



SCHOLARSHIPS AND STUDENT AID Office

NEED-BASED BURSARIES FOR FIELD SEMESTERS/COURSES

INFORMATION SHEET FOR UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS

Enriched Educational Opportunities (EEOs) are high quality mobility or work experience opportunities that take place outside of the classroom; they foster self-development and can help students transition successfully to the workplace or graduate studies.

The McGill Commitment:

- The University is striving to expand opportunities for undergraduates to participate in EEOs
- This priority comes with the University's determination for these opportunities to be **accessible to undergraduates regardless of their financial capacity.**

A new aid program:

- The University has provided the Scholarships & Student Aid Office with special funding to pilot an *EEO Bursary Program*. The program will help students with the additional costs of these extra opportunities.
- Bursaries are non-repayable forms of financial assistance based on demonstrated financial need.

Field Semesters are eligible for EEO bursaries!

- One type of EEO is **Field Semesters and Field Courses**, which provide students with intensive and immersive time in the field to study academic content in a purposeful way outside the classroom. Currently, 5 field semesters are offered by McGill, in Africa, Barbados, Panama and the Arctic. There are a host of individual field courses also available.
- These courses or collection of courses are recorded on your transcript upon registration, and typically have extra charges applied to your Fee Account. In advance of this process, your faculty may provide you with a supporting document (such as a letter) to demonstrate their approval, which generally involves a vetting/selection process, academic oversight and clear learning outcomes



Student eligibility for EEO bursaries is determined as follows, you must:

- Be enrolled in an Undergraduate degree at the University.
- Be full-time (or deemed full-time per government aid programs, due to disability or with young dependent children) in your EEO term, or **at minimum** in the term preceding the EEO term.
- Demonstrate financial need for your standard costs of attendance. This typically means that Canadian or U.S. residents must apply for and receive the maximum government aid, and that international students have received or would receive in-course McGill bursaries/loans.



- Have an official record to show you are going on a Field Semester/Course, such as course registration on your transcript or advance written approval from your Faculty. It should include any pledged or potential funding for the purpose of Field Semester/Course participation.
- Have proof of successful completion of Field Semester/Course for after-the-fact verification, such as credits earned on transcript.

When to apply for EEO Bursaries:

To help with your financial plan, you may apply anytime in the academic year to gain an idea of how much aid you could receive. Final bursary assessment can only take place once your plans are firm with supporting documentation.

How to apply to the EEO Bursaries:

You can request an EEO Bursary through the normal In-Course Financial Aid process.

More detailed steps are available on our dedicated website mcgill.ca/studentaid/special-funding/eeo

Before you apply: You should pursue (and ideally confirm) any Faculty-based awards to help defray your costs before seeking need-based assistance from the Scholarships & Student Aid Office.

Step 1: Submit an In-Course Aid application in Minerva

- The **Resources and Budget** section may include your EEO plans (if firm) or may exclude EEO impact.
- In the **Special Circumstances** section, indicate how much of the requested aid amount relates to your EEO.

Step 2: Work out your EEO budget

- It's important to isolate the costs of your EEO. These may include costs associated with travel required for your field study trip, or costs due to a loss of income (e.g. having to give up your part-time job to go on the field trip).
- Check with your Faculty: they may provide you with a budget sheet outlining the costs of your EEO
- If your Faculty does not provide this information, you can complete our EEO Budget Form mcgill.ca/studentaid/files/studentaid/eeo-budget-template.xlsx

Step 3: Attend a financial aid appointment

- **Call** our Office at 514-398-6013 to make an appointment with a Financial Aid Counselor (to have your appointment at Macdonald Campus, please call 514-398-7992).
- **Bring** the following supporting documents to your appointment:
 - The completed EEO Budget form (or other budget document), which serves to isolate the costs/resources relating to the specific opportunity.
 - Unless already recorded on your transcript, a written approval from your faculty confirming your approval to participate in the Field Semester.
- Your appointment can address your EEO as part of a more holistic discussion about aid or focus solely on an EEO that you wish to explore.

Decision times:

Final assessments can only take place once your plans are firm and you have provided final supporting documentation. The decision is posted on the **Financial Aid/Awards** tab on Minerva and, if your application is successful, it is followed by an email, which will contain important information about your award. Bursaries are disbursed to coincide with out-of-pocket expenses.