How does Symbiosis create a good match?

This will be done through one-on-one interviews with both students and seniors to understand their needs and expectations better. Once we match a senior with a student, they will meet and discuss their potential cohousing relationship. If both parties decide to proceed, we will help to make the arrangements. We are also planning to organize social events for our members and collaborators to share their experience and to enhance the Symbiosis community.

Who we are:

Symbiosis team is made up of a Postdoctoral Fellow, a senior undergraduate student, and staff from the School of Graduate Studies, with support from a variety of local senior's groups and associations.

We are committed to making the best possible match to ensure a harmonious cohabitation. Cohabitation is intended to be friendly, without any subordination between the two parties.

For more information or to request an application, please contact:

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McMaster Symbiosis

Student-Senior Co-housing Program

Symbiosis

Starting SEPT 17

Co-housing students with seniors in the McMaster community for a mutually beneficial relationship.

Symbiosis · Spices PROGRAM · McMaster University GRADUATE STUDIES

Benefits for
STUDENTS

$ **Lower rent and a private room in an established home**

Conversational English practice opportunities (for graduate students who are working to improve their English Language Skills)

Sense of shared community/ reduced isolation

For students, we will help them to:

- Understand senior's expectations
- Identify their motivations in this program
- Chose the best option that matches their needs (low to free rent in exchange for services)
- Complete a Vulnerable Sector Check

The Symbiosis concept

It connects graduate students in need of low-cost housing with seniors who have a spare room and who could benefit from a bit of extra support.

How it works:

Graduate Students and seniors choose one of two options based on their needs

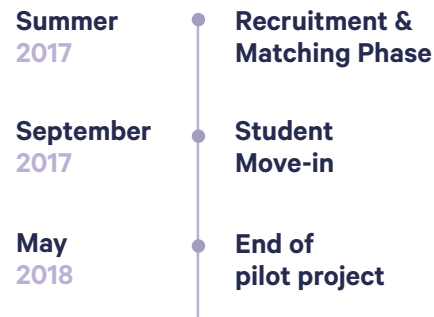**Low cost room from $200 to $400 a month**

or

Free room in exchange of modest help in the house

Eligibility:

Students must be a current Masters or Phd student enrolled at McMaster University

Seniors must have a spare, furnished bedroom

Summer 2017 — **Recruitment & Matching Phase**

September 2017 — **Student Move-in**

May 2018 — **End of pilot project**

Benefits for
SENIORS

$ **A little extra income**

Some help around the house

Sense of shared community/ reduced isolation

For seniors, we will help them to:

- Identify their expectations
- Define their ideal student profile
- Finalize their application
- Regular follow-up to ensure that a harmonious cohabitation is achieved