International Graduate Students Welcome

School of Graduate Studies
Fall 2020

September 9, 2020
Land Acknowledgement

McMaster University recognizes and acknowledges that it is located on the traditional territories of the Mississauga and Haudenosaunee nations, and within the lands protected by the Dish With One Spoon wampum agreement.
Today’s Overview

- Welcome from the Dean
- School of Graduate Studies
- Campus & Community Resources
- Upcoming Events
- Q&A
Dr. Doug Welch
Vice-Provost and Dean of Graduate Studies

Welcome to McMaster
Welcome from your Associate Dean

Video playlist: https://gs.mcmaster.ca/ive-accepted-my-offer/graduate-student-orientation/

WELCOME TO McMaster!

Messages from our Dean and Associate Deans in the School of Graduate studies:

- Doug Welch, Vice-Provost and Dean of Graduate Studies
- Khaled Hassanein, Associate Dean of Graduate Studies and Research, Business
- Michael Thompson, Associate Dean of Graduate Studies, Engineering
- Steven Hanna, Associate Dean of Graduate Studies, Health Sciences
- Martin Horn, Associate Dean of Graduate Studies and Research, Humanities
- Audrey Hicks, Acting Associate Dean of Graduate Studies, Science
- James Gillett, Associate Dean of Graduate Studies and Research, Social Sciences
School of Graduate Studies (SGS)

- Central administration and resources for all faculties:
  - Admissions & Graduation
  - PhD defenses
  - Rules & regulations
  - Forms and policies
- Scholarships and Awards
- Graduate Student Life team
- International Graduate Students Coordinator
Contact Grad Studies

Welcome to our “front desk”

Email askgrad@mcmaster.ca for:

- Issues related to enrollment, retrieving online letters from Mosaic, student photo upload, etc.
- Requests to update your record: name change, citizenship change, etc.
- Signature for CPP forms
- Information on petitions such as leaves of absence, withdrawals, transferring programs, etc.

Program specific questions, such as questions about requirements for your degree, courses to take, funding, etc., should be asked to your program directly.

September 9, 2020
Scholarships

- International students may only apply to merit-based scholarships.
- These scholarships are only available in course, which means that students must be fully enrolled to be able to apply.
- The application period opens October 1st and closes in early December.

Applications are managed through AwardSpring:
- The AwardSpring login tile can be found on your Mosaic home page.
- Students complete one application to be matched with all eligible awards.
- It tracks the completion of any additional application requirements on a user-friendly dashboard.

Additional questions: graduatescholarships@mcmaster.ca
Payments

- Payments for scholarship and employment will be deposited directly into your Canadian bank account.
- Depending on the type of payments you receive, you may have to update the information in 2 places:
  - Student Center (in Mosaic) – Scholarship Funds (Graduate Scholarship, Entrance Scholarship, Department Scholarship, External Scholarship, Tuition Bursaries)
  - Human Resources – Research Scholarship, TA, and/or RA in lieu of TA.

If you’re not in Canada

- Sufficient scholarship funds will be transferred from your funding package to offset tuition and supplementary fees for the Fall 2020 Term.

Additional Questions: gradpay@mcmaster.ca
• You must have a Social Insurance Number and a Canadian bank account.
• The exact conditions of your work allowance, as determined by the Canadian Government, is outlined on your study permit.
• You may work up to average of 10 hours on-campus.
• Update your direct deposit information on Mosaic and Human Resources

If you’re not in Canada

• Due to employment requirements, we are unable to provide TA opportunity until you arrive in Canada
• TA and RA opportunities outlined in your offer letter is still valid and will be arranged once you arrive
Reminders

To do:
• Activate your MacID and email
• Upload your student card photo
• Update your personal information

Key dates:
• September 9: late registration deadline
• September 25: tuition deadline
• September 30: complete SGS 101 and 201
The Student Life team at School of Graduate Studies organizes events throughout the year and provides helpful resources for all graduate students.
Grad Student Events & Workshops
Webpage: https://gs.mcmaster.ca/news-and-events/

Events and workshops are a great way to:

- Meet new and returning grad students
- Get ready for Graduate School
- Meet the Grad Student Association (GSA) and International Graduate Student Association (iGSA)
- Meet staff from Grad Studies and other campus partners
- Learn more about resources available for you
- Showcase your achievements (e.g. 3-Minute Thesis competition)
Grad Student Resources
Webpage: https://gs.mcmaster.ca/current-students/resources/

• Supervisor Relationships
  o Getting the Supervisory Relationship off to a Good Start
  o Graduate Work Supervision Guidelines for Faculty and Students
• Graduate disability and accommodations
• Grad Writing
• Career and Professional Development
For important updates and information from Graduate Studies, please keep up-to-date with our emails and newsletters.
Support for International Graduate Students

International Graduate Students Coordinator

• Supports international graduate student throughout their graduate student life experience
• Plans programming that addresses and advocates for international graduate student needs
• Oversees the International Grad Navigator program
• Connects students to relevant services and resources

Email: zheny37@mcmaster.ca
One-on-one appointments available:
https://outlook.office365.com/owa/calendar/InternationalGraduateStudents@mcmaster.ca/bookings/
Recorded Summer Webinars
For International Graduate students

Five recorded summer webinars:

• International Grad Student Summer Webinar
• International Grad Student Panel Q&A
• Starting at McMaster
• Life in Hamilton and Canada
• Off-Campus Housing/Accommodations

https://gs.mcmaster.ca/ive-accepted-my-offer/international-students/#tab-content-orientation-webinars

September 9, 2020
COVID-19 Information - Arrival Reminder

The current government travel restrictions indicate international students must meet one of the two requirements to travel to Canada:

- Have a valid study permit or was approved for a study permit on or before March 18, 2020, OR
- Travelling directly from the US (with a valid/approved study permit issued at any time)

If you meet the travel exemptions above and have a confirmed arrival date for the Fall 2020 term, please contact Yufei Zheng, International Graduate Students Coordinator, at zheny37@mcmaster.ca with the following information:

1. Your full name
2. Your student number
3. Program of study
4. Date of arrival in Canada
5. Country from which you will be travelling
International Student Services (ISS)
Available to all international students at McMaster

Services include:
- Health Insurance (UHIP)
- Peer Support and Events
- Success Coaching
- Immigration and Mobility Advising

Appointments with Ana, Andrea, and Anthony can be booked on OSCARplus.

For more information, visit: iss.mcmaster.ca/
University Health Insurance Plan (UHIP)

- **Coverage Period:** September 1 - August 31
- **Cost:**
  - $720 for 12 months for single coverage
  - $1,440 for Student + 1 dependent
  - $2,160 for Student + 2 or more dependents
- Enrolling your dependents (spouse and/or children) into the UHIP plan is mandatory if they are residing in Ontario
University Health Insurance Plan (UHIP)

- **Coverage:**
  - Emergency/hospital/surgeries/blood work
  - Doctor's visit (physical or mental health at the Student Wellness Centre and outside McMaster University)
- **Vision, dental and prescription medication are not covered under the UHIP Plan.** Students do have coverage through:
  - MSU Health and Dental Plan (For Undergraduate, MBA, MELD students)
  - GSA/CUPE Health and Dental Plan (For Graduate students and TA/RAs)
- Exemptions are possible if you’re enrolled in one of the pre-approved healthcare plans (see website)

More information: [https://studentsuccess.mcmaster.ca/international-students/health-insurance/](https://studentsuccess.mcmaster.ca/international-students/health-insurance/)
If you are not in Canada for the Fall 2020 term:

• You may be exempt for the Fall term
• You will still be charged for January 1 – August 31, 2021, until further notice
• Contact Ana Pereira with information requested from the “UHIP for 2020 Fall term” email

**Important update about UHIP for 2020 Fall term**

Important message forwarded on behalf of Ana Pereira, who looks after the University Health Insurance Plan for all international students at McMaster.

UHIP is the University Health Insurance plan that is mandatory at McMaster University for ALL international grad and undergraduate students.

The plan year runs from September 1, 2020, to August 31, 2021.
MODEL & MERGE

For more information, visit: model.mcmaster.ca

MODEL:
• Lessons, workshops, and support to improve English language proficiency.
• Learn more about this service at MODEL Language and Culture event
  ○ October 1, 8:00 a.m. (EST)

MERGE:
• Breaking Down Academic & Professional Barriers for ESL Students at the Graduate Level
• 6 week intensive program
University Technology Services (UTS)

For information and support: uts.mcmaster.ca

- **Office 365**
  - Applications such as Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Outlook, and Teams are free for students with McMaster email
  - Some classes and appointments will take place on Teams

- **Virtual Private Network (VPN)**
  - Some students outside of Canada may need to use a VPN to access certain resources
  - Express VPN available for students located in China
Health and Wellness

- **Student Accessibility Services (SAS)**
  - Provides academic accommodation assistance and related supports to students with disabilities.
  - [sas.mcmaster.ca](http://sas.mcmaster.ca)

- **Student Wellness Centre (SWC)**
  - Addresses physical and mental wellness needs. Provides counselling options, medical services, and wellness programs.
  - [wellness.mcmaster.ca](http://wellness.mcmaster.ca)

- **Open Circle**
  - A diverse and consensus-based community where McMaster students can discuss life, spiritual and societal issues, as well as find volunteering opportunities available in the broader Hamilton community.
  - [opencircle.mcmaster.ca](http://opencircle.mcmaster.ca)
Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion

For information: equity.mcmaster.ca

• The Equity and Inclusion Office promotes and supports institution-wide commitments to equity, diversity, inclusion, and accessibility
  o Accessibility Policy
  o Discrimination and Harassment Policy
  o Sexual Violence Policy

• Support for activities against anti-Black racism
  o The Scholar Strike for Black Lives in Canada takes place on September 9 and 10
  o More information from Daily News: https://dailynews.mcmaster.ca/articles/academics-supporting-activities-against-anti-black-racism/
Student Groups

Student led and organized

• Graduate Students Association (GSA)
  o Operated by and for graduate students: health & dental coverage, sport leagues, the Phoenix restaurant, grad student clubs, social events, advocacy, faculty reps, subcommittees, student representation.
  o gsamcmaster.org

• International Graduate Student Association (iGSA)
  o Operated by and for international graduate students: events and advocacy for international graduate students
  o facebook.com/groups/MAC.IGSA

• Student Groups and Clubs
  o McMaster Grad Parents
  o Engineering Grad Students
  o Science Grad Student Association
  o African Caribbean Grad Students Association
  And more at https://gsamcmaster.org/clubs-list/
For TA/RAs

- **CUPE 3906**
  - [cupe3906.org](http://cupe3906.org)

Off-Campus

- **Global Hamilton Connect (GHC)**
  - Resources for all international students in Hamilton.
  - [globalhamiltonconnect.ca/](http://globalhamiltonconnect.ca/)

- **City of Hamilton**
  - Resources for new Hamiltonians
  - [https://www.hamilton.ca/moving-hamilton](https://www.hamilton.ca/moving-hamilton)
Upcoming Events

New Graduate Student Orientation
If you are starting your graduate studies in Fall 2020, visit our resource page designed just for you.

LEARN MORE
Orientation Events
For all Graduate Students

Visit the 2020 Orientation Calendar: https://gs.mcmaster.ca/ive-accepted-my-offer/graduate-student-orientation/
Specialized Events
For International Graduate Students

- Teaching in a Canadian Classroom for New TAs
  - September 10, 12:30 p.m. (EST)
- International Grads Social: Games “Night”
  - September 18, 9:00 a.m. (EST)
- MODEL Language and Culture event
  - October 1, 8:00 a.m. (EST)
Questions?
Thank You

Questions?
Contact Yufei Zheng at zheny37@mcmaster.ca