



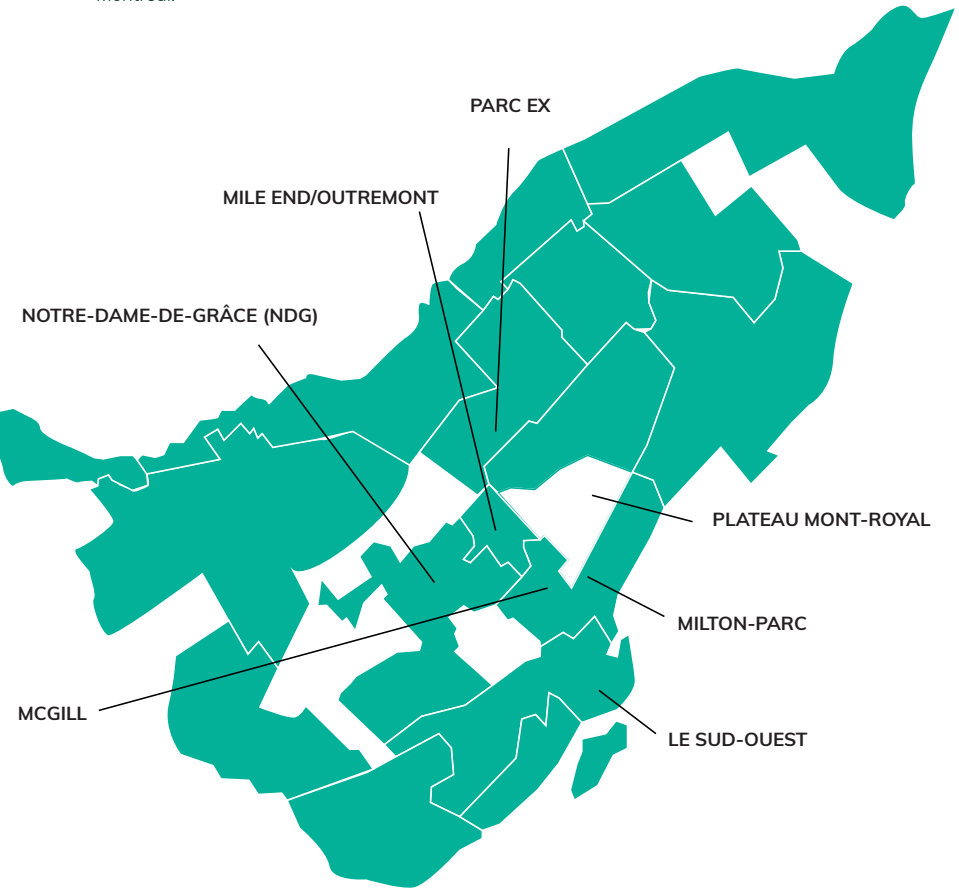
My McGill

“Going from an all night celebration with friends and a midnight walk in rainy streets to a night of midterm study and a bad Halloween movie on Netflix party with a pound of candy is as different as it can get but both give you great memories and a funny stomach.”

Juliette Chesnel, BA 2021

Neighbourhood Guide

Have you not left the McGill bubble? What are you waiting for? It is time to explore Montreal! The city is ranked as one of the best cities for students to live and study in. Take advantage of all the opportunities Montreal has to offer. Explore the different neighborhoods of the city, whether it is trying the bagels of St-Viateur in the Mile-End, having a picnic at Parc La Fontaine in the Plateau, or visiting the old French colonial architecture of the Vieux-Port, there is so much to visit in such little time. Here is a short guide of what neighborhoods to visit during your time in Montreal.



MILTON-PARC

miltonpark.org

Area: Rue University to St-Laurent, Sherbrooke to Des Pins

Milton-Parc is a great place to live if you are a student at McGill. It is very close to campus, downtown, and the Montreal nightlife. In this neighborhood, there are many local grocery stores, cafes, restaurants, and boutiques. Rent in the area can be quite expensive given that many students wish to live here. If you are interested in living in Milton-Parc, consider joining the [Milton Park Citizens' Committee \(ccmp-mpcc.com/en/home/\)](http://MiltonParkCitizensCommittee.com) or volunteer in the neighbourhood! Most McGillians will stay in Montreal for their undergraduate degree, so think about giving back to the area while you are here.

PLATEAU MONT-ROYAL

montreal.ca/le-plateau-mont-royal

Area: Rue St. Laurent to Papineau, Sherbrooke to Mont-Royal

This largely francophone neighborhood is a young and student-friendly borough that is filled with casual cafes, parks, theaters, bars, and clubs. Similar to Milton-Parc, there are many students living here and this is reflected in the prices of rent. If you want a little separation from your student and social life, bus lines, bike lanes, and the metro make it easy to make it on campus. You will be easily entertained in this neighborhood, with contemporary galleries and theaters and of course the Mont Royal Park being nearby.

NOTRE-DAME-DE-GRÂCE (NDG)

montreal.ca/en/cote-des-neiges-notre-dame-de-grace

Area: West of Campus

Notre-Dame-de-Grace is just west of campus and offers a direct commute by way of the 24 bus line. Also referred to as NDG, it is a fairly anglophone community but is a multicultural residential neighborhood that offers independent shops, long-running restaurants, and take out spots. It has decent rent prices and many families live in the neighborhood. If you are looking for a place that is easy going and where you can enjoy going to parks and cafes, NDG may be for you. If you want to explore, check out the Saint Joseph's observatory, it is Canada's largest church and the tallest building in Montreal!

LE SUD-OUEST

montreal.ca/le-sud-ouest

Area: Saint-Henri, Griffintown, Little Burgundy

Le Sud-Ouest centres on the Lachine Canal and consists of great parks and a popular cycling path. It is known for having great food and drink spots including the Atwater Market where you can find gourmet food shops. If you wish to go to nice restaurants, artisan cafes, and bars, head to Notre-Dame Street West. Unfortunately, like many other areas of the city, le Sud-Ouest is facing greater gentrification. As a student, you can live in this neighborhood through the McGill residence Solin Hall and visit shows at Theatre Corona. If you are a fan of music and its history, check the Musée des Ondes Emile Berliner!

MILE END/OUTREMONT

montreal.ca/outremont

Area: North of the Plateau to Van Horne, East of Parc is the Mile-End, while west is Outremont.

These two neighborhoods comprise a great diversity of young professionals and 2LGBTQIA+ communities, and is the center of Montreal's

Hasidic Jewish population. It is a vibrant community but also is impacted by gentrification and rent hikes. There are many local businesses and landmarks, such as St. Viateur and Fairmount for old-school bagels; the favourite cafe of McGill alumni Arcade fire, Olimpico; and Montreal's staple bookshop, Drawn and Quarterly. While it is a bit farther from campus, living further away can help separate your academic life from your student one. It will allow you to see a different part of the city altogether.

Tip: If you wish to visit more of the city, try heading to a cafe or library in a neighborhood you have not gone to before. Montreal has great cafes, restaurants and libraries where you can study so there are many options for you. If you have not done so yet, go to the Bibliothèque et Archives nationales du Québec, a great library location if you want to study outside of McGill's libraries.

PARC EX

montreal.ca/villeray-saint-michel-parc-extension

Area: Between the Outremont railyard and Highway 40

This neighborhood is seeing a lot of hurdles, with the Mile End's popularity rising and demand for more space. Working class and migrant families are being pushed out of Parc-Ex, which for many decades has enjoyed affordable rent prices. Parc-Ex is one of Canada's most diverse neighborhoods but also one of its poorest. L'Université de Montreal has built a new campus in the southern borders which is bringing in an influx of students in the area for the next few years. Parc-Ex is also home to the Marché Jean-Talon which is open year-round and a great location to get your local products from local businesses!

OTHER NEIGHBORHOODS

mtl.org/en/explore/neighbourhoods

Montreal has a total of 19 boroughs and each has their own particular character. You will find neighborhoods that will fit what you are looking for whether it be for affordable rent and reasonable commutes. Other areas that are worth visiting that were not mentioned above are Cote-des-Neiges, Rosemont, Verdun, and Hochelaga-Maison. If you go farther east into the city, it will tend to be more Francophone while the West Island will tend to be more Anglophone.

Also, make the best out of your time in Montreal! This city is world-class, and while it can be easy to get caught up with your academic life, you also live in a great city. Remember to take a break from your studies once in a while and explore all the great locations, whether it be the Old Port or Downtown. Montreal has an urban geography that differs greatly from most cities in the world so make the most of it!

What is Gentrification?

Gentrification is the process of changing the character of a neighborhood to cater for more affluent residents and businesses. It often sees communities of colour and/or working class families being kicked out of their neighborhoods as they are priced out of the area. This creates greater class divisions and housing insecurity.

Getting Around

PUBLIC TRANSIT

stm.info/en

The Société de transport de Montréal (STM) is the public transport agency which operates transit buses and the metro across Montreal. There are four metro lines: Blue, Yellow, Orange, and Green. The Orange and Green lines run through downtown and are usually the busiest but also close to campus. Each metro station will have machines for you to use debit or visa to buy tickets. The teller at the gates only accepts cash however. Make sure that once you have your receipt and ticket to hold on to it as STM officers will sometimes stop you to ask for your proof of purchase.

COSTS

\$ 3.50: A one-way ticket for the metro or bus (for the bus you will need exact change)

\$ 6.50: A night pass with unlimited use between 6pm to 5 a.m.

\$52.00: Cost of a monthly full-time student pass for those of all age groups. You can buy this pass through Minerva.

RUN TIMES

All metros open at the same time, 5:30 am, but each closes at different schedules. If you wish to see what time the last train leaves, go to the station page on the STM website. Most buses run 24/7, however, bus numbers change after 1:00 am, as night routes differ.

HOURS OF OPERATION

The STM'S "Between Stops" service provides women travelling alone at night with free travel on all bus lines. You can tell the driver of the bus when you would like to get off the bus and they will drop you off as close to the desired location you want. The "Between Stops" services operates at the following times:

Starting at 7:30 pm from August 30 to April 30

Starting at 9 pm from May 1 to August 29

We encourage you to check the STM website for the metro and bus schedules at stm.info/en

BIKING

mcgill.ca/transport/cycling

As you may have noticed, Montreal is a very bike-friendly city with many big streets having their own lanes that are separated by concrete. While it may seem inconvenient to use a bike during the winter season, if you are willing to buy a few extra parts, then you can extend your bike use into the winter months.

FIXING YOUR BIKE

facebook.com/TheFlatBikeCollective

Don't know how to fix your bike? Reach out to the Flat Bike Collective! FBC is free and open to everyone. However, it is a hands-off approach. Collective members will teach you how to fix your bike and will give you the parts that you will need. If you want your bike fixed by a specialist, then consult Bikurious on Ontario Street.

OWNING A BIKE

You can get a secondhand bike on Craigslist, Kijiji, or a McGill Facebook group, but be careful of scammers that try to re-sell stolen bikes. For those wanting new bikes, there are plenty of shops that have affordable to expensive prices. If you own a bike make sure to invest in a good bike lock as Montreal is infamous for bike thieves.

RENTING A BIKE

mcgill.ca/transport/cycling/bixi

McGill offers a 15% discount for an annual BIXI membership for students. However, you can also rent by the hour, daily, or more. Throughout the summer, they offer free rides the last Sunday of every month. You need a credit card to rent these cruising bikes, so make sure to check out their website for more info.

CARS

Driving in Montreal can be difficult but can be practical for some occasions like day trips, large shopping missions, or moving. Having a car can be much easier and practical than having to deal with public transit at times

RENTING

mcgill.ca/travelservices/transport/book-vehicle

There are high premiums for drivers who are under the age of 25 at traditional companies. Make sure to check the link above for legal information and advice for McGill students. You can also look at car rental membership for short distances like Communauto which is perfect for day trips or bulk shopping.

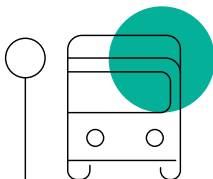
OWN

<https://www.agencemobilitedurable.ca/en>

If you wish to own your own car then make sure to check out the parking rules and costs in your area and make sure to consider whether you really want to drive in Montreal's roads (potholes, construction, ice, etc).

CAB

In the city, the base fee for taxis is around \$3.45 plus \$1.70 per kilometer. Uber is also available in Montreal but can be expensive depending on the time and day. SSMU's Drivesafe, which operates Thursday-Sunday, will get you to your destination for free!



Milton Parc

NOT THE 'GHETTO'

Milton Parc is the neighborhood that sits directly east of campus. It is home to thousands of McGill students but many students know the neighborhood in the misnomer of "the McGill Ghetto." This label is problematic, as it erases the long and complex history of the neighborhood and its long-term residents.

There are almost 12,000 residents in the area and a quarter of them are McGill students. Although many residents are students of McGill, we do not own this neighborhood. Students do leave a huge impact on the lives of many permanent residents so it is up to us to be courteous and respectful of the others living in the neighborhood. Here is some information on the history and activism of Milton-Parc. Look into what the SSMU and the university are doing to maintain and build stronger relationships with citizen organizations.

HISTORICAL INFORMATION

Milton-Parc is one of the oldest neighborhoods in the city and is a landmark heritage site of Montreal. The first houses to prop up came in the late 18th century. Milton-Parc became an official neighborhood by the end of the 19th century. Milton Parc is known to have the largest concentration of cooperative housing in Canada. More than 1,500 people in the borough live in community-owned and operate housing. This network consists of 616 apartments, 148 buildings (2 commercials and 146 residential), and houses people from over 50 countries. Many of the commercial buildings in the neighborhood are owned and operated by the community. When there is a business in the area that goes up for sale, the community has first claim before it can list on the open market.

ACTIVISM

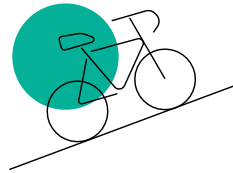
In the 1960's and 1970's, the Milton-Parc Citizens' Committee fought aggressively against gentrification and over-development in the neighborhood. This led to the preservation of many of the buildings we still see today. The organization Solidarité Milton-Parc works with the boroughs First Peoples' houseless population, providing meals and community. If you wish to, check out their website for ways to support their projects.

Last August, community organizations lobbied the city to use the Old Royal Victoria Hospital and the Hotel-Dieu as community housing spaces. Luckily, that month it was announced that the Royal Victoria Hospital would be converted into a resource for Montreal's homeless population.

MCGILL'S ROLE

In 2010, the McGill administration, the MPCC, and the SSMU created the C.A.R.E (Community Action and Relations Endeavour) agreement. The document outlines how we can be better neighbours as well as the expectations held by and for each stakeholder group (students, administration, and citizens). You can find out more information on the C.A.R.E agreement found here: externalaffairs.ssmu.ca/community-affairs/c-a-r-e-agreement.

The SSMU also hires a Community Affairs Commissioner through the portfolio of VP (External Affairs). The Community Affairs Commissioner acts as a liaison between citizen groups, the SSMU, and the McGill administration. To get in touch or volunteer, email them at commaffairs@ssmu.ca.



The French Language in Montreal

Learning French can be very useful in Montreal. While most areas near or around campus are going to be primarily Anglophone, Montreal as a whole is still very much a Francophone city. There are many resources that McGill students can use to learn French no matter their skill level. Practice makes perfect, so keep speaking it wherever you can and eventually your accent and mastery of the language will get better.

TIPS ON LEARNING FRENCH

MEDIA

One great way to learn French is to hear it through shows on streaming services, social media, and through television. Putting subtitles on French shows is a great way to learn how the language is spoken by native speakers.

CONVERSATIONS

Practice your French through simple and small conversations. This could be with your Francophone friends, with the cashier, or at your local grocery store or dépanneur.

FRENCH RADIO

If you want to learn what the Montreal accent is like this is the best way to do it. Tune in to Radio Canada 95.1 FM, Le Québec Maintenant 98.5 FM, Or CKAC Radio Circulation Montréal 730 AM.

IMMERSION PROGRAM

Quebec Studies at McGill offers a five week summer intensive program designed to improve your French language skills and teach you about Quebec history. Explore is also a summer immersion program taking place in Montreal, Quebec City, Trois-Rivieres, and many other locations across the province and Canada.

TAKE A FRENCH CLASS

McGill classes are a great way to improve your grammar. SSMU offers a French conversational MiniCourse (see **page 70**) on evenings and weekends so you can practice your skills and also meet new people! Community centres in Montreal also offer free classes - intensive, casual, and *online* (immigration-quebec.gouv.qc.ca/en/french-language).

PICK UP A COPY OF LE DÉLIT

It is the only French language newspaper on campus, visit them at delitfrancais.com. If you want to challenge yourself and put your French to the test. Le Délit welcomes contributing or new editors! Contact info on **page 46**.

Arts, Culture & Events

Montreal is a vibrant and artistic city that offers a lot in terms of music, dance, film, performance art, comedy, theatre, and fine art. It's great cultural depth makes it a prime location for a selection of different venues and events. These are just some of the many iconic spots in the city.

FILM

CINEMA DU PARC cinemaduparc.com

Perfect for indie flicks, cult classics, and more.

CINEMA MODERNE cinemamoderne.com/en/

Great for hard-to-find international films.

DOLLAR CINEMA dollarcinema.ca

Perfect for many movies... all for \$2.50.

MUSIC

NEW CITY GAS newcitygas.com

Go for bottle service and electronic music.

M TELUS mtelus.com/en

Go for big names in the music industry.

THEATRE AND DANCE

MAINLINE THEATRE mainlinetheatre.ca/

If you like independent performing art shows.

THEATRE SAINTE-CATHERINE theatresaintecatherine.com/en/

If you like edgy shows in both French and English.

INFINITHEATRE infinithatre.com/

If you like English independent theatre.

ESPACE LIBRE espacelibre.qc.ca/

If you like experimental and avant-garde works.

CENTAUR THEATRE centaurtheatre.com/

If you like large-scale English productions.

FINE ART

BELGO BUILDING thebelgoreport.com/about/

You will find great contemporary art and many galleries.

MUSÉE DES BEAUX-ARTS mbam.qc.ca/en/

You will find Montreal's most extensive art collection.

GALLERY X galleryx.concordia.ca/

You will find a student-run gallery.

ARTICULE articule.org/

You will find an artist-run contemporary art gallery.

NEVER APART neverapart.com/

Visit for the gallery, events, workshops, and saltwater pool.

Living Off Campus

Many McGill students decide to live off campus during their undergraduate degree. It is a great way to help make Montreal your home and it gives you a true feel for the city. While this is a great way to live in Montreal as a student, it can pose some legal and personal challenges as well (renting, living on your own for the first time). For all of your questions, visit the [LikeHome website \(likehome.info\)](http://likehome.info). It is a resource managed by two student housing organizations in Montreal - UTILE and HOJO.

UNDERSTANDING THE NUMBERS

mcgill.ca/students/housing/offcampus/rent/info

In Montreal, apartments are classified by the total number of rooms in an apartment, while a bathroom is counted as a half room.

Generally speaking:

1 ½: A small studio with just one main room. This includes a kitchenette and a bathroom.

3 ½: A larger apartment that usually contains a bedroom, kitchen, living room, and a bathroom.

4 ½: An apartment containing two bedrooms, a living room, and one washroom (although many landlords will call small study spaces a second bathroom).

SUBLETTING

tal.gouv.qc.ca/en/assignment-of-a-lease-or-subleasing

Most Montreal leases last twelve months, so many students sublet their apartments for the summer. However, there are usually more people trying to sublet than those looking to rent short-term, so start looking for subletters early or reduce the price of the rent to intrigue subletters. You will need to notify your landlord before you let someone sublet your place, but they cannot reject a sublet without cause. Advertise in as many places as possible, with clear descriptions and photos. Try Facebook Marketplace for example.

MAKING CONNECTIONS

fb.com/groups/Mcgill.offcamus.housing

The Off-Campus Connects program helps ease the transition into university and build a commuter community by hosting events and providing support.

WHERE TO LOOK

You can find apartments online at Craigslist, Kijiji, McGill Off-Campus Housing, or on various Facebook housing groups. There are also private housing groups for specific communities, like Chez Queer for LGBTQ+ renters. Keep an eye out for "à louer" signs and ask friends if they know of any places for rent.

TIPS FOR FINDING AN APARTMENT

- 1. Live with roommates to cut costs!** Even if you are friends, make sure to have to-the-point conversations about what you need in your home to be happy, including noise levels, cleanliness, how you will address conflict, and you will communicate desires to socialize or be left alone.
- 2. Leases generally start on the first of the month.** Make sure to start looking for a place at least two to three months before you want your lease to start. May 1, July 1, and September 1 are common start dates.
- 3. Montreal has some of the lowest rent of any city in North America.** Anything above \$700 if you have roommates is considered pricey.
- 4. Think outside of the bubble of the Milton-Parc community!** There are plenty of lovely (and cheaper) neighborhoods to explore in Montreal. Check out [page 52-53](#) for more information on what neighborhood you want to live in.
- 5. Check the blacklist!** The Régie du logement, Quebec's rental board, also maintains a blacklist of landlords to prepare you for who to avoid! Find the list at tal.gouv.qc.ca.

Living Off Campus

TENANT'S RIGHTS

mcgill.ca/students/housing/offcampus/legal/rights

It is crucial to know the law and your rights to prevent exploitation. Many landlords get away with illegal measures because students do not know their rights as tenants.

You are entitled to...

TRANSFER YOUR LEASE.

You can assign it to new tenants during the lease term.

ASK YOUR LANDLORD TO MAKE NECESSARY REPAIRS.

The landlord is responsible for repairing defects in the apartment, and is also responsible for appliance repairs if the appliances are included with the rent.

TWENTY-FOUR HOURS' NOTICE IF YOUR LANDLORD NEEDS TO VISIT THE APARTMENT.

Or, if they want to show potential new tenants your place, they are required to respect your privacy (although this does not necessarily mean twenty-four hours notice).

BE INFORMED IN WRITING THREE TO SIX MONTHS BEFORE YOUR LANDLORD INTENDS TO RAISE YOUR RENT.

You have thirty days to respond. (no response means no agreement).

NOT VE TO PAY A SECURITY DEPOSIT, LAST MONTH'S RENT, KEY DEPOSIT, FINDER'S FEE, OR ANY OTHER EXTRAS.

The only advanced payment a landlord can ask for is the first month's rent.

KEEP PERSONAL INFORMATION LIKE YOUR BANK ACCOUNT NUMBER OF SOCIAL INSURANCE NUMBER PRIVATE.

However, a landlord can ask for a background check.

RESOURCES

If you are struggling to understand the process of renting, signing a lease, or what your rights are, these are the places to get help.

RÉGIE DU LOGEMENT

tal.gouv.qc.ca/en

The Régie is a specialized section of the Quebec government that oversees rental housing information and disputes. They are a great resource for understanding your legal rights, and are also the organization you would go to file any complaints against a landlord.

MCGILL STUDENT HOUSING

mcgill.ca/students/housing/offcampus

This is a great resource when looking for apartments and understanding your rights. They also have an apartment listings section to help students in their search for a place to live.

LEGAL INFORMATION CLINIC MCGILL

facebook.com/licm.cijm/

680 Rue Sherbrooke Street Ouest, suite 150
(514) 398 - 6792

The LICM provides court accompaniment to the Régie du logement; volunteers will accompany you to court, provide moral support, and explain procedure. The LICM also offers information regarding tenant rights.

HOUSING AND JOB RESOURCE CENTRE

csu.qc.ca/services/hojo

Although located on the Concordia campus, you do not have to be a student there to get help from the HOJO. It is a great one-stop shop for all your housing related questions. They will provide you with legal advice, as well as many forms you may need. Even if you are not having immediate issues with your rental location, it is a good idea to get their advice before signing anything!

Indigenous Art and Culture in Montreal

Montreal has a plethora of great indigenous art that consists of Inuit, First Nation, Metis, and Aboriginal art. Many of them are located in museums, art galleries, and shops. Take the time to explore the great culture of these people as you live on the traditional territory of the Kanien'kehà:ka.

INDIANICA
indianica.com
79 St-Paul Street East,

For more than 40 years Indianica has focused on selling contemporary Native art and crafts made by artists from Quebec and North America. It tries to share the history and culture of Canadian culture through handmade craft items and through its collaboration with hundreds of artisans. It is a gift shop in the Old Port so make sure to visit it!

GALERIE D'ART INUIT IMAGES BORÉALES
imagesboreales.com
4, rue St-Paul Est

Founded in 2010, the Galerie Images Boreales is proud to represent nearly 200 of Canada's most established Inuit artists from all over Nunavut. It works with young emerging artists by giving them a promising future by helping them in their career development. Also located in the Old Port,

DAPHNE
daphne.art
5842 St Hubert St

Daphne is a relatively new non-profit indigenous artist-run centre committed to serving the needs of emerging, mid-career, and established indigenous artists through exhibitions and associated programming, workshops, residencies and curatorial initiatives. Daphne encourages a culture of peace through critical, respectful exchange with indigenous and non-indigenous peers and audiences.

HERITAGE FUR AND INUIT ART GALLERY
heritagegallery.ca
30 St.Paul Est Old Montreal

This art gallery is a family-run gallery located in the Old Port. It is one of the premier fur and gift stores in Montreal. Its collections includes furs, fur accessories, native arts and craft and focuses primarily on Canadian heritage. It has a true appreciation of native art and is a must visit.

Off Campus Jobs

Looking for an off-campus job? Some will be harder to find in the city if you are not bilingual but this should discourage you as there is plenty of work in Montreal. Check out these resources for a few leads.

CAPS: MYFUTURE
Caps.myfuture.mcgill.ca

MyFuture is the place for career-related events and job postings for McGill students. Sign up for events like panels and workshops on myFuture. Jobs, internships, and volunteer opportunities are also listed here. For easy access, enter your McGill email at the link above.

FACULTIES AND JOB AFFAIRS
CaPS provides a comprehensive listing of upcoming career fairs at mcgill.ca/caps/students/services/careerfairs.

You can also contact your individual faculty to see if they will be hosting a career fair.

The faculties of Engineering and Management both have job fairs and career workshops throughout the year, featuring some very renowned companies. The Arts and Science faculties also have grad

and career fairs in the fall. The Arts Internship Office helps place students in great positions over the summer (mcgill.ca/arts-internships).

FACEBOOK GROUPS
There are groups on Facebook that only those with a McGill email can access. One of these is Jobs and Internships, a group devoted to posting job opportunities (from one-offs to full-time positions) from all over. Check frequently to find a position that works well with your student lifestyle.

WEBSITES
These websites are great places to keep track of job availability in Montreal and let you search for ones related to your career choice!

ca.indeed.com/
jobbank.gc.ca/home
young-canada-works.canada.ca/Account/Login

STM Map

