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# ISS NEWS

INTERNATIONAL STUDENT SERVICES



## Good Luck on Exams & Happy Holidays

Congratulations on making it through the semester! For some of you this will be your first taste of university experience, and for some it is your last hoorah.

Here at ISS we want to wish everyone the best of luck with your upcoming final exams. We know that this time of year is extremely stressful, so here are [some great tips from McGill Mental Health](#) about studying for exams!

Please note: International Student Services will be **closed for the holidays** from **December 25th, 2017** through **January 2nd, 2018** (inclusive). We will also close one hour early (at 4pm) on **December 6th**.

Our office hours will remain the same for Winter 2018: 9am-5pm Mon-Fri, closed for lunch 12-1:30pm. Please see the last section of this newsletter for our Winter Drop-In Advising hours downtown and at Mac.

We will see you in the new year!

*The Team at International Student Services*



## McGill Winter Break Clubs

### Staying in Montreal over Winter Break?

Come to McGill's **Winter Break Club Social!**

Meet fellow students - both international and Canadian - who will be here over the holiday break and who - like you - want to enjoy the season and all it has to offer!

Light (free!) food & refreshments will be served, and representatives from both Montreal International & Tourism Montreal will be present to tell you about all the fun events in and around Montreal over winter break.

REGISTRATION is FREE but Required

#### Undergraduate Students:

RVC - West Lounge, December 19th @ 5:00-6:30pm - [Register here](#)  
In partnership with McGill Student Housing

#### Graduate Students:

Thompson House Ballroom, December 20th @ 4:30-9 pm - [Register here](#)



*In partnership with PGSS*

If you can't join us at the social but you will be in town over Winter Break, join the Winter Break Club Facebook group for [UNDERGRADUATES](#) or [GRADUATES](#). Feel free to join other planned events, or create one of your own!

## Traveling Over the Holidays



Here are some tips that we have for you, to ensure smooth travels!

- Make sure that your [immigration documents are valid](#) for the duration of your trip **and** return to Canada
- Water plants, empty your garbage & recycling, and turn off appliances before leaving.
- Travel smart! Have a packing list, set alarms, and stay hydrated.
- Pack your [health card/proof of health insurance](#)
- If you're going to US border at the Lacolle/Champlain or St-Armand/Philippsburg to get your study or work permit, note the news hours effective starting Dec. 11th: Mon-Thurs, 12-7pm; Sat, 9am-5pm.

## International Health Insurance

Get familiar with your [Blue Cross Health Insurance Plan](#)! If you don't have it already, **pick-up your health insurance card by December 22rd** at **Service Point** (note: after that the university will be closed through Jan. 2nd, 2017 inclusive). If you do not get a chance to pick-up your IHI card, you can register for the Blue Cross Medavie app and have access to the electronic version of the IHI card.

Before you travel, know your **coverage outside of Canada**:

For more information, visit the [ISS website](#) or contact [our office](#) with additional questions.

## Professional Networking Events

Potentially interested in staying in Montreal after graduation? Check out these fun events to start building your professional network now. It takes time, so don't wait till it's too late.

**Entrepreneur Cocktail** - 6@8 with the JCCM (Junior Chamber of Commerce of Montreal) - Wednesday, December 6th

## Light Lending Programs

Happy Lights are a [form of light therapy used for Seasonal Affective Disorder](#), or for anyone who notices a mood change in shorter winter days.

They contribute to an improvement in mood and overall wellbeing.

You can use or borrow a light at several locations around campus including SSMU, PGSS, MORSL, etc. For all the info, [see here](#).



## Post-graduation Work Permit webinar - now available online!

If you missed the PGWP webinar, no worries! You can watch it online - in your holiday PJs - whenever it's convenient.

[Watch it here](#).

**I choose**  
**MONTREAL**

Learn more about the experience of young and ambitious business(women) and ask questions during the panel discussions! Take advantage of this unique networking opportunity to make inspiring encounters and expand your business network!

*Where?* : Montréal Cowork, 4388 Saint-Denis Street, Office 200, Montréal

[Register here](#). \*\*\*REGISTER QUICKLY! I Choose Montreal and the JCCM will comp your tickets so IT'S FREE!\*\*\*

**Montréal International Game Summit 2017** - December 12th, 9am-9pm; December 13th, 9am-5pm

The Montreal International Game Summit (MIGS) brings together hundreds of international experts to one of the largest hubs of video games development in the world so that they can share their knowledge with the local and international developers attending the event. Find the recruitment section where developers with all ranges of experience can come to meet companies looking for new hires.

*Where?:* Palais des congrès de Montréal, 1001, place Jean-Paul-Riopelle, Montréal

[Claim your ticket here](#).

50 FREE EXPO PASSES (30\$ VALUE): Click on the link above to use the code CHOIMTLFREE. After the free passes are out, get a \$10 discount using the code CHOIMTL20. \* Don't forget your resume!

## New course offering!

### Living in Montréal: Ethnicity and 'Race' from the Past to the Present

If you're planning on staying in Montreal after graduation, or if you want a better understanding of our fascinating and complex city while you're here as a student, take advantage of this new course offered by McGill's Centre for Interdisciplinary Research on Montreal.

Winter 2018 - QCST 440 / CANS 413 - Wednesdays 2:35 pm - 5:25 pm  
(U3 or U2 students or permission of the instructor)

Description:

Debates, at times acrimonious, about reasonable accommodation, the proposed Charter of Values, Bill 62, the niqab, the on-going Syrian refugee crisis, and national security have dominated public discourse in Québec for the past decade. To place these deliberations in perspective, this seminar takes a close look at ethnicity and 'race' in Montréal from the nineteenth century to contemporary society. QCST 440/CANS 413 considers the city's multiethnic character, the racialization of particular communities, and the methodologies that scholars have developed to study ethnicity and 'race.' An interdisciplinary approach offers students an opportunity to explore and to understand past and present challenges to and opportunities for rapprochement between all residents of Montréal. Therefore, we will examine how various ethno-cultural groups formed very complex communities (differentiated by class, gender, religious practices, and geographic origin for example), interacted with one another, earned their living, and responded to diverse political regimes. By unpacking the changing discourses around nationalism, we will also explore who was considered Québécois(e) and who was categorized as the "Other".

Designed to provide a variety of learning opportunities, students will read key publications by academics representing diverse disciplines, tour the Bagg Street Shul and the Madina Mosque, go on a walking tour of the old Jewish quarter, and watch and discuss documentary and feature-length films. Scholars doing cutting-edge research on aspects of ethnicity and 'race' will present their findings individually or as round-table panelists; community activists will also address issues around intercultural relations in Montréal. The seminar also offers interested students the opportunity to participate in a community service learning experience placement [Experiential Community Engaged Research and Learning or ExCERL] working closely with a grassroots organization from one of Montréal's cultural communities and with members of Social Equity and Diversity Education [SEDE] at McGill. A passive knowledge of the French Language is required.





## Winter 2018

### DROP-IN HOURS

As of January 3, 2018

|           | MORNING<br>9:30-11am | AFTERNOON<br>1:30-3:30pm |
|-----------|----------------------|--------------------------|
| Monday    | ✓                    | ✓                        |
| Tuesday   | ✓                    | ✓                        |
| Wednesday | ✗                    | ✓                        |
| Thursday  | ✓                    | ✓                        |
| Friday    | ✓                    | ✗                        |



## Winter 2018

### ISS @ MAC Dates

As of January 12, 2018

| Adviser Availability:<br>9:30am—11am & 1pm—3pm |
|--|
| Friday, January 12th                           |
| Friday, January 26th                           |
| Friday, February 9th                           |
| Friday, February 23rd                          |
| Friday, March 9th                              |
| Friday, March 23rd                             |
| Friday, April 6th                              |
| Friday, April 20th                             |

You can see the advisor on a drop-in basis or book an appointment by calling 514-398-7992



This message was sent to you by [The Office for International Student Services](#)

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