



**Study Abroad and Field Studies (Undergraduate)
Programs, Courses and University Regulations
2023-2024**

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This publication provides guidance to prospects, applicants, students, faculty and staff.

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Note: Throughout this publication, "you" refers to students newly admitted, readmitted or returning to McGill.

Publication Information

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1 Opportunities for Field Study and Study Abroad

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 off-campus and abroad. The following sections provide information regarding opportunities in the following categories:

- [section 2: Field Study Semesters and Off-Campus Courses](#) – Participate in programs and courses offered by McGill University in local, regional, and international settings as a complement to classroom learning.
- [section 3: Internships and Co-op Programs](#) – Participate in partnerships offered through McGill to gain valuable on-the-job knowledge in your field.
- [section 4: Exchange Programs](#) – Study at one of McGill's partner universities while earning credit at McGill, and paying McGill tuition.
- [section 5: Independent Study Away](#) – Independently study away at another university while earning credit at McGill. Tuition is paid directly to the host university.

2 Field Study Semesters and Off-Campus Courses

McGill offers you a chance to put theory into practice through local, regional, and international field study semesters 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 toward major program requirements. You should see your adviser for details.

Field Study Semesters are packages of McGill courses aimed at upper-year students that focus on the physical and social aspects of the environment. They are offered in various regions around the world in the Summer, Fall, or Winter terms. Currently, Field Study Semesters are offered in East Africa (Kenya, Uganda, and Tanzania; see [section 2.1.1: Africa Field Study Semester](#)), the Canadian Arctic (Axel Heiberg Island; see [section 2.1.2: Arctic Field Study Semester](#)), Barbados (see [section 2.1.3: Barbados Field Semester](#) and [section 2.1.4: Barbados Interdisciplinary Tropical Studies Field Semester](#)), and Panama (see [section 2.1.5: Panama Field Study Semester](#)). Enrolment is limited, and application deadlines and costs vary, so you should consult the relevant sections of this publication for details. If you are interested in participating, you should begin planning your courses before the Field Study semester, as some of the field courses may require prerequisites.

Students participating in any one of the field study semesters—i.e., the Africa Field Study Semester (AFSS), the Arctic Field Study Semester (MAFS), the Barbados Field Study Semester (BFSS), the Barbados Interdisciplinary Tropical Studies (BITS) Field Study Semester, or the Panama Field Study Semester (PFSS)—may complete the 18-credit Minor in Field Studies. See [section 2.1: Field Study Minor](#) for details.

Off-campus McGill courses are also offered to you and sometimes require separate departmental application. The courses are typically offered during the summer months and can be offered in places as varied as Italy, Mexico, or Brazil, and in disciplines in arts, engineering (including architecture), science, law, or management. See [section 2.3: Off-Campus Courses](#).

2.1 Field Study Minor

General Information:

Email: ifso.science@mcgill.ca

Burnside Hall, Room 720

Field Study Minor Adviser (Faculty of Science):

Science Office for Undergraduate Student Advising (SOUSA)

Dawson Hall, 853 Sherbrooke Street West, Room 405

Curtis Sharman

Telephone: 514-398-5442

Email: curtis.sharman@mcgill.ca

Website: mcgill.ca/science/undergraduate/advice/sousa

For more information and course lists, see [Faculty of Science > Undergraduate > Browse Academic Units & Programs > Field Study > : Field Studies - Minor Field Studies \(18 credits\)](#).

2.1.1 Africa Field Study Semester

Website: mcgill.ca/africa

The Africa Field Study Semester comprises 15 credits of field study courses. Two context courses (6 credits) in the natural and social sciences provide interdisciplinary academic context for field study. The other 9 credits are taken from the complementary courses list.

Visit the [Africa website](#), or refer to [Faculty of Science > Undergraduate > Browse Academic Units & Programs > Field Study > : Field Studies - Minor Field Studies \(18 credits\)](#), for the latest program updates.

Offered: Winter term

Location: East Africa

Enrolment limit: 38 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 local travel, all food and accommodation, special admission fees for parks and museums, as well as other field costs. Fee details for the upcoming semester are available at [mcgill.ca/africa/program-fees](#).

Application deadline: May 30, 2023 for January 2024 departure (Winter term of the 2023-2024 academic year). Depending on space, there will be a second intake with a deadline date of August 15, 2023.

Application details: Students must submit:

- the online application (available at [mcgill.ca/africa/application](#))
- a copy of their transcript
- a letter of intent
- one reference letter
- a CV

to the Internship and Field Studies Office in the Faculty of Science:

Internships & Field Studies Office
Burnside Hall, Room 720
Telephone: 514-398-1063; 514-398-8365
Email: ifso.science@mcgill.ca
Website: [mcgill.ca/science/undergraduate/internships-field](#)

Prerequisites: The Africa Field Study Semester is intended for students in their final two years. A CGPA of 3.00 and higher is recommended.

Students from other universities are eligible to apply to the Africa Field Study Semester and must also meet the criteria for admission to McGill as a Visiting Student. Please see the Africa website at [mcgill.ca/africa](#) for details.

For more information and course lists, see [Faculty of Science > Undergraduate > Browse Academic Units & Programs > Field Study > : Field Studies - Minor Field Studies \(18 credits\)](#).

Field Study Minor Adviser

- Interdisciplinary Programs Adviser
- Science Office for Undergraduate Student Advising (SOUSA)
- McGill University, Faculty of Science
- 411 Dawson Hall, 853 Sherbrooke Street West
- Montreal, Quebec, Canada H3A 0G5
- For general inquiries: adviser.science@mcgill.ca
- Curtis Sharman
- curtis.sharman@mcgill.ca

2.1.2 Arctic Field Study Semester

****This program is currently not offered.****

The **McGill Arctic Field Study Semester** comprises 15 credits of field study courses. Two courses (6 credits) provide the background to complete an independent research project. The other 9 credits are taken from Atmospheric & Oceanic Sciences, Earth & Planetary Sciences, and Geography.

Visit the [Arctic website](#) or refer to [Faculty of Science > Undergraduate > Browse Academic Units & Programs > Field Study > : Field Studies - Minor Field Studies \(18 credits\)](#) for the latest program updates.

Offered: Summer term

Location: Central Axel Heiberg Island in the Canadian High Arctic

Enrolment Limit: 10 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. Fee details for the upcoming semester are available at [mcgill.ca/arctic/program-fees](#).

Application Deadline: ****This program is currently not offered.****

Application Details: Students must submit:

- the online application form (available at mcgill.ca/arctic/apply-now);
- a letter of intent;
- one reference letter;
- a CV; and
- a copy of their transcript

to the Internship and Field Studies Office in the Faculty of Science:

Science Internship & Field Studies Office
Burnside Hall, Room 720
Telephone: 514-398-1063; 514-398-8365
Email: ifso.science@mcgill.ca
Website: mcgill.ca/science/student/internships-field

Prerequisites: The Arctic Field Study Semester is intended for students in their final two years. A CGPA of 3.00 and higher is recommended.

For more information and course lists, see [Faculty of Science > Undergraduate > Browse Academic Units & Programs > Field Study > : Field Studies - Minor Field Studies \(18 credits\)](#).

2.1.3 Barbados Field Semester

Website: mcgill.ca/bfss

Offered: Fall term

Location: Bellairs Research Institute in Barbados

Enrolment limit: 20 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 accommodation and most food, as well as other field costs; they do not include airfare. Fee details for the upcoming semester are available at mcgill.ca/bfss/cost.

Students enrolled in the Barbados Field Study Semester (BFSS) program may be eligible for a Mobility Bursary for Exchanges: see mcgill.ca/studentaid/special-funding/mobility-exchanges for details.

Application deadline: April 28 2023. The deadline is for admission to the Fall 2023 semester.

Application details: Students must submit:

- the online application form available at mcgill.ca/bfss/apply-now;
- a letter of intent;
- a CV; and
- a copy of their transcript

by email to ifso.science@mcgill.ca. Further details are available at mcgill.ca/bfss.

Prerequisites: None

For more information and course lists, see [Faculty of Science > Undergraduate > Browse Academic Units & Programs > Field Study > : Field Studies - Minor Field Studies \(18 credits\)](#).

2.1.4 Barbados Interdisciplinary Tropical Studies Field Semester

Website: mcgill.ca/bits

The Barbados Interdisciplinary Tropical Studies Field Semester is administered by the Faculty of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences. Three intensive courses run consecutively with a 6-credit project course. Courses integrate class and laboratory experiences with extensive field trips.

Offered: Summer term

Location: Bellairs Research Institute in Barbados

Enrolment Limit: 20 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 accommodation and most food, as well as other field costs; they do not include airfare. Fee details for the upcoming semester are available at mcgill.ca/bits/cost.

McGill students may be eligible for a Mobility Bursary; see mcgill.ca/studentaid/special-funding/mobility-exchanges for details.

Application Deadline: Please consult the [website](#) for upcoming deadlines.

Application Details: Students must submit:

- a letter of intent;
- a CV; and
- an application form (available on the [website](#))

by email to caroline.begg@mcgill.ca. Further details are available at mcgill.ca/bits.

Prerequisites: A CGPA of 2.5 or higher is recommended.

For more information on the field studies minor and course lists, see [Faculty of Science > Undergraduate > Browse Academic Units & Programs > Field Study > : Field Studies - Minor Field Studies \(18 credits\)](#).

2.1.5 Panama Field Study Semester

Website: mcgill.ca/pfss

Offered: Winter term

Location: Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute (STRI) in Panama

Enrolment limit: 22 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 accommodation and other field costs; they do not include airfare, food, or other living expenses. Fee details for the upcoming semester are available at mcgill.ca/pfss/cost.

Students can apply for the Enriched Educational Opportunities need-based bursary (EEOs). See mcgill.ca/studentaid/special-funding/eeo for details.

Application deadline: April 30, 2023 for the January 2024 Departure (Winter term of the 2023–2024 academic year).

**: Please note that at time of publication, the application deadline was tentative and is subject to change. Please liaise with [pfss](#) for further details.*

Application details: Students must submit:

- the online application (available at mcgill.ca/pfss/application);
- a copy of their transcript;
- a letter of intent; and
- a CV

to the Internship and Field Studies Office in the Faculty of Science:

Internships & Field Studies Office
Burnside Hall, Room 720
Telephone: 514-398-1063; 514-398-8365
Email: jfo.science@mcgill.ca
Website: mcgill.ca/science/undergraduate/internships-field

Prerequisites: HISP 218 Spanish Language Intensive - Elementary or equivalent proficiency, and MATH 203 Principles of Statistics 1 or equivalent. A CGPA of 3.00 and higher is recommended. The program is aimed at undergraduate students in their final year.

For more information and course lists, see [Faculty of Science > Undergraduate > Browse Academic Units & Programs > Field Study > : Field Studies - Minor Field Studies \(18 credits\)](#).

2.2 Off-Campus Summer Programs

McGill offers the following off-campus summer programs.

2.2.1 Desautels Faculty of Management

Courses are given abroad in the Summer session and cover essentially the same material as the equivalent courses given in Montreal. They will, however, be heavily influenced by the local business environment. Courses are offered in various locations.

For the most up-to-date information concerning Summer Abroad courses, please visit the Minerva Class Schedule at mcgill.ca/minerva.

Application details: For registration and/or advising, please contact the BCom Student Affairs Office at 514-398-4068.

2.2.2 Faculty of Engineering

The FACC 501 Technology Business Plan Project course, normally offered during the Winter term, includes a trip to Israel the following August—also known as the "Israel Start-Up Nation" experiential study trip. This course offers a unique entrepreneurial and cultural experience and is open to students across the University.

Further information is available on the [McGill Abroad website](#).

2.3 Off-Campus Courses

McGill offers a number of off-campus courses.

2.3.1 Animal Science

The following course is offered off campus by the Department of Animal Science.

Off-Campus Animal Science Course

AGRI 325	(3)	Sustainable Agriculture and Food Security
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2.3.2 Architecture

The following course is offered off campus by the School of Architecture.

Off-Campus Architecture Courses

ARCH 379	(3)	Summer Course Abroad
ARCH 519	(3)	Field Course Abroad

2.3.3 Biology

The Faculty of Science offers the following biology courses off campus.

Off-Campus Biology Courses

BIOL 240	(3)	Monteregian Flora
BIOL 331	(3)	Ecology/Behaviour Field Course
BIOL 334D1/BIOL 334D2	(3)	Applied Tropical Ecology
BIOL 335	(3)	Marine Mammals
BIOL 573	(3)	Vertebrate Palaeontology Field Course

2.3.4 Earth & Planetary Sciences

The following courses are two-week field studies (May) in selected branches of the geosciences to examine processes in geology.

Off-Campus Earth & Planetary Sciences Courses

EPSC 231	(3)	Field School 1
EPSC 331	(3)	Field School 2

2.3.5 Geography

The Faculty of Science offers the following Geography courses off campus.

Off-Campus Geography Courses

GEOG 290	(1)	Local Geographical Excursion
GEOG 425	(3)	Southeast Asia Urban Field Studies
GEOG 494	(3)	Urban Field Studies
GEOG 495	(3)	Field Studies - Physical Geography
GEOG 496	(3)	Geographical Excursion
GEOG 499	(3)	Subarctic Field Studies

2.3.6 History & Classical Studies

The Department of History and Classical Studies offers the following field courses.

Off-Campus History & Classical Studies Courses

CLAS 349	(3)	Archaeology Fieldwork: Italy
HIST 262	(3)	Mediterranean and European Interconnections

3 Internships and Co-op Programs

For information on internships and co-op programs, refer to [University Regulations and Resources > Undergraduate > : Internships, Exchanges, and Co-op Programs](#), or the [Internship Offices Network website](#).

4 Exchange Programs

Exchanges allow McGill students to complete a semester or year of study at a partner university. Students explore, learn, and grow abroad, all while earning credit toward their McGill degree and paying McGill tuition.

Student exchange agreements are bilateral exchange agreements that exist between McGill University and peer institutions which have been reviewed and approved by McGill. The number of exchange spaces available at the host institution are limited, and vary from year to year. McGill students nominated to participate on an exchange term abroad are billed McGill tuition and fees for that term (equivalent to 15 McGill credits). McGill University has agreements with over 150 universities in 39 countries around the world. Exchange programs can be university-wide or faculty-specific. Faculty-specific agreements are only open to students in the specified faculty.

Explore [McGill exchange partners](#).

4.1 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, and meet the criteria of their faculty at McGill. Applicants must have completed at least one year of full-time study (24 McGill credits) by the start of the exchange. Students can participate in exchanges for one term or two terms, dependent on faculty approval and space availability.

Visit mcgill.ca/mcgillabroad/go-abroad/steps/apply for up-to-date information on how to apply to the McGill exchange program.

4.2 Applying to go on Exchange

Applications must be submitted on Minerva. The McGill application for Fall (including full-year exchanges) will be open from December to mid-January. Winter application dates are to be confirmed. Please check the website for updates. For Faculty of Law application deadlines, click [here](#).

Detailed information on the application process, eligibility criteria and deadlines can be found on the McGill Abroad website: mcgill.ca/mcgillabroad/go-abroad/steps/apply.

4.3 Exchanges Within Quebec

The BCI (*Bureau de coopération interuniversitaire*, previously known as CREPUQ) offers a Quebec Inter-University Transfer Agreement (IUT). Through this agreement, students registered at any Quebec university can take courses at any other of the province's universities for credit toward a degree at their home university. For more information, refer to mcgill.ca/students/iut.

4.4 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.

Students can begin the transfer of credits process once they have registered at the host institution and have obtained course syllabi. For more detailed information, students should consult their faculty Student Affairs Office. The transfer credits process should be completed within the shortest delay possible after the end of the exchange term.

Before leaving the host institution, students should order two (2) copies of the official transcript for their files, and ensure that the institution sends an official version of the transcript to Enrolment Services at officialschooldocs@mcgill.ca. Questions regarding transcripts can be directed to [Student Exchanges](#).

5 Independent Study Away

Unlike an exchange, participating in an Independent Study Away means that you apply and pay tuition to your host university independently as a visiting student. This program is an opportunity to go abroad to a destination not covered by McGill's already existing exchange destinations. You must consult the Student Affairs Office of your McGill faculty, as well as the Admissions Office of the university to which you are applying regarding application requirements.

Contact information for your faculty's Student Affairs Office is available at mcgill.ca/students/advising/advisordirectory.

6 Funding Opportunities for Going Abroad

Awards and financial assistance are available to students to help with the cost of going abroad. Further information, as well as application deadlines and eligibility requirements, can be found in the following sections and on the [McGill Abroad website](#).

6.1 Government Student Financial Assistance

Students participating in an official McGill exchange program show as registered full-time on their McGill transcript. As such, Canadian students participating in an official McGill exchange program are eligible to apply for [government student financial assistance](#). American students participating in an official McGill exchange are eligible to apply for their federal aid (Title IV U.S. Direct Loans) within certain constraints and are strongly advised to consult the [Scholarships and Student Aid Office](#) for more details.

Students who take part in an Independent Study Away (i.e., “study away on their own”) are not eligible to receive government aid through McGill, as they are registered at their host institution. Students should verify with the institution they will be attending whether or not they will be eligible to receive government student financial assistance.

6.2 McGill Scholarships and Awards

For students who hold renewable scholarships and awards, these may be retained for up to one year while on exchange, however will not be eligible for McGill's yearly in-course scholarships and awards. For further information, please refer to the [Regulations for Award Recipients](#) under “Term or Year Award for Academic Reasons”, consult the unit who administers the award, or contact studentexchanges@mcgill.ca.

Students are encouraged to inquire with their individual faculties who may offer travel-related awards available by application.

6.3 McGill's Mobility Bursaries for Exchanges

The University recognises that the additional costs of going on an official McGill University exchange may be difficult for some students to assume on their own. Thanks to the Quebec government's Programme de mobilité international et de courts séjours à l'extérieur du Québec (PMICSE), McGill is able to help defray these costs for students who otherwise could not afford to participate. This program is administered by the Scholarships & Student Aid Office, and is based on demonstrated financial need. The application is available to any undergraduate student approved for an eligible exchange semester abroad. Further information, as well as application deadlines and eligibility, can be found on the [McGill Abroad website](#) or at [Mobility Bursaries for Exchanges](#).

6.4 McGill's Enriched Educational Opportunities (EEO) Bursaries

The EEO Bursary Program is administered by the Scholarships & Student Aid Office, to help defray costs or forgone earnings for students who wish to participate in Field Semesters, Field Courses, as well as unpaid off-campus Internships and Research opportunities. Allocation is based on demonstrated financial need. Further information, as well as application information and eligibility requirements can be found on the [McGill Abroad website](#) or at [EEO Bursaries](#).

7 Further Information about Global Learning Opportunities Offered to McGill Students

For more details regarding the global learning opportunities offered to McGill students—as well as application procedures, deadlines, eligibility criteria, etc.—visit the [McGill Abroad website](#). Students can also contact Student Exchanges through Service Point for related inquiries: mcgill.ca/servicepoint/contact.