

SSMU

Common name:

Cloudberry

Scientific name:

Rubus chamaemorus

In-bloom: June-July

*It shares a name with
McGill's favourite
squirrel!*



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



WHAT SSMU DOES

The Society has **17 services** to meet students' needs, plus other resources and employment opportunities.

SERVICES

- Mental Health
- Peer Support Centre
- McGill Students' Nightline
- Safely Connected McGill

LGBTQ+ AND FEMINIST SERVICES

- Union for Gender Empowerment
- Queer McGill

SAFETY AND TRANSIT

- McGill Students' Emergency Response Team
- Sexual Assault Centre of the McGill Students' Society
- SSMU DriveSafe
- SSMU Walksafe
- Flat Bike Collective

FOOD SECURITY

- The Plate Club
- Student Nutrition Accessibility Club
- Midnight Kitchen

MEDIA AND CULTURE

- TVM: Student Television at McGill
- Black Students' Network
- SSMU Musicians Collective
- Arab Student Network
- Muslim Students' Association

EMPLOYMENT

Passionate about social justice, student rights, or improving equity within SSMU? A job with the Society might be for you!

Head over to the "Jobs" section of SSMU's website to check out available listings.

STUDENT ADVOCACY

SSMU is there for you if you're facing discrimination, harassment, mental health issues, or any other needs you might have. Here are some resources to consult:

VP UNIVERSITY AFFAIRS

The VP University Affairs advocates for students within the university in general (e.g., in the Senate). If you have equity concerns, are having issues getting accommodations, have an academic complaint, or just have a question about the university in general, please reach out to them at ua@ssmu.ca.

LEGAL PROTECTION PLAN

SSMU members have access to a legal consultation service to consult a duly certified lawyer regarding any legal question! *

→ **Legal Assistance Hotline:** You have access to a toll-free legal assistance hotline to consult a lawyer. This helpline can be used for legal advice on any issue, and you have unlimited usage!

LEGAL REPRESENTATION SERVICES

You can also receive legal help for housing disputes, academic or misconduct disputes with McGill, employment contract disputes and more!

MENTAL HEALTH ADVOCACY & RESOURCES

SSMU has a list of wellness resources on the "mental health" section of its website. If you have questions or ideas regarding SSMU's mental health programs, you can email the outreach coordinator at mhoutreach@ssmu.ca or the advocacy coordinator at mhadvocacy@ssmu.ca.

FOOD SECURITY

Midnight Kitchen provides free, vegan meals to students on a regular basis! Additionally, SSMU has launched a pilot grocery program which provides students with vouchers for various grocery stores. For more information on food (in)security on campus, flip to [page 170](#).

**For Canadian and Quebecois Students*

YOUR ROLE IN SSMU

There are plenty of ways to get involved in SSMU, from running for an elected position to bartending at Gerts.

Here are some ideas to help you get started:

→ Join the First-Year Council (FYC)

The FYC works to get first-year students acclimated to life at McGill.

The council has nine open positions – take a look at their Instagram page, [@ssmufyc](#), to see when applications are open!

→ Participate in General Assemblies

GAs happen once a semester. You can participate simply by voting, or you can submit a general assembly motion or referendum question!

To learn more about how to submit motions to the ballot, see:

[ssmu.ca/ga](#)

→ Join a Committee

The Board of Directors and Legislative Council both oversee committees that serve to facilitate equity, hold student governance accountable, and manage other projects within SSMU. Committees have varying levels of commitment, so check out [ssmu.ca/committees](#) to determine which committee is right for you.

→ Join a Campaign

The VP External works with political and social justice campaigns on SSMU's behalf. Divest McGill, the Indigenous Student Alliance, and Students for Peace and Disarmament, and Let's Eat McGill are some of the best-known campaigns. For a full list, visit the VP External website: [externalaffairs.ssmu.ca](#)

→ Join a Club

SSMU has over 250 clubs, so you're bound to find something that piques your interest. Flip to [page 142](#) for more on joining and starting clubs!

→ Run for a seat on the Legislative Council

Clubs Representatives and Services Representatives are elected to the Legislative Council in the Fall. Consider running for one of these positions!

HOW SSMU WORKS

GOVERNING BODIES

GA

Who: Any member of SSMU can submit a general assembly motion or referendum question – get in touch with a SSMU executive or the Speaker of Council to find out how! Likewise, any SSMU member can attend, vote, and debate.

When: once a semester, or more if a special GA is called

How to attend: The Speaker of Council will send notice of a GA to SSMU members via email at least 48 hours in advance. This email will include the date, time, and location of the assembly; you can also check [ssmu.ca/ga](#) for details.

BoD

Who: 12 voting Directors, including executives, councillors, and members-at-large. Meetings are open to any SSMU member who wishes to attend, though some items may be discussed in closed session.

When: biweekly

How to attend: fill out the Google Form found on [ssmu.ca/bod](#).

LC

Who: 30 councillors, plus SSMU Executives. All SSMU members are welcome to attend open sessions of council, though confidential matters are discussed in closed session.

When: every other Thursday

How to attend: fill out the Google Form found at [ssmu.ca/lc](#).

J-BOARD

Who: seven members, appointed by the nominating committee of current members.

When: ad hoc

FIRST-YEAR COUNCIL

Who: nine first-year students who apply at the beginning of the academic year.

Stay up-to-date with the FYC on their Instagram account, [@ssmufyc](#), for more information!

COMMITTEES

Who: membership varies depending on the committee, though most have at least one SSMU Executive, members of legislative council, and members-at-large.

When: meeting frequency ranges from weekly to monthly to ad hoc.

Check out [ssmu.ca/committees](#) to see when a specific committee meets.

How to attend: Contact the commissioner of the committee you're interested in! Their email can be found at the above link.

Follow the SSMU social media channels [@SSMUAEUM](#) to keep up to date with Governance events.

CLUBS

FINDING A CLUB

Because **SSMU has over 250 (!!!) clubs**, it can be a bit overwhelming to find exactly what you're looking for. Fortunately, SSMU's Student Life webpage has organized clubs into ten different categories to narrow down your search!

Activities Night gives students the opportunity to talk to club members and executives and learn more about student groups on campus. Activities Night takes place early each semester in September and January and attracts over 3000 visitors.

Be sure to check it out and get to know the clubs at McGill!

STARTING A CLUB

Didn't find what you're looking for? That's okay! SSMU has a webpage with all of the application forms and instructions for potential club founders to consult:

ssmu.ca/student-life/club-resources/how-to-start-a-club

FUNDING

Need to fund a cultural event, equipment, or travel expenses for your club?

Follow the steps below to submit an application to SSMU's Funding Committee!

You can contact the funding commissioner at fundcom@ssmu.ca with any questions, and you can ask the commissioner to review your application before submitting it.

- ✓ Read the updated SSMU Funding Guidebook (ssmu.ca/resources/funding) to understand the funding process and what is available.
- ✓ Choose which fund you wish to apply to.
- ✓ Send in your Funding Application and assure yourself that all estimates, costs, and supporting documents are correct.
- ✓ Accept your decision and assemble your Post-Funding Report. Your student organization can apply again for other initiatives and events.

Pro tip: contact the Funding Commissioner (fundcom@ssmu.ca) for any inquiries and before you submit your application you can ask the Funding Commissioner to review it.

SSMU EXECUTIVES



SSMU Executives are elected each Winter to serve in the Society's highest governing body. Contact information and more details on each executive's role can be found on the SSMU website (bit.ly/3WAlwvV) – don't hesitate to reach out to them if you have any questions or ideas pertaining to their roles!

This year, SSMU has seven executives with a diverse array of interests. Read on to find out more about their studies, and to hear what advice they'd have for their younger selves!



ALEXANDRE ASHKIR (he/him/il)
President

Year and Faculty: U4 Arts

Area of Study: Majoring in Religious Studies and Political Science; Minor in History

What advice would you give to your first-year self?

Spend more time doing what you enjoy!



ALICE FANG (she/her/elle)
VP Finance

Year and Faculty: U3 Nursing
Area of Study: Nursing

What advice would you give to your first-year self?

My advice would be to get involved as soon as possible within the McGill Community :) You will meet a lot of people who will have amazing ideas! Also, don't be harsh on yourself <33. Make sure that you keep up with the classes because it is way harder to increase the GPA than lower it.



NADIA DAKDOUKI (she/her/elle)
VP Student Life

Year and Faculty: U3 Science
Area of Study: Microbiology and Immunology

What advice would you give to your first-year self?

Get involved in your first year! There's so much more to McGill than just classes and you'll get to meet so many great people.



HASSANATOU KOULIBALY (she/her/elle)
VP Operations and Sustainability

Year and Faculty: U3 Arts & Science
Area of Study: Majoring in Cognitive Science (neuro); Minor in Interdisciplinary Life Sciences

What advice would you give to your first-year self?

You're going to find your people, your hobby, and your interests in time, and everything is going to be just fine!



LIAM GAITHER (he/him/il)
VP External

Year and Faculty: U2 Arts & Science
Area of Study: Majoring in Sustainability, Science and Society; Minor in Geography

What advice would you give to your first-year self?

Don't worry so much about school and grades! University is about much more than just a diploma. Join some clubs that pique your interest to find like-minded friends :)



LALIA KATCHELEWA (she/her/elle)
VP University Affairs

Year and Faculty: U3 Arts
Area of Study: Economics and East Asian Studies

What advice would you give to your first-year self?

Talk to the people sitting next to you in class!



JON BARLAS (he/him/il)
VP Internal

Year and Faculty: U4 Arts & Science
Area of Study: Majoring in Cognitive Science; Minor in Economics

What advice would you give to your first-year self?

Don't be afraid of making mistakes :)

LOOKING TO PLAN AN UNFORGETTABLE EVENT?



SSMU EVENTS

Book one of our versatile event
spaces right on McGill campus!

ssmu.ca/events-booking/view-our-spaces/



ssmu.ca/events-booking
internalevents@ssmu.ca

Explore a world of
possibilities with our
diverse range of event
venues at the SSMU

*The perfect space for
every occasion!*

**EQUIPMENT
FURNITURE
BAR SERVICE
SUPPORT STAFF
AND MORE!**



SSMU JOBS

Work with **SSMU!**

**HIRING FOR A VARIETY OF
PART-TIME POSITIONS!**

What's in it for you?

STUDENT COLLEAGUES
FLEXIBLE HOURS
PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

APPLY NOW



[SSMU.CA/JOBS](https://ssmu.ca/jobs)



GERTS BAR

YOUR STUDENT BAR ON CAMPUS!



WE FEATURE WEEKLY SPECIALS AND REGULAR
EVENTS INCLUDING LIVE MUSIC, TRIVIA NIGHTS,
STAND UP COMEDY AND MORE.

3480 MCTAVISH
UNIVERSITY CENTRE
GERTSCAMPUSBAR.CA

FOLLOW US

IG > @GERTSTILITHURTS
FB > GERTSMCGILLCAMPUSBAR

THE UNIVERSITY



Common name:
Common Butterwort
Scientific name:
Pinguicula vulgaris
In-bloom: May-June



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