International Grad Student Orientation

Online Webinar
April 10, 2018

We’ll begin at 9am.
Don’t worry, your speaker is muted!

This webinar will be recorded.
The slides and link to the presentation will be sent to you afterwards.
Welcome!

Co-Hosts:

JC Ono-Dit-Biot (Grad Student) & Andrea Cole (SGS)
Webinar Logistics

• Presentation slides will be emailed to you and this recording will be posted online

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

• Type your questions in the Q&A section 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: **Thursday, April 19** (late registration period: Friday, April 20 to Tuesday, May 1)

• Deadline to Pay Tuition: May 1\(^{st}\) (more on this later)

• First day of Class: Variable. Classes begin after May 1, 2018 - check with your program and course schedule.

• **Campus Closure:** May 21, July 2, August 6, and Sept 3
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):


<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Service Type</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Cost</th>
<th>Payment Method</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<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* <a href="http://airwaystransit.com/">airwaystransit.com</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Pre-arrangement online is recommended for the Out of Town Van Service.*
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
- References
- Lease Agreement
- “First and Last” month’s rent

- 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) for Sept 2018
• Pass is also known as Presto Card - How to use Presto: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kINrUsbOpYU](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kINrUsbOpYU)
• Pick up your Presto Card from Campus Store (book store) in August
• You will need your Student Card first
• [https://www.hamilton.ca/hsr-bus-schedules-fares](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)
- Bedding – personal call. Can be expensive but also bulky
Social Insurance Number (SIN)
You need a SIN to work in Canada as a TA or any other employment.

- 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

• May require a credit card (go to bank first)

• May require deposit

• Expensive in Canada ($50-150+/month depending on plan)
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: April 19 (late registration period: April 20-May 1)
• There are three terms in an academic year (fall/winter/summer)
• Register now for Summer term

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

Tuition + Mandatory Supplemental Fees. Fees Chart:
[link](http://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)

[link](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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Your Department</th>
<th>Day-to-Day Interaction</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Grad Admins, Secretaries, Chairs/Advisors, supervisors, lab managers</td>
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</table>

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<tr>
<th>School of Graduate Studies</th>
<th>Central Administration, encompasses all six faculties, admissions, graduation, PhD defenses, rules &amp; regulations, Grad Student Life Team.</th>
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<td>GH212 gs.mcmaster.ca</td>
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<tr>
<th>Graduate Students Association</th>
<th>Your student association. Operated by and for students: health &amp; 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/</th>
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<td>Refectory Building, 2nd floor gsamcmaster.org</td>
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<td>KTH - B111 cupe3906.org</td>
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## Your Grad Community (continued)

### On-Campus

| ISS | International Student Services | iss.mcmaster.ca GH110 (with Student Success Centre, Student Affairs) |

### Grad Student Groups

| iGSA | international Graduate Student Association | [https://www.facebook.com/groups/MAC.IGSA/](https://www.facebook.com/groups/MAC.IGSA/) |
| EGS | Engineering Grad Students | egs.mcmaster.ca/ |
| SAM | Scientist Association McMaster | scientistassociation.com |
| ACGSA | African Caribbean Grad Students Association | [https://www.facebook.com/search/top/?q=acgsa](https://www.facebook.com/search/top/?q=acgsa) |

### Off-Campus

| GHC | Global Hamilton Connect | Facebook, newsletter, Twitter |
**Online Resources**

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<th>Your Department</th>
<th>Day-to-day and academic aspects.</th>
<th>Website, program handbooks</th>
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<td>Graduate Calendar</td>
<td>Rules and Regulations pertaining to graduate degrees</td>
<td>academiccalendars.romcmaster.ca/index.php?catoid=25</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Written and moderated by students</td>
<td>*Use Google Chrome browser for translation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Equity &amp; Inclusion Office</td>
<td>Human Rights Legislation, Anti-Harassment &amp; Discrimination Policy, Sexual Violence Policy &amp; Response Protocol, Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA), academic accommodation policies: Students with disabilities, religious, Indigenous, and spiritual observances</td>
<td>equity.mcmaster.ca (lots of resources here)</td>
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</table>
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 (not automatic)

Coverage Details: [uhip.ca/your-coverage.aspx](http://uhip.ca/your-coverage.aspx)

UHIP is administered by ISS (International Student Services) in Gilmour Hall Room 110 [iss.mcmaster.ca/studentlife/healthcare/](http://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
studentcare.ca

(up to $750/yr)

*MBA students → MSU plan
If I get Sick…

• Emergency? Call 911 and/or get yourself to hospital
• Non-Emergency Illness? Make an appointment with the Student Wellness Centre doctor
• After-hours non-emergency? You can visit a Walk-in Clinic (may require payment upfront)

• ALL OF THIS IS COVERED BY UHIP

• If you require specialized care, start by seeing a regular physician first
May Social Event!
Alpine Tower Climb & Campfire!

- Social Event for new students starting in May
- Meet new people & make friends!
- No experience necessary!

Date: May 15, 2018  
Time: 4pm  
Location: On-Campus

Register to attend »  
https://gs.mcmaster.ca/news-events/events/altitude-tower-climb-new-students

(We will send you a direct invite)
Thank you!

Panelists:
Sebastian Himbert
Mai Yamamoto
Vi Dang
Wing Cheung
Hao Li
Correen Smith
Judi Pattison