International Grad Student Pre-Arrival Orientation
Webinar
For students starting in January, 2019

Link to the slides and other resources:
https://gs.mcmaster.ca/NewInternationalGradStudents

Tip:
Join us again LIVE!
Dec 13 @ 9am featuring Q&A Chat with us!
Welcome!

Your Co-Hosts:

JC Ono-Dit-Biot
(Grad Student)
&
Andrea Cole
(School of Graduate Studies)

Join our live session Dec 13th at 9am to chat with staff and student panelists. Registration to follow by email.
WEBINAR GOAL: Help you become familiar with the steps to get started as a grad student at McMaster.

AGENDA:

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

- Pre-arrival information
- Post-arrival information
- Health insurance
- Local transportation
- Events and registration
- “how to’s” such as banking, shopping, and cell phone information

**How to get the App:**

Check the email account you used on your McMaster admissions application and offer. The download instructions have been sent there from iCent.
Key Dates

• On time Registration: Nov 29 – Dec 13, 2018
  (late registration period: Dec 14 - Jan 2)

• Deadline to Pay Tuition: January 1, 2019

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

• Holidays & Campus Closures: Dec 22 – Jan 2, Feb 18, April 19

More info: gs.mcmaster.ca
or https://student-accounts.mcmaster.ca/payments/important-dates-deadlines/
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 your department office OR 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#

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mode of Transport</th>
<th>Details</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Taxi</strong></td>
<td>Licenced with YYZ</td>
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<td>$110 (taxi) to Downtown Hamilton</td>
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<td><strong>Out of Town Van Service</strong></td>
<td>Airways Transit</td>
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<td>$90 one way (adult)</td>
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<td>Pay at Airways Transit desk in airport or pre-arrange online*</td>
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<td>airwaystransit.com/</td>
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<td><strong>Public Transit (Bus 40)</strong></td>
<td>GO Transit</td>
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<td>$11.65 Single Ride (buy ticket from machine then go to bus stop)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>-Hamilton/Richmond Hill Pearson Express Bus to Hamilton GO Centre</td>
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<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 rentals only (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/
5. Symbiosis Program https://www.facebook.com/MacSymbiosis/
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)
- 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)
- You will need your Student Card first
- https://www.hamilton.ca/hsr-bus-schedules-fares
Set up your Student Card

Step 1: Send upload photo button

Step 2: Enter personal information

Step 3: Upload photo button

Step 4: Pick up student card from your department/program
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)
- Winter Clothes - if you don’t have this already, you can purchase more here
- Bedding – personal call. Can be expensive but also bulky
Working in Canada

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:
  a) Pearson Airport
  b) Hamilton City Hall (Fridays only)
  c) Other Service Canada 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)

DETAILS:
https://gs.mcmaster.ca/international-students
Getting Paid – Enrolling in Direct Deposit

Your payments for scholarship and employment will be deposited directly into your bank account after Enrolling in Direct Deposit. Depending on the type of payment(s) you receive you may have to enroll in 2 places:

• Mosaic Student Center (online portal)
AND
• Human Resources (paper form)

See ‘How to Enroll in Direct Deposit’ for detailed instructions: https://gs.mcmaster.ca/international-students
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](expatistan.com/cost-of-living/hamilton-canada)

Key point:
• Check your payment schedule!

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!)
This site has all of the details: [https://gs.mcmaster.ca/academic-services/how-enroll](https://gs.mcmaster.ca/academic-services/how-enroll)

- Registration Period: Nov 29 – Dec 13, 2018
  (late registration period: Dec 14 - Jan 2)
- There are three terms in an academic year (fall/winter/summer)
- Register now for Winter and Spring 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 enroll in a placeholder course.
Tuition and fees:

Tuition + Mandatory Supplemental Fees.

Fees Chart:
https://student-accounts.mcmaster.ca/

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

https://student-accounts.mcmaster.ca/

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 Teaching Assistant (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 2018 -2019. 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: https://gs.mcmaster.ca/resources

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>
<th>School of Graduate Studies</th>
<th>GH212</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Grad Admins, Secretaries, Chairs/Advisors, supervisors, lab managers</td>
<td>Central Administration, encompasses all six faculties, admissions, graduation, PhD defenses, rules &amp; regulations, Grad Student Life Team.</td>
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<td>gs.mcmaster.ca</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Graduate Students Association    | Your student 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                                                                 | KTH - B111                      |
|                                 |                                                                                                                                  |                                                                                                               | cupe3906.org                    |

## Your Grad Community (continued)

### On-Campus

<table>
<thead>
<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

<table>
<thead>
<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>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>EGS</td>
<td>Engineering Grad Students</td>
<td>egs.mcmaster.ca/</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SciGsa</td>
<td>Science Grad Student Association</td>
<td>scientistatmac.github.io</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

| GHC       | Global Hamilton Connect                  | Facebook, newsletter, Twitter           |
GradParent Network!

If you are a grad student with parenting responsibilities, join the network to meet other families:

https://gs.mcmaster.ca/families
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/)
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
Who Pays for What?

UHIP Card

• Emergency/Hospital
• Doctor’s Visit (physical or mental health at the Student Wellness Centre)

GSA Student Care Plan

• Physiotherapy, massage therapy etc
• Tele-counseling
• Prescription drugs
• Vision/eyeglasses
• Dental (up to $750)

*CUPE Members are covered up to $1000/year. TA/RA’s are automatically enrolled in this for dental

*MBA students use the MSU plan
Supervisory Relationship Resources

- Getting the Supervisory Relationship off to a Good Start
- Graduate Work Supervision Guidelines for Faculty and Students

Available Here: https://gs.mcmaster.ca/resources

Grad Student Welcome Events!

Save the Date: **January 22, 2019 (2-4pm)**

You’re Invited to join us for “**Friends & Fries**”

A Social Event for new grad students.

- Meet new and returning grad students
- Meet the Grad Student Association (GSA) and Staff from Grad Studies
- Try a Canadian classic food dish: ‘poutine’
- Visit the Phoenix (grad student owned pub)

WATCH FOR REGISTRATION DETAILS BY EMAIL