

STUDENT ACTIVISM

McGill has a deep history of student activism and has many political and social clubs that could fit your needs.

See the groups below to get involved here at McGill!

POLITICAL PARTIES AT MCGILL

There are a number of clubs on campus for supporters of Quebec, Canadian, and international political parties and groups.

CONSERVATIVE ASSOCIATION
IG @cpcmcgill

DEMOCRATS ABROAD
FB @demsabroadmcgill

LIBERAL MCGILL
FB @LiberalMcGill

NEW DEMOCRATIC PARTY (NDP)
FB @NDPMcGill

GENERAL POLITICAL GROUPS

These organizations focus on a number of political issues and topics.

CINEMA POLITICA
IG @cpconcordia

CKUT 90.3 FM
Check out their Facebook page here (@RadioCKUT)

THE QUEBEC PUBLIC INTEREST RESEARCH GROUP MCGILL (QPIRG)
qiprgmcgill.org
Check out their Facebook page here (@QPIRG. GRIP.McGill) or on Instagram @qiprgmcgill .

MCGILL MODEL PARLIAMENT
IG @mcgillmodelparliament

MCGILL STUDENT SUSTAINABILITY NETWORK
IG @rsn.mcgill

POLITICAL ACTIVISM

Political campaigns are student-led causes for a social justice issue such as the climate crisis or police brutality. Some campaigns target McGill University, such as Divest McGill's campaign to have McGill divest its investments from the fossil fuel industry, while others are directed at the government.

For an extensive list of campaigns, visit: externalaffairs.ssmu.ca/political-campaigns

LIFE IN MONTREAL



Common name: Cranberry
Scientific name:
Vaccinium vitis-idaea
In-bloom: Fruit ripens
in September-October



Scan this code for quick access to the links relevant to this section, organized by topic!

GETTING AROUND

STM

stm.info/en

The Société de transport de Montréal (STM) is the public transport agency which operates 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. 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

\$ 3.75: A one-way ticket for the metro or bus (for the bus you will need exact change)

\$ 6.00: A night pass with unlimited use between 6pm to 5 a.m.

\$58.00: Cost of a monthly full-time student pass. You can buy your student OPUS card through Minerva and load a monthly pass onto it at any metro station.

→ RUN TIMES

All metros open at the same time, 5:30 am, but each closes at different schedules.

Most buses run 24/7, however, bus numbers change after 1:00 am, as night routes differ.

The STM'S "Between Stops" service provides people travelling alone at night with information about obstructions – such as low lighting, accessibility barriers, etc. – from 7:30 p.m. to 5:30 a.m. 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.

We encourage you to check the STM website for the metro and bus schedules at

stm.info/en.

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!

See the Contact information on page 6 for more about Drivesafe.

BIKING

mcgill.ca/transport/cycling

Montreal is an incredibly bike-friendly city with tons of bike lanes separated from the road by concrete. With a few modifications, your bike can also be used in the winter months.

→ FIXING YOUR BIKE

theflat.wordpress.com

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.

→ 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

CARS

Driving in Montreal can be difficult but can be practical for some occasions like day trips, large shopping missions, or moving.

→ 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

agencemobilitedurable.ca

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).

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, 98.5 Montréal — Parce que vous voulez tout savoir, 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 (minicourses.ssmu.ca) on evenings. Community centres in Montreal also offer free classes - intensive, casual, and online (immigration-quebec.gouv.qc.ca/en/french-language) The Government of Quebec also offers free full-time and part-time French courses. If you are eligible, you can also be paid for your participation in the program (<https://www.quebec.ca/en/education/learn-french>).

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!

Looking for an off-campus job? Some will be harder to find in the city if you are not bilingual, but this shouldn't discourage you as there is plenty of work in Montreal.

Check out these resources for a few leads.

CAPS: MYFUTURE

mcgill.ca/caps

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

LIVING OFF CAMPUS

It's important to be respectful of the city's neighborhoods and history. In 2010, the McGill administration, the Milton-Parc Citizens' Committee (MPCC), and the SSMU created the C.A.R.E (Community Action and Relations Endeavour) agreement to outline how the residents of Milton Parc and the students living there can be better neighbors to one another!

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

SSMU's Community Affairs Commission acts as a liaison between citizen groups, the SSMU, and the McGill administration. Contact them commaffairs@ssmu.ca.

With that being said, many students choose not to live in Milton-Parc! Explore Montreal's neighborhoods at: mtl.org/en/explore/neighbourhoods

You will likely want to start apartment-hunting in early February, so you can move out at the end of your first year. Living off-campus 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), a resource managed by two student housing organizations in Montreal - UTILE and HOJO.

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. Start looking for subletters early or slightly reduce the price of the rent to help guarantee you'll find someone. 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.

WHERE TO LOOK

You can find apartments online at Craigslist, Kijiji, McGill Off-Campus Housing, Facebook Marketplace 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

- Live with roommates to cut costs! Even if you are friends, make sure to have straight 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.
- 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.
- Unless you have furniture to provide, be on the lookout for exclusively furnished apartments that include both furniture and appliances.

ARTS & CULTURE

Montreal is a vibrant and artistic city that offers a lot in terms of music, dance, film, performance art, comedy, theatre, and fine arts. 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
Great for hard-to-find international films.

CINEMA POLITICA

cinemapolitica.org
Pay-what-you-can film screenings on Monday evenings at Concordia.

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.

ESPACE LIBRE

espacelibre.qc.ca/
If you like experimental and avant-garde works.

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 fund a student-run gallery.

INDIGENOUS ART AND CULTURE IN MONTREAL

GALERIE D'ART INUIT IMAGES BORÉALES

imagesboreales.com
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
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.