About McMaster

Founded in 1887, McMaster University is located in Hamilton, Ontario, Canada at the western end of Lake Ontario. With over 28,000 full-time undergraduate students and 4,800 full-time graduate students, McMaster is a research-intensive, student-centred university dedicated to advancing human and societal health and well-being. McMaster was ranked 72 in the world’s Top 75 by the Times Higher Education (THE) World University Rankings, and second in the world in the THE’s University Impact Rankings 2019 based on the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

McMaster Exchange Program Contacts:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Contact</th>
<th>Function</th>
<th>Contact Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ms. Jenna Levi</td>
<td>Education Abroad Coordinator</td>
<td><a href="mailto:levij@mcmaster.ca">levij@mcmaster.ca</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(In/Outbound Exchange Students)</td>
<td>1-905-525-9140 x 26105</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr. Ni Jadon</td>
<td>Exchange Agreements</td>
<td><a href="mailto:jadon@mcmaster.ca">jadon@mcmaster.ca</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ms. Gina Robinson</td>
<td>Director</td>
<td><a href="mailto:robing@mcmaster.ca">robing@mcmaster.ca</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Student Inquiries</td>
<td>General Exchange Email</td>
<td><a href="mailto:macincomings@mcmaster.ca">macincomings@mcmaster.ca</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>McMaster Campus Security</td>
<td>After Hours (Emergency)</td>
<td>1-905-525-9140 x 24281</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Website</td>
<td>24 Hour Emergency Line</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Campus Locations:

**Mailing Address –**
Attn: Jenna Levi
Education Abroad Coordinator
International Student Services/
Student Success Centre
Gilmour Hall Room 110, McMaster
University, 1280 Main Street West
Hamilton, Ontario, Canada, L8S 4L8

**Main Campus –**
Undergraduate & Graduate Programs
McMaster University
1280 Main Street West,
Hamilton, Ontario, Canada
L8S 4L8

**Burlington Campus –**
MBA & Executive Programs
Ron Joyce Centre
4350 South Service Road
Burlington, Ontario, Canada
L7L5R8
### UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAMS:

#### Faculty of Humanities  
**website**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Art</th>
<th>French</th>
<th>Music</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Art History</td>
<td>History</td>
<td>Music Cognition</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Classics</td>
<td>Justice, Political Philosophy and Law</td>
<td>Peace Studies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cognitive Science of Language</td>
<td>Linguistics</td>
<td>Philosophy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Communication Studies</td>
<td>Multimedia</td>
<td>Theatre &amp; Film Studies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>English and Cultural Studies</td>
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<td></td>
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</table>

#### Faculty of Engineering  
**website**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Business Informatics</th>
<th>Electrical Engineering</th>
<th>Mechatronics Engineering</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Chemical Engineering</td>
<td>Electrical and Biomedical Engineering</td>
<td>Software Engineering</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chemical Engineering &amp; Bioengineering</td>
<td>Engineering</td>
<td>Software Engineering (Embedded Systems)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Civil Engineering</td>
<td>Engineering Physics</td>
<td>Software Engineering (Game Design)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Computer Engineering</td>
<td>Materials Engineering</td>
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<tr>
<td>Computer Science</td>
<td>Mechanical Engineering</td>
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</table>

#### Faculty of Social Sciences  
**website**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Anthropology</th>
<th>Inuktitut</th>
<th>Psychology</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cayuga</td>
<td>Labour Studies</td>
<td>Reconciliation</td>
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<tr>
<td>Economics</td>
<td>Mohawk</td>
<td>Religious Studies</td>
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<tr>
<td>Geography</td>
<td>Ojibwe</td>
<td>Sanskrit</td>
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<tr>
<td>Globalization Studies</td>
<td>Political Science</td>
<td>Social Psychology</td>
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<tr>
<td>Health, Aging &amp; Society</td>
<td>Psychology, Neuroscience &amp; Behaviour</td>
<td>Social Work</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indigenous Studies</td>
<td></td>
<td>Sociology</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Faculty of Science  
**website**

| Actuarial & Financial Mathematics | Chemistry | Mathematical Science |
| Astrophysics                      | Environmental & Earth Sciences | Mathematics and Statistics |
| Biochemistry                      | Environmental Sciences | Medical & Biological Physics |
| Biology                          | Geography and Environmental Sciences | Medical Radiation Sciences |
| Biology & Environmental Science  | Integrated Science | Molecular Biology & Genetics |
| Biology & Pharmacology           | Kinesiology | Music Cognition |
| Biology & Psychology             | Life Sciences | Physical Science |
| Biophysics                       |               | Physics |
| Chemical Biology                 |               | Psychology, Neuroscience & Behavior |

#### DeGroote School of Business  
**website**

| Commerce |               |

#### Faculty of Health Science  
**website**

The Faculty of Health Sciences is restricted.
### GRADUATE PROGRAMS:

#### Faculty of Business
- Business Administration - MBA (Ron Joyce Centre, Burlington Campus)

#### Faculty of Engineering
- Chemical Engineering
- Civil Engineering
- Computer Science
- Computing & Software
- Electrical and Biomedical Engineering
- Electrical and Computer Engineering
- Engineering & Public Policy
- Engineering Design
- Engineering Entrepreneurship & Innovation
- Engineering Physics
- Manufacturing Engineering
- Materials Engineering
- Materials Science
- Mechanical Engineering
- Software Engineering
- Technology Entrepreneurship & Innovation
- UNENE Nuclear Engineering

#### Faculty of Humanities
- Classics
- Cognitive Science of Language
- Communication & New Media
- Communications Management
- Cultural Studies & Critical Theory
- English
- French
- Gender Studies & Feminist Research
- History
- Philosophy

#### Faculty of Science
- Biology
- Chemistry
- Earth & Environmental Sciences
- Financial Mathematics
- Geography
- Health & Radiation Physics
- Kinesiology
- Mathematics
- Physics and Astronomy
- Psychology
- Statistics

#### Faculty of Social Science
- Anthropology
- Economic Policy
- Economics
- Globalization
- Health & Society
- Health & Aging
- International Relations
- Labour Studies
- Political Science
- Religious Studies
- Social Gerontology
- Sociology
- Water Without Borders

#### Interdisciplinary Studies*
- Astrobiology
- Biomedical Engineering
- Chemical Biology
- Computational Science & Engineering
- eHealth
- Global Health
- Health Policy

*Some interdisciplinary courses housed in the Faculty of Health Sciences may not be available to incoming exchange students.

#### Faculty of Health Science
- The Faculty of Health Sciences is restricted.
Important Dates

Semester Dates (General)
Term 1: Early September to end of December (including exams)
Term 2: Early January to end of April (including exams)
Term 3: We do not offer exchanges in the summer term

Semester Dates (Detail)
Undergraduate: visit the website for the Office of the Registrar
Graduate: visit the School of Graduate Studies (sessional dates, top right of page)
MBA: visit the MBA program website

Exchange Welcome Day
Usually the day prior to classes, or if this is a holiday/weekend, the Friday of the previous week.

MOOSE Outdoor Orientation Trips ($)
Available at the start of both Fall and Winter terms, MOOSE trips are outdoor orientation programs that bring together new exchange students before the academic year begins. Students have an opportunity to socialize with other exchange students and participate in teambuilding exercises in some of Ontario’s most beautiful natural parks. Held the week before classes begin or soon after.

Application & Process

*Please contact us prior to your internal recruitment deadline to check the number of students we can accept from your institution each year. This number is reviewed according to the overall balance of the agreement.

Partner Nomination Deadline
Includes both Fall and Winter exchange terms
April 15, 2020

*McMaster can sometimes accommodate late nominations. If you have a late nomination, please email us directly to confirm eligibility.

Partner Nomination Process
Partners will be sent the instructions for nomination.

You must wait for your home university’s exchange office to nominate you before you can apply to McMaster.
Student Application Deadline

Includes both Fall and Winter exchange terms

**March 31, 2020** (Preferred Deadline)

**April 30, 2020** (Final Deadline)

Student Application Process

Upon receipt of student details via the nomination system, the McMaster Exchange Office will contact each nominated student with instructions on how to apply through our [online application system](#). Invitations to apply will go out to students beginning in January 2020.

Students will need to complete the online application, which will include uploading supporting documents (resume, statement of interest, passport style photo). *Please do not send us additional scanned or printed copies of the online application*

The student’s home international office is asked to please send original or **scanned copies** of the following (Scans: Please send as 1PDF attachment per student):

1. 1 original, official transcript (or verified scan) with English translation and grading system attached. *(Please include Bachelor transcripts for Graduate and MBA applicants)*
2. English Language Certification *(If required, see Language Requirements below)*.

Supporting documents must be sent from the Home Institution Coordinator. Transcript scans should clearly show the institutional seal/stamp or home coordinator’s signature verifying that the document was taken from an official source.

We cannot accept scanned supporting documents directly from students. We can accept official, university-generated e-transcripts directly from students via a secure portal/ link. Please send to macincoming@mcmaster.ca

Language Requirements

The language of instruction at McMaster is English. Although we offer informal (non-credit) workshops to assist students with the English language, we do not offer English as a Second Language (ESL) for-credit courses for incoming exchange students. Students must be proficient in English prior to arrival.

**Study Abroad (fee-paying) Applicants**

Applicable to students from the below partners:

- University of Science & Technology Beijing
- Shanghai International Studies University
- Jiangxi University of Finance and Economics
- Northwestern Polytechnic University
- South China University of Technology

Study Abroad applicants are asked to submit official language test scores according to [McMaster’s English Proficiency requirements](#). These must be received by the appropriate deadline. The McMaster University institution code for ETS/TOEFL is **0936**.
**Undergraduate (Exchange) Applicants**

For undergraduate applicants, written confirmation is not required, but students are expected to have sufficient proficiency in English to study at the university level and be able to read, write and participate in verbal class discussions. McMaster University assumes that the student’s language skills have been assessed at the home institution and deemed sufficient for participation in a study abroad/exchange program in English.

**Graduate (Exchange) Applicants**

Official English language certification or a letter from your home exchange coordinator/professor confirming proficiency in English.

**MBA (Exchange) Applicants**

No certification is required if you have studied for a minimum of three years in a university where the medium of instruction was English. A letter from your home exchange coordinator confirming this is sufficient. For all other applicants, official certification is required.

We accept TOEFL and IELTS scores. We do not have individual band score requirements for IELTS or TOEFL.

- **TOEFL requirement:** Overall score of 100
- **IELTS requirement:** Overall score of 7.0

Please make arrangements with TOEFL or IELTS to have your results sent to us directly.
Course/Subject Information

Course Listings

Undergraduate Students:

Use the Search for Classes Tool to find courses offered during the current calendar year. Undergraduate courses begin with numbers 1-4. The updated UG course schedule is released in May each year. Undergraduate exchange students will be registered in Level 3 at McMaster, and should expect to take mostly Level 2 and Level 3 courses. Enrolment in Level 4 and many Level 1 courses is generally reserved for McMaster students. Access to Level 1 elective courses may be given, space permitting.

Graduate Students:

Use the Search for Classes Tool to find courses offered during the current calendar year. Students wishing to study at the graduate level must be currently enrolled in an equivalent graduate level program at their home university and enrolled in their second year of master’s study (5th year). Students are expected to take graduate courses at the 700-level and will be admitted at the department level. As graduate (non-MBA) courses are often offered on a biennial basis (every two years), incoming exchange students may also review the SGS Graduate Calendar, however please note this is a historical collection of all courses so the best route would be to contact the graduate administrator for the most updated information/advice. Graduate students must be flexible in their course selections. The updated Graduate course schedule is released in mid-June each year. Note: With the permission of their home university, graduate students may request to take 1 course at the undergraduate level (600 and below), with the exception of courses from the School of Business.

MBA Students:

Visit the MBA website for the list of MBA Courses. Students are expected to take final year 700-level MBA courses only.

Course Load per Semester

Undergraduate

A full-time course load is 9 to 15 units per term (3 to 5 courses). Engineering students may take up to 18 units.

Graduate

A full-time course load is 6-9 units (2-3 courses) at 700 level per term.

MBA

A full-time course load is 4-5 courses per term.
Course Outlines

Course outlines are most often found on the individual department webpages.

Undergraduate

- Business
- Science
- Engineering (Chemical, Civil, Computing & Software (by request), Electrical (by request), Physics, Materials, Mechanical
- Humanities
- Social Science (Choose department > Courses from main menu)
- Health Sciences

Graduate

- (By request from program office)

MBA

- Course Outlines

Course Registration

Undergraduate

Official course registration for both Semester 1 and 2 takes place in mid-June and is done online. Students may also drop/add courses during the two week window at the beginning of each academic term. Students who are nominated outside the official nomination/application deadlines will be registering for classes late and some classes may no longer be available. Late applicants must be flexible with their study plan.

Graduate

Graduate course registration takes place in mid-July each year. It is important to note that graduate students are only permitted to register in undergraduate courses (600 and below) AFTER undergraduate registration has taken place. This means that some undergraduate courses may not be available for graduate students due to seat restrictions.

MBA

MBA course registration takes place in mid-July each year.

GPA Requirements

Undergraduate

We recommend students have maintained a B- cumulative average to apply for the exchange program.

Graduate/MBA

GPA Requirement:
Undergraduate

General Restrictions
Students accepted at the undergraduate level are NOT eligible to take courses at the graduate (master) level. Exchange with the Arts & Science Program is not permitted, with the exception of the ARTSSCI 4MN2 / Movement and Integration.

Faculty of Humanities
Multimedia and Studio Art courses are restricted, but may be open to students registered in a similar program at their home university (space permitting). Students interested in these courses should contact McMaster early to check availability and, if interested in Studio Art, submit a portfolio. MELD courses are not open to exchange.

Faculty of Engineering
The Bachelor of Technology program is not available to exchange students. Engineering students are permitted to register in most Level 4 courses. Engineering students wishing to take a business course must be enrolled in an Engineering Management program at their home university to be eligible.

Faculty of Social Sciences
Students applying for ‘PNB’ (Psychology, Neuroscience, and Behaviour) courses must have completed ‘A’ Level Mathematics and at least ‘O’ level Biology. This would equate to university Calculus and grade 12 Biology (highest biology level in high school). Students applying to the psychology program must provide copies of A and O Levels.

Faculty of Science
Enrolment in Science Inquiry and Senior Projects is restricted (may be waived on case-by-case basis). Students should email McMaster in advance to confirm eligibility. Students within the Faculty of Science may be permitted to take courses within the Faculty of Health Sciences. This will depend on seat availability and sufficient background knowledge. Students will be considered on a case by case basis, negotiating all requests with their McMaster academic advisor. Full exchange with the Faculty of Health Sciences is not permitted.

DeGroote School of Business
The Economics program is part of the Faculty of Social Sciences, and not part of the School of Business. This may affect some students’ eligibility for Commerce courses depending on the agreement between McMaster and a partner university. Students should have a background in Business in order to apply.

Faculty of Health Sciences
[Restricted] By partnership agreement only.

Graduate Level
Undergraduate courses/programs: Any undergraduate course offered within the DeGroote School of Business is not open to graduate students of any discipline.

Graduate courses/programs not available:
- Faculty of Health Sciences (All Programs).
- Masters of Finance
- Executive Business Administration (EMBA).
- Professional Accountancy (Diploma)
- MiNDS Neuroscience.
- Global Health 702 - Global Health Foundations (Course)
- Masters of Health Management
- Interdisciplinary Studies – some courses crossing with the Faculty of Health Sciences may not be available.

MBA

Not permitted to take undergraduate courses in the School of Business. Not permitted to take courses with the following codes: I600 level, 650 level, HSM C700, T level, D700.

Transcripts/Grades

Students can view their grades in their Mosaic Student Centre. Information on the McMaster grading scale for undergraduate and graduate students can be found on the Office of the Registrar.

Unofficial transcripts are available for download by students at any time via their Mosaic Student Centre. Official transcripts can also be requested via Mosaic at any time from the Office of the Registrar. There is no cost for the printing of official transcripts, assuming standard processing time.

McMaster University will automatically send 1 official, hardcopy transcript to the student’s home international office upon completion of the exchange program. Transcripts will be mailed in late January/May at the conclusion of the exchange period.

More information on requesting transcript requests can found here.
Health & Wellness

University Health Insurance Plan (UHIP)

Ontario’s University Health Insurance Plan (UHIP) is mandatory for all international and exchange students studying in Ontario. The UHIP fee will be automatically charged to the students’ account.

UHIP is a comprehensive plan appropriate for coverage in the Province of Ontario only. Students traveling outside of Ontario or Canada must purchase supplemental health insurance.

For more details visit [www.uhip.ca](http://www.uhip.ca) or [https://iss.mcmaster.ca/studentlife/healthcare/](https://iss.mcmaster.ca/studentlife/healthcare/)

**Not covered under UHIP:**

- Prescription Medication
- Dental Care
- Vision Care

McMaster Students Union (MSU) Health & Dental Plan

The MSU Health and Dental plan is not available to incoming exchange students.

Student Accessibility & Wellness

Students who may require additional services or accommodations during their exchange with McMaster should notify McMaster as soon as possible to confirm availability.

The below websites will provide students and counsellors with further information on services available at McMaster.

Student Wellness Centre: [http://wellness.mcmaster.ca/](http://wellness.mcmaster.ca/)
Student Accessibility Services: [http://sas.mcmaster.ca/](http://sas.mcmaster.ca/)

Students with disabilities requesting on-campus accommodation should answer “Yes” to requiring residence accommodation and complete the required sections.

Canadian Immigration

Canadian Immigration

Students should visit Citizenship and Immigration Canada upon receiving their acceptance letter from McMaster University to understand the immigration requirements for their visit. As processing times vary, students should apply as soon as possible.

More information can be found at the links below:

Canadian Immigration & Citizenship Canada - [http://www.cic.gc.ca](http://www.cic.gc.ca)
Living in Hamilton

Accommodation

The availability of off-campus housing in the Fall (September) term can be very limited, most difficult for single semester exchange students. We encourage partners to nominate their semester students for the Spring (January) term when possible and encourage students to apply for the on-campus room lottery.

It is easier to find 4 month accommodation (both on/off campus) in the January-April term.

ON-CAMPUS

If the number of applications exceeds the number of available rooms, a lottery system will determine the final offer. Unfortunately, we are unable to guarantee on-campus housing for exchange students.

Important Notes:

- Meal plans are mandatory.
- Residence accommodation is only available to Undergraduate students.
- Residences typically host first year students.
- McMaster facilities close over the Christmas holiday break, but some residences remain open for students who apply to stay over the holidays.
  More information on “December Stay” can be found on the housing website and is requested as part of the residence application.
- An admin charge of $300 Canadian is applied to semester students staying Sept-Dec only.

Students with disabilities should answer “Yes” to requiring residence accommodation and complete the required sections which includes an explanation of the student’s situation and documentation from an attesting professional.

Deadline to apply is early June each year.

OFF-CAMPUS

McMaster is located close to many affordable housing options suitable for incoming exchange students. Off-campus housing provides students with the ability to live in close proximity to campus while experiencing shared living with other Canadian students. Through McMaster’s Off-Campus Resource Centre, exchange students can browse through rental listings for shared housing in the nearby Community of Westdale and surrounding area.

Cost of Living

The following is an estimate
### 1 Term (4 months)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>On campus</th>
<th>Off campus</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Accommodation (shared)</strong></td>
<td>$3,200 – $4,000</td>
<td>$2,200 – $3,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Food</strong></td>
<td>$2,000 – $3,000</td>
<td>$1,400 – $1,600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Public Transport (HSR – Hamilton Street Railway)</strong></td>
<td>HSR is free for exchange students (Except MBA)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>University Health Insurance Plan (UHIP)</strong></td>
<td>$212</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Personal Expenses</strong></td>
<td>$1,000</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Textbooks</strong></td>
<td>$300</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

### Helpful Websites

- International Student Services: [https://iss.mcmaster.ca/](https://iss.mcmaster.ca/)
- Student Wellness Centre: [http://wellness.mcmaster.ca/](http://wellness.mcmaster.ca/)
- Student Accessibility Services: [http://sas.mcmaster.ca/](http://sas.mcmaster.ca/)
- Athletics and Recreation: [https://rec.mcmaster.ca/](https://rec.mcmaster.ca/)
- Libraries: [http://library.mcmaster.ca](http://library.mcmaster.ca)
- Student Accounts & Cashiers: [https://student-accounts.mcmaster.ca/](https://student-accounts.mcmaster.ca/)
- Clubs and Organizations: [https://www.msumcmaster.ca/clubs](https://www.msumcmaster.ca/clubs)
- Office of the Registrar: [https://registrar.mcmaster.ca/](https://registrar.mcmaster.ca/)
- Class Search: [https://registrar.mcmaster.ca/build-degree/class-search/](https://registrar.mcmaster.ca/build-degree/class-search/)
- HSR Transit: [https://www.hamilton.ca/hsr-bus-schedules-fares](https://www.hamilton.ca/hsr-bus-schedules-fares)