

15 Field Studies and Study Abroad Opportunities

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Besides the many academic resources McGill offers on campus, there are also unparalleled opportunities to enrich your educational experience through exchange programs, internships, field study programs and McGill courses taught abroad. Through a series of international agreements, students can spend a semester studying at one of 500 universities in 30 countries while registering and paying tuition at McGill. Several faculties at McGill have internship programs that provide valuable work experience. A number of field study semesters offer hands-on experience as students put theory into practice.

15.1 Field Studies

McGill offers students a chance to put theory into practice through local, regional, and international field study programs and individual courses. Field studies provide practical experience and a chance to integrate and apply knowledge gained in the classroom. In many cases, field courses can be counted towards major program requirements. Students should see their adviser for details.

Field Study Semesters are packages of McGill courses aimed at upper year students which focus on the physical and social aspects of the environment. They are offered in various regions around the world in either the Fall or Winter Term. Currently, Field Study Semesters are offered in East Africa (Kenya or Tanzania), Barbados, and Panama. Enrolment is limited, and application deadlines and costs vary, so students should consult the relevant sections of the Calendar for details. Students who are interested in participating should begin planning their courses well in advance of the Field Study semester, as some of the field courses require prerequisites.

15.1.1 African Field Study Semester

Note: The AFSS will only be offered in 2005-06 pending approval by the Dean of Science.

Website: www.mcgill.ca/africa

The African Field Study Semester (AFSS) is run through McGill's Canadian Field Study in Africa Program (CFSIA).

The AFSS provides one term of integrated field study in East Africa, with emphasis on environmental conservation. Students investigate challenges of sustaining biological diversity and social justice in African environments subject to cultural change, economic development and environmental stress. Cultural and ecological variation is examined in high-land, montane, rangeland, desert, riverine, salt and fresh water lake, coastal, and urban settings.

McGill students should note that although the AFSS is not a degree program (such as a Minor or Minor Concentration), its 15 credits constitute a full single-term credit load that can be counted towards certain McGill degrees with the permission of program advisers.

Students from other universities are eligible to apply to the McGill CFSIA and must also meet the criteria for admission to McGill as a Visiting Student. Please see the Website for details.

The AFSS comprises 15 credits of field study courses. Two courses (6 credits) in the natural and social sciences provide interdisciplinary academic context for field study. The other 9 credits are taken from course offerings in two thematic areas and Special Topics.

Visit the AFSS Website www.mcgill.ca/africa, or go to www.mcgill.ca (Course Calendars) in July for details of program updates.

Offered: Winter term.

Location: East Africa.

Enrolment Limit: 40 students.

Fees: In addition to the regular McGill fees, students will be required to pay the additional costs associated with delivering the courses in the field. These costs include airfare, local travel, all food and accommodation, special admission fees for parks and museums as well as other field costs. Airfares and currency fluctuation will determine the amount of this charge. The 2005 trip costs \$13,550. The actual cost for 2006 may be lower and will be determined by September 2005.

Application Deadline: April 30, 2005

Application Details: Students must submit a letter of intent, a CV, a copy of their transcript and two reference letters to June Connolly in the Geography Department office, Room 705, Burnside Hall. Depending on space, there will be a second intake with a deadline date of November 1, 2005.

Prerequisites: The AFSS is intended for students in their final two years.

AFRICAN FIELD STUDY SEMESTER (15 credits)

Required Courses (6 credits)

ANTH 315 (3) Society/Culture: East Africa
NRSC 300 (3) Natural History: East Africa

Complementary Courses (9 credits)

3-9 credits from thematic areas:

Courses include:

Area A - Biodiversity and conservation in Africa
BIOL 328 (3) Biological Diversity in Africa
NUTR 403* (3) Nutrition in Society
WILD 420* (3) Ornithology
WILD 421* (3) Wildlife Conservation

* Offered on a rotational basis, at least 3 credits annually

Area B - Environment and development in Africa

Courses

include:

ANTH 416 (3) Environment/Development Africa
GEOG 404* (3) Environmental Management
GEOG 416* (3) Africa South of the Sahara

* Offered on a rotational basis, at least 3 credits annually

0-6 credits, special topics

AFRI480 (3) Special Topics

AFRI481 (3) Special Topics

ENVR380 (3) Topics in Environment 1

ENVR480 (3) Topics in Environment 2

INTD490 (3) Development Field Research

Students may take Special Topics in the African Studies, the MSE, or in Development Studies, or in their home departments, with permission of their program adviser and an AFSS director.

15.1.2 Barbados Field Study Semester

Website: www.mcgill.ca/mse/field_study/barbados.

The Barbados Field Study Semester (BFSS) provides one term of integrated field study for students with an interest in global issues related to natural resource use as affected by socio-economic, management, urban and physical constraints. Offered at the Bellairs Research Institute in Barbados, this program challenges students to be more effective environmental decision makers, policy makers, urban planners, managers, and auditors. There is a growing need for professionals with such skills at all levels of government, within NGOs, and in the private sector. The overall goal of the BFSS is to equip future leaders to address the complexity of issues associated with the formulation and implementation of organizational strategies compatible with the societal goal of sustainable use and development of our natural resources, with a focus on water.

The BFSS is intended for senior undergraduate students from across the University and students in the School of Urban Planning. Students must apply to participate in the program. Selection will be based on the student's academic standing and demonstrated interests and involvement in international issues related to natural resource use.

The semester is not a degree program, but credits can be counted toward certain McGill degrees with the permission of program advisers.

Offered: Fall Term.

Location: Bellairs Research Institute in Barbados.

Enrolment Limit: 25 students

Fees: In addition to the regular McGill fees, students will be required to pay the additional costs associated with delivering the courses in the field. These costs include airfare, accommodation and most food, as well as other field costs. Although airfares and currency fluctuation will determine the exact cost, fees for 2006 are expected to be in the neighbourhood of \$7,000 CDN.

Quebec residents may be eligible for a financial subsidy from the Ministry of Education, see section 15.2.6.2 "Quebec Ministry of Education Travel Awards for Quebec Residents".

Application Deadline: March 17, 2006

Application Details: Students must submit a letter of intent, a CV and a copy of their transcript to the Department of Biore-source Engineering, c/o Ms. susan.gregus.mcgill.ca. Further details are available on the Web at www.mcgill.ca/mse/field_study/barbados.

Prerequisites: None

BARBADOS FIELD STUDY SEMESTER

(15 credits)

Required Courses (6 credits)

AGRI413 (3) Globalization: Issues of Change

URBP507 (3) Planning and Infrastructure

Complementary Courses (9 credits)

one of the following cross-listed courses:

AGRI452 (3) Water Resources in Barbados

CIVE452 (3) Water Resources in Barbados

and one of the following cross-listed project courses:

AGRI519 (6) Sustainable Development Plans

CIVE519 (6) Sustainable Development Plans

URBP519 (6) Sustainable Development Plans

15.1.3 Panama Field Study Semester

Website: www.mcgill.ca/mse/field_study/panama

This program is a joint venture between McGill University and the Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute (STRI) in Panama.

Hands-on experience is gained through a research project organized around multidisciplinary environmental issues. The nature of these projects will centre on practical environmental problems/questions important for Panama. Students will form a team that will work with Panamanian institutions (NGO, governmental or research).

There is one week of transition and 12 weeks of course attendance in Panama. Field trips will be integrated into each of the courses offered.

Offered: Winter Term.

Location: Offered at Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute (STRI) in Panama.

Enrolment Limit: 25 students.

Fees: In addition to the regular McGill fees, students will be required to pay the additional costs associated with delivering the courses in the field. These costs include airfare, accommodation and most food, as well as other field costs. Although airfares and currency fluctuation will determine the exact cost, fees for 2006 are expected to be in the neighbourhood of \$4,200 CDN.

Quebec residents may be eligible for a financial subsidy from the Ministry of Education, see section 15.2.6.2 "Quebec Ministry of Education Travel Awards for Quebec Residents".

Application Deadline: March 15, 2005 for January 2006 (Winter Term of the academic year 2005-06).

Application Details: Students must submit a letter of intent, CV, and copy of their transcript to: Susan Gabe, Biology Undergraduate Office, Stewart Biology Building, Room W4/8. E-mail: susan.gabe@mcgill.ca. Telephone: (514) 398-7045.

Prerequisites: HISP218 Spanish Language Elementary or equivalent proficiency, and MATH203 Principles of Statistics 1 or equivalent. A GPA of 3.00 and higher is recommended. The program is aimed at undergraduate students in their final year.

PANAMA FIELD STUDY SEMESTER

(15 credits)

Required Courses (9credits)

BIOL553 (3) Neotropical Environments

ENVR451 (6) Research in Panama

Complementary Courses (6credits)

One of the following sets:

Offered in Winter 2006 –

AGRI550 (3) Sustained Tropical Agriculture

GEOG498 (3) Humans in Tropical Environments

Offered in Winter 2007 –

GEOG404 (3) Environmental Management 2

SOCI565 (3) Social Change in Panama

15.1.4 Study Away from McGill

In addition to studying at another university as part of an officially recognized McGill exchange program, students may be permitted to register on their own as a visiting student at another accredited university for a term or a year away.

To be eligible, students must be in satisfactory standing and have maintained a CGPA of not less than 2.70. In addition, students would normally be entering the year prior to their graduation

year. Permission must be obtained from the Student Affairs Office of one's faculty.

15.2 Exchange Programs

International exchanges help students develop the life skills they need to adapt to the rapid pace of change in the global environment. McGill students can study on exchange while paying McGill tuition and earning credits towards their McGill degree.

15.2.1 Student Abroad Options

There are three types of Study Abroad options available:

15.2.1.1 Bilateral Student Exchanges

Bilateral student exchange agreements are tuition exchange agreements that exist between McGill University and one other institution, which have been reviewed and approved by McGill. McGill University has bilateral agreements in many countries including: Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, France, Germany, Hong Kong, Italy, Japan, Korea, Mexico, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Singapore, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, Turkey, the United Kingdom, and the United States of America. Exchange programs can be university-wide or faculty-specific. Faculty-specific agreements are only open to students in the specified faculty. The full listing of bilateral partners can be found on www.mcgill.ca/studyabroad.f

15.2.1.2 CRÉPUQ Exchanges

The Conférence des recteurs et principaux des universités du Québec has established tuition exchange agreements in which all Quebec university students may participate, regardless of whether or not they are Quebec residents. The listing of CRÉPUQ partners is accessible from echanges-etudiants.crepuq.qc.ca.

15.2.1.3 Study Away On Your Own

Students who wish to study as a Visiting student at a university with which McGill does not have a student exchange agreement must consult the Student Affairs Office of their McGill faculty, as well as the Admissions Office of the university to which they are applying regarding application requirements. Students pay tuition to the host institution.

15.2.2 Canadian University Study Abroad Program (CUSAP)

The opportunity for international study is also available to McGill students through the Canadian University Study Abroad Program (CUSAP). CUSAP offers programs of study at Herstmonceux, a 15th-century castle in East Sussex, England, housing the International Study Centre. Classes in CUSAP are offered in a seminar setting, and provide students with an enriched academic experience through daily interaction with other students and instructors. CUSAP is open to both first-year and upper-year students.

15.2.3 Universitas 21

The Universitas 21 Consortium is an international network of leading research-intensive universities whose objective is to assist members' plans for internationalisation, particularly in facilitating student exchanges and short-term research visits. McGill University currently has bilateral student exchange agreements with the following institutions within the U21 Consortium: National University of Singapore, Lund University, University of Birmingham, University of Auckland, University of Edinburgh, University of British Columbia, University of Hong Kong, University of Glasgow, University of New South Wales, University of Melbourne, University of Queensland, University of Nottingham, and University of Virginia.

15.2.4 Eligibility

Student exchange programs are open to McGill students of all nationalities. To participate, applicants must be currently registered as full-time, degree-seeking McGill students, meet the criteria of their faculty at McGill, and have a minimum CGPA of 3.0. Applicants must have completed at least one year of full-time study by the start of the exchange. Students can participate in exchanges for one term or for a full academic year (two terms).

15.2.5 Applying for an Exchange

Complete application details are found in the Student Exchanges and Study Abroad how-to guide, "Steps to a Successful Exchange", available on the Web at www.mcgill.ca/studyabroad.

15.2.5.1 Getting Started

- Research the country and host institution(s). Information is available for consultation in the Documentation Area of the Student Exchanges and Study Abroad Office.
- Check the faculty requirements for participating in an exchange.
- Ask a McGill professor for an academic letter of recommendation.
- Discuss course selection with the department/faculty adviser.

15.2.5.2 Deadlines

The deadline to submit an application to participate in a student exchange for one or two terms of the 2006-2007 academic year is Monday, February 6, 2006. **Your Faculty Approval** deadline to participate in an exchange is at least five (5) business days prior to this deadline.

Applications are submitted in person at the Student Exchanges and Study Abroad Office.

15.2.5.3 Bilateral or CREPUQ

If a university appears on both the Bilateral and CRÉPUQ listings of exchange partners, you must apply under the bilateral agreement. Your two exchange destination choices must be from the same type of agreement, either bilateral or CRÉPUQ.

15.2.6 Awards and Financial Assistance

15.2.6.1 Travel Awards

A number of travel awards are available for eligible candidates. Complete information on available travel awards can be found in the how-to guide, Steps to a Successful Exchange. Questions may be directed to exchaward.arr@mcgill.ca.

15.2.6.2 Quebec Ministry of Education Travel Awards for Quebec Residents

The Quebec Government has made awards available for Quebec residents (as defined by the rules established by the Ministry of Education of Quebec) pursuing an Exchange or Study Abroad Program outside of the province of Quebec.

Undergraduate students must have completed 24 McGill credits with a minimum CGPA of 2.7 prior to the start of their Exchange or Study Abroad Program to be eligible to apply for the Award.

15.2.7 McGill Scholarships and Awards

For students who are pursuing an approved program of study, renewable scholarships and awards may be retained for up to one year while on exchange. However, they will not be eligible for McGill's yearly in-course awards.

15.2.8 Financial Assistance

Students participating in an official McGill University exchange program are eligible to apply for government student assistance as a McGill student, but are not eligible for McGill Student Aid. Students who "study away on their own" are not eligible to receive government student loans through McGill because they are not

registered at McGill. Students should verify with the institution they will be attending whether or not they will be eligible to receive government student assistance.

15.2.9 Transfer of Credits from Host Institution

Grades received from the host institution do not appear on the McGill transcript nor are they calculated in the McGill CGPA. The McGill transcript includes a notation of participation in an exchange, the number of transfer credits granted by McGill, and where applicable, McGill course exemptions.

The transfer of credits process must be initiated by the student immediately upon return from exchange with the faculty Student Affairs office, and be completed no later than six months after the return.

Before leaving the host institution, students should order two (2) copies of the official transcript for their files, and ensure that the institutions sends an official version of the transcript to the Student Exchanges and Study Abroad Office at McGill.

15.2.10 Further Information and the SESA Office

Additional details regarding study abroad, including application procedures, application forms, eligibility criteria, travel awards, the CUSAP program are contained in the must-have document, "Steps to a Successful Exchange", on the Web at www.mcgill.ca/studyabroad, or from the Student Exchanges and Study Abroad Office located in:

James Administration Annex Building
845 Sherbrooke Street West
Montreal, QC H3A 2T5
Telephone: (514) 398-8342
E-mail: studentexchanges@mcgill.ca

In person: Student Exchanges and Study Abroad Office located in the James Administration Building Annex.

15.3 Internships and Co-op Programs

For information on Internships and Co-op Programs, see [section 4.8.1 "Internships and Co-op Programs"](#).

15.4 Quebec Inter-University Transfer Agreement (IUT)

For information on Quebec Inter-University Transfer Agreement (IUT), see [section 4.3.4 "Quebec Inter-University Transfer Agreement \(IUT\)"](#).

