International Graduate Students Welcome

School of Graduate Studies
Winter 2021

January 12, 2021
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

- School of Graduate Studies
- Welcome from the Dean
- Campus & Community Resources
- Traveling to Canada
- Q&A
School of Graduate Studies (SGS)

- Central administration and resources for all faculties:
  - Admissions & Graduation
  - PhD defenses
  - Rules & regulations
  - Forms and policies
- Scholarships and Awards
- Grad Pay Inquiries
- 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.
International Graduate Students Scholarships:

• International students may only apply to merit-based scholarships.
  o There are only a few scholarships currently available at this time
  o Travel awards are currently open in AwardSpring until February 26th.
• These scholarships are only available in course, which means that students must be fully enrolled to be able to apply.

Applications are managed through AwardSpring:

• The AwardSpring login tile can be found your Mosaic home page
• Students completes 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.

• If you will be receiving funding from;
  • Student Center (in Mosaic) – Scholarship Funds (Graduate Scholarship, Entrance Scholarship, Department Scholarship, External Scholarship, Tuition Bursaries) these will be paid to you via e transfers.
  • Human Resources – Research Scholarship, TA, and/or RA in lieu of TA. You must provide Human Resources with your direct deposit information.

If you’re not in Canada

• Sufficient scholarship funds will be transferred from your funding package to offset tuition and supplementary fees for the Winter 2021 Term.

Additional Questions: gradpay@mcmaster.ca
Employment

Working in Canada

• 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 with Human Resources

If you’re not in Canada

• Due to employment requirements, we are unable to provide TA/RA opportunity until you arrive in Canada.
• For specific arrangement of your TA/RA positions, please contact your program or your supervisor.
Reminders

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

Key dates:
• January 25: tuition deadline
• January 31: 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 News, Events, and 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
Grad Student Resources
Webpage: https://gs.mcmaster.ca/current-students/resources/

Resources are available to support your academic journey, wellness, and life beyond school. This includes:

- Supervisor Relationships
  - Getting the Supervisory Relationship off to a Good Start
  - Graduate Work Supervision Guidelines for Faculty and Students
- Graduate disability and accommodations
- Grad Writing
- Career and Professional Development
- Student Proposals for Intellectual Community & Engaged Scholarship (SPICES)
New Graduate Student Resources

For students beginning their studies in Winter 2021

Everything you need to know to get started:

• Instructions and links to tasks and resources
• Register for events
• Resources for campus support

https://gs.mcmaster.ca/ive-accepted-my-offer/graduate-student-orientation-2/
Graduate Studies Newsletter

For important updates and information from Graduate Studies, please keep up-to-date with our emails and newsletters.
Support for International Graduate Students

- Supports international graduate student throughout their graduate student life experience
- Plans programming that addresses and advocates for international graduate student needs
- Connects students to relevant services and resources

Email: zheny37@mcmaster.ca

One-on-one appointments:
https://outlook.office365.com/owa/calendar/InternationalGraduateStudents@mcmaster.ca/bookings/
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
International Grad Navigator

Connect with another international grad students

Make a familiar connection and get support from a current international graduate student:

- Connect with a current student with shared experiences
- Access and learn about university and community resources

Register at: https://gs.mcmaster.ca/current-students/resources/international-grad-navigator/get-connected-to-an-international-grad-navigator/
Dr. Doug Welch
Vice-Provost and Dean of Graduate Studies
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/
University Health Insurance Plan (UHIP)

If you are not in Canada for the Winter 2021 term:

- You may be exempt for the Winter term
- Contact Ana Pereira with information requested

If you are arriving in Canada:

- After you have arrived, email Ana to adjust/reactivate your UHIP with:
  - Your flight itinerary
  - Student number
  - If you are arriving with your spouse and/or children, their flight itinerary and passport photo page

Ana’s email: ferreiar@mcmaster.ca
MODEL & MERGE

For more information, visit: model.mcmaster.ca

MODEL:
- Lessons, workshops, and support to improve English language proficiency.
- One-on-one help is available to address individual student needs

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
  - Human Rights and Dispute Resolution
  - Inclusion and Anti-Racism Education
  - Accessibility Program
  - Sexual Violence Prevention and Response
  - McMaster Equity and Inclusion Policies
    - Accessibility Policy
    - Discrimination and Harassment Policy
    - Sexual Violence Policy
Operated by and for international graduate students:
• Hosts social and educational events
• Advocates for international graduate students
• Co-chairs the International Graduate Student Advisory Group

Current Co-presidents: JC and Sebastian
New Co-presidents: Nikita and Pallavi

Join the group: facebook.com/groups/MAC.IGSA
Email: IGSA@mcmaster.ca
• **Graduate Students Association (GSA)**
  - 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.
  - [gsa.mcmaster.ca](http://gsa.mcmaster.ca)
  - **International Graduate Student Association (iGSA)**
    - Operated by and for international graduate students
    - [facebook.com/groups/MAC.IGSA](https://facebook.com/groups/MAC.IGSA)

• **Student Groups and Clubs**
  - [McMaster Grad Parents](https://gsamcmaster.org/clubs-list/)
  - [Engineering Grad Students](https://gsamcmaster.org/clubs-list/)
  - [Science Grad Student Association](https://gsamcmaster.org/clubs-list/)
  - [African Caribbean Grad Students Association](https://gsamcmaster.org/clubs-list/)

And more at [https://gsamcmaster.org/clubs-list/](https://gsamcmaster.org/clubs-list/)
For TA/RAs

- **CUPE 3906**
  - cupe3906.org

Off-Campus

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

- **City of Hamilton**
  - Resources for new Hamiltonians
  - https://www.hamilton.ca/moving-hamilton
Traveling to Canada
International Students Travelling to McMaster

As of January 12, 2021.

Utilizing McMaster’s approved Covid-19 Readiness Plan is mandatory.

- International grad students travelling to McMaster page: [https://gs.mcmaster.ca/international-students-travelling-to-mcmaster-university/](https://gs.mcmaster.ca/international-students-travelling-to-mcmaster-university/)
- International Student Quarantine Stays page: [https://hotel.mcmaster.ca/international-student/](https://hotel.mcmaster.ca/international-student/)

### Step 1: Prepare for travel
- Gather documents
- Plan for travel
- Inform Yufei of your arrival

### Step 2: Complete Bookings
- Book room and airport transportation
- Receive confirmation letter

### Step 3: Prepare for arrival
- Prepare documents
- Follow government requirements

### Step 4: After arrival
- Quarantine for 14 days
- Complete online processes
International Students Travelling to McMaster – Step 1

Prepare for Travel

- Get approval for study permit
- Check International Student Quarantine Stays page for available arrival dates: https://hotel.mcmaster.ca/international-student/
- Book flight to arrive on an available arrival dates
- Send confirmed travel information to Yufei
International Students Travelling to McMaster – Step 2

Complete Bookings

• You will receive two links, one for room reservation and one for airport transportation
  o The cost of room reservations and food delivery is covered by McMaster
  o You are responsible for the cost of the airport transportation service
• Complete both bookings as soon as possible and forward them to Yufei
• Yufei will issue your personalized Quarantine Confirmation Letter after both bookings are confirmed
International Students Travelling to McMaster – Step 3

Prepare for Arrival

- The booking process is complete when you receive your confirmation letter and travel reminders from Yufei
- Reminders for government requirements:
  - Submit your travel information on ArriveCAN
  - Negative COVID-19 test
International Students Travelling to McMaster – Step 4

After Arrival

- Complete the automatic check-in process
- Activate your UHIP
- Review information about upcoming COVID-19 test
- Apply for your SIN online: https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/services/sin/apply.html
- Do not leave your room until you complete your quarantine
Upcoming Event
Winter in Canada

Wednesday, January 20, 12:00pm – 1:00pm
• Join us to talk about spending Winter 2021 in Canada
• Ask questions and share experiences with other international graduate students
• Learn about what may be different this winter
Questions?
Thank You

Questions?
Contact Yufei Zheng at
zheny37@mcmaster.ca