

McMaster University Exchange Information

A. Ways of getting scholarships either in India or abroad and getting other funding there (Rooms, grants)

McMaster University gives a scholarship of 3000 Canadian Dollars which is paid in four installments of 750 each at the beginning of each month beginning from September.

B. Visa Requirements

The visa information is available at <http://www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca/new-delhi>. If all the forms, namely the Visa application, the funding resources information (bank loan document or bank statement and the scholarship letter), a letter from IIML and a letter of confirmation from the McMaster University, are properly submitted, the visa can be obtained the same day itself.

C. Lodging Details

It doesn't make any sense to apply for the university accommodation as it's very costly and anyway by the time we reach there, the hostels in campus are all occupied. Due to the leasing requirements, you cannot search for the accommodation from here. Thus, it's preferable to stay at YMCA Hostel for the first week. It's in the downtown area on the James Street. It costs 90 dollars for a week. It's advisable to contact the Off Campus housing information office in the university to get some leads. During that week, we also searched for accommodation from independent sources like the advertisements in the newspaper and magazines. Generally, one can get an accommodation in the range of 700 to 1000 Canadian dollars per month for a two room apartment (for all four of you combined).

D. Supermarkets and shopping

Grocery can be obtained at cheaper rates from "No Frills" and "The Barn Store". For other items, there are many shopping malls like the Jackson Square Plaza, Lime ridge Mall, Upper James Mall, One on the Barton Street in Hamilton, which house discounters like the Wal-Mart, Zellers and Sears.

E. Transport

Air India is a good option. But try to get the Air Canada direct flight to Toronto. Make sure that both the journeys are confirmed. An open ticket is very tough to get confirmed as Dec is the busiest part of the season. I had to spend 230 Dollars for confirmation. Get in touch with an agent at least 2 months in advance. Cheapest option is Aeroflot but confirmation must be made at least 3 months in advance. From the Airport, if all the four are traveling together, it's good to take a

Van which will cost 80 Dollars. Ask for YMCA on the James Street in the Downtown. If traveling alone, then take a bus to the Toronto Downtown from the Airport (14 Dollars). The bus will drop you at the Royal York Hotel in the Downtown. The Go Union Station is 100-150 meters on the right side. Go to the Go Union Station and catch the bus to Hamilton (8.3 Dollars). It will drop you on the Go Station, Hamilton. YMCA is 5 minutes walking distance from the same. NO need to take taxi or anything. Walk down to your right from the exit and its hardly 100 meters.

From YMCA to the University, you will have to catch a bus from the stop right in front of the Jackson Square Plaza (2.1 Dollars). Monthly bus pass costs 65 dollars and is valid for travel within Hamilton only. If the accommodation is close to the University, there is no need to buy the pass; otherwise it is advisable that you go for a pass since a one way ticket costs 2.1 dollars. For traveling to Toronto or other nearby areas, one can go to the Go Bus Station in the downtown area. There is a bus leaving for Toronto every one hour. Two way pass to Toronto costs 16.60 while one for Niagara Falls costs 24, if taken on companion discount basis. If four of you are raveling together, then always go for companion pass with the student discount.

F. What to take from India

It is advisable to take warm clothes since the temperature falls below 0 during November and December. Since it is very expensive to eat outside; one must be prepared to cook at home. Accordingly, all the necessary utensils should be carried. Some other articles to be taken – umbrella is a must, camera rolls, international credit card or debit card, a warm cap and a pair of gloves.

G. Currency

The best way to get currency is to take it from any branch of a scheduled bank dealing in currency. In Delhi, all the banks have their currency dealings branch in Canaught Palace. Don't go to Thomas Cook or private shops as they charge a hefty spread from the retail customers.

H. Professors to Contact

Prof. Mandip Malik - He is the Exchange Coordinator and a prof. of Marketing for the First year MBA courses. malikm@mcmaster.ca

Miss. Myra Valley - She is the MBA admissions in-charge - valleym@mcmaster.ca

Miss. Cheryl Jackson - She oversees the international student's office - jacksonc@mcmaster.ca

Prof Debasis Pujari - He is a professor of Marketing, he is an Indian and a very good person. So it's good to see him after reaching there as a courtesy meeting. pujarid@mcmaster.ca

I. RA or TA ship

Professors appoint the teaching assistants at the end of the summer term, that is around first week of August. So one has to apply for the same after they advertise for the post. For getting the post, students will have to get in touch with Prof Malik so that he can arrange those offers to be sent to students here. After application, they review the details and decide after an interview or sometimes only on the basis of the details.

RA ship is rare but students must go and talk to the professors of the disciplines they are good in and spread the word that they are looking for a project. Creating a good impression plays a very important role for getting an RA ship.

J. Good Courses

- **New Products Marketing** - Taken by Prof Cooper and Pujari. Prof Cooper is the most renowned person in the field of new products marketing. It's a good course among the marketing courses. It also has a live project.
- **Options and Futures** - Taken by Prof. Narat Charupat. It's a good finance course.
- **Market Trading and Risk Management** - Taken by Prof John Siam. It's a good course as it contains exposure to Bloomberg and Reuters Platforms and some interesting trading experience. But it's not a light course. Every week, one has to submit the reports and trade. Moreover the lectures are very boring but still it's a good value addition to learn Bloomberg and Reuters and also experience the crazy world of financial markets. Intake is limited to 20 people, so students must send a mail to Prof Siam for their intention (siamj@mcmaster.ca).
- **Innovation and Strategic Management of Technology** - These two courses are taken by Prof Linda Moffat. Good course on the management issues in technology oriented businesses. It's a very good reprieve from the overly quantitative orientation at IIML. You get to learn some good stuff on the softer side of an organization.
- **Strategic Knowledge Management** - Taken by Prof Nick Bontis. He has been winning the best prof's award for the last 3 years. He is a very friendly and helpful guy. It's not a very good course from content point of view but a good course overall.

Some of the other good courses include; **Project Management, Business Marketing, Mergers, Acquisitions and Corporate Control and e-business strategies** (it's a good course to improve the presentation skills as it focuses on case presentation in every class by the student groups and the feedback is good)

K. Dates for Arrival and Departure

The term start from the 2nd of Sep and the welcome party for the international students is arranged in the first week itself. Registration for the courses remains open till 15-16th sep. The fall term ends on 16th Dec.

L. Places to Visit

Niagara Falls for sure - Go in the first two weeks itself. Good place to have fun with Casino, Bars and Crazy eating joints.

Toronto - at least twice to enjoy the downtown and markets in the daytime and the nightlife.

Montreal and Quebec - Good places with the French touch. Montreal has the best place to enjoy the night life - St. Catherine's Street.

Vancouver - Far away from Hamilton but the best city of Canada.

For any further Information:

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Or

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