

**NEW MUSIC GRADUATE STUDENT WELCOME LETTER
AND SURVIVAL GUIDE
JUNE 2013**

Dear incoming music graduate students:

On behalf of the Music Graduate Students' Society (MGSS), welcome to McGill! We're thrilled that you're joining our community of ca. 300 grad students at the Schulich School of Music. The wide range of interests and skills you bring makes McGill an exciting place to perform and study music.

As MGSS leaders, we want your time here to be the best it can be. We are here for you! We will host social/networking events throughout the year, including orientation, end of term parties, general assemblies, and monthly open mic nights in the Music Library (aka "Library After Hours"). Stay tuned to hear more about these and other initiatives at orientation on August 29th and on our website (<http://sites.music.mcgill.ca/mgss/>) and Facebook group ("McGill Music Graduate Students' Society"). Also, check your McGill email regularly for messages from us.

In addition to organizing social activities, MGSS advocates for grad students' needs and interests within the Schulich School of Music. We have representatives for each department (research and performance), area (strings, music theory, etc.), and committees (library, IT, etc.). We encourage you to voice your ideas, questions, and concerns to any MGSS representative. For a list of current reps, see <http://sites.music.mcgill.ca/mgss/council-and-representatives/>. If you're interested in getting involved, please contact us at mgss.pgss@mail.mcgill.ca.

MGSS also strives to support your careers as rising scholars and performers. Every March we organize a multi-day symposium at which graduate students from McGill and other universities present their work. You're all encouraged to submit proposals for papers, posters, and lecture recitals and help plan and run the Symposium. For more details, check out the Symposium website at <http://sites.music.mcgill.ca/mgss/symposium/>.

In the pages that follow, we're including a basic survival guide for music grad students at McGill. We hope you find it useful. And please feel free to contact us if there is additional information you need, or additional ways we can be of help!

All the best,

The MGSS Executive Council

Jacob Sagrans, President
Kyle Kaplan, Vice President
Meaghan Parker, Secretary
Kelly Symons, Treasurer
Cedar Wingate, PGSS Councillor
Christian Smith, Performance Student Representative
Jason Noble, Member at Large
Jessica Holmes, Symposium Co-Chair
Melvin Backstrom, Symposium Co-Chair
Solmaz Shakerifard, Research Student Representative

McGILL GRADUATE MUSIC STUDENT SURVIVAL GUIDE, 2013–2014

Prepared by Music Graduate Students' Society (MGSS) Executive Council members

*If you feel we have left something off or have additional questions, please contact us at
mgss.pgss@mail.mcgill.ca or visit our website at <http://sites.music.mcgill.ca/mgss>*

TABLE OF CONTENTS

I. General information	<i>p. 3</i>	Mailboxes Copiers
Dates		
First-Year Office		
Administrative resources		
Post-Graduate Students' Society		
International students		
Family resources	<i>p. 4</i>	
Email and internet access		
Course registration		
McGill ID		
II. Academic resources and policies	<i>p. 5</i>	
General academic resources		
Language resources		
Policies		
III. Finances		
Billing		
Payment	<i>p. 6</i>	
Financial assistance		
Banking		
IV. Employment		
Teaching		
AGSEM	<i>p. 7</i>	
Jobs		
V. McGill music facilities		
Practice spaces		
Instruments	<i>p. 8</i>	
Library		
Offices		
Keys	<i>p. 9</i>	
VI. Moving to Montreal		
Housing		
Phone, internet, TV		<i>p. 10</i>
VII. Transportation		
Local transportation		
Farther afield		
VIII. Daily life in Montreal		<i>p. 11</i>
Weather		
Food		
Groceries		
Shopping		<i>p. 12</i>
News		
Safety and theft		
IX. Health		<i>p. 13</i>
Health insurance		
Health clinics		
Pharmacies		
X. Extracurricular activities		
Athletics		
Performances		<i>p. 14</i>
Religious resources		
Student groups		
XI. Map of the music faculty		<i>p. 15</i>

I. GENERAL INFORMATION

Dates

The following is a summary of important dates for the 2013–2014 academic year. More information can be found at <http://www.mcgill.ca/importantdates/key-dates>.

August 29: Music grad student orientation (10:00 a.m., Tanna Schulich Hall, New Music Building)
 September 3: Post-Graduate Students' Society (PGSS) orientation (3:30–7:30 p.m., Thomson House)
 September 3–December 18: Fall term in session (no classes/exams for holiday October 14)
 January 6–April 29: Winter term in session (no classes/exams for reading week March 3–7 or holidays April 18, or April 21)

First-Year Office

The McGill First-Year Office provides information and resources for new students at McGill (like you!). Check out their website at <http://www.mcgill.ca/firstyear/> to learn more. Their website also provides more details on many of the resources touched upon in this survival guide. In addition, the First-Year Office provides general orientations for new graduate students at McGill. Visit <http://www.mcgill.ca/firstyear/grad-students/fall-orientation> for more info.

Administrative resources

The office for Graduate Studies in Music is located on the seventh floor of the New Music Building (527 Sherbrooke St. W, A726A and B). This is where you will need to go to deal with most administrative concerns specific to the music faculty. You can find out more info about the office and other important info for music grad students (such as funding info, forms, etc.) at <http://www.mcgill.ca/music/current-students/graduate>.

The university-wide office for Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies is also a great resource. Their website is <http://www.mcgill.ca/gps/>. We also encourage you to check out the Student Services website, which can get you in touch with people and services you may need, such as accommodations for students with disabilities, McGill's student health clinic, and more (see <http://www.mcgill.ca/studentservices/>).

Finally, McGill's Service Point offers a one-stop spot for many general administrative concerns (<http://www.mcgill.ca/students/servicepoint/>). Located on McTavish at the corner of Sherbrooke W., they are the place to get your McGill ID card, submit legal documents, and more (see the full list of services at the URL above).

Post-Graduate Students' Society (PGSS)

MGSS is a subsidiary of the McGill Post-Graduate Students' Society (<http://pgss.mcgill.ca/>), which offers programming and support for grad students and postdocs in all faculties at McGill, and represents grad students and postdocs on university-wide committees and governing bodies. Thomson House (3650 rue McTavish, between des Pins Ouest and Dr. Penfield) is the home of PGSS's offices as well as a fully licensed restaurant and bar that often hosts social events for grad students and postdocs. PGSS also hosts leisure courses in Thomson House, as well as orientations for new grad students—see the URL above for more info.

International students

If you're coming to McGill from abroad, welcome to Canada! We hope you soon feel at home here. Montreal and McGill are incredibly diverse with people from all over the world—students like you help make McGill and Montreal vibrant and exciting places.

It is imperative to make sure you are legally allowed to come here—otherwise, you will not be allowed to register for classes and could get kicked out of the country. Applying for student visas can be a lengthy process involving approval at both the provincial and federal level, so DO IT NOW! To make the process easier, check out the helpful Pre-Departure Guide from McGill’s International Student Services (ISS). The link is <http://www.mcgill.ca/internationalstudents/predeparture>.

We encourage you to also check out ISS’s general website (<http://www.mcgill.ca/internationalstudents/>) where you can find information about many issues of concern to international students, such as health insurance, how to bring your family with you, language support for non-native English or French speakers, how to legally work in Canada, taxes, and more!

Family resources

For grad students with families (children, spouses, etc.), PGSS offers a great website with info about resources you may need. The link is <https://pgss.mcgill.ca/en/family-care>. If you’re an international student, check out the “Bringing Your Family” page offered by International Student Services (<http://www.mcgill.ca/internationalstudents/predeparture/bringing-your-family>). It is important to note that your family members will also have to follow immigration/visa procedures. See the link above for more info. We encourage Canadian students to check out the international link too, as it includes details about schooling and daycare absent on the PGSS website. Another on-campus group offering family resources, including babysitting, clothes and toy exchanges, and a children’s library, is the McGill Student Parents’ Network (<http://www.mcgill.ca/students/chaplaincy/offer/studentparents>).

Email and computing at McGill

Minerva is the online access point to most administrative procedures for McGill students. Sign into your Minerva account at <http://www.mcgill.ca/minerva>. You likely used Minerva already during the application process. You will need to use it now for registration, transcripts, tuition bills, tax slips, pay stubs, financial aid, and more.

As a McGill student, you will have a McGill email address. It is important to check it regularly, as it is the primary means through which you will receive important information from administrators and faculty. To learn more about how to set up your McGill email, see <http://bit.ly/168eu6O>. Note that your McGill email address and corresponding password are the credentials you’ll use to log in to Minerva as well as on McGill-owned computers, such as those in the library.

Course registration

Course registration is accessible in Minerva (<http://www.mcgill.ca/minerva>) from the Student menu. To confirm your status as a student and avoid late fees, make sure you register for CRN 2334 (fall term) and CRN 2262 (winter term) NO LATER THAN AUGUST 14, 2013!! For more information on registration, see <http://www.mcgill.ca/gps/students/registration/>.

In terms of registering for specific courses, we suggest you consult with your supervisor about the courses you need to take for your program, either by email over the summer or as soon as you arrive at McGill. There is a list of graduate music seminars being offered in the coming year at <http://www.mcgill.ca/music/currentstudents/graduate/graduate-seminar-information>.

McGill student ID card

Many services both within McGill (e.g.: the library, the gym) and out (e.g: public transit student fares) require your McGill student ID for access. You will get this card at Service Point (<http://www.mcgill.ca/students/servicepoint/>). See “Administrative Resources” for more details.

II. ACADEMIC RESOURCES AND POLICIES

General academic resources

If you would like to improve your writing, the McGill Writing Centre (<http://www.mcgill.ca/mwc/>) is a great resource—we encourage you to check out their programs! Also, the SKILLSETS program offers specialized workshops on everything from teaching skills to how to use specific computer programs, and is open to all graduate students (<http://www.mcgill.ca/skillsets/>).

Finally, if you have academic concerns, we'd encourage you to speak to your supervisor, professors, and/or get in touch with Director of Graduate Studies in Music, Eleanor Stubley (eleanor.stubley@mcgill.ca). They are here to help, and can often point you to tutors or other helpful resources.

Language resources

Feel your English language skills could use a brush-up? We encourage you to check out the resources available through the McGill Writing Centre (<http://www.mcgill.ca/mwc/>). Looking to learn or improve your French? Check out the offerings of the McGill French Language Centre (<http://www.mcgill.ca/flc>). There are also French courses offered as part of PGSS's leisure courses (see "Post-Graduate Students' Society (PGSS)" for more details). Note too that while most McGill classes are taught in English, students can submit coursework in either English or French. You are encouraged to use whichever of the two languages you feel most comfortable with!

While McGill is a predominantly English-speaking institution, most people in Montreal and Quebec speak French. In the downtown area you can get by with English, however, it will be a good idea for those who don't know any French to think about taking courses. At the very least, if you must speak in English, consider first politely asking the person if they speak English in French (i.e., "Parlez-vous anglais ?").

Policies: Academic integrity, research ethics, and more

McGill takes academic integrity and research ethics very seriously, expecting original and ethical work from everyone at the University. Breaching academic integrity and/or research ethics can have serious consequences, including being suspended or expelled from McGill. To read more about these policies, visit the "Academic Rights and Responsibilities" page maintained by the Dean of Students (<http://www.mcgill.ca/students/srr/academicrights>). Also, visit the "Personal Rights and Responsibilities" page to learn about non-academic policies affecting students, such as anti-harassment policies (<http://www.mcgill.ca/students/srr/personalrights>). Finally, check out the Graduate Music Handbook (<http://www.mcgill.ca/music/current-students/graduate/graduate-music-handbook>) which has information on many of the music-specific policies and procedures.

III. FINANCES

McGill billing

McGill issues e-bills via Minerva for payment of all outstanding dues and fees, including tuition, printing expenses and other items. Billing is completed in the first 5 days of each month and, on balances of more than \$10, payment must be made within 23 to 25 days later. More information can be obtained at this link: <http://www.mcgill.ca/student-accounts/your-account>. If you have overpaid, you can request a refund of your credit balance via Minerva (instructions are sent to you in your e-bill).

If you want details on how your tuition and fees are being calculated, please visit <http://www.mcgill.ca/student-accounts/tuition-fees>.

Getting paid by McGill

If you will be getting regular income from a job at McGill, you will be paid by direct deposit to your bank account. To set up direct deposit, go to Minerva's Employee Menu. You will also get your yearly tax receipts from this menu. Bursaries and stipends administered by McGill will be deposited to the same bank account.

Financial assistance for students

McGill's Scholarships and Student Aid Office (<http://www.mcgill.ca/studentaid/>) manages both McGill's financial aid program and government student aid programs. Government assistance programs are one of the main sources of funding for students: for info on Quebec, Canada and US Student aid, check out this website - <http://www.mcgill.ca/studentaid/government>.

More information on graduate funding can be found at <http://www.mcgill.ca/studentaid/graduatefunding>. Here you will find links to in-course financial aid, work-study possibilities, and fellowship awards for prospective and current students. Also, check out a similar more music-specific link maintained by Graduate Studies in Music at <http://www.mcgill.ca/music/current-students/graduate/grant-information>.

Banking

In Canada, there are five major banks: the Royal Bank of Canada (RBC), the Toronto-Dominion Bank (TD), the Bank of Nova Scotia (BNS), the Bank of Montreal (BMO) and the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce (CIBC). In Quebec, you will also find Banque Nationale and Caisse Populaire Desjardins, and you may even find other credit unions and smaller banks.

The nearest branches to the Schulich School of Music of each of the big five banks are:

BMO: 670 Ste-Catherine Ouest (corner of University)

RBC: 688 Sherbrooke St West (corner of University)

TD: 2001 University (corner Ave du President Kennedy)

BNS: 600 de Maisonneuve Ouest (Place de la cathédrale)

CIBC: 1006 Sherbrooke Ouest (corner of Metcalfe / McTavish)

Most of these banks offer student banking packages, with lower fees and reduced interest rates. Be sure to ask for these if you don't already have them!

IV. EMPLOYMENT

Teaching work

All graduate students are eligible to apply for teaching assistantships and instructorships. Positions are posted on the board adjacent the TA/instructor offices in the E-wing, online at <http://www.mcgill.ca/music/current-students/graduate/job-postings-0>, and sent out via email in early fall for the winter term and early spring for the fall term. Applications are made online through the McGill Career Planning Service (CaPS) at <https://csm-caps.mcgill.ca/students/>.

There will be a mandatory training session for all new TAs and instructors shortly after orientation. Please stay tuned for more information on this training session. Additional resources for teaching, such as sample course

syllabi, and overviews of McGill's teaching policies, can be found on the Teaching and Learning Services website (<http://www.mcgill.ca/tls/teaching>).

Association of Graduate Students Employed at McGill (AGSEM)

Grad students who work as teaching assistants, research assistants, exam invigilators and/or instructors at McGill are members of the union AGSEM, the Association of Graduate Students Employed at McGill. Check out their website at <http://agsem-aeedem.ca/> to learn more about your rights and responsibilities as a McGill employee and member of this union.

Jobs (non-teaching)

If you are interested in working as a research assistant, talk to your advisor to see if anything can be arranged. There are also positions available to write program notes for concerts at the Schulich School of Music. Often the Music Library, music admissions, and the box office have openings for graduate music students. For the library, speak to a librarian for more info (see "Library" in this guide). For information on working for admissions, see <http://www.mcgill.ca/music/current-students/ambassador-program>. For the box office, see <http://www.mcgill.ca/music/events/about-concerts-publicity>. We are currently in the process of adding a gigs posting function to the MGSS website (<http://sites.music.mcgill.ca/mgss/>). Please stay tuned for updates. You may also want to contact the Schulich School of Music's Booking Office to learn of possible gigs (<http://www.mcgill.ca/music/about-us/contact-us/booking-office>). Also look for postings on bulletin boards around the music faculty—that is often a great way to find gigs! It's often possible to get work-study jobs at McGill. See <http://www.mcgill.ca/studentaid/workstudy> for more info.

Other more general places to look for work include McGill's Career Planning Service (CaPs, see <http://www.mcgill.ca/caps/>), Craigslist (<http://montreal.en.craigslist.ca/>) and Kijiji (<http://montreal.kijiji.ca/>). Please note that if you're working off campus, you'll likely need to have a strong grasp of French. Also, if you're an international student working off campus, you'll need to get a work permit (please see the "International Students" section of this guide for more info). Finally, don't underestimate the power of word of mouth for jobs. Talk to your professors and supervisors—let them know you're interested. They may know of jobs you could do!

V. MCGILL MUSIC FACILITIES

Practice spaces

Practice rooms are on the third, fourth and fifth floors of the Schulich School of Music E-Wing. Practice rooms on the fifth floor have grand pianos and are designated for piano practice. Some practice rooms on the third floor have upright pianos—these are for voice practice. All other practice rooms are for use by any music student. There are more practice rooms across the street in the Croix Bleue complex (550 Sherbrooke St. W) on the eleventh floor of the southwest tower (the one with Air Algerie in the basement along Union). None of the Croix Bleue practice rooms have pianos, although there is 24-hour access. The practice rooms in the E-Wing are open while the building is open: 7:30–22:30 M–F, and 8:30–22:30 S–Su.

Access to practice rooms is open to all students in the Schulich School of Music. To enter, you must swipe your McGill ID card on a card reader. Performance students' cards will automatically be activated upon enrolment. Students in the Department of Research must request access from the Building Director's Office (see "Keys" for more info about this office).

Graduate performance students can reserve a certain number of hours each week in a specific practice room (the number varies depending on your program). The reservation process occurs at the beginning of each term, and is run by the Music Undergraduate Student Association (MUSA) (<http://www.mcgillmusa.ca/>). For more details on how to register, visit <http://musamcgill.wordpress.com/services/practice-room-sign-up/>, and check your email regularly to make sure you don't miss the signup deadline!

Some areas (percussion and early music especially) have designated practice studios containing instruments and equipment students in those areas need. Please speak to your supervisor/teacher for more information.

Instrument lockers

Instrument lockers are made available to all interested students by the Music Undergraduate Student Association (MUSA) (<http://www.mcgillmusa.ca/>). For more information on how to obtain a locker, visit <http://musamcgill.wordpress.com/services/locker-registration/>. You can also visit MUSA's office on the ground floor of the E-Wing to obtain a locker. Lockers are located on the third, fourth and fifth floors of the E- and C-Wings.

Instrument loans

The Building Director's Office has instruments that McGill music students may borrow for their ensembles, coursework, and/or lessons. For more info, see <http://www.mcggill.ca/music/about-us/contact-us/building-directors-office/instrument-equipment-loans>.

Library

The Marvin Duchow Music Library will soon feel like a second home for many of you. Located on the third, fourth, and fifth floors of the New Music Building (527 Sherbrooke St. W—entrance is on the on the third floor), the library has a friendly and knowledgeable staff, three seminar rooms, an audiovisual room, a student-funded computer lab, the Gertrude Whitley Performance Library (where you get scores for many McGill ensembles), and many study carrels (which graduate students are eligible to reserve for their individual research—speak to a librarian for more info). In addition to books, scores, journals, and recordings, the library also has a large collection of audiovisual equipment you can check out at the fourth floor desk, including videocameras, laptops, and sound-recording equipment.

McGill students have access not only to the Duchow collection and the other library branches on campus, but also many other libraries in Quebec (the CREPUQ system) and throughout North America (using Inter-Library Loan).

Check out the McGill Library's general website at <http://www.mcggill.ca/library> and the music specific site at <http://www.mcggill.ca/library/library-using/branches/music-library>. And take a library tour during orientation or the beginning of the fall term and ask your librarian for more information. The librarians are here to help us!

Offices for teaching assistants and instructors

Shared offices for graduate student teaching assistants and instructors are located on the second floor of the E-Wing at the far end of the hallway (E-210, 211, 212, 214, and 216). This is where you will hold your office hours. There are cabinets within these offices for you to store your teaching supplies. Request your key for the offices/cabinets at the Building Director's Office (see "Keys" for more info). Note that the key to most classrooms at the music faculty is the same as the key to the mailroom (see "Keys" and "Mailboxes" for more info).

Keys

Keys (for TA/instructor offices, mailboxes, classrooms, etc.) are available from the Building Director's Office (E-223/224, see <http://www.mcgill.ca/music/about-us/contact-us/building-directors-office>), which is open 10–12 p.m. and 2–4 p.m. Monday to Friday. A deposit of \$30 cash per key is required.

Mailboxes

Grad students, particularly those working as teaching assistants, research assistants, and/or instructors, may obtain a mailbox in the central mailroom (E-226, by the photocopiers and walkway to the New Music Building). Make your request at the reception desk on the seventh floor of the New Music Building. An additional key for accessing the mailroom is available from the Building Director's Office.

Copy machines

Students working as TAs, RAs, and/or instructors may be eligible for photocopying privileges. Contact Linda Mannix (linda.mannix@mcgill.ca) to request a copier card.

For personal copying, all photocopiers on campus are linked to the uPrint system, which allows you to not only copy, but print and scan via your student login and be billed later through your student account (accessible via Minerva). The service currently costs \$0.063 per page copied or printed, plus taxes. Scanning is free. You can find out more information about how to use uPrint, including how to set up printing on your personal computer, at the following link: <http://bit.ly/14R0TvS>. uPrint is automatic on all on-campus computers (in the library, etc.)—no setup is required!

VI. MOVING TO MONTREAL

Housing

Looking for an apartment? A roommate? Want to learn about McGill-owned residences for graduate students? Need to know what your rights and responsibilities are as a tenant in Quebec? You can find this and more at the McGill Housing website (<http://www.mcgill.ca/students/housing/>). You can also visit their office in person at University Hall (3473 University St.).

There are a number of great websites for browsing housing in Montreal. We recommend the McGill classifieds (<http://www.mcgill.ca/classified/>), Craigslist (<http://montreal.en.craigslist.ca/>) and Kijiji (<http://montreal.kijiji.ca/?lang=en>). Alternatively, if you're set on a particular area or neighbourhood, another approach is to tour that area, looking for “À louer” (for lease) signs and taking down the phone numbers of places that interest you!

Since it can vary substantially from place to place, it is best to ask potential landlords how their residences are supplied with water, electricity, and heat, and who pays for it. Often utilities are not included in advertised rents, so it's good to ask potential landlords how much she/he expects utilities will cost you per month. Air conditioning is uncommon in Montreal, but since it does not get exceptionally hot too often, we doubt you'll miss it! Some buildings do not have laundry rooms or washer/dryer hook-ups so you may want to ask potential landlords about nearby laundromats.

A final important note: the lease renewal process works differently in Quebec than many other places. About three months before your lease expires your landlord will send you a letter telling you whether they want to raise your rent and by how much. You then have 30 days to let him/her know in writing (make sure you use a registered letter to protect yourself!) if you refuse the rent increase or do not want to renew the lease. If you

don't respond within 30 days, the lease is renewed automatically and you are assumed to have accepted the rent increase!

Phone, internet, and TV plans

There are many companies that offer landline, cell phone, internet, and television plans in Montreal, including, but not limited to, Fido, Rogers, Videotron, Telus, Virgin, and Bell. It's hard for us to recommend a specific company or plan, as there are many to choose from, and ones you choose will depend on your own usage habits and also where you live. Some buildings/areas may be able to get only certain plans, so it is best to check with your landlord and/or roommates. Some things to consider: it's often significantly cheaper to use Skype and/or Google voice to make international calls instead of your phone plan; Netflix and other online streaming sites are affordable alternatives to cable, but beware of bandwidth overage charges; data plans can be quite expensive, but Montreal has a lot of free wifi, so you may want to consider declining this option if you're strapped on cash; many cell phone plans require a two-year commitment.

VII. TRANSPORTATION

Local transportation

McGill and Montreal are relatively compact, and therefore very accessible without a car. Whether you're getting around by foot, bike, public transit, or car, Google Maps (<https://maps.google.com>) can provide detailed directions. For a detailed map of the McGill downtown campus, check out <http://www.mcgill.ca/maps/>.

To learn more about Montreal's public transit system, visit the website of the Société de transport de Montréal (STM) (<http://stm.info/>). If you use public transit regularly, it is probably most economical to buy an Opus card and load it with monthly passes. Note that students who are 25 or under can get a discount on monthly passes. Check out <http://www.stm.info/english/tarification/a-etudiants2.htm> for more info.

If you don't have a bike, Montreal has a great and affordable bike-sharing program called BIXI (<https://bixi.com>). If you don't have a car, but would like to use one occasionally, there is a car-sharing program called Communauto. You can get a discount for Communauto via PGSS; see <https://pgss.mcgill.ca/services/communauto/> for more details. Taxis are plentiful, easy to hail, and fairly affordable for a large city, although many only take cash.

Transportation farther afield

As great as Montreal is, we imagine you'll want to leave the city from time to time for vacations, holidays, and/or out-of-town work/gigs/research. For trips requiring air travel, head to Pierre Elliot Trudeau International Airport (airport code = YUL, website is <http://www.admtl.com>). Situated in Dorval, about 20 km west of downtown, YUL is a major hub for Air Canada, which in combination with many other airlines provides flights to many national and international destinations. The airport is serviced by the 747 bus from downtown (\$9 one way, see <http://www.stm.info/english/info/a-747.htm>). A taxi from downtown to YUL costs \$40 (before tip). It's also possible to drive to and park at the airport, although rates can be pricey. If you have time on your hands and want to save some money, it can sometimes be cheaper to fly out of Burlington International Airport (BTV) just south of the border in Vermont (<http://www.burlingtonintlairport.com>). BTV is about 2 hours by car or bus from Montreal. The Montreal to Boston Greyhound bus route goes directly to the airport.

For closer destinations, Montreal is serviced by intercity bus and trains. The main bus station, the Gare d'autocars de Montréal, is situated near the Latin Quarter on Berri between Maisonneuve and Ontario (closest Métro [subway] stop is Berri-UQÀM). Their website is <http://www.stationcentrale.com>. The main train station,

Gare Centrale, is located at 895, rue de la Gauchetière Ouest (between Mansfield and University, closest Métro is Bonaventure). They mainly provide ViaRail train service (<http://www.viarail.ca/>), but also Amtrak trains run to New York City (<http://www.amtrak.com>). If you would like to rent a car for a trip, there are many places in the city with rentals. A good website for comparing rates is <http://www.ca.kayak.com/cars>. Please note that most rental companies charge a surplus for renters under the age of 25, quoted prices often do not include insurance, and while many companies offer unlimited kilometers, some do not, so read the fine print. As a final note: passports are now required for all international travel, including to the United States!

VIII. DAY-TO-DAY LIFE IN MONTREAL

Weather

Montreal has quite a range of weather. The coldest month, January, has an average high of -5.4° C/22.3° F and an average low of -12.4° C/9.7° F. The warmest month, July, has an average high of 26.6° C/79.9° F and an average low of 17.9° C/64.2° F. We get 226.4 cm (89.15 in) of snow per year, with the bulk of it in December, January and February. We get 834.9 mm (32.87 in) of rain per year, with June, July and August being the雨iest months. Weather can change quickly in Montreal, so we suggest you check the weather frequently. A good website with forecasts is <http://www.theweathernetwork.com>. Since it can get fairly cold in winter, we suggest you invest in a good winter coat and boots.

Restaurants, cafeterias, cafés, and bars

A beautiful new cafeteria is located in the basement of McGill's Royal Victoria College dormitory, adjacent to the Schulich School of Music, and accessible through the hallway on the ground floor of the music building. There is also a small café on the ground floor of the E-Wing. Other local eateries include Java U (sandwiches/salads), Deli 500 (diner), and Basha (Lebanese), all directly across the street from the music faculty on Sherbrooke; Lola Rosa (vegetarian), Thai Express and Cultures, Subway, Quiznos, Starbucks, and Art Java—all within three blocks; and in Montreal's famous underground you'll find no fewer than three food courts within fifteen minutes walk. There are many excellent bars and breweries in Montreal. A good one near the Schulich School of Music is Benelux at 245 Sherbrooke St. W (corner of Jeanne-Mance). Also, remember that PGSS's Thomson House has a restaurant and bar (see "Post-Graduate Students' Society" above).

Groceries

Unlike some other big cities, the cheapest groceries in Montreal are generally not at the big chains (e.g. Provigo, Metro, 4 Frères); instead, the smaller, independent stores often have the lowest prices. One of the best is Segal's on St. Laurent just south of Duluth in the Plateau where you can find amazing deals on all sorts of things including a great deal of organic food. In Mile-End, two fruiteries on Parc Ave. south of Van Horne are both good options. In NDG, Rocky Montana and Akhavan on Sherbrooke are both very good. PA, Esposito are two small, local chains with good prices. In Côte-des-Neiges, check out Exofruits.

You'll definitely want to check out the public markets: Atwater and Jean Talon. They both have a great assortment of produce, meat and a great deal more. And if you're around Jean Talon and looking for herbs, spices and other dried goods, Anatolia, on St. Laurent (cross-street Dante) is cheaper than anywhere else in the city. Close by, farther north on St. Laurent, is Milano, which is excellent for Italian groceries.

Many groceries stores will deliver to your residence for a small fee (sometimes even smaller for students). Enquire at your local store. Note too that some grocery stores offer student discounts on certain days of the week, especially in the McGill Ghetto.

Shopping

The major shopping districts in Montreal are along Ste-Catherine St between Place des Arts and Atwater and along St-Denis St between des Pins and Mont-Royal. There are two good general department stores near McGill: Simons (at 977 Ste-Catherine St W) and La Baie (585 Ste-Catherine St W). If you're looking for music-related supplies (everything from albums to instruments) head to Archambault (500 Ste-Catherine St E). For general household supplies, check out Canadian Tire or Rona, both of which have multiple branches throughout the city. For used clothes, visit Eva B (2015 St Laurent Blvd), or one of the multiple shops of Village des valeurs or L'Armée du Salut. For books and academic supplies, the closest shops to the music faculty are the McGill Bookstore (3420 McTavish St) and Paragraphe (2220 McGill College Ave). Other good bookstores with multiple branches include Indigo, Chapters, and Renaud-Bray. For used books, check out the Word (469 Milton St), or one of the many shops on Mont-Royal like l'Échange (713 Avenue du Mont-Royal Est, also a great place for used albums). For office supplies, visit Bureau en Gros (multiple locations). For computer supplies, visit Future Shop (multiple locations) or the Mac store (1321 Sainte-Catherine St W). For larger items (like furniture), we'd encourage to check out listings on the McGill classifieds (<http://www.mcgill.ca/classified/>), Craigslist (<http://montreal.en.craigslist.ca/>) and Kijiji (<http://montreal.kijiji.ca/?lang=en>). A popular one-stop shop for furniture and other household items is IKEA (9191 Cavendish Blvd), although it's some ways outside of downtown and not very accessible by public transit.

News (Montreal wide)

Montreal English news is provided by the Montreal Gazette (<http://www.montrealgazette.com/index.html>), CTV (<http://www.ctv.ca/>), and CBC (<http://www.cbc.ca/>), among other sources. French news sources include Le Devoir (<http://www.ledevoir.com/>), Le Journal de Montréal (<http://www.journaldemontreal.com/>), Radio Canada (<http://www.radio-canada.ca/>), and the Métro (<http://journalmetro.com/>) and 24 Heures (<http://www.24hmontreal.canoe.ca/>) tabloids available freely in most Métro (subway) stations. There are also many specialized news sources such as La Scena Musicale, a bilingual local music magazine with concert listings and articles, available for free in the lobby of the Stratchona Music Building (see <http://www.scena.org/>), or Fugues, Montreal's main francophone LGBT publication, available for free at shops, bars, clubs, and restaurants in the Gay Village (see <http://www.fugues.com/>).

News (McGill specific)

The university-run newspaper is the McGill Reporter (<http://publications.mcgill.ca/reporter/>). Student-run newspapers include the McGill Daily (<http://www.mcgilldaily.com/>), the McGill Tribune (<http://www.mcgilltribune.com/>), and Le Délit (<http://www.delitfrancais.com/>). All of these papers are available for free at stands throughout campus, including in the lobby of the Strathcona Music Building (555 Sherbrooke St. W). News specific to the music faculty is posted at <http://www.mcgill.ca/music/>. McGill has its own radio station, CKUT. Their website is <http://ckut.ca/c/> and you can tune in in Montreal at 90.3 FM. There is also TV McGill (see <http://www.tvmcgill.com/>).

Safety and theft

McGill and Montreal are generally quite safe places, but you should still take basic safety precautions. We recommend insuring your residence for theft and fire, as well as your instrument(s). Always lock your residence/office/locker, keep blinds and windows shut when you are not there, and never make it publicly known if you are away for an extended period of time. Never leave personal items unattended in public areas, even at McGill. Try to avoid walking alone at night, especially in less populated areas, and do not take shortcuts through alleys. If you are alone and would like people to accompany you home, we encourage using McGill's Walksafe service (see <http://ssmu.mcgill.ca/walksafe/>).

In an emergency, do not hesitate to call city emergency services (fire, police, ambulance) by dialling 911 (free of charge on any phone!). If you are at McGill and it is not an emergency situation, call campus Security

Services at (514) 398-3000 (just dial 3000 if using a campus phone). Their website also provides some helpful security and safety tips (<http://www.mcgill.ca/security>).

IX. HEALTH

Health insurance

All McGill grad students are required to have supplemental health insurance (i.e., insurance in addition to provincial health care). In most cases, you will be automatically enrolled and billed by McGill for health insurance, but please check your first bill from McGill to make sure. Canadian students (both in and out of province) enrol in the health plan provided through PGSS (see <https://pgss.mcgill.ca/services/health-and-dental-plan/>). Most international students will enrol in the plan offered through International Student Services (see <http://www.mcgill.ca/internationalstudents/health>). Some international students from certain countries or with certain scholarships may be exempt from this plan (see <http://www.mcgill.ca/internationalstudents/health/exemption> for more info). It is also possible to opt out of these insurance plans if you show proof that you are currently enrolled in another plan with comparable coverage. If you wish to cover a spouse and/or dependents with your plan, you will need to enrol them yourself. Please see the links above for more info. Please note that in many cases, pre-approval from your insurance company is required before receiving non-urgent procedures. Check with your company for more details.

Health clinics

McGill offers on-campus dental, health, and mental health clinics as well as a counselling service. You can learn more about these resources at the Student Services website (<http://www.mcgill.ca/studentservices/our-services>). We encourage you to use McGill clinics, as they offer great rates for McGill students. You can also rest assured that your McGill health insurance will work at McGill clinics!

Pharmacies

Pharmacies are plentiful in Montreal, and all offer more or less the same rates, so we encourage you to use whichever pharmacy is most convenient for you! Major pharmacy chains include Pharmaprix and Uniprix. If you're looking for a pharmacy near the Schulich School of Music, Pharmacie Crescent/Arthur Goldstein is located just one block east at 455 Sherbrooke St. W. They're open 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday to Friday, and 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, and their phone number is (514) 849-6019.

X. EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Athletics and recreation

A wide variety of sports and recreation activities and services are available to McGill students. Go to <http://www.mcgillathletics.ca/> for more information about varsity sports, intramural programs, fitness services, athletic facilities, and more.

All students are considered members of the Sports Complex during the fall and winter semesters, which means you have free access to the gyms, pool, indoor and outdoor track, indoor and outdoor tennis courts and fields as well as free use of select pieces of equipment like balls and some training equipment. There are user fees for fitness and recreation classes, intramurals sports, room rentals, some arena activities like shinny hockey and free skating, some equipment rentals (squash and tennis racquets, eye guards, cross country skis, boots and poles and snowshoes) and membership to the Fitness Centre (\$40 for grad students per term).

All sports and recreational programs not covered by your student fee can be paid for at <https://myathletics.mcgill.ca/Members/Default.aspx>. Sign in with your McGill ID and password, and navigate to Program Registration -> Sign up for a program, and make your selection (Fitness Center memberships are under "Membership-StudentFC"). Locker rental and towel service are also available for purchase.

Performance listings and tickets

Upcoming performances at the Schulich School of Music are listed online at <http://www.mcgill.ca/music/events>. Performance announcements are also posted on bulletin boards in the main lobby of the Strathcona Music Building (555 Sherbrooke St. W, 2nd floor).

McGill music students are eligible for FREE or DISCOUNTED tickets to nearly all concerts at McGill! Visit the box office (<http://www.mcgill.ca/music/events/box-office>) in the main lobby during weekday business hours (Monday to Friday, 12–6 p.m.) with your McGill ID card to claim these tickets. Note: the box office no longer accepts cash, so bring a credit or debit card.

Of course, there are also many great performances in Montreal outside of McGill! We'd encourage you to check out the listings of the Orchestre symphonique de Montréal, Opéra de Montréal, Les Grands Ballets Canadiens de Montréal, POP Montréal, Festival International de Jazz de Montréal, Festival Montréal Baroque, Festival Bach de Montréal, and Piknik Electronik (to name a few!!). Many have student discounts, and some even have free concerts!

Religious and spiritual resources

Most major religious denominations have houses of worship here in Montreal. Religious resources are readily available in many different languages, not just French and English. The McGill Chaplaincy Service provides many different forms of worship and religious and spiritual services on campus. They also maintain a list of religious and spiritual resources off campus. For more information, check out their website at <http://www.mcgill.ca/students/chaplaincy/>.

Student clubs

Student-run clubs are a fun and easy way to get involved in the larger McGill community, to pursue interests within and/or outside your field of study, and to make new friends. The Students' Society of McGill University (SSMU) hosts numerous clubs with focuses ranging from specific sports and arts disciplines, and other interest groups such as linguistic, cultural, culinary, gaming, environmental, social activism, trivia, etc., that are open to both undergraduate and graduate students. You can find a complete listing of all current clubs and more information on how to start your own club here: <http://ssmu.mcgill.ca/clubs-services/about-clubs/clubs/>.

XI. MAP OF THE MUSIC FACULTY

