe](http://ssmu.mcgill.ca/walksafe)) is a free walking companion service operating Sunday–Thursday 9 pm to 12 am and Friday–Saturday 9 pm to 3 am that will walk with you anywhere on the island of Montreal.

- **STM Montreal (Metros, trains and busses)** ([stm.info/en/info/fares/opus-cards-and-other-fare-media/opus-reduced-fare-students](http://stm.info/en/info/fares/opus-cards-and-other-fare-media/opus-reduced-fare-students)) offer significantly reduced fares to students. (As of 2017 this is available for all students, regardless of age.) A student OPUS card costs \$15 and you can now apply for it through Minerva ([mcgill.ca/students/records/opus](http://mcgill.ca/students/records/opus)), avoiding the yearly line at Berri-UQAM. The best option for a student who will use transit every day or many times a week is the 4-month pass, which was designed, with students in mind, to be the length of one term. It costs \$197, which breaks down to \$49.25 per month, and it will save you the hassle of reloading your OPUS card along with everyone else on the 1st of every month. If you'd rather do the pass by the month, the student OPUS discounts the normal monthly price of \$83 to only \$49.75, essentially equal to the 4-month pass.

### Travel:

- **Expedia** ([expedia.ca](http://expedia.ca)) is a great one-stop shop when booking flights or hotels. They search through all airlines and hotel companies to find the cheapest rates for you. Be sure to search in a private browser session, as many airlines and hotels will raise their prices if they see you looking multiple times on their pages.
- **Greyhound** ([greyhound.ca](http://greyhound.ca)) is a bus service that offers trips throughout most of Canada and the US. Their tickets are more expensive than Megabus' but at least within Canada, they serve a far greater area. They do offer discounts for students and for Hostelling International members. Be sure to apply these when booking tickets and always book in advance!
- **McGill Rideshare** ([facebook.com/groups/268646493254924](https://facebook.com/groups/268646493254924)) is a Facebook group to help past and present McGill students organize ride-sharing. The group is especially active around the holidays (when many students are travelling home) and splitting gas is usually cheaper than buying a ticket on a bus, train or plane. Always be safe, however, as there is a greater risk when travelling with other students than when using official transport.
- **Megabus** ([megabus.com](http://megabus.com)) offers the cheapest option to anyone travelling to Ontario or the USA. If booked months in advance, their tickets can be as low as \$10, and even last minute tickets are only \$50. Consider reserving a seat when you book. It only costs a few extra dollars, and guarantees you the aisle or window seat you prefer.
- **Porter** ([flyporter.com/en-ca](http://flyporter.com/en-ca)) is a discount airline service for most major Canadian cities and major northern U.S. cities. Their service is excellent, and their tickets are often hundreds of dollars cheaper than their competitors, so they're always worth a look when booking flights.
- **Via Rail** ([viarail.ca/en](http://viarail.ca/en)) is potentially the most comfortable option for travelling, with on-train Wi-Fi, food and drink service, and large bathrooms. Their tickets tend to run more on the expensive end, but can be reasonable if you book in advance. They have sales every Tuesday on last minute deals and offer a student discount to all students under 25. On top of the student discount, you can get the McGill discount when travelling for University-related activities. For more information, see [mcgill.ca/travelservices/transport/book-train/book-train](http://mcgill.ca/travelservices/transport/book-train/book-train).

### Bicycle Repair or Purchase:

- **Les Bicycletteries J.R.** (928, rue Villeray, [lesbicycletteriesjr.com](http://lesbicycletteriesjr.com)—website in French only) offers a \$40 tune up for your bike in the Plateau.

- **Bikurious** (1757, rue Amherst, [bikuriousmontreal.myshopify.com](http://bikuriousmontreal.myshopify.com)—website in French only) offers a general tune up for \$30–45 depending on the type of bike, and also features a hair salon in the corner of the room!
- **The Flat Bike Collective** (SSMU Basement, [facebook.com/TheFlatBikeCollective](https://facebook.com/TheFlatBikeCollective)) is open most evenings and offers tools and aid in fixing your own bike. This is not a repair service, but people who are willing to help you learn to help yourself. It is free to use.



## SPORTS AND RECREATION

- **McGill Clubs** ([ssmu.mcgill.ca/clubs/athletics-recreation-clubs](http://ssmu.mcgill.ca/clubs/athletics-recreation-clubs)). Almost every other sport has some form of club at McGill, so whether you're into dragon boat racing, badminton or running, there's probably a club for you—most of which offer subsidized ways to participate in your favourite activities!
- **The McGill Fitness Centre** ([mcgillathletics.ca/sports/2016/6/6/about-the-fitness-centre](http://mcgillathletics.ca/sports/2016/6/6/about-the-fitness-centre)) offers bar none the cheapest option for those looking for a gym membership. Access and use of the sports complex is included with student fees in the fall and winter semesters (so change rooms and the indoor track, amongst other things, may always be used), and access to the fitness centre is only \$40 a semester for undergrads. That breaks down to \$10 a month! The fitness centre also offers classes in everything from swimming to martial arts to tennis. Each class lasts around 7 weeks, and they vary in price from about \$30–\$80 ([mcgillathletics.ca/sports/2013/5/24/0524133142](http://mcgillathletics.ca/sports/2013/5/24/0524133142)). If that's too steep for your budget, consider the many 'on-the-go' classes that are offered for free, like Zumba, yoga and spin ([mcgillathletics.ca/sports/2012/11/1/1101121547](http://mcgillathletics.ca/sports/2012/11/1/1101121547)).
- **Skating** is incredibly popular during the many winter months in Montreal. There are hundreds of small, local rinks, some offering skate rentals. The Ville de Montréal lists information on outdoor skating rinks at: [ville.montreal.qc.ca/portal/page?\\_pageid=5977,94954214&\\_dad=portal&\\_schema=PORTAL](http://ville.montreal.qc.ca/portal/page?_pageid=5977,94954214&_dad=portal&_schema=PORTAL)  
Here are a few of the more special rinks in the city:
  - **Verdun Skating Rink (Le Bleu Blanc Rouge)** (1re Avenue, Verdun QC) offers an exact replica of the Montreal Canadiens' rink in the Bell Centre. Admission is free, but they offer no skate rentals.
  - **Parc Jeanne-Mance** (avenue du Parc and avenue du Mont-Royal) offers a large and beautiful rink at the base of the mountain, with free admission. They do not offer skate rentals.
  - **Parc Jean-Drapeau** (Île Notre Dame) offers a 1.5 km skating path through the woods during their Fete Des Neiges. Admission is free and they offer skate rentals for \$9 for 2 hours.
  - **Beaver Lake** (2000, chemin Remembrance) sits atop Mont Royal and offers the city's most popular outdoor skating rink. With gorgeous views of the city, it offers free admission, \$9 for 2 hours' skate rental and \$7 skate sharpening.

## MUSEUMS AND MONUMENTS



### Art museums/Galleries:

- **DHC/ART** (451 & 465, rue St-Jean, [dhc-art.org](http://dhc-art.org)) is an art museum specializing in contemporary art of many different media types. Admission for all is free, and their exhibits change quite frequently.
- **La Galerie de l'UQAM** (1400, rue Berri, [galerie.uqam.ca/en/home](http://galerie.uqam.ca/en/home)) exhibits contemporary Quebec art, as well as contemporary art from Canada and abroad. They host a variety of interesting events that are definitely worth checking out, and admission is free to all!
- **The Guild** (1460B, rue Sherbrooke Ouest, [laguilde.com/home](http://laguilde.com/home)) is a museum specializing in First Nations and Inuit art. Entrance is free and their collection is unmatched in most of Quebec. **The Montreal Museum of Fine Arts** (1380, rue Sherbrooke Ouest, [mbam.qc.ca/en](http://mbam.qc.ca/en)) is one of the most famous, and large, museums in Montreal. It has a tremendous number of artifacts to discover, and they offer free admission to their collection and discovery exhibitions for all people under 30.
- **The Musée d'art contemporain de Montréal** ([macm.org/en](http://macm.org/en)) offers half-price admission on Wednesday evenings from 5pm to 9pm.
- **The Musée des maîtres et artisans du Québec** (614, avenue Saint-Croix, [mmaq.qc.ca/en](http://mmaq.qc.ca/en)) works to showcase individual creators within Quebec. They want to raise awareness about both traditional and contemporary craftsmanship in Quebec, and allow artists a place to show their work. Student admission is \$4.

### History museums:

- **The Canadian Centre for Architecture** (1920, rue Baile, [cca.qc.ca/en](http://cca.qc.ca/en)) is a collection on Canadian architecture, both modern and ancient. Entrance for students is free, and their exhibits change quite frequently, so this museum never gets boring.
- **Centre d'histoire De Montreal** (335, place D'Youville, [ville.montreal.qc.ca/chm](http://ville.montreal.qc.ca/chm)) is a gorgeous museum focusing on the history of Montreal. The main exhibits focus on the founding of Montreal, and its development through the ages. Entrance for students is only \$4.
- **Château Ramezay** (280, rue Notre-Dame Est, [chateauramezay.qc.ca/en](http://chateauramezay.qc.ca/en)) is an experience like no other. This heritage home offers a window into the past, with exhibits inside the house, and a beautiful garden outside. They also offer many opportunities to engage in activities of the era. Student entrance is \$8.75.
- **Écomusée du Fier Monde** (2050, rue Amherst, [ecomusee.qc.ca/en](http://ecomusee.qc.ca/en)) is a working class and industrial history museum. It focuses on the impacts of the Industrial Revolution on Quebec, especially on its working class populations, and tells many stories that other museums may miss. Student admission is \$6.
- **The McCord Museum** ([musee-mccord.qc.ca/en](http://musee-mccord.qc.ca/en)) offers free admission on Wednesday evenings from 5pm-9pm.

- **Montreal Holocaust Memorial Centre** (5151, chemin de la Côte-Sainte-Catherine, [museeholocauste.ca/en](http://museeholocauste.ca/en)) offers a unique perspective on this great tragedy. Their museum is filled with exhibits on the life of Jewish individuals before, during and after the war. Admission for students is \$5.
- **The Musée des Hospitalières de l'Hôtel-Dieu de Montréal** (201, avenue des Pins Ouest, [museedeshospitalieres.qc.ca](http://museedeshospitalieres.qc.ca)) offers a history of the founding of Montreal by Jeanne Mance, and stories of the founding of major Montreal hospitals, hotels and other landmarks. The building the museum is situated in is simply stunning and student admission is only \$6.

### Others:

- **The Cinémathèque Québécoise** (335 boulevard de Maisonneuve Est, [cinematheque.qc.ca](http://cinematheque.qc.ca)) is a museum of movies, television and media. They work to preserve and present the audiovisual history of Quebec, and offer both exhibits and film and TV screenings. Students are admitted for free to the permanent and temporary exhibits, and for \$9 to any screenings.
- **The Fashion Museum** (385, rue de la Commune Est, [museedelamode.ca/en](http://museedelamode.ca/en)) focuses on exactly what you'd think – fashion – and specifically, how fashion has evolved in Quebec and French parts of Canada. They host many special events focused on fashion and design and aim to show how culture influences fashion, and how fashion influences culture. Student entrance is \$6.
- **La Grande Bibliothèque** (475, boulevard de Maisonneuve Ouest, [bang.qc.ca/accueil](http://bang.qc.ca/accueil)) is Montreal's biggest library, and one of its most beautiful modern buildings. As well as housing hundreds of thousands of books (in many languages) they also offer some displays put on by the Quebec government. Whether you're looking for somewhere new to study, or just something to explore, the library is definitely worth a trip (entrance is free!).
- **McGill's Redpath Museum** ([mcgill.ca/redpath](http://mcgill.ca/redpath)) is free for all individual visitors. The Museum also runs cool events and workshops, including nighttime flashlight tours and guest speakers.
- **Montreal Biosphere** ([ec.gc.ca/biosphere](http://ec.gc.ca/biosphere)) is an impressive structure that houses exhibits on environment, climatology, water and air quality. It was built for the famous Expo 67, and has become a Montreal landmark. Student entrance is \$10, and there are a few discounts you might want to take advantage of if you are going to several museums in a day.
- **The Saint Joseph Oratory** (3800, rue Queen Mary, [saint-joseph.org/en](http://saint-joseph.org/en)) is a stunning part of the Montreal landscape and Canada's largest church. Simply visiting this monument to look around and take photos costs only \$3 but they also offer a museum rich in the church's history, for which student entrance is \$4.



## ENTERTAINMENT

### Movies and theatre:

- **Dollar Cinema** (Square Decarie, 6900 Decarie Boulevard, [dollarcinema.ca](http://dollarcinema.ca)) offers movie tickets for only \$2.50 and concession items for \$1.00. They tend to play slightly older movies (1-3 months) but offer a wide selection of them. Be sure when buying tickets, however, that you're seeing the movie in the language you want to!

- **Free Movies:** during the summer/early fall, there are various free outdoor movie screenings around Montreal. For example, check out: Downtown screening under the stars ([sat.qc.ca/en/evenements/downtown-screenings-2017-place-de-la-paix](http://sat.qc.ca/en/evenements/downtown-screenings-2017-place-de-la-paix)).
- **Free Theatre** is offered by Repercussion Theatre ([repercussiontheatre.com](http://repercussiontheatre.com)). They host by-donation, English, Shakespeare-in-the-Park plays across different parks in Montreal.
- **Player's Theatre** ([playerstheatre.ca](http://playerstheatre.ca)) is Montreal's oldest English-speaking theatre, and based right out of the SSMU building. They offer 4 shows a semester, that are always fantastic, and tickets are only \$8 for students.
- **TOHU** ([tohu.ca/en](http://tohu.ca/en)) is a Montreal organization that specializes in circus and performance arts. Their roster is always changing, from mini-horse shows to aerial stunts above Place des Arts. They do a bit of everything and much of it is free!

### Festivals:

- **Festivals** are hosted year round in Montreal, especially during the summer months. Check out [montreal.com/tourism/festivals](http://montreal.com/tourism/festivals) to see lists of upcoming festivals. Many offer free entertainment, food and drink. It's a safe bet that Place des Arts will be closed off for a festival every weekend in the summer.
- **L'International des Feux Loto-Québec** ([parcieandrapeau.com/en/international-des-feux-loto-quebec-montreal](http://parcieandrapeau.com/en/international-des-feux-loto-quebec-montreal)) is an international fireworks competition hosted at Parc Jean-Drapeau every summer. As the fireworks can be seen from across much of the city (especially from high view points) there is little reason to pay park admission.

### Other:

- **McGill has hundreds of clubs** ([ssmu.ca/student-life/clubs-services-isg](http://ssmu.ca/student-life/clubs-services-isg)) so no matter what you want to participate in, talk about, produce or protest, you can find someone to do it with. Many have no entrance fees, most offer free or cheap events and all offer great ways to meet people interested in the same things as you.
- **SSMU Mini Courses** ([ssmu.mcgill.ca/minicourses](http://ssmu.mcgill.ca/minicourses)) are a cheap option for those looking to pick up a new skill or hobby. Courses usually run for 8 weeks, once or twice a week, and can be on anything from yoga to ballroom dancing, to learning coding, to bartending. Costs vary but expect to pay somewhere in the ballpark of \$50-\$80.

**Happy Saving!**

