International Grad Student Orientation
Online Webinar
Dec 5, 2017

We’ll begin at 9am.

Don’t worry, your speaker is muted!
Welcome!

Co-Hosts:
Mai Yamamoto & Andrea Cole
- International Grad Student Advisory Group (IGSAG)
and School of Graduate Studies (SGS)
Webinar Logistics

• Presentation slides will be emailed to you and this recording will be posted online, so you don’t have to worry about remembering everything we say

• Only the co-hosts microphones are active (panelist and participant mics are muted by default)

• Type your questions in the chat box at any time!
AGENDA

1. Key Dates
2. Pre-Departure (registration, travel documentation, travel arrangements)
3. Arrival & Getting Settled in Hamilton (local transport, identification, housing, etc)
4. Health, Wellness, and Community Support
5. Financial Information
Key Dates

• Deadline to Register: Dec 14, 2017 (late registration period: Dec 15 to Jan 2)

• Deadline to Pay Tuition: Jan 1st (more on this later)

• First day of Class: Variable. Classes begin after Jan 2, 2018 - check with your program and course schedule.

• Campus Closure: Dec 23 to Jan 1 (campus re-opens Jan 2)
Travel Documentation

Study Permit:
http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/study/index.asp

VISA Offices Outside of Canada:
http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/information/offices/apply-where.asp

After you arrive:
• Bring your study permit to the School of Graduate Studies (GH212)
• Maintain a valid study permit until your program is completed.
## Arrival and Getting Settled

### Getting Here (Toronto Lester B Pearson Airport (YYZ) to Hamilton):

[torontopearson.com/index.aspx#](torontopearson.com/index.aspx#)

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Mode</th>
<th>Cost</th>
<th>Route</th>
<th>Details</th>
<th>Website</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Taxi</strong></td>
<td>Licenced with YYZ</td>
<td>$101 (taxi) to Downtown Hamilton</td>
<td>Find taxi/limo stand at Arrivals level</td>
<td>torontopearson.com/en/toandfrom/taxilimo/##</td>
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<td>Pay the driver</td>
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<td><strong>Out of Town Van Service</strong></td>
<td>Airways Transit</td>
<td>$90 one way (adult)</td>
<td>Pay at Airways Transit desk in airport or pre-arrange online*</td>
<td><a href="airwaystransit.com/">airwaystransit.com/</a></td>
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<td>(buy ticket from machine then go to bus stop)</td>
<td>-Departs at least 1/hour</td>
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Housing Search Tips:

- Be patient
- Anticipate a lot of online searching and correspondence
- Private Market (no campus housing)

Online Classifieds:
1. macoffcampus.mcmaster.ca
2. www.kijiji.ca and hamilton.craigslist.ca
3. facebook.com/groups/machousing/
4. facebook.com/groups/MAC.IGSA/
Housing Tips (continued)

Common Practices in Canada:
• Application and Deposit
• References
• Lease Agreement
• “First and Last” month’s rent on first day of tenancy (minus deposit)

• Do ask landlord for rent receipts (esp. if paying with cash)

Residential Tenancies Act
https://www.ontario.ca/laws/statute/06r17
Getting around Hamilton

nature.mcmaster.ca
Bus Pass

- Bus Pass is included in your Supplemental Fees (Full time Students)
- Pass is also known as Presto Card - How to use Presto: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kINrUsbOpYU
- Pick up your Presto Card from Campus Store (book store) in basement of Gilmour Hall
- You will need your Student Card first
- https://www.hamilton.ca/hsr-bus-schedules-fares
What to pack?

✘ Food - selections from all over the world available here including Halal, Kosher, and Vegetarian items

✘ Dishes/kitchen and other housewares items are easy to acquire (dollar store)

✔ Warm clothing

✔ Bedding – personal call. Can be expensive but also bulky
Hamilton Weather

- Typically we have four seasons in Hamilton. But….winter can be harsh! Most importantly, DRESS WARM!
- Bring what you can
- Appropriate winter coat, boots, hat, gloves, scarf, etc can be purchased here.
- Good deals in January
- Don’t forget to pack layers for the plane!
Working in Canada

Social Insurance Number (SIN)
You need a SIN to work in Canada as a TA or any other employment

canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/services/sin.html
• No fee to apply
• Bring passport and study permit

Places you can get your SIN:
• Pearson Airport
• Hamilton City Hall (Fridays only)
• other locations can be found online
Banking in Canada

- rbc.com/newcomers/moving-to-canada-resident.html
- scotiabank.com/ca/en
- www.tdcanadatrust.com/products-services/banking/student-advice/articles/international-students.jsp
- bmo.com/main/personal/students?ecid=va-AGILE37085STU1-MDBMO16#
How to Open a Bank Account

You will need:

- Passport
- Study Permit
- Address Verification (mail, bill, lease, etc)
Cell Phones in Canada

• Requires credit card (go to bank first)

• Expensive in Canada ($50-150+/month depending on plan)

• Deposit may be required


Providers
freedommobile.ca/
bell.ca/Mobility
rogers.com/consumer/
home
telus.com/en/on/
index.jsp
fido.ca/
koodomobile.com/
Budgeting and Cost of Living

Helpful Resource:
You can see updated list of how much things cost in Hamilton here expatistan.com/cost-of-living/hamilton-canada

Key point:

• Check your payment schedule!
  gs.mcmaster.ca/sites/default/files/resources/final_january_2018_package.pdf
  – During TA term, you get paid more - save it!

• Take advantages of student discount
  – Transit (Greyhound, Presto)
  – Phoenix food discount 5% (with GSA sticker)
  – Grocery stores
Groceries Tips
[Don’t miss out these savings!]

- **Tuesdays - 10%** discount at Fortino’s, Metro & Food Basics
- **Wednesdays - 15%** discount at Bulk Barn
- **Thursdays - 20%** discount at Shoppers Drug Mart (ONLY at Main/Emerson location)
- **Bring your Student ID!**
- Cheap produce: Fiddes Whole Sale Produce (60 Ewen Rd, Hamilton: CASH ONLY!)
Registration

This site has all of the details:  
https://gs.mcmaster.ca/academic-services/how-enroll

- Deadline to Register: Dec 14, 2017 (late registration period: Dec 15 to Jan 2)
- There are three terms in an academic year (fall/winter/summer)
- Register now for Winter and Summer terms

*Must enroll in at least one course for each term you are at McMaster. If you are not taking an academic course, you must enrol in a placeholder course.
Tuition and fees:

Tuition + Mandatory Supplemental Fees.
Fees Chart:
mcmaster.ca/bms/student/SAC_fees_grad.html

Administrative Services
Student Services (Gym, student assistance, etc)
GSA Fee
GSA Health Insurance Plan
GSA Dental Insurance Plan
HSR (Bus Pass)

http://www.mcmaster.ca/bms/student/SAC_dates_deadlines.html
How to Pay your Tuition and Fees

Bank transfer is the most convenient, secure and recommended method

http://www.mcmaster.ca/bms/student/SAC_payment_methods.html

Check your tuition and fee amount on your Student Account:

Once enrolled, several ways to check your financial account information:

Log on to Mosaic > Student Center (tab) > Finances section

1. Under “My Account” > Account Inquiry. This will show balances by term.
2. In the dropdown menu called “other financial…” select “Charges Due”

Note:
- You will not receive a bill or invoice
- You can print invoices directly from your Student Center.
Funding: Getting Paid TA and/or Scholarship

Two types of funding: a) Scholarship  b) TA or RA in Lieu

IMPORTANT! PAYMENT INFORMATION PACKAGE FOR FULL TIME GRADUATE STUDENTS ACADEMIC YEAR 2017 -2018. This link has all the info you need! Pay Schedule, understanding your funding, and Steps to Getting Paid, where to direct questions. See Info Package here: gs.mcmaster.ca/sites/default/files/resources/final_january_2018_package.pdf

If you are a TA or RA
• Check with your program office about whether you will need to also complete HR related paperwork.

More Details:
http://www.workingatmcmaster.ca/hris/employee/teachingassistants/
http://www.mcmaster.ca/bms/student/SAC_account_statement.html
## Your Grad Community

| Your Department                  | Day-to-Day Interaction                                                                 | School of Graduate Studies                                                                 | GH212  
gs.mcmaster.ca |
|----------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------|
| Grad Admins, Secretaries, Chairs/Advisors, supervisors, lab managers                   | Central Administration, encompasses all six faculties, admissions, graduation, PhD defenses, rules & regulations, Grad Student Life Team. | GSA - Graduate Students Association. Operated by and for students: health & dental coverage, sport leagues, the Phoenix restaurant, grad student clubs, social events, advocacy, faculty reps, subcommittees, student representation. Your members are students elected by students. gsamcmaster.org/clubs-list/ | Refectory Building, 2nd floor  
gsamcmaster.org |
Your Grad Community (continued)

On-Campus

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<tr>
<th>ISS</th>
<th>International Student Services</th>
<th>iss.mcmaster.ca</th>
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<td></td>
<td>GH110 (with Student Success Centre, Student Affairs)</td>
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Grad Student Groups

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<tr>
<th>iGSA</th>
<th>international Graduate Student Association</th>
<th><a href="https://www.facebook.com/groups/MAC.IGSA/">https://www.facebook.com/groups/MAC.IGSA/</a></th>
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<tr>
<td>EGS</td>
<td>Engineering Grad Students</td>
<td>egs.mcmaster.ca/</td>
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<tr>
<td>SAM</td>
<td>Scientist Association McMaster</td>
<td>scientistassociation.com</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ACGSA</td>
<td>African Caribbean Grad Students Association</td>
<td><a href="https://www.facebook.com/search/top/?q=acgsa">https://www.facebook.com/search/top/?q=acgsa</a></td>
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Off-Campus

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<tr>
<th>GHC</th>
<th>Global Hamilton Connect</th>
<th>Facebook, newsletter, Twitter</th>
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## Online Resources

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<th>Online Resources</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Your Department</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Day-to-day and academic aspects.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Website, program handbooks</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>School of Graduate Studies</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>programs, services, scholarship, student life, rights and responsibilities</td>
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<tr>
<td>gs.mcmaster.ca</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Graduate Calendar</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Rules and Regulations pertaining to graduate degrees</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>academiccalendars.romcmaster.ca/index.php?catoid=25</td>
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<td><strong>Online Student Manual</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Chinese Grad Student+ Community Resource</td>
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<tr>
<td>Written and moderated by students</td>
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<tr>
<td>mcmaster.readthedocs.io/en/latest/index.html</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*Use Google Chrome browser for translation</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Equity &amp; Inclusion Office</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>equity.mcmaster.ca (lots of resources here)</td>
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Taking Care of Your Health!

GSA Benefits:
studentcare.ca

Student Wellness Centre
wellness.mcmaster.ca

CUPE dental plan
https://cupe3906.org/tas-unit-1/dental-plan/
Health Insurance for International Students (UHIP)

Covers the cost for:
✓ Emergency Medical Care (hospital)
✓ Physician visits

• Mandatory for ALL International Students and their accompanying dependents
• You will be automatically enrolled and charges will be added to your student account
• You must enroll your accompanying dependents within 30 days of their arrival date in Canada

Coverage Details: uhip.ca/your-coverage.aspx
UHIP is administered by ISS (International Student Services) in Gilmour Hall Room 110 iss.mcmaster.ca/studentlife/healthcare/
UHIP or Student Plans: Who covers what?

**Medical Emergency** → Hospital or Urgent Care Centre → UHIP

**Medical Care** → Doctor’s Office (Student Wellness Centre) → UHIP

**Paramedical** (physiotherapy, naturopath, massage therapy, psychologist, tele-counseling, orthotics, prescription drug costs) → GSA Benefits → studentcare.ca

**Dentist**

TA/RAs → **CUPE Plan** (up to $1000/yr)

Not a TA/RA? → **GSA Benefits** (up to $750/yr)

* MBA students → MSU plan
January Social! Friends and Fries

- Social Event for new students starting in January
- Have poutine and meet new people

Tuesday January 16
Time: 2:00 to 4:00pm
Location: The Phoenix

Register to attend »
https://gs.mcmaster.ca/news-events/events/friends-and-fries
Thank you!

Panelists:
Vi Dang
Wing Cheung
Hao Li
Jean-Christohoe Ono Dit Biot
Correen Smith
Pete Self
Judi Pattison