

# Information for Potential Applicants

## MSc (Thesis) in Atmospheric & Oceanic Sciences

Admission of new students to the Master of Science (M.Sc.) program in Atmospheric and Oceanic Sciences (Thesis) occurs once per year, in September (Fall semester). The application period is from September 15 of the preceding year to **February 28**; applications are reviewed on a rolling basis beginning in mid-January.

There are many steps to be completed before an application can be submitted. You may find helpful information here: <http://www.mcgill.ca/gradapplicants/apply/prepare>.

### Applying

If you choose to apply, you would do so through the uApply website, at <http://www.mcgill.ca/gradapplicants/apply>. You would be required to upload your transcripts and personal statement, and two referees would also upload their letters of reference. A TOEFL score (or equivalent) may also be required; additional information is available here: <https://www.mcgill.ca/gradapplicants/international/apply/proficiency>.

We do not require the GRE.

### Financial support

Many of our students arrive without an external fellowship. In such cases our department provides a stipend of **\$20,200 per year** (in Canadian dollars), for two years, to full-time students who maintain satisfactory standing in our MSc program.<sup>1</sup>

(Please note that if a student is awarded an external scholarship or other financial support, the departmental contribution to the student's funding will be reduced. However supervisors in our department offer a significant financial top-up to students who have received a major award.)

**Fee subsidies:** please see next page.

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<sup>1</sup> Very rarely, applicants hoping to secure funding from outside Canada may receive a **conditional offer of admission** to our MSc program; in such exceptional cases the student may not receive a stipend from our department. This information would be clearly stated in the letter of offer.

## **Fee subsidy for non-Quebec students who are either Canadian citizens or permanent residents of Canada**

Our department offers a **partial subsidy of “Non-Quebec Canadian” fees** up to and including the Fall semester of the MSc 2 year. For 2019-2020 the value of this subsidy was **approximately CAD \$8,100 over two years** (approximately CAD \$5,400 in the first year and CAD \$2,700 in the second year) for “Non-Quebec Canadian” students admitted to our MSc program. This subsidy ensures that full-time non-Quebec students who are either Canadian citizens or permanent residents of Canada, and who maintain satisfactory standing in our MSc program, pay

- the same tuition fees and
- the same non-tuition fees charged by Student Accounts

as Quebec residents, up to and including the Fall semester of the MSc 2 year.

## **Fee subsidy for international students**

Our department offers a **partial subsidy of international fees** up to and including the Fall semester of the MSc 2 year. For 2019-2020 the value of this subsidy was **approximately CAD \$24,040 over two years** (approximately CAD \$15,740 in the first year and CAD \$8,300 in the second year) for most international students admitted to our MSc program. This subsidy ensures that full-time international students who maintain satisfactory standing in our MSc program pay

- the same tuition fees and
- the same non-tuition fees charged by Student Accounts

as Quebec residents, up to and including the Fall semester of the MSc 2 year.

## **Evaluation of the applicant’s dossier**

Most supervisors in our Department look at the transcript and try to determine if the student can excel in the graduate-level courses and perform quantitative research. Most supervisors generally care most about the quantitative background: math, physics, and upper-level physical science courses; strong grades in these courses are likely to be needed. Other positive attributes such as computing skills and/or strong letters of reference (from respected scientists) would also work in your favor.

If you would like to know what level of math is normally required, you can use our undergraduate major program as a guideline:

<https://www.mcgill.ca/study/2020-2021/faculties/science/undergraduate/programs/bachelor-science-bsc-major-atmospheric-science>.

Please note that the number of places for new MSc students is limited, and that successful applicants to our MSc program typically have a CGPA ranging from 3.3/4.0 to 4.0/4.0. Applicants presenting the minimum CGPA are not necessarily guaranteed admission; in addition to the CGPA, reference letters, appropriate background in mathematics, applicant interests, the applicant's research/training background, and other admission requirements are all carefully reviewed during the evaluation of an application.

## **Finding a supervisor**

At the MSc level students may be accepted without an assigned supervisor; these students normally find a supervisor after completing the first semester in the program. However some MSc applicants choose to secure a supervisor during the application process. If you wish you can review our faculty members' research interests to determine which potential supervisors best match your interests and goals. You can find a list of our faculty members at <https://www.mcgill.ca/meteo/facultystaff/faculty-0>. (Click on a faculty member's name for a description of their research interests; see also the links to faculty members' websites.)

You are welcome to send your CV to potential supervisors to express your interest, with a message explaining why you wish to work with the potential supervisor, and which aspects of their research match your interests. If you choose to do so (again, this is optional for MSc applicants), our advice is to:

- 1- Explain why you are interested in their research (mention a specific paper they wrote, or discuss one of their areas of interest; be specific, demonstrate that you have found and read information about their professional activities), and
- 2- Explain why your background is a good match for their research area or research group

## **Personal statement**

The personal statement is an essay in which the applicant describes their reasons for applying to graduate studies, and indicating qualifications, qualities or circumstances the applicant feels to be significant; this document usually provides information about educational and professional goals.

One page is sufficient; two pages are also acceptable. You may want to explain some/all of the following in the personal statement:

- Why you are interested in the program;
- Which aspects of Atmospheric & Oceanic Sciences are of most interest to you, and why;
- (Optional) Which faculty members you would most wish to work with, and why; this is optional since new MSc students can choose a supervisor up to four months following the start of the program;
- Why you are a strong candidate for the program.

## **Additional information**

You can find additional information concerning the Master of Science (M.Sc.) program in Atmospheric and Oceanic Sciences (Thesis) on the following web pages:

- [Atmospheric and Oceanic Sciences at McGill University – Graduate Programs](#)
- [Atmospheric and Oceanic Sciences at McGill University – Prospective Graduate Students](#)
- [McGill University eCalendar – MSc Program in Atmospheric and Oceanic Sciences](#)

Should you have questions, please contact Manuela Franzo, the Graduate Program Coordinator, at [graduateinfo.aos@mcgill.ca](mailto:graduateinfo.aos@mcgill.ca).