

This is just a brief list to prepare you for moving to Canada to begin studying at McMaster University.

Feel free to contact **Amanda Beers** with any questions about being an International Graduate Student at McMaster:

Contact Information:

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STUDY PERMITS

- ❖ Apply for your study permit online and obtain your physical study permit at a border crossing before school begins

Link to Apply for a Student Permit:

<http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/e-services/index.asp>

Link explaining the time for the application process and how to apply:

<http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/study/study-how.asp>

- Note: that if you wish to have a job outside of T.A.ing and it is approved by your supervisor/department you must also apply for a work permit

FINDING HOUSING

- ❖ There are several resources for locating housing online. Here is the link to McMaster's off campus housing ads:
<http://macoffcampus.mcmaster.ca/classifieds/index.php>
 - If it is an option, it is suggested that you visit Hamilton to look at areas that you would like to live in
 - Your best resource for housing options will often be talking to current graduate students

MOVING TO CANADA

You must prepare a B4 form that lists the personal items you will be bringing into the country with you (this allows you to avoid paying duty on most items)

- The more detailed your list, the easier and faster the customs process will be
- This form and other forms you may need for bringing items into Canada can be found here:

<http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/newcomers/before-border.asp>

TRANSPORTATION

- ❖ Hamilton has a pretty good public transit network; it is also very easy to travel to Toronto and surrounding cities via public transit
- ❖ Depending on your interests and travel needs you could talk to current grad students, some have cars, but most use the bus system to get to and from McMaster University
- For many states/countries there are policies in place that allow for you to exchange your current driver's license for a Canadian license; you should look into your options and transportation needs before going to get a license
http://settlement.org/sys/faqs_detail.asp?k=TRANS_DL&faq_id=4000121

- Bringing a car from the U.S. to Canada can be potentially expensive for a number of reasons (duty fees, parking fees, more expensive gas bills and insurance payments in the city of Hamilton)

LIVING IN CANADA

- ❖ If you plan on purchasing anything online you will need to apply for a Canadian credit card or some other form of banking method that you can utilize with online orders
- In Canada you will have a bank card that serves as a debit card; this card cannot be used for online purchases like in the U.S.

- ❖ You must apply for a Canadian social insurance number: This form can be turned in by mail or in person at a local Service Canada
<http://www.servicecanada.gc.ca/eng/sin/forms.shtml>

- ❖ Make sure you fill out the proper paperwork for and pick up your UHIP card at the International Student Office (they will send you an email when your card is ready to be picked up)

- ❖ Keep up to date with your taxes in your home country and your Canadian taxes, you will have to file in both countries

- ❖ Cell phone: In order to get a phone with a plan on a Canadian cell phone carrier you will need multiple forms of Canadian issued ID: ask an employee at a store that sells cell phones for a list of accepted ID: a Canadian driver's license and a Canadian credit card are the two most commonly accepted forms of ID (your student VISA does not count)
 - Note: Canadian cell phone carriers usually require you to sign up for a 3 year contract
 - There are also several options as far as pay as you go phones that do not require plans

FUNDING

- ❖ There are limited opportunities for scholarships for international students in Canada. Due to the limited number, these scholarships tend to be competitive, so plan on living on a budget (plan for extra expenses, such as Canadian taxes and monetary conversion rates).